

Electromagnetic Disturbances in Gas-Insulated Substations and VFT Calculations

A. Ametani, H. Xue, M. Natsui, J. Mahseredjian

Abstract--This paper is focused on the oscillating frequencies of very-fast transients (VFTs) generated by disconnecter and circuit breaker operations in gas-insulated substations (GISs) related to electromagnetic disturbances (EMDs). Test results of the VFT amplitudes and oscillating frequencies are summarized, and the measured results have shown that there is no significant difference of the frequencies in the high-voltage main circuits and the low-voltage control circuits in the GISs. Modeling of GIS elements for VFT simulations by EMT-type software are explained, and simulation examples are demonstrated in comparison with test results. Also, FDTD (finite-difference time-domain) computations are performed, and the calculated results are compared with EMTP simulation results. If proper modeling is adopted, EMTP and FDTD results show a reasonable agreement.

Keywords: VFT, GIS, electromagnetic disturbance, high frequency, EMTP, FDTD.

I. INTRODUCTION

IT is well-known that lightning strikes to a transmission tower nearby a substation and switching operations in a gas-insulated substation (GIS) produce high frequency surges. The dominant frequency components involved in the lightning surge are, in general, lower than 1 MHz. The switching surges due to disconnecter (DS) or circuit breaker (CB) operation in the GIS contain the frequency components from some MHz up to more than 100 MHz, and are called “very fast transient (VFT)” or “very fast transient over-voltage (VFTO)” [1]-[3]. To investigate the VFT, a number of field and laboratory tests have been carried out [4]-[24]. Also, computer simulations of the VFT were performed, and modeling methods were investigated [25]-[31]. The measured and simulation results show that the VFT over-voltage reaches even 4 pu which becomes very important especially in a ultra-high-voltage (UHV) system because of a comparatively lower insulation level [1]-[3], [19]-[21]. Various methods to damp the over-voltage have been proposed and the effectiveness are shown [7], [12], [23]. However, the oscillating frequency of the VFT is not much affected by the methods.

It has been pointed out that the high frequency components of the VFT are a main cause of electromagnetic disturbances

(EMDs) in GIS control circuits [10], [12], [14]-[18], [22], [32]-[35].

This paper is focused on VFTs from the viewpoint of electromagnetic disturbances (EMDs). In Section II, the voltage amplitudes and oscillating frequencies of the VFTs are summarized based on field and laboratory tests described in [4]-[24]. The measured results are categorized in the high-voltage main circuit of GISs, in the metallic enclosures and in the low-voltage control circuits. Section III explains modeling of GIS elements for VFT simulations by existing transmission line (TL) approaches, i.e. EMT-type software [36]-[39]. Then, calculated examples are demonstrated including a comparison with test results. In Section IV, an FDTD (finite-difference time-domain method [40], [41]) computation is performed, and computed results are compared with EMTP results. Section V summarizes the investigated results in this paper.

II. FREQUENCIES

Table I summarizes the measured results of the amplitudes and frequencies of VFTs. In the table, references, the rated voltage of GISs, VFT frequency and amplitude are shown. In (a) and (b), the amplitude is given by pu (per unit), while in (c) it is given by a peak-to-peak voltage.

It is observed in Table I (a) that the VFT frequencies in UHV GISs are lower than those in lower voltage GISs except those given by Ref. [19]. Only few references show measured results of the VFT voltages and frequencies on the metallic enclosure (duct, tank or pipe) of the GISs. The measured voltages range from 0.1 to 0.7 pu in Table I (b), because the pipe voltage is determined by mutual surge impedance Z_{om} between the core and the pipe and core current I_c , i.e. $V_p = Z_{om}I_c$, and is dependent on the pipe grounding.

It should be noted that the frequency components in the pipe voltages are not much different from those in the core voltages in the same gas-insulated bus (GIB) [5], [10].

Table I (c) shows the peak-to-peak voltages and frequencies measured at the CT (measuring current transformer) secondary circuits, VT (measuring voltage transformer and capacitive voltage transformer = CVT) secondary circuits, digital / electronic control circuits and DC source circuits for the control circuits collected from 13 GISs in Japan [16]. Altogether 58 test cases are collected. The voltages range from 10 to 700 V with the frequencies from 1 to 80 MHz. It is observed that the VFT frequencies measured in the low-voltage circuits in Table I (c) are lower than those measured in the high-voltage circuits in Table I (a) and (b). The lower

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frequency components are estimated to be caused by wave deformation, not necessarily attenuation, along control cables with the length of more than 50 m connecting the CTs and VTs and the control circuits [16], [30]. However, the frequencies up to 80 MHz are observed. The high frequency components have resulted in malfunctions of control circuits, EMDs, which occasionally caused system operation troubles [16]-[18].

In summary, Table I has made clear the significance of VFTs, not only for the insulation coordination of GISs especially in a UHV system [1]-[3] but also for EMDs due to malfunctions of low-voltage control circuits in GISs [32]-[35].

TABLE I

SUMMARY OF MEASURED FREQUENCY AND AMPLITUDE OF VFTOS IN GIS.

(a) High-voltage main circuit.

Ref. No	[5],[6],[13]	[10]	[23]	[24]	[12]
Rated [kV]	500/550	550	500	500	110/800
Frequency [MHz]	1-140	10-50	8-100	5-60	5-25
Voltage [pu]	1.2-3.0	2.7	-	-	1.2-1.7
Ref. No	[7]	[19]	[20]	[21]	-
Rated [kV]	UHV	1100	1100	1100	-
Frequency [MHz]	1-5	2-31	0.25-2	8-118	-
Voltage [pu]	2.4-3.0	1.35	1.05-1.62	1.82-2.19	-

(b) Metallic enclosure (duct, tank or pipe).

Ref. No	[5]	[10]
Rated Voltage [kV]	500	550
Frequency [MHz]	2.5-10	2-50
Voltage [pu]	0.1	0.1-0.7

(c) Low-voltage control circuit, Ref [16] (13 GISs/58 test cases).

Rated [kV]	66/77			275		
Circuit	CT	VT	Control	CT	VT	Control
Frequency [MHz]	45-55	8	8-55	5-70	10-20	5-70
Peak to peak voltage [V]	20-600	20-120	10-100	80-700	10-600	60-220
Rated [kV]	500/550			1000	66-1000	
Circuit	CT	VT	Control	VT	DC source	
Frequency [MHz]	5-15	10-18	1-10	40-80	2-45	
Peak to peak voltage [V]	100-240	10-200	10-100	60-450	80-700	

III. MODELING AND EMTP CALCULATIONS

This chapter first describes modeling of various elements / components of a GIS for VFT simulations by EMT-type software based on a transmission line (TL) approach [36]-[39]. Then, simulation examples are demonstrated including a comparison with measured VFT voltages.

A. Modeling of GIS Elements / Components

Ref. [25] describes the basic concepts for modeling GIS elements for VFT simulations by EMT-type software. Ref. [26] summarizes modeling methods of various elements / components involved in the GIS. Ref. [27] gives the values of equivalent capacitances of GIS spacers, bus open-end, CT, VT etc., and surge impedances of DS, CB, a bushing and an XLPE

cable. Ref. [28] shows modeling of GIBs connected to a main bus, pipe grounding with arresters etc. Ref. [29] explains modeling of mutual coupling between an overhead control cable and a grounding mesh in a substation. Ref. [30] shows modeling of a VT connected to the control cable and mutual coupling between the control cable and the GIB. Ref. [31] describes a detailed model of a CT.

Summarizing the above references and the authors' experiences, the following remarks are made for VFT simulations by EMTP.

(1) For VFT frequencies are very high, the earth is assumed as perfectly conducting ($\rho_e = 0$) or an Al plate can be assumed as the earth as often adopted in a laboratory test. In a very high frequency region, the coaxial mode is completed within the pipe and the pipe conductor becomes a complete shield. Thus, the earth effect is hardly observed in measured and simulation results. The fact has indicated that no frequency-dependent modal of a conductor is necessary in an EMTP simulation. Further, only a core conductor with the coaxial propagation mode parameters is enough to perform a VFT simulation by EMTP, especially when both ends of a pipe are grounded.

(2) Pipe grounding has to be carefully considered. The waveform of a pipe voltage is affected by the grounding very much, although the core voltage is less influenced.

(3) A branched GIB (branch) causes a high frequency oscillation and a resultant surge waveform becomes very oscillatory. However, a measured waveform is entirely dependent on the sampling time (highest frequency) of an oscilloscope used for the measurement. If necessary, a branch can be represented by capacitance C_b [42].

$$C_b = 1 / (z_{oc} c_c) \text{ [F/m]} \quad (1)$$

where z_{oc} : coaxial mode surge impedance, c_c : velocity.

(4) A charged GIB involves a dc voltage component which cannot be handled by EMTP. The dc voltage is represented by a low frequency ac voltage.

(5) The length of a lead wire connecting a source and a GIB core and grounding a GIB pipe is comparatively large for the GIB length is short. Therefore, the lead wire has to be modeled as a distributed-parameter line, i.e. CP (constant parameter) line model of EMTP. In most cases, the lead wire is vertical, and its surge impedance can be evaluated approximately in the following equation [38].

$$Z_{ov} = 60 [\ln(h/r) - 1] \quad (2)$$

where h : lead wire height = length, r : radius.

(6) If VFTs in a GIS main circuit including metallic enclosures are concerned, a CT and a VT can be represented by an equivalent capacitance [26], [27]. When VFTs in a GIS control circuit for an EMD study are concerned, the CT and VT are to be modeled in details [30], [31]. Also a control cable should be modeled as accurately as possible, because wave deformation along the cable influences significantly to the calculated VFT current and voltage at the entrance of the control circuit.

(7) To analyze a VFT on an overhead control cable due to mutual coupling between a grounding mesh, the mesh voltage cannot be assumed zero [29].

B. Proto-Type GIS

1) Test circuit

Fig. 1 illustrates the cross-section of a GIB which is the same as that of all the GIBs investigated in this paper. The height and radii depend on the voltage class and manufacturers. Fig. 2 shows the test circuit of a proto-type GIB [4], [42]. The GIB was set at height $h = 1$ m above a Cu plate. Both ends of the pipe (nodes A, B, C and D) are grounded. Because of a proto-type test, a plastic-made cylinder with the length of about 0.7 m and the relative permittivity of 6 was installed at every 1 to 2 m of the GIB. It has been shown in [4] that an equivalent permittivity of the GIB is 2.3. C_t is an equivalent capacitance of a transformer connected to node D. The left side (node A to node C) of the bus is charged by -45 V and the right (B to D) is charged by $+45$ V. Node A is short-circuited to node B at $t = 0$.

2) Test results

Fig. 3 shows the test results measured by an analog oscilloscope for (a) no C_t , and (b) $C_t = 5$ nF.

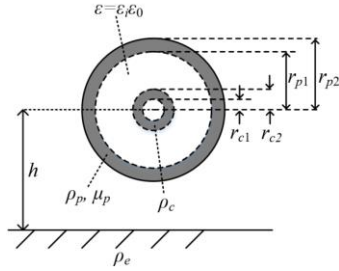


Fig. 1 GIB cross-section.

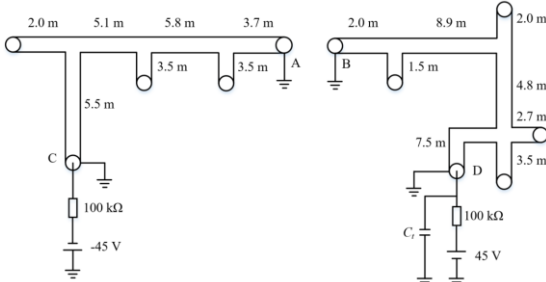


Fig. 2 Test circuit of a proto-type GIB: $h = 1$ m, $r_{c1} = 5.5$ cm, $r_{c2} = 7.0$ cm, $r_{p1} = 34.05$ cm, $r_{p2} = 34.5$ cm, $\rho_c = \rho_p = 2.8 \times 10^{-8}$ Ω m, $\mu_p = \mu_0$.

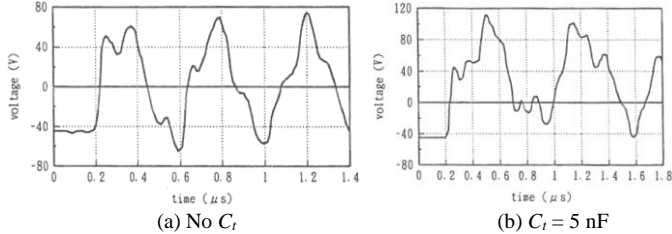


Fig. 3 Test results of node C voltage.

3) EMTP simulation results

Fig. 4 shows simulation results of core voltage V_c at node C by EMTP frequency-dependent line model (Wide-Band = WB model [39]) in the case of no C_t for (a) Cu plate and (b)

earth with the resistivity $\rho_e = 100$ Ω m. The voltages in (a) and (b) are almost identical, and thus it is confirmed that the earth resistivity causes only minor effect on the VFT.

Fig. 5 shows V_c calculated by a CP line model (2 MHz) with $\rho_e = 100$ Ω m. Fig. 6 is V_c calculated by a single-phase (coaxial mode) CP line model. Again, no significant difference is observed between the voltage V_c wave-forms in Fig. 4 to Fig. 6. Thus, note (1) in Section III-A is confirmed.

Fig. 7 shows simulation results of core voltage V_c at node C by (a) WB model, (b) CP model, and (c) single-phase CP model in the case of $C_t = 5$ nF for the earth $\rho_e = 100$ Ω m. Because of C_t , the oscillating frequency becomes lower than that in the case of no C_t in Fig. 4 to Fig. 6. No noticeable difference is observed between the three line models.

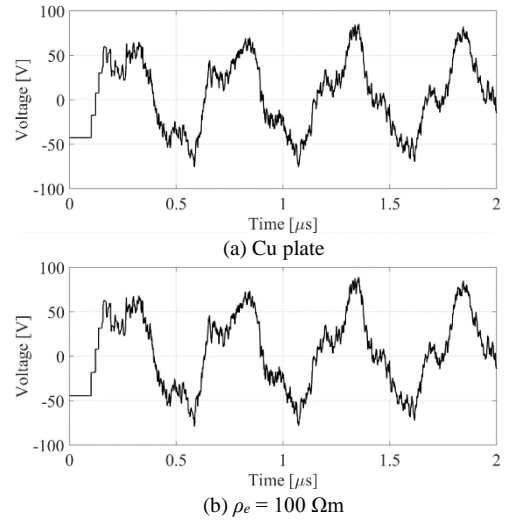


Fig. 4 Node C voltage of test circuit with branches and no C_t , WB model.

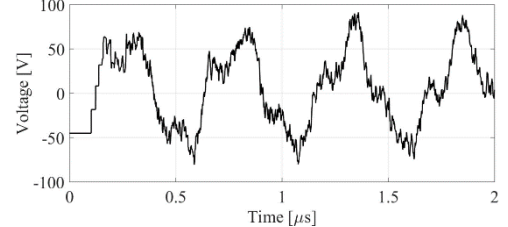


Fig. 5 Node C voltage of test circuit with branches and no C_t , CP model.

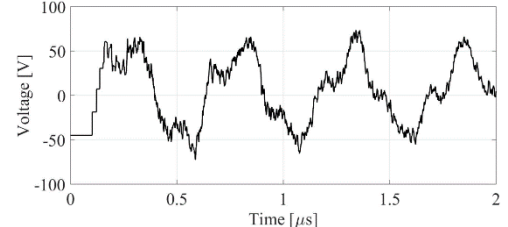


Fig. 6 Node C voltage of single-phase (core only), CP model.

Fig. 8 shows V_c when the branched buses in Fig. 2 are represented by an equivalent capacitance $C_b = 81$ pF/m evaluated by (1). Fig. 8 (a) is for no C_t , and (b) for $C_t = 5$ nF by WB and CP models. Because of the almost identical results, only the results by the CP model are shown in the figure. It is observed that the waveforms in Fig. 8 agree better

than those in Figs. 4 to 7 with the test results in Fig. 3, because of no higher frequency component in Fig. 3 and in Fig. 8. However, the reason for no high frequency component in the test results are due to the oscilloscope used in the measurements in 1970s, i.e. the highest frequency which could be measured by the oscilloscope was less than some ten MHz.

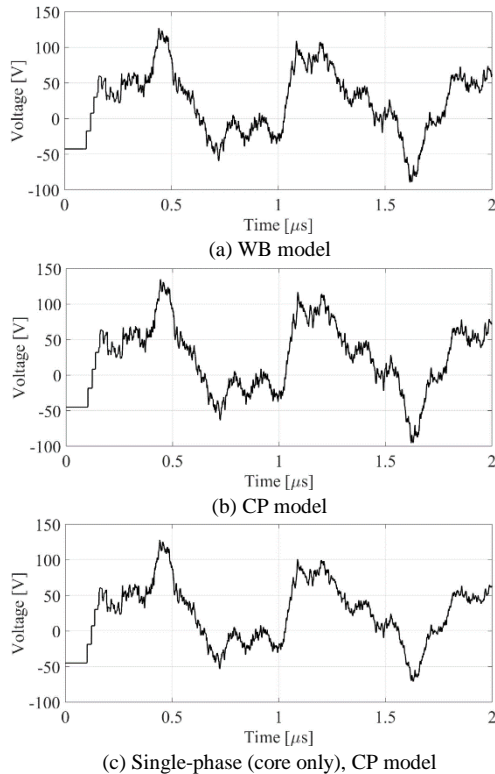


Fig. 7 Node C voltage of test circuit with branches and $C_T = 5$ nF.

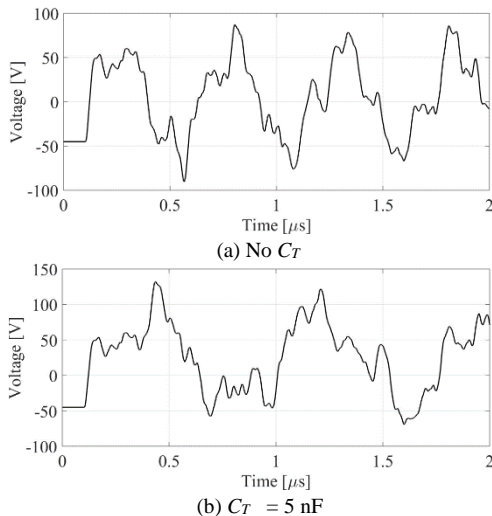


Fig. 8 Node C voltage with equivalent capacitances of the branches in the test circuit in Fig. 2.

4) Pipe voltage V_{2p}

Fig. 9 shows the pipe voltage at node A in Fig. 2 when the pipe is open-circuited at nodes A and B. (a) is by WB model and (b) by CP model. No significant difference between (a) and (b) is observed up to $t = 1 \mu\text{s}$. Then the peak value of a spike-like voltage is more damped in (a) due to the frequency-

dependent effect of the impedance. It is clear that the pipe voltage is more oscillatory than the core voltage in Fig. 7.

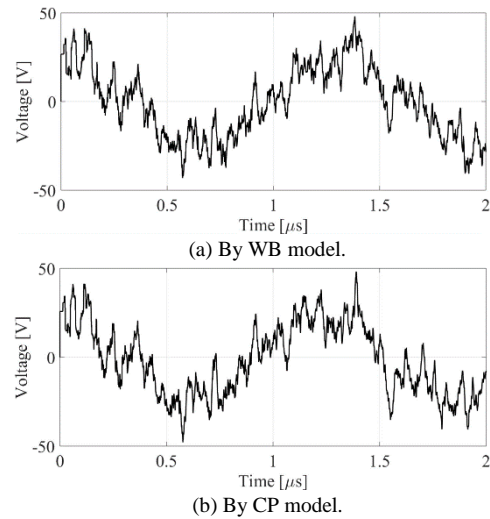


Fig. 9 Pipe voltage at node A in the open-circuited case with $C_T = 5$ nF.

C. UHV GIS

A test circuit of a UHV GIS [6] is illustrated in Fig. 10, and EMTP simulation results of DS switching surges at nodes P and Q are shown in Fig. 11 calculated by CP line model (1 MHz). The EMTP results in Fig. 11 are quite similar to those shown in Fig. 5 (a) and (b) in [6].

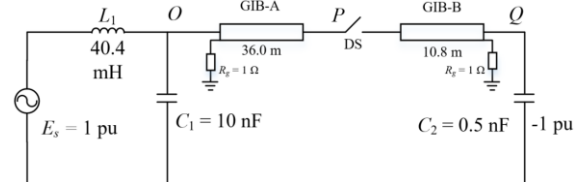


Fig. 10 Model circuit of a UHV GIS: $h = 1.5$ m, $r_{c1} = 13.5$ cm, $r_{c2} = 15$ cm, $r_{p1} = 76$ cm, $r_{p2} = 77$ cm, $\rho_c = 1.8 \times 10^{-8} \Omega\text{m}$, $\rho_p = 1.5 \times 10^{-7} \Omega\text{m}$, $\mu_p = 100\mu\text{o}$.

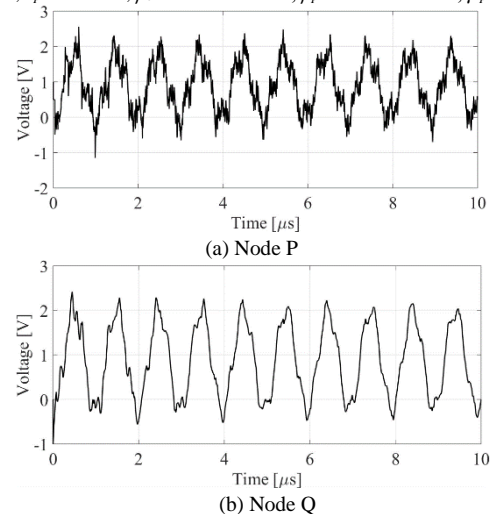
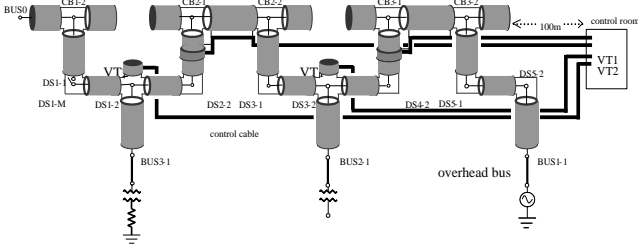


Fig. 11 EMTP simulation results of core voltages at nodes P and Q.

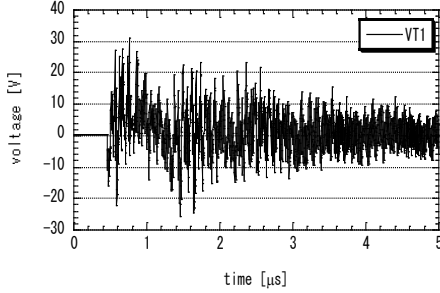
D. Induced Voltage to Control Cable via VT

Fig. 12 (a) illustrates a 500kV GIS in Japan [30]. The length of each gas-insulated bus (GIB) ranges from 1 m to 5 m. The distance from Bus 1-1 to Bus 3-1 is about 30 m. Many control cables of length about 100 m run along GIBs,

and VTs and CTs are connected between the buses and cables. The metallic sheaths of the control cables are grounded through $10\ \Omega$ at both ends, and the core is connected to the sheath at the remote end by $10\ \text{k}\Omega$. The cables for VT1 and VT2 are parallel to gas-insulated buses DS4 and CB3. The cable for VT2 is also parallel to DS2 and CB2.



(a) A model circuit of a 500kV GIS.



(b) DS3 operation with CB2 open.

Fig. 12 Transferred surges at a control cable remote end: $h = 1\ \text{m}$, $r_{c1} = 0$, $r_{c2} = 12.5\ \text{cm}$, $r_{p1} = 46\ \text{cm}$, $r_{p2} = 48\ \text{cm}$, $\rho_c = 1.8 \times 10^{-8}\ \Omega\text{m}$, $\rho_p = 3.78 \times 10^{-8}\ \Omega\text{m}$, $\mu_p = \mu_0$.

Fig. 12 (b) shows a simulation result of a transferred VFT at the remote end of a control cable when DS3 is closed with open-circuited CB2. The induced voltage is nearly proportional to the length of the control cable parallel to the GIB. The waveforms involve oscillating frequencies from 2 MHz to 20 MHz which agree with those in Table I (c). The simulation result shows a qualitative agreement with a measured result in the GIS, although the measured one is not available for publication.

IV. FDTD ANALYSIS

Numerical electromagnetic analysis (NEA) methods are becoming more and more powerful for analyzing various phenomena associated with both TEM and non-TEM modes of wave propagation [40]. Among various NEA methods, FDTD in time domain is most widely used for transient analysis.

One of the advantages of FDTD is easy computation of a three dimensional transient. For example, a GIB in the 500 kV GIS in Fig. 12 (a) can be represented three-dimensionally as it is. Then a transient due to DS or CB switching operation in a three-dimensional field can be easily performed, although the required memory and CPU time are very large. An example of a GIB model circuit for a transient computation by FDTD is illustrated in Fig. 13.

The total length of the GIB is 12 m, and the pipe is grounded through $2\ \Omega$ resistance at the position of 2 m from the sending end and at the receiving end. A source voltage of 408 kV is applied to the sending end, the left-hand side of the

model circuit. The earth resistivity is $100\ \Omega\text{m}$.

The FDTD computed and EMTP simulation results are shown in Fig. 14. A reasonable agreement between the FDTD and EMTP results is observed, although the former is less oscillatory than the latter. The reason for this looks radiation losses in the FDTD computation which cannot be considered in the EMTP simulation. Also, the CP line representation of the vertical lead wires for the source and pipe grounding in the EMTP produces more oscillation than the FDTD, while the frequency dependence of the vertical lead wires is included automatically in the FDTD computation.

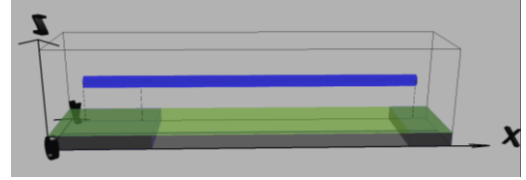
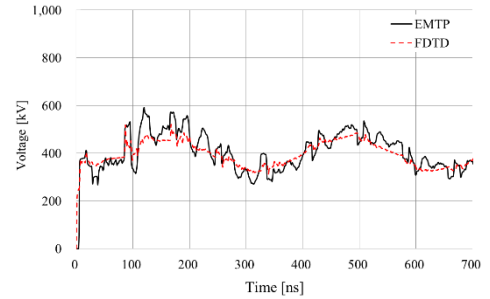
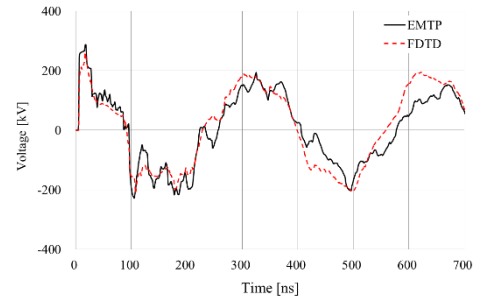


Fig. 13 FDTD model circuit of a part of GIBs in the GIS in Fig. 12 (a) [41].



(a) Sending-end core



(b) Sending-end pipe

Fig. 14 Switching surges on a GIB in Fig. 13 calculated by FDTD [41] and EMTP [39].

V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper has summarized field test results of VFTs measured in GISs considering electromagnetic disturbances in GIS control circuits which occasionally result in power system operation failures. The VFT frequency ranges from 1 MHz up to 140 MHz in GIS high-voltage circuits, and from 2 MHz to 80 MHz in low-voltage control circuits. Modeling of GIS elements for VFT simulations by EMT-type software is explained, and simulation results are compared with test results. Both frequency-dependent WB model and constant-parameter CP model show a reasonable agreement with the test results. A three-dimensional VFT computation is performed by FDTD, and computed results agree rather well with those by EMTP, although the EMTP results are more

oscillatory. The reason for this might be the effect of radiation losses which are automatically included in the FDTD computation. A main disadvantage of the FDTD is a large amount of computer resources being required.

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