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# MECHANICAL EFFECTS OF SHORT-CIRCUIT CURRENTS IN SUBSTATIONS WITH A STRAIN BUS SYSTEM PARAMETER ANALYSIS AND SIMPLE METHOD OF CALCULATION

*Paper presented in the name of Study Committee 23 (Substations)*

by

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## 1. ABSTRACT

Today several methods (1,2) are available to compute accurately the mechanical effects (displacements, mechanical tensions) due to short-circuit currents in substations with a strain bus bars (flexible conductor) system.

These complex methods require considerable computer analysis (about 1 hour CPU on an IBM 370/158) and involve substantial memory capacity. The initial design of substations however require numerous calculations but of a non-precise nature.

Until now no simple method has been available for the calculation of cable bus bar as is the case for slack conductors (5,3).

Based on a pendulum model which takes into account a large number of parameters (cable elasticity, anchoring structure stiffness, temperature effects, inertial effect, etc.) the paper presents the parameter analysis and on this basis gives some proposals of simple formulas.

These proposed simple formulas give the two main maxima for mechanical tension (swing out and falling down) and movements of the cable (inward and outward) for a two phase fault condition. This is the most severe case.

This study does not include the pinch effect in a bundle, see reference (10).

**Key-words** : substation - strain bus - short-circuit - mechanical effects - parametrisation - simplified formulas.

## 2. SIMPLIFIED MODEL

**2.1 Hypothesis** - Our simplified model is based on the main hypothesis of the well known pendulum model (8) :

- all forces are uniformly distributed
- cable has a parabola shape
- parabola remains in one plane during its motion
- anchoring points are at the same level.

The basic model has 3 degrees of freedom (D.O.F.) :

- $\phi$  : angular position of the rigid insulator chain
- $\beta$  : angular position of the plane which contains the cable
- $s$  : instantaneous sag of the cable.

The displacement of the structure (a 4 th D.O.F.) can be incorporated if we include the first frequency of the anchoring structure by a spring mass model. This model is easily derived into a classical 2 D.O.F. pendulum if the insulator length is taken at zero. More details are available in (8).

Tension and displacement are finally calculated by time integration from 3 (or 4) non-linear fully coupled second order differential equations.

**2.2 Limitations** - Inherent limitations of the model are imposed by hypothesis : we cannot take into account concentrated masses and droppers. Actual movement of the cable does not correspond to the in-plane movement after swinging out and the influence of in plane frequency is too large, for the same reason. End points must be at the same level. Only single conductor per phase are considered.

## 3. PARAMETER ANALYSIS

Reference (8) details the pendulum model and (1, 9) show some comparisons with other evaluations (tests and numerical calculations). Because of the good correlation between our simplified model and actual test results (1) it is possible to make some sensibility analysis taking into account numerous parameters, for a very low cost.

We do not reject the use of sophisticated calculations, but an initial simplified approach can give the design engineer some feeling for the concept of the structures, in order to limit complex calculations to specific cases and thus save time and money.

The PARAMETRIC APPROACH requires that we define some general parameters which are independent of the actual design and the relevant short-circuit conditions. These parameters should give information concerning maximal tensions (swing out and falling down maxima), and clearance.

Fig. 1 movement at mid-span under a two phase fault condition.

In our contribution we have studied the evolution of four universal normalised variables, as follows :

relative to initial value of tension :

Rt/Fst : Swing out maximum

Rf/Fst : Falling down maximum

relative to initial value of sag :

Yin/so : Horizontal inwards movement

Yout/so : Horizontal outwards movement

NB. We only consider the critical case thus

Yin = Yout.

We therefore wish to determine the effects of :

- r.m.s. intensity of the short-circuit currents
- time constant of the network at fault location
- short-circuit duration
- initial tension (or initial sag)
- span length
- distance between phases
- cable cross section
- anchoring structures stiffness

All the specific effects mentioned above have been studied separately for a basic case and we have attempted to give general curves in parametrising the curves so obtained.

The basic case is LABORLTC (1,2,11) with minor modifications. This case will permit extrapolations from the general curves to a practical disposition for 150 kV, or another.

This approach has been developed in order to define dimensionless parameters for the phenomenon of S-C-effects on flexible busbar systems.

These parameters are as follows (notations and detailed expressions in appendix) :

LOAD FACTOR (P1) :  $F_m/M_g$   
electromagnetic force on one phase divided by the weight of cable

NETWORK FACTOR (P2) :  $\omega T$   
current pulsation multiplied by the time constant of the network

SHORT-CIRCUIT FACTOR (P3) :  $Tk/T$   
duration of fault divided by Natural Swing Period

STRUCTURAL FACTOR (P4) :  $100 \frac{F_{st,lc}}{S_{so,so}}$   
anchoring stiffness divided by the sensibility of variation of tension as function of length.

( $d1/dF$  and  $S/(Rst,lc)$  are similar.

3.1 A specific approach

Each of the influences will be treated for several P1 values which is the main factor. Curves are also presented in this form.

3.1.1 Influence of short-circuit time duration (Tk) P2 and P4 remain constant see fig. 2 and 3. Rf/Fst logically increases with P1 (=Fm2/M2.g) and P3(=Tk/T). Nevertheless Rf/Fst, at constant P1, leads to an asymptotic maximal value as soon as P3=0.25 (i.e. Tk=T/4). In this critical case, the short-circuit time is the same as the time for the cable to reach its extremal position. The increase of Rf/Fst becomes linear beyond P1=2.

The duration of short-circuit time (or more exactly P3) does not influence the maximum value for real falling down (fig. 2). But this maximum occurs for increasing P1 values when P3 decreases. As an approximation, maximum Rf occurs when P1.P3 = 0,35 (this product is an image of the input energy). This value will also vary with P2. The influence of clearance results in a combination of heating, reaction of anchoring stiffness and elasticity of the cable (fig. 3).

3.1.2 Influence of span length (lc)

If Tk is modified to have a constant P3, with a constant ratio of sag to span length then P2 and P4 are also constant. Therefore the curves remain unchanged, i.e. for a span of 40 m (Tk=0.2s, Fst=7500 N) and 80 m (Tk=0.28 s, Fst=15000 N) then Rf/Fst, Rf/Fst and Yout/so are the same for a given P1 value, independently of the span length.

3.1.3 Influence of the initial tension (Fst)

If P2 and P3 remain constant, the influence of Fst is dependent only on P4 for a given P1 value (fig. 4 and 5). The influence of increasing Fst only is a rapid decrease of P4 and a low increase of P3 : i.e. lower falling down and swing out ratios (Rf/Fst). The final gain on Ft and clearance is very limited.

The falling down maximum is located at a fixed P1 value (=2,5) and this maximum increases very quickly with P4 i.e. when Fst decreases.

3.1.4 Influence of anchoring stiffness (S)

If P2 and P3 remain constant, only P4 gives this impact (fig. 4 and 5). We have the same curves as for tension, thus an increase of anchoring stiffness has the same effect as a decrease of mechanical tension. Both effects can be compensated.

For the same electrodynamic stress, Rf maximum can be multiplied by about 3 in the normal range of use of substations (S from 10<sup>4</sup> to 10<sup>6</sup> N/mm). Influences on displacement could be easily deduced by the reader who will note the natural compromise between high mechanical tension and large clearance.

In calculations an infinite stiffness hypothesis would give large overdimensioning.

3.1.5 Influence of cross section of the conductor (A) With a constant ratio of sag to span length, P3 and P2 can remain unchanged and again we have included this effect in parameter P4 and P1 (fig. 4 and 5). Influence of thermal gradient has been taken into account in these figures but only for the normal range of practical use.

For a given short-circuit current and duration, P1 decreases very quickly with an increase of cross section. This has the beneficial effect of not increasing the final maximal value of Ft or Rf.

This advantage is also applicable to the clearance. Any increase of cross section will always be advantageous, if it is possible.

3.1.6 Influence of time constant of the network  
 This influence is dependent upon P2 (fig. 6 and 7). An increase of P2 (with maximum asymmetry) could significantly increase the stresses for a given P4 value, up to 70% between a fault without asymmetry and another with asymmetry for large time constant.

The first maximum of falling down is not influenced by P2, as with P3.

continuous line : Ft/Fst dotted line : Rf/Rst

PARAMETER ANALYSIS

3.2 General approach

Curves 2 to 7 show the influence on Ft/Fst, Rf/Rst, and Yin/S0 related to parameter P1 (Rm2/M2.g) which leads the electromagnetic load. All these curves have been given for a range of variation of the other parameters P2, P3 and P4.

3.2.1 Swing out maximum (Ft) logically increases with increases of all the parameters. The increase is of quadratic form at the beginning and linear thereafter.

$$P_1 = \frac{F_m^2}{M^2 g}$$

$$P_2 = \omega T$$

$$P_3 = \frac{T}{K}$$

$$P_4 = 10$$

$$P_3 = \frac{5 S \cdot s_0^2}{F_{st} \cdot l \cdot c}$$

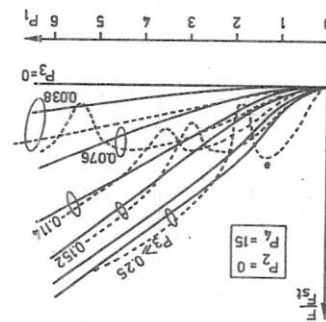


Fig. 2 : influence of load factor (P1) on mechanical tensions for several short circuit factor

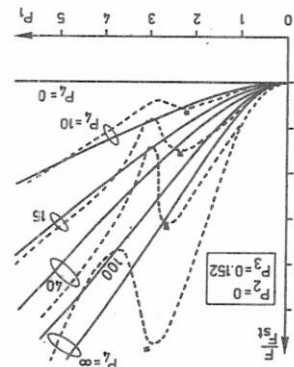


Fig. 4 : influence of load factor on mechanical tension for several structural factor

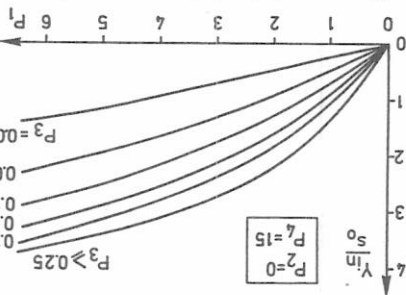


Fig. 3 : influence of load factor on displacements for several short circuit factor

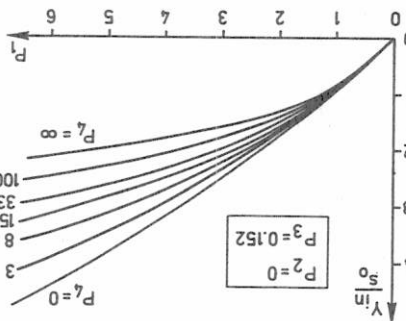


Fig. 5 : influence of load factor on displacements for several structural factors

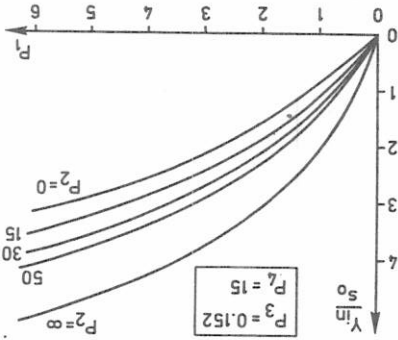


Fig. 7 : influence of load factor on displacements for several network factor

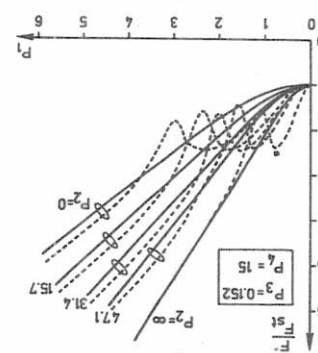


Fig. 6 : influence of load factor on mechanical tensions for several network factor



APPENDIX - NOTATIONS according IEC (5)

A	Conductor cross section of the cable bus bar (mm <sup>2</sup> )
a	Interphase distance between conductors (m)
E	Young modulus (N/mm <sup>2</sup> )
Ze	sag of insulator chain at cable fixation (m)
Fm2	electromagnetic force in one phase for a two phase fault (N)
	$F_{m2} = (0.2 I_k^2 k_3 \cdot l^2) / a$
Fst	Initial static tension (N)
Ft	"Swing out" mechanical tension (N)
Ff	"Falling down" mechanical tension (N)
f1, f2, f3	The three frequencies of the 3 dof simple model (Hz)
g	gravity constant = 9.81 m/s <sup>2</sup>
Ik3	rms value of short circuit current (kA)
lso	Length of the cable bus bar (m)
lc	Span length of the cable only (m)
lf	Span length carrying current (where force in acting) (m)
M1	Total mass of both insulator string (kg)
M2	Total mass of the cable (kg)
	$M_2 = m \cdot l_{so}$
m'	Main conductor mass p.u. length (kg/m)
P1	$F_{m2} / M_2^2$ parameter (-)
P2	wt parameter (-)
P3	Tk/T parameter (-)
P4	100000.S.so.so/(Fst.lc) parameter (-)
S	S1.S2/(S1+S2) equivalent structure stiffness (both end points S1, S2 in serie) (N/mm)
so	Initial sag at mid-span (m)
Tk	duration of short-circuit (s)
T	Natural swing period of the cable (s)
	$T = 0.56 \sqrt{l_{so}}$
Yin(Yout)	Inwards(outwards) movement of all the span (m)
wt	pulsation of the current (314 rad/s) multiplied by time constant of the network
v1, v2	First symmetric and antisymmetric mode of anchoring structure (Hz)
γ, β	Degree of freedom of pendulum model

RESUME

provide the designer with an accurate tool to obtain a more precise value.

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The Appendix gives one of the three organigrams mentioned in the Paper. The author is at your disposal to supply any complementary information concerning the other organigrams.

Cette étude originale est une aide à la conception des postes à jeux de barres tendus et soumis à de fortes intensités de courant. On envisage systématiquement l'impact de tous les paramètres importants sur le comportement des câbles tant les déplacements (distance d'isolement dans l'air) que les tensions mécaniques (dimensionnement des structures). Il apparaît que quatre paramètres sans dimension suffisent pour décrire le phénomène. Il en résulte des formules simplifiées très utiles au stade de la conception.





