A fault is an undesired current flow (short circuit) or interruption of flow (open). These faults may also occur in substations or distribution systems, not just transmission lines.

Transient or Permanent Faults and Reclosures

Transient Faults

Most faults are short-duration short circuits cause by tree branches, birds or mylar balloons. All of these would be blown to smithereens by the large short-circuit current and not cause permanent damage, at least to the power system.

Sometimes a short-duration short circuit or a lightning strike can establish an arc from line to line or from a line to the tower (flashover). An arc through the air ionizes the air and makes it a conductor. Once the air is ionized, the arc typically continues until the power is shut off for a short time. Relays at both ends of a transmission lines should detect this short and cut the power using large circuit breakers. It is common for these relays to automatically reclose the breakers after a short time (1/3 second or so) to see if the problem has cleared. You have almost certainly experienced these very short power outages that make the lights flicker and alarms and microwaves go "beep".

Permanent Faults

If a reclosure relay makes one or more attempts to re-energize the line and the fault persists, then it opens the circuit breakers "permanently", or rather, until the fault has been found and repaired by a repair crew. Then, after safety protocols have been met, an operator will reclose the circuit breaker(s).

Local distribution lines are usually protected by fuses rather than expensive reclosure devices, so even transient faults in local systems can result in longer-term outages.

Types of Transient or Permanent Faults

Short circuits (Listed from most common to least common)

1. Single line to ground (80% or more of all faults)	SLG
2. Line to line (ground not involved)	LL
3. Double line to ground	DLG
4. Balanced three lines to ground (Symmetric 3-line fault)	3P

Shorts may have zero impedance (called "bolted" or "solid") or non-zero fault impedance, Z_f

Open circuits

Open circuits can involve 1, 2, or all 3 lines

Any fault except the balance 3-phase short or 3 open lines is called "unsymmetrical" and will result in unbalanced currents and voltages. Therefore we need a way to deal with unbalanced systems. Symmetrical faults can be analyzed in the same way as unsymmetrical faults, they're just simpler. So we'll jump straight to unbalanced systems.

Unbalanced Systems

Unbalanced systems can be analyzed by an odd form of superposition of three balanced systems. Any unsymmetrical or unbalanced set of three-phase of voltages or currents can be broken down into three symmetrical sets of balance three-phase components. The voltages or currents of those three balanced components are:



b

Expression of Unbalanced 3-phase voltages and currents

Any three voltages can be expressed as a sum of a positive sequence, a negative sequence, a zero sequence.



Same goes for currents. Now we can use these to analyze faults

Some Assumptions about Faults

- 1. The system was balanced before the fault, so negative- and zero-sequence voltages and currents were all zero.
- 2. There is only one fault location at a time. This is the location where the negative- and zero-sequence voltages and currents interact.
- 3. Generators (and other large 50+ hp rotating machines) should be represented by their subtransient synchronous reactances ($\mathbf{Z''}_{g}$ or $\mathbf{X''}_{g}$) and a generated emf that would have resulted in the pre-fault voltages and currents with that special reactance. It's actually even more complicated than that. There's even a DC current component. Refer you to chapter 12 of the Chapman text if you want to know more.

The additional compllexities are beyond the scope of this class.

Pre-Fault Setup



Symmetrical 3-phase to ground fault

Transmission Line Faults p4



Sequence-components per-phase drawings of phase A

Z left0

Z₀ = Z_{g0}

 $+3 \cdot \mathbf{Z}_{gN}$

Thévenin equivalents:







 v_{A0}





Z load0

Single line to ground fault

Transmission Line Faults p5







 $|\stackrel{\wedge}{\uparrow}$ I _{A1}

Ā





Double line to ground fault

Transmission Line Faults p6



$$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{A0} \\ \mathbf{V}_{A1} \\ \mathbf{V}_{A2} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 3 & 2 \\ 1 & 3^2 & 3 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{A}} \\ \mathbf{V}_{\mathbf{A}} \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{3} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 120^{\circ} & 240^{\circ} \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ} \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 240^{\circ} & 120^{\circ}$$

Sequence-components per-phase drawings of phase A <u>Thévenin equivalents:</u>



Double line fault (ground not involved)





Sequence-components per-phase drawings of phase A <u>Thévenin equivalents:</u>





Now the voltages are measured across the fault point and the "fault" currents are the line currents.

Single line A Open



Sequence-components per-phase drawings of phase A



Double line B & C Open



Sequence-components per-phase drawings of phase A





Create a per-phase diagram of the pre-fault system, using all the positive sequence impedances. Only one weirdity, instead of using X_{gen} and E_A for the generator, use X'' to find E''. That's because we need to find E''. E'' is found such that E'' in series with X'' would produce the same current and terminal voltage at the generator as the original E_A and X_{gen} in pre-fault conditions.



Pre-fault, back-calculate E'' as though X'' were valid at that time:

$$E'' := V_1 + I_{Load} \cdot X''_{gen1} \cdot j$$
 "Some
 $|E''| = 1.024$ $arg(E'') = 5.389 \cdot deg$ way be

See item 3, under "Some Assumptions about Faults", way back on page 2 of the notes.

Note: in this case we had the pre-fault generator terminal voltage (V_1) and could find the pre-fault current (I_{Load}). If we didn't have those numbers, we might need to find them using a pre-fault diagram with the original E_A and X_{ren} .

a) A three-phase fault (all three lines grounded) occurs at the fault point. Find the fault current. Since it's a symmetrical fault, we only need the positive sequence drawing.



Example Continued

b) Instead of a three-phase fault, a single-line to ground (SLG) fault occurs at the fault point. Find the fault current.

We don't have to do anything with the matrices, since that's already been figured out for the SLG fault.

$$\begin{array}{c} x_{u1} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \qquad \begin{array}{c} \sqrt{1} \mathbf{A}_{1} \\ \overline{\mathbf{V}}_{u1} = 0.12 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.12 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.12 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} = 0.08 \text{ pu} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u1} \\ \mathbf{F}_{u2} \\ \mathbf{F$$

ECE 3600 homework LF1

- Due: Tue, 12/8/22 a
- 1. A transmission line suffers a single-line to ground fault on phase-A.

The fault currents are: $I_A := 6 \cdot pu \quad \underline{0}^o \qquad I_B := 0 \qquad I_C := 0$ Calculate the symmetrical components of the fault current, I_{A1} , I_{A2} and I_{A0} .

2. A transmission line suffers a line-line fault between phase-A and phase-B.

The fault currents are: $\mathbf{I}_{A}=\mathbf{0}$ and $\mathbf{I}_{B}=-\mathbf{I}_{C}=4~\underline{/0^{o}}~pu$.

Calculate the symmetrical components, I_{A1} , I_{A2} and I_{A0} .

3. A transmission line suffers an unknown fault.

The symmetrical components of I_A are: $I_{A1} := -2 + 3 \cdot j$ pu $I_{A2} := 2 - 3 \cdot j$ pu $I_{A0} := 0$

- a) Find the fault currents, $I_A^{}$, $I_B^{}$ and $I_C^{}$.
- b) What kind of fault is it?
- 4. If a short occurs between lines b and c of a 3-phase transmission line, the zero-sequence circuit can be ignored in the analysis, why?
- 5. A transmission line suffers an unknown fault.
 - The symmetrical components of I_A are: $I_{A1} := 1 + \sqrt{3} \cdot j pu$ $I_{A2} := 1 \sqrt{3} \cdot j pu$ $I_{A0} := 4$ a) Find the fault currents, I_A , I_B and I_C .
 - b) What kind of fault is it?
- 6. At point X in the power system, there is an open-circuit fault. Phase-A is open. The voltage across the open-circuit is: $V_A = 0.9 \underline{/0^{\circ}}$ pu. Since the other two lines are intact, the other two voltages across point X are $V_B = V_C = 0$.
 - a) Calculate the sequence components V_{A1} , V_{A2} and V_{A0} at the fault point.

Note: this is the same as the calculations of the short-circuit sequence currents, only now the voltages are measured across the fault point and the "fault" currents are the line currents.

b) Is there anything you can say about the symmetrical line current components, I_{A1} , I_{A2} and I_{A0} ?

Answers					$\begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_{A0} \end{bmatrix}$		0	
1. all 2·pu	2 . 2.309·j·pu	- 2.309·j·pu	0	OR	I _{A1}	=	2.309∙j	∙pu
					I _{A2}		- 2.309·j	

3. a) $0 = 5.196 + 3.464 \cdot j = -5.196 - 3.464 \cdot j$ b) Since $I_B = -I_C$, must be a line-to-line fault between phase-A and phase-B

- 4. No connection to ground means no zero-sequence current can flow. Since there is no zero-sequence voltage source ($\mathbf{E}_{A0} = 0$), no current means no voltage as well.
- 5. a) $6 \quad 6 \quad 0$ b) Since $I_A = I_B$, and $I_A = 0$, must be a double line-to-ground fault with phase-A and phase-B grounded
- 6. a) all 0.3·pu b) $I_A = I_{A1} + I_{A2} + I_{A2} = 0$

ECE 3600 homework LF1

ECE 3600 homework LF2

1. One phase of a balanced 3-phase system is shown here.

A fault occurs point F. It is a short between lines b and c with an impedance of Z_{f} .

a) Draw the circuit you would have to analyze to find the fault current. Identify the parts and Include the component voltages and currents at the fault.



а

- b) Set up a mathematical expression (or expressions) to find the fault current. (don't forget j & that the fault current is NOT I_{A1})
- 2. Consider this power system. Same as the example in the notes, except for V_1 and ${\rm X}_{\rm tr0}$.



There is a phase-A single-line to ground (SLG) fault with a fault impedance of $\mathbf{Z}_{\mathbf{f}} = 0.15 \cdot pu$ <u>/0</u>° Find the fault current. You may be able to use some numbers already calculated in the example

3. Repeat problem 2 if before the fault, the load was zero, that is, $P_{Load} = 0$ and $R_{Load} := \infty$ hint: this problem is considerably easier now



2. 4.69·pu <u>/-45.7</u>°

3. 5.016·pu /-46.85º

ECE 3600 homework LF2