

Current Transformer Saturation & Impact Analysis of CT Saturation on Healthy System & Distance Protection in Power Network

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Abstract:

Live wire Power system faces many difficulties during normal & abnormal operating conditions. Disturbance like imbalance loading & faults hampers the dynamics of the system. Maintaining voltage to frequency ratio is crucial in power network, for this instrument transformers & protective device plays a vital role. So for accurate function of any protection scheme current transformer reliability is essential. The major issue with any current transformer is its saturation. In modern power system optical fiber CTs are being replaced with conventional CTs, but it has its own challenges. Even in present date conventional CTs are being used for protection of system. In this paper we have analyzed & discussed about CT saturation & its impact on distance protection on power system

Keywords: CT Saturation, Knee Point Voltage, Distance Protection, Impedance measurement, Saturation Flux.

I. INTRODUCTION

In modern Power System protection & measurement plays an important role in stability of grid. This can only be achieved through accuracy & speed of operation. With state-of-the art development in electrical manufacturing sector the texture of instrument transformer is also modernize to fulfill the requirement, looking to recent development optical fiber CTs are replacing conventional CTs, but it has its own challenges. As the process of development is gradual, the presence of conventional CT cannot be ruled out. So for a healthy system operation fast & accurate CT operation is critical.

Current transformer is a type of instrumentation transformer which is used to convert higher level current up to a level workable for protection, measurement and control setting. It produces a secondary current which is proportional to the current in the primary.

Current transformer insulates the secondary side from the high voltage of the primary side so that the

secondary side is not exposed. When saturation occurs due to fault in the transmission line, the relay that is connected to the transformer cannot operate properly.

The secondary current is mainly used for the purpose of metering and protection. For protection less accuracy in CT is required as compared to the metering. In this paper distance protection system is connected with CT. So, accuracy of the current transformer not a major factor as the metering.

II. THEORY OF CT SATURATION

To understand CT saturation, first we have to know about the concept of working of CT, why does it saturate and what is happening after the saturation.

A. Working of CT

CT consists of two windings, secondary winding is around the core and the primary winding acts as a primary conductor passes through secondary. When current flows in the primary winding, alternating

magnetic field is generated. This leads to the generation of alternating magnetic flux around the transformer core that passes through the secondary winding. If a burden is connected in secondary, an alternating voltage is created by the magnetic flux across the secondary. This generates an alternating current to flow in the secondary side, which creates its own alternating magnetic field and alternating magnetic flux that oppose which created by the primary. This results in cancelation of fluxes and leaving a net flux of negligible amount in the core.

So, basically CT is a type of transformer that produces a current in its secondary which is proportional to the current in the primary.

Figure (1) shows an equivalent circuit diagram of CT. Where I_p (the primary current), I_s (the secondary load current), I_0 (the magnetizing current) N_1 and N_2 represent the turns ratio of the CT, and the ratio current I_{st} is the primary current divided by this ratio.

The resistance R_{ct} represents the secondary winding resistance of the CT and R_{load} represents the resistance of the load. Here R_{ct} value is constant whereas the value of R_{load} varies according to the load.

In CT the constant current source I_p drives the total secondary current I_s as determined by the turns ratio. I_s is the current that is measured by the load if the CT is ideal.

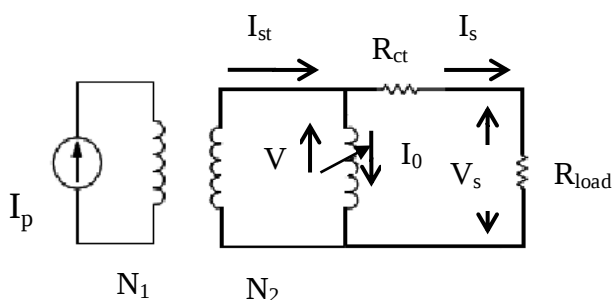


Fig.1. Equivalent Circuit diagram for Current Transformer

B. Current Transformer Saturation

If an open circuited condition occurred on the secondary of CT, in the secondary side very high

alternating voltage flows due to the alternating magnetic flux. This results in high burden on the secondary side, creates a low impedance path due to fault condition causes a very high primary current, which leads to the saturation of the current transformer.

When CT gets saturated they can no longer maintain the current ratio between the primary and the secondary winding. Saturation may lead to malfunction of the protection devices as the measured current does not correspond to the current on the system.

III. SIMULATION OF CURRENT TRANSFORMER SATURATION

Figure (2) represents the MATLAB simulation of a current transformer where there is connection between the source and output voltage and current. A voltage source of 120 KV is connected to the primary side of the current transformer through a circuit breaker. The rated current of the current transformer is 2000/5.

The turns ratio of the transformer is represented by,

$$N_1 I_p = N_2 I_s \quad (1)$$

Where N_1 = primary turns and N_2 = secondary turns

The primary of the current transformer is taken as 1 turn. That means secondary current is fixed as 5A and so according to equation (1), the secondary turns is 80 turns and 400 A current is flowing in the primary side.

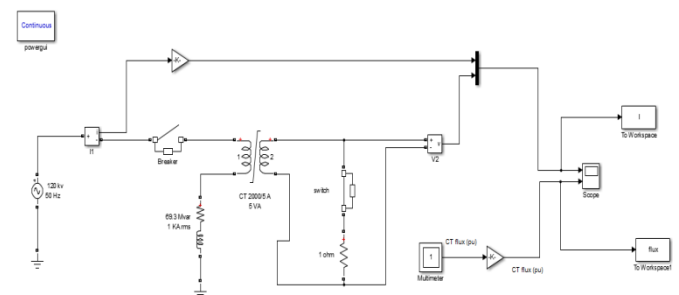


Fig. 2. Current Transformer Simulation Block

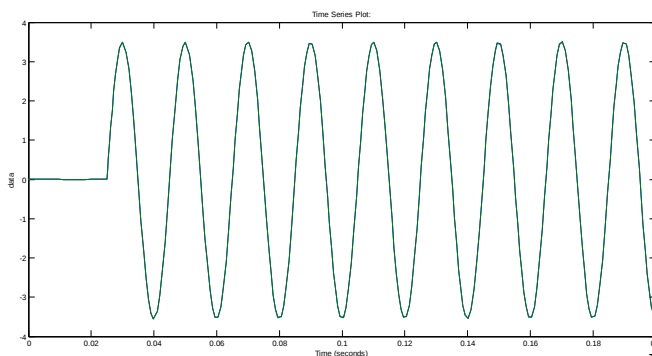
The output current and the flux can be represented by using the scope connected in the Simulink block. By using this block we can observe the behavior of current transformer for both normal and saturation condition.

Figure (3) explains the generated secondary current of the transformer without saturation. It can be observed from the graph that the variation in curve is synchronized with time which indicates that ratio transformation is occurring in a smooth way, i.e. as per the current level in the line, the replication in reduced level as per ratio is availed for protection & measurement

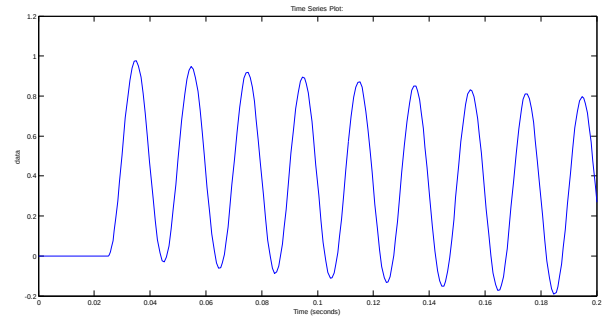
Figure (4) explains the generated flux of the transformer due to the secondary current and can be measured by using the multi-meter. It can be observed from the curve that the envelope reduction is gradual with diminishing margin in positive and negative quadrant. With diminishing marginal shifting there will cause heavy fluctuation of current, this will lead to unnecessary relay actuation & circuit breaker triggering.

Figure (5) explains the influence of current saturation on the secondary current of the transformer. It clearly indicates that during saturation the peak current value reduces drastically and varies in-uniformly w.r.t. time. That is in spite of standing ratio the current value does not change accordingly as it should be.

Figure (6) explains the effect of current saturation on the flux. It indicates that the exchange of flux becomes constant after excitation flux reaches knee point voltage as shown in graph the flux increases to peak value as remains constant in positive quadrant w.r.t. time period without any variation or negligible variation, for which there will be no mutual exchange of flux from Ct core to secondary. Which will leads to excess accumulation of charge in CT core, resulting in heating of the core.

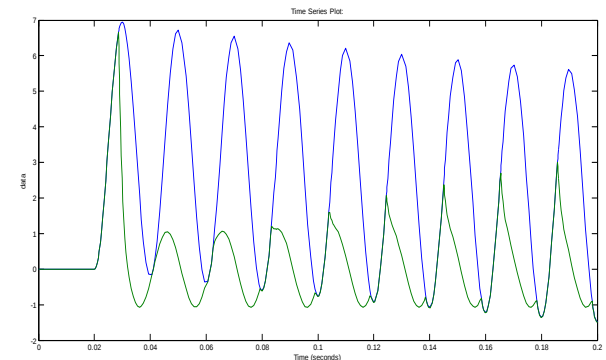


Current Vs Time
Fig. 3. Secondary current of transformer without CT Saturation



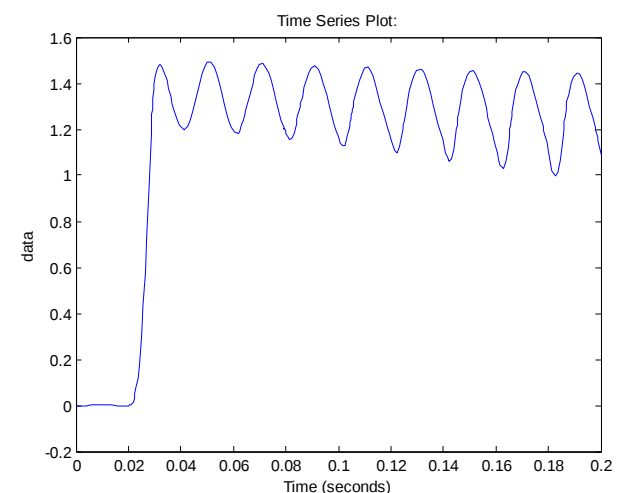
Flux Vs Time

Fig.4. Current Transformer Flux without CT Saturation



Current Vs Time

Fig. 5. Secondary current of transformer with CT Saturation



Flux Vs Time

Fig.6. Current Transformer Flux with CT Saturation

IV. Power system And Current Transformer with Distance protection Simulation Block

This block consists of a 120 KV line-to-line source voltage, transmission line and a CT with current saturation effect on power system and distance protection system.

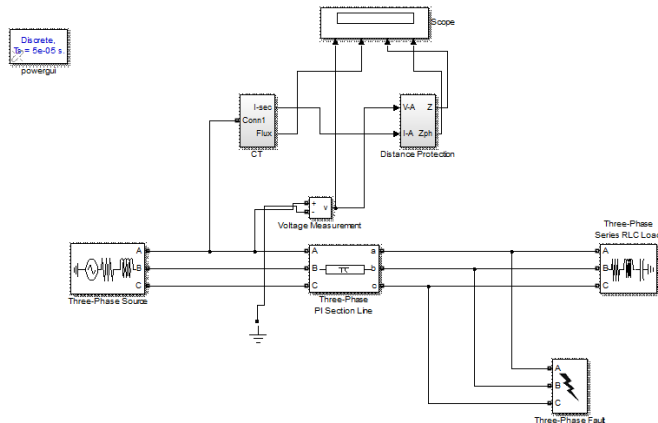


Fig.7. Power system simulation

This paper explains the behavior distance protection system under the influence of CT saturation. The simulation of the power system contains the source and the CT. The current signal moved from the CT to the distance protection block. Its simulation graph is given in figure (9,10).

A. Distance Protection Block

Distance protection is designed to detect the faults which occurred in the transmission lines. The main functions included in the digital relay model are detection of faults, measurement of impedance and Zone protection.

1. Detection of faults

The relay allows the direct detection of the faulty phase and tripping of the appropriate distance measuring zone. Without phase selection under reach or over reach problem might occur.

2. Impedance Measurement Block

The impedance measurement block consists of subsystem used to calculate the fault impedance of single phase fault. The block uses an algorithm for the fault detection shown in equation (2).

$$Z_{slg} = \frac{V_A}{I_A + 3K_0 I_0} \quad (2)$$

$$K_0 = \frac{Z_0 - Z_1}{KZ_1} \quad (3)$$

$$I_0 = \frac{V_s}{Z_0 + 2Z_1} \quad (4)$$

Where,

Z_{slg} = single line to ground Fault impedance

A = phase where fault occurs

V_A = phase voltage

I_A = phase current

I_0 = zero- sequence current

Z_0 = zero-sequence impedance (75 ohm)

Z_1 = positive-sequence impedance (50 ohm)

K = residual compensation factor (taken as 0.9)

V_s = phase voltage during the phase to ground fault

Figure (8) shows the subsystem of the impedance measurement block.

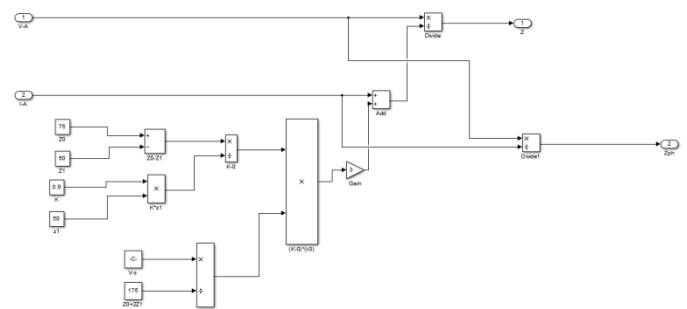


Figure 8. Apparent impedance model for SLG Fault

3. Zone protection

The distance protection system divides the transmission line into different zones. Zone 1 covers up to 80 percent of the first section of transmission line. The setting of the next zones depends on the length of the remaining sections of the line. Zone 2 covers up to 120 percent (Zone 1 + 20%) and Zone 3 covers up to 240 percent (Zone 1 + Zone 2 + 20%) of the first section of the transmission line.

(Simulation graph of Fig. 7)

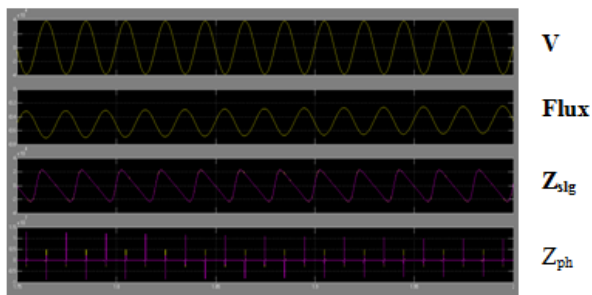


Fig. 9. Parameters with distance protection without CT saturation

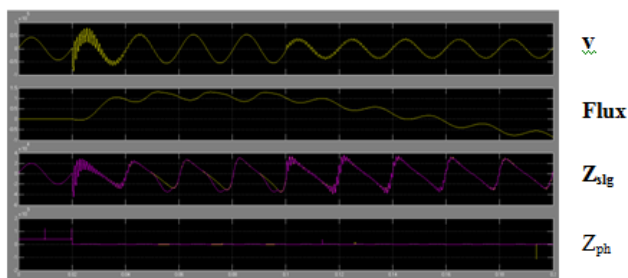


Fig. 10 Parameters with distance protection with CT saturation

V. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Fig.9 and Fig 10 show the parameters of the designed distance protection which cover different parts of transmission line under study. The figure (9) explains the behavior of different parameters in a power system where distance protection is connected and the CT is operated without saturation. The figure 10 shows the behavior of the parameters when the CT connected to the power system in under the influence of saturation. Current saturation leads to an error in the calculated fault impedance (Z_{slg}) and also there is an error occurred in the algorithm which is used to calculate the fault impedance. Due to this error, the distance protection is not working as it should.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

The CT saturation could force the distance protection, because of the algorithm which is used for the calculation of fault impedance in the protection system. This algorithm is using both the current and voltage signals. The saturation effect in CT has resulted in a failure in the calculation. This

error leads to the problems in functions of the protection. So the CT saturation boost the measured impedance in the system.

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