

The Bible of **G**enerator Protection Engineering

The Commissioning Manual for Professionals

ALEXANDER MUTH

COMPLEX ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IN YOUR POCKET

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The Bible of Generator Protection Engineering

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by Alexander Muth

Table of Contents

Preface		p. 7
Chapter 1	Current Transformer Test	p. 13
Chapter 2	Voltage Transformer Test	p. 37
Chapter 3	Functional Check	p. 58
Chapter 4	Secondary Check	p. 62
Chapter 5	Stator Ground Fault Protection 90%	p. 76
Chapter 6	Stator Ground Fault Protection 100%	p. 91
Chapter 7	Rotor Ground Fault Protection	p. 109

Table of Contents

Chapter 8	Primary Check - Current Test	p. 121
Chapter 9	Primary Check - Voltage Test	p. 158
Chapter 10	Primary Check - Ground Fault Test	p. 168
Chapter 11	Primary Check - Synchronization	p. 175
Chapter 12	Load and Reverse Power Test	p. 177
Chapter 13	Additional Formulas and Facts	p. 182
Chapter 14	Test Checklists	p. 193
Chapter 15	Your Notes	p. 197
Chapter 16	Index	p. 206
Postscript and Acknowledgments		p. 223

Preface

Think of this manual as the plug'n'play bible for everyone who makes a living by commissioning complex generator protection systems. It will also be of interest to those who only occasionally have to concern themselves with such affairs, perhaps as plant operators or specialists in similar trades.

Generator protection is and remains the undisputed king amongst the disciplines associated with electrical protection engineering systems. The secrets of how they are commissioned — the Holy Grail — are about to be unveiled, as this concise manual contains all the crucial facts that we need to know about this process.

The book is designed as a handy on-site pocket-sized reference tome, a readily available reference work for professionals, and also a How-To-Do-Guide for plant operators, who, due to ever-shrinking project and maintenance budgets, are increasingly finding themselves having to

Preface

turn their hand to these matters. Not only that, it will also give students and first-time employees an illuminating insight into the “secret world” of generator protection engineering.

We explain the tests that need to be carried out on current and voltage transformers, the linking and isolation elements between the primary measured values and the secondary measuring signals processed in the protection system. What do we have to do to get stator and rotor ground fault protection systems up and running? How are primary and secondary checks carried out? What do we need to be aware of when commissioning synchronizing equipment? All the tests and checks that need to be carried out when commissioning a generator protection system are described in detail in this small book. We generally begin with the preliminary checks of all the existing current transformer circuits (Chapter 1).

In protection engineering, the skill often lies in paring a very complex subject down to its bare essentials.

As my former university professor Alfred Tempel used to say:

Every solution must fit on a beer mat!

We hope that this “slightly unusual” text book will inspire you to pluck up the courage and give you the confidence to take matters into your own hands and discover for yourself the fun that is always to be had when commissioning a protection system.

PS: As every individual is only as good as his, or her, team, I've decided to use the first person plural form (“we”) throughout this manual.

Alexander Muth

Safety Notice

Failure to observe the following points can result in death, serious injury or material damage!

Hazardous voltages may be present when carrying out the tests and checks described in this manual. The safety rules and regulations regarding electrical systems must be strictly observed at all times. The generator must always be shut down when working on the primary system; appropriate grounding and short-circuiting facilities are to be provided at the respective workplaces. When carrying out a primary check on a turbine set, take care to ensure that no overheating of the turbine occurs.

The work described in this manual may only be carried out by qualified personnel, who must be conversant with the relevant safety regulations and safety measures as well as the warnings in the manuals provided by the suppliers of the various components. The contents of this manual

must not construed as work instructions. All statements in this manual must be carefully considered in light of the safety rules and regulations. The information presented in this manual does not claim to be complete.

“I’ve never made a mistake.
I’ve only learned from experience.”

Thomas A. Edison

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

Here we go!

Normally, two things have to be tested when commissioning a current transformer:

- **the secondary circuit wiring** including the connected equipment
- **the transformer** itself

The sequence described here is important, as we have to demonstrate that the secondary circuits are closed and correctly burdened before measuring the ratio of the transformer.

As everywhere else in the world of protection engineering, no compromises can be tolerated, especially in the testing of current transformers. This is where we have to get serious and proceed with the utmost care and attention.

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

The secondary circuit of a live transformer must always be short circuited or closed. Any transformer circuits that are open during operation may damage the transformer itself or, more critically, result in potentially lethal secondary voltages of several kV. A current transformer circuit may only be opened when the primary system has been put out of operation and secured to prevent it being accidentally switched on again (see Safety Notice).

Testing the Secondary Circuit Wiring

Testing of the secondary circuit wiring involves 3 steps:

- ★ Insulation test
- ★ Wiring check
- ★ Measurement of rated burden

Firstly, we decide which terminal block to use for our tests in the direction of the protection devices or transducers. The obvious candidates in this case are the terminal blocks in the transformer terminal box or on-site control cubicle. It's always good to use an accessible transformer terminal board, as the closer we are to the transformer the better. These terminals are then slid open and short-circuited on the transformer side.

Insulation Test

To protect the device and prevent the measuring circuit influencing our results, we disconnect the wires of the current transformer circuit on the corresponding field device and screen them with insulating sleeves up to 1 kV.

For the test, we use an insulation tester to apply approx. 1 kV DC to the phase-to-ground and phase-to-phase loops of the first accessible terminal block in the terminal box or on-site control cubicle and determine and assess the measured insulation resistance. Both DIN VDE and ÖNORM

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

expect a value $\geq 1 \text{ M}\Omega$. On completing the test, we reconnect the wires of the protection device and consign the insulation test to history.

Wiring Check

With the help of a suitable secondary testing device, we inject a symmetrical three-phase system with differing amplitudes in the direction of the field device. This enables us to make a phase-selective assignment. Choosing the test values shown below permits “metrological labeling” of the phases:

$$\text{IP1} = 0.1 \text{ A} / 0^\circ \qquad \text{IP2} = 0.2 \text{ A} / -120^\circ \qquad \text{IP3} = 0.3 \text{ A} / 120^\circ$$

The test values do not need to be any higher, as we need to keep an eye on the pickup thresholds of connected protection devices. Ideally, a current of $0.1 \text{ A} \cdot \sqrt{3} / 150^\circ$ (173 mA) will be measured in the outgoing conductor.

If intermediate transformers are present, we increase the amplitude of each test current by the ratio factor. The test currents can now be either read off directly or checked using a clamp meter in the protection or metering cabinet. It's always good practice to carry out the test from the protection or metering cabinet as well, particularly when we come across faulty wiring, as this enables us to filter out any phase turners between these terminal points.

Another good tip is to inject the test values using a modern testing device from Omicron®. Using CPol-Tools® enables the current direction from the first terminal block to be “checked in advance”, before the current test.

If only a single phase tester is available, there is of course nothing to stop us checking each phase in turn. The diagram below shows the classical test arrangement for the wiring check:

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

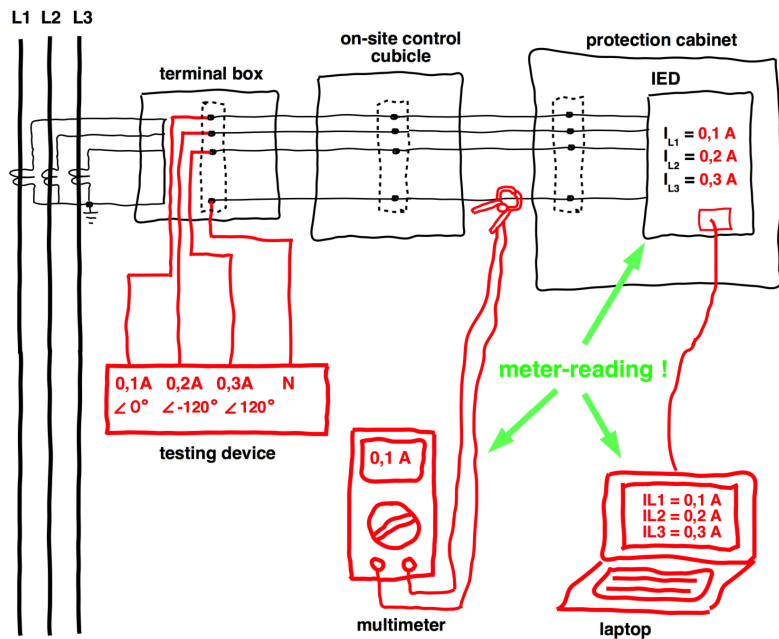


Figure 1: Test arrangement for the wiring check

Measurement of Rated Burden

The purpose behind the measurement of the rated burden is to demonstrate that the burden of the connected secondary circuit does not exceed the rated burden of the current transformer. In other words, we want to exclude the possibility of “overburdening” the current transformer, as only then is it safe to assume that the transformer can handle what its rating plate would have us believe.

This is done by injecting the secondary nominal current of the current transformer, usually 1 A or 5 A, into the phase-to-ground loops of the terminal block in the transformer's terminal box and measuring the voltage drop on the terminals with a multimeter. If it proves impossible to carry out the measurement directly on the terminal board, we'll simply move to the next terminal block, e.g., the one in the on-site control cubicle. We can make an intelligent guess for the section we've had to skip over and add this figure to the result of the measurement. The table below provides a quick guide to the values for the section we haven't been able to measure and also helps us carry out a plausibility check on the measured values and the overall results. The “protection

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

boxes” themselves don't add much to the result, as digital relays usually have internal burdens of less than 100 mΩ.

Table 1: Secondary burden P / VA (function of nominal current, cross section of a single conductor)

	Secondary nominal CT current = 1 A						Secondary nominal CT current = 5 A					
	1,5 mm ²	2,5 mm ²	4 mm ²	6 mm ²	10 mm ²	16 mm ²	1,5 mm ²	2,5 mm ²	4 mm ²	6 mm ²	10 mm ²	16 mm ²
5 m	0,2	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	3,7	2,2	1,4	0,9	0,6	0,3
10 m	0,3	0,2	0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	< 0,1	7,4	4,4	2,8	1,8	1,1	0,7
20 m	0,6	0,4	0,2	0,2	< 0,1	< 0,1	14,7	8,8	5,5	3,7	2,2	1,4
30 m	0,9	0,5	0,3	0,2	0,1	< 0,1	22,1	13,2	8,3	5,5	3,3	2,1
40 m	1,2	0,7	0,4	0,3	0,2	0,1	29,4	17,7	11,0	7,4	4,4	2,8
50 m	1,5	0,9	0,6	0,4	0,2	0,1	36,8	22,1	13,8	9,2	5,5	3,4
60 m	1,8	1,1	0,7	0,4	0,3	0,2	44,1	26,5	16,6	11,0	6,6	4,1
70 m	2,1	1,2	0,8	0,5	0,3	0,2	51,5	30,9	19,3	12,9	7,7	4,8
80 m	2,4	1,4	0,9	0,6	0,4	0,2	58,9	35,3	22,1	14,7	8,8	5,5
90 m	2,6	1,6	1,0	0,7	0,4	0,2	66,2	39,7	24,8	16,6	9,9	6,2
100 m	2,9	1,8	1,1	0,7	0,4	0,3	73,6	44,1	27,6	18,4	11,0	6,9
150 m	4,4	2,6	1,7	1,1	0,7	0,4	110,4	66,2	41,4	27,6	16,6	10,3
200 m	5,9	3,5	2,2	1,5	0,9	0,6	147,1	88,3	55,2	36,8	22,1	13,8
250 m	7,4	4,4	2,8	1,8	1,1	0,7	183,9	110,4	69,0	46,0	27,6	17,2
300 m	8,8	5,3	3,3	2,2	1,3	0,8	220,7	132,4	82,8	55,2	33,1	20,7
350 m	10,3	6,2	3,9	2,6	1,5	1,0	257,5	154,5	96,6	64,4	38,6	24,1
400 m	11,8	7,1	4,4	2,9	1,8	1,1	294,3	176,6	110,4	73,6	44,1	27,6
450 m	13,2	7,9	5,0	3,3	2,0	1,2	331,1	198,6	124,2	82,8	49,7	31,0
500 m	14,7	8,8	5,5	3,7	2,2	1,4	367,9	220,7	137,9	92,0	55,2	34,5
These values apply to copper cable at an operating temperature of 80 °C												

For all those out-of-the-ordinary system configurations that are not to be found in the table, and for circuits between Earth and the planet Zog, the following equation will provide a rough estimate:

$$P = I_n^2 \cdot \frac{l}{A} \cdot 0,044 \left[\frac{\Omega \cdot mm^2}{m} \right] \quad (1-1)$$

P - secondary burden (80°) [VA]
 I_n - secondary nominal CT current [A]
 l - ne-way wire length [m]
 A - cross section [mm²]

The one-way wire length is used for the length l . The computed result naturally corresponds to the secondary burden of the entire line loop, including the incoming and outgoing conductors.

Once the wiring check has been completed, the terminals opened at the start of the process are slid closed and the short circuit to the transformer removed.

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

Now that we've checked the secondary loop wiring, we can move onto the testing of the transformer.

Testing the Current Transformer

Testing of the current transformer comprises the following steps:

- ★ Visual check
- ★ Measurement of winding resistance
- ★ Insulation test
- ★ Checking the nominal transformer power and rated accuracy limit factor
- ★ Checking the winding direction (polarity)
- ★ Checking the grounding
- ★ Checking the assignment of the cores
- ★ Measuring the ratio

Before starting, we need to disconnect the secondary-side grounding of the transformer.

Visual Check

Suggesting that a visual check be carried out sounds trivial. However, it's difficult to believe just how many of the possible faults can be detected simply by looking. Most of them are indeed “blindingly obvious”. So it's always worth starting by having a look at the transformer and the rating plate. Take a moment to check and make a note of the following transformer parameters, as they're important:

- Transformer type
- Rated ratio
- Accuracy class
- Nominal accuracy limit factor
- Nominal power
- Load rating

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

- Mounting direction
- Grounding
- Serial number

In addition, the transformer and the primary terminals must not display any visible damage, dirtiness or corrosion.

As it's important to know what the labels on the current transformer mean, we've used a couple of examples here to explain them.

Example 1: TPS or TPX with 2000 A / 1 A; 40 VA; 5 P 10

- TP stands for “transient performance”.
- TPS means “closed-core transformer” with low stray flux.
- TPX means “closed-core transformer” with no remanence limit.
- 2000 A / 1 A is the “rated ratio”.

- 40 VA corresponds to the “nominal power” of the core for $\cos \phi = 0.8$ when terminated with the rated burden.
- “Accuracy class” 5 means: Variance from nominal current $< 1\%$, total variance at n times nominal current $< 5\%$ (in this case, $10 \cdot I_n = 20$ kA). If the accuracy class is 10, the following applies: Variance from nominal current $< 3\%$ and total variance at n times nominal current $< 10\%$.
- P stands for “protection”, what is being referred to here is a “protection core”.
- Nominal accuracy limit factor $n = 10$: This is a multiple of the nominal current and can, if the error is less than the total variance, be transmitted. Prerequisite: A non-displaced short circuit has occurred and the transformer is terminated with the rated burden.

Example 2: TPY or TPZ with 2000 A / 1 A; 30 W

- TP stands for “transient performance”.

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

- TPY means “anti-remanence core” or a core with air gaps (with a remanence < 10%).
- TPZ means “linear core” with hardly any remanence.
- 2000 A / 1 A is the “rated ratio”.
- 30 W is the “nominal power” of the core.



Figure 2: Current transformer rating plate

Measurement of winding resistance

The measurement is carried out and recorded using a multimeter from the transformer terminal board for the secondary windings of all the cores that are present. The result of the measurement helps us, amongst other things, when checking the nominal power and nominal accuracy limit factor of the transformer. It also helps us to differentiate between measuring cores and protection cores.

Insulation Test

Before starting the test, we need to ensure that the terminals in the direction of the protection are slid open or that the wires are disconnected. We then measure all the phase-to-phase and phase-to-ground loops from the first accessible terminal block in the direction of the transformer. A test voltage of 2.5 kV DC is used. To comply with DIN VDE and the Austrian ÖNORM standard, the measured insulation resistance should be $\geq 1 \text{ M}\Omega$. When the test is finished we can re-establish the connection to the field device.

Checking the nominal transformer power and rated accuracy limit factor

The best way of checking the nominal transformer power and rated accuracy limit factor in practice is to measure the knee point voltage according to British Standard 3938. The knee point voltage is roughly the secondary voltage above which a 10% increase in voltage causes a 50% increase in current. To determine this saturation point, we use the famed magnetization characteristic.

We apply an alternating voltage to the core we want to measure at the first accessible terminal block and measure the resulting current. It's a good idea to enter the results in an Excel spreadsheet and take the knee point voltage directly from the characteristic curve according to the above definition.

The diagram below shows a magnetization characteristic measured in the field:

U [V]

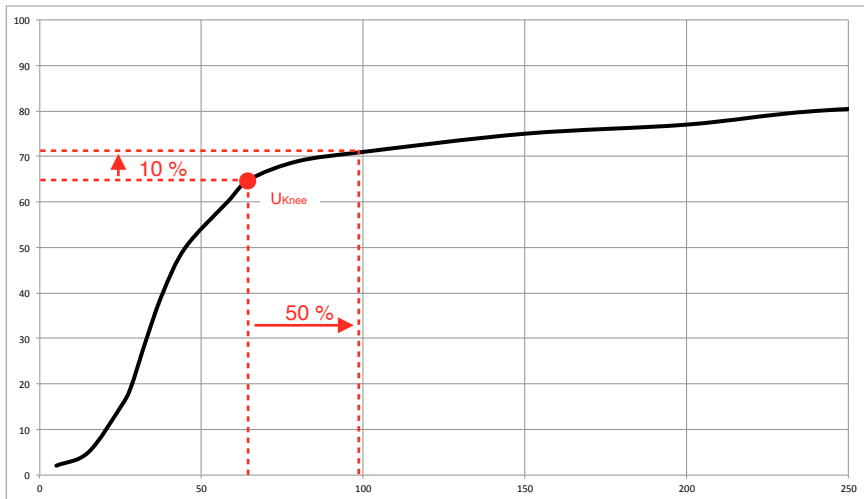


Figure 3: Magnetization characteristic

I [mA]

Chapter 1 - Current Transformer Test

Computations are carried out to check that the following conditions relating to the transformer nominal power and overcurrent factor are satisfied:

Transformer nominal power

$$P \geq P_n \quad (1-2)$$

$$P = I_n \left(\frac{1,25 \cdot U_{Knee}}{n_n} - R_i \cdot I_n \right) \quad (1-3)$$

P - calculated transformer power (measurement based) [VA]

P_n - transformer nominal power [VA]

n - calculated accuracy limit factor (measurement based)

n_n - nominal accuracy limit factor

I_n - secondary nominal transformer current [A]

R_i - measured winding resistance [Ω]

U_{Knee} - identified knee point voltage [V]

Chapter 14 Test Checklists

We have gathered together below all the test points described in this manual in the form of test checklists, which we hope will act as a handy reference for you.

Checklist for current transformer test

- ✓ Wiring insulation test, page 15
- ✓ Wiring check, page 16
- ✓ Measurement of rated burden, page 19
- ✓ Visual check, page 23
- ✓ Measurement of winding resistance, page 27
- ✓ Transformer insulation test, page 27
- ✓ Checking of nominal power and overcurrent factor, page 28

Chapter 14 - Test Checklists

- ✓ Winding direction check (polarity), 32
- ✓ Checking the grounding, page 33
- ✓ Checking the assignment of the cores, page 33
- ✓ Measuring the ratio, page 35

Checklist for voltage transformer test

- ✓ Visual check, page 39
- ✓ Checking the grounding, page 40
- ✓ Secondary wiring insulation test, page 42
- ✓ Star winding wiring check, page 46
- ✓ Broken delta wiring check, page 50
- ✓ Transformation test, page 53
- ✓ Measurement of rated burden, page 55

Checklist for functional check

- ✓ Tripping matrix and tripping circuits, from page 38
- ✓ Trip functions, from page 38
- ✓ Controls, from page 38
- ✓ Interlocks, from page 38
- ✓ Monitoring, from page 38
- ✓ Communication interfaces, from page 38
- ✓ Signals, from page 38

Checklist for other test steps without the generator

- ✓ Secondary checks, from page 62
- ✓ Stator ground fault protection 90%, from page 76
- ✓ Stator ground fault protection 100%, from page 91
- ✓ Rotor ground fault protection, from page 109

Checklist for other test steps with the generator

- ✓ Current test, from page 121
- ✓ Voltage test, from page 158
- ✓ Current test, from page 121
- ✓ Ground fault test, from page 168
- ✓ Synchronization, from page 175
- ✓ Load and reverse power test, from page 177

Chapter 16 Index

Symbols

1 to 3 Hz method, rotor ground fault protection 109

20 Hz 85, 91, 100, 164, 169, 171

3rd harmonic 91, 164, 188

90% stator ground fault protection 76, 180, 188, 189, 195

100% stator ground fault protection 91, 100, 180, 189, 195

150 Hz 92, 99, 164

A

accuracy class, current transformer 23, 25

accuracy class, voltage transformer 39

accuracy limited factor 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31

ampacity 128, 148

ANSI Codes 188

assignment of the cores, current transformer test 33

B

back-to-unbalanced transformation matrix 183

bandpass 91, 164

beer mat 9, 192

breaker failure protection 139, 188

British Standard 3938 28

brush resistance 116, 117

busbar connection 77, 146, 158, 169, 170, 174

C

calculation of current distribution 128

calculation of transformer impedances 133

checklists 193

CPC100©, Omicron© 31

CPolTool©, Omicron© 17, 33

current direction 153, 154, 155

current distribution 128, 129, 130

current divider rule 130, 131

Chapter 16 - Index

current test 17, 34, 121, 161

current transformer 13, 121, 127, 137, 139, 144, 161

current transformer test 13

D

deexcitation 61, 141, 166

delta winding 37, 40, 42, 45, 49, 52, 76, 78, 163, 168

differential protection 72, 128, 139, 145, 151, 189

DIN VDE 15, 27, 45, 132, 135

dropout value 67, 69

E

excitation 115, 120, 127, 141, 144, 164, 166, 170, 173

excitation voltage 116, 165, 185

external ground fault 172

F

field circuit breaker 62, 142, 143, 145

field rotation 163

functional check 58, 127

G

generator circuit breaker 140, 148, 158, 165, 169

generator data, typical 186

ground fault test 76, 82, 87, 90, 98, 108, 168

grounding 10, 80, 106, 172

grounding brush 110

grounding transformer 78, 80, 82, 85, 88, 91, 106

grounding, current transformer 23, 24, 33, 152

grounding, star point 84

grounding, voltage transformer 23, 24, 33, 41

GSC power engineering 75

I

idle characteristic 166

impedance protection 72, 138, 139, 146, 147

Chapter 16 - Index

impedances of energy system, typical 190

inrush dimension, typical 191

insulation resistance 15, 27

internal ground fault 168

K

knee point voltage 28, 29, 30

L

limit-EMF 31

load test 97, 177

loading resistance 80, 87, 88, 90

M

magnetization characteristic 28, 29, 31

matrix protocol 60, 61

maximum short circuit current capacity, transformer 192

measurement of rated burden, current transformer 19

measurement of rated burden, voltage transformer 55, 57
measuring circuit supervision 112, 115
measuring the ratio, current transformer 35
measuring winding resistance, current transformer 27
minimal short circuit current 192
motoring energy 177, 178

N

negative sequence system 49, 71, 183
neutral transformer 80, 101
nominal accuracy limit factor 23, 25, 28, 30
notes 197

O

Omicron© 33
broken delta 50
out-of-step protection 72, 73, 139, 189
overcurrent factor 22, 25, 28, 30

Chapter 16 - Index

overcurrent protection 71, 188, 189

overexcitation 71, 165, 168

overfrequency 71, 189

overvoltage protection 68, 71, 95, 141, 166, 188

P

paralleling device 158, 164, 175

phase allocation 49

phase-angle error 32, 177, 178

pick-up value 62, 69, 82, 88, 98, 107, 114, 118, 142, 170, 173, 177, 179, 192

polarity, current transformer 32

positive sequence system 183

pulse ramp 72

R

ramp 67

rating plate 19, 23, 26, 39

ratio 17, 35, 137, 154, 162, 168

reverse power protection 71, 139, 177, 188
reverse power test 177
rotor current 148, 166, 167
rotor ground fault protection 109, 143, 164, 177, 189

S

safety measures 10, 137, 157, 160
safety notice 10
secondary check 62
series device 111, 115, 143
short circuits, unit transformer, transformation ratio 184
short-circuit characteristic 122, 125, 147
short-circuit voltage 133, 134, 135, 138, 145, 147
software matrix 169, 172
sprinkler fire-extinguishing 61, 63, 143
square wave voltage 111, 112
star point 95, 98, 101, 106, 107, 152
star winding 46, 52

Chapter 16 - Index

stator ground fault protection, 100% 91, 180, 189, 195
stator ground fault protection, 90% 76, 180, 188, 189, 195
stator winding 82, 92, 95, 103
symmetrical components 183
synchronization 37, 72, 164, 175

T

test check lists 193
test fault recording 113
test program 126, 128, 137, 140
test synchronization 175
test voltage 27, 42, 46, 48, 49, 50, 52, 53, 55
testing, secondary circuit wiring 14
TPS 24
TPX 24
TPY 25, 26
TPZ 25, 26
transformation matrix 183

transformation test 39
transformer data, typical 187
transformer nominal power, current transformer 27, 28, 30
treatment, star point 77
trip relay 65, 140
tripping matrix 58, 63, 127, 137, 140, 142
trouble-shooting differential protection problems 150
turbine emergency tripping valve 59, 61, 64

U

Udelta voltage 52, 145, 162, 163
Udelta winding 49, 52
unbalanced load 71, 72, 75, 188
underexcitation 71, 139, 165, 180, 188
underfrequency 71, 139
undervoltage protection 71, 188, 189
unit connection 76, 79, 158, 173

Chapter 16 - Index

V

visual check, current transformer 23

visual check, voltage transformer 39

voltage test 38, 109, 115, 120, 146, 158, 175

voltage transformer 37, 63, 100, 115, 143, 145, 158, 162, 175

voltage transformer test 37

voltage withstand test, current transformer 27

voltage withstand test, secondary circuit current transformer 14

voltage withstand test, secondary circuit voltage transformer 42, 44

W

winding direction check, current transformer 32

winding resistance 27, 30

wiring check, current transformer 16

wiring check, voltage transformer broken delta 50

wiring check, voltage transformer star winding 46

Y

your notes 197

Z

zero sequence capacity 78, 105

zero sequence current 78, 89, 104, 105, 170, 174

zero sequence system 68, 79, 80, 92, 95, 183

zero sequence voltage 37, 76, 80, 81, 88, 104, 168, 172

Tables

Table 1: Secondary burden f (nominal current and cross section) 20

Table 2: Star winding wiring check test values 48

Table 3: Delta winding wiring check test values 52

Table 4: Secondary measured values transformation test 2 kV AC 55

Table 5: Tripping objects functional check matrix protocol 61

Table 6: Selective ground fault detection 78

Table 7: Calculation data 88

Table 8: Rotor ground fault protection measurement table 112

Chapter 16 - Index

Table 9: Deactivation of protection functions during current test 139

Table 10: Trouble-shooting differential protection problems 151

Table 11: Deactivation of protection functions during voltage test 161

Table 12: Typical generator data 186

Table 13: Typical transformer data 187

Table 14: ANSI Codes 188

Table 15: Typical impedances of the energy system 190

Figures

Figure 1: Wiring check test arrangement 18

Figure 2: Current transformer rating plate 26

Figure 3: Magnetization characteristic 29

Figure 4: Polarity 32

Figure 5: Grounding of voltage transformer 41

Figure 6: Insulation test 44

Figure 7: Star winding wiring check 47

Figure 8: Broken delta wiring check 51

Figure 9: Transformation test 54

- Figure 10: Measurement of rated burden 57
- Figure 11: Omicron CMC256 62
- Figure 12: Secondary check test arrangement 66
- Figure 13: Ramping test 68
- Figure 14: Out-of-step protection test characteristic 73
- Figure 15: Coupling capacitance 79
- Figure 16: Zero sequence voltage curve in generator 81
- Figure 17: Example configuration 90% SGF 83
- Figure 18: Capacitive equivalent diagram 84
- Figure 19: 150 Hz component, sinusoidal 93
- Figure 20: 150 Hz component, phasor 94
- Figure 21: 150 Hz component, ground fault 96
- Figure 22: 150 Hz component, measuring run 99
- Figure 23: 100% SGF, principle 101
- Figure 24: 100% SGF, circuit 102
- Figure 25: RGF 1-3 Hz, principle 111
- Figure 26: RGF 1-3 Hz, polarity reversal 113
- Figure 27: RGF power frequency, principle 116

Chapter 16 - Index

- Figure 28: Current test on short circuit K1 to Kx 123
- Figure 29: Current test on short circuit K1 124
- Figure 30: Current test short-circuit characteristic 125
- Figure 31: Current test, current distribution 129
- Figure 32: Current test, equivalent diagram 130
- Figure 33: Current test, dismantling of three-winding transformer 133
- Figure 34: Current test, transformation of three-winding transformer 135
- Figure 35: Generator short-circuit characteristic 149
- Figure 36: Checking current direction 155
- Figure 37: Voltage test, switching status 159
- Figure 38: Voltage test, idle characteristic 167
- Figure 39: Reverse power test, measuring points 179
- Figure 40: Transmission short circuits over the unit transformer 184
- Figure 41: Impedances of the energy system 190
- Figure 42: Inrush = $f(S_{n_Transf})$ 191

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“He knows how to get to the heart of complex issues.”

(Dr.-Ing. Udo Drechsler)

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