

Earth fault protection supported with adaptive admittance criteria

Streszczenie. W artykule przedstawiono zagadnienia dotyczące możliwości poprawy skuteczności działania zabezpieczeń ziemnozwarciowych typu YY0 poprzez dostosowanie wartości nastawczych do zmian spowodowanych modyfikacją sposobu pracy punktu neutralnego w sieci średniego napięcia.

Abstract. In this paper possibilities for improvement of earth fault protection by adjustment of protective relay settings due to change of neutral point impedance in medium voltage networks are presented. (**Zabezpieczenia ziemnozwarciowe wspierane funkcjami adaptacyjnymi**).

Słowa kluczowe: punkt neutralny, zwarcie doziemne, admitancja, elektroenergetyczna automatyka zabezpieczeniowa

Keywords: neutral point, earth fault, admittance, earth fault protection systems

Introduction

Admittance relay was developed in Poland in Institute of Electrical Power Engineering of Poznan University of Technology [1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6]. Principle of operation is explained in [7] and [8]. First relays were implemented in distribution system networks at the end of XX century as an analogue construction. Nowadays admittance criterion is implemented in digital protection relays, which are installed in bays of 110/15 kV or medium voltage substations as a decision-making algorithm. Moreover some distribution system operators install admittance based fault passage indicators [9]. In Poland admittance relays are typically installed in compensated medium voltage networks. Another admittance based criteria for protection relays are in the development stage: i.e. Cumulative Phasor Summing [10, 11] proposes centralized earth-fault protection based on measurements of zero sequence current and voltage. Despite of admittance criteria for detection of high impedance faults, another criteria are being analyzed i.e. [12] proposes wavelet based criteria. New fault feeder detection methods for a resonant grounding system are also presented in [13, 14, 15, 16].

YY0 relay presented in the paper is improvement of original admittance relay. Principle of YY0 relay operation is based on zero sequence admittance growth – ΔY_0 during single phase to ground fault and after reconfiguration of a neutral point impedance. Start-up value is given by formula (1) and (2).

$$(1) \quad \Delta Y_0 = \left| \frac{1}{S_1'} |S_3' - S_4'| - \frac{1}{S_1''} |S_3'' - S_4''| \right| \geq \Delta Y_{0n}$$

$$(2) \quad S_5 \geq U_{0n}$$

Where: S_1', S_3', S_4' – signals measured during earth fault before neutral point impedance reconfiguration, ΔY_{0n} – admittance growth setting, U_{0n} – zero sequence voltage setting value.

Signals “S” are functions of zero sequence current and zero sequence voltage of lines during phase-to-ground fault. Signals S are described by the following formulas (3), (4), (5) and (6).

$$(3) \quad S_1 = k_u U_0$$

$$(4) \quad S_2 = k_i I_0$$

$$(5) \quad S_3 = |k_y \underline{U}_0 + k_i \underline{I}_0|$$

$$(6) \quad S_4 = |k_y \underline{U}_0 - k_i \underline{I}_0|$$

Signal S is connected to the zero sequence voltage input of the relay and is described by formula:

$$(7) \quad S_5 = k_n U_0$$

Coefficients k_u , k_i , k_y and k_n are used to convert zero sequence input signals. Coefficients k_u , k_i , and k_n are dimensionless and describe a transformation ratio of instrument transformers (current and voltage transformers) and input divider, whereas k_y represents admittance of additional voltage circuit.

Sensitivity of the relay depends on impedance of neutral point and does not depend on zero sequence impedance of line.

Application of active zero sequence current forcing arrangement (ACF) in compensated networks results in growth of measured admittance ΔY_0 observed in faulted line, particularly in growth of conductance component – ΔG_0 , which is proportional to additional resistance connected in neutral point in parallel to Petersen coil.

Setting value of YY0 relay is typically in range of 50% of additional resistor conductance. According to operational experience from Poland relays operate effectively up to 2000 Ω of fault resistance. A reason for limited level of detected fault resistance is mostly due to loss of sensitivity of zero sequence voltage component presented in (2) and explained further in (8).

$$(8) \quad \underline{U}_{0p} = \frac{E_f}{1 + R_f \omega C_{0s} (d_0 + js)}$$

where: U_{0p} – zero sequence measured voltage, E_f – phase voltage of a network, R_f – fault resistance, C_{0s} – earth fault zero sequence capacitance, ω – angular frequency, d_0 – damping coefficient of zero sequence impedance described as a ratio of zero sequence conductance and zero sequence susceptance (9), s – detuning coefficient of Petersen coil (10).

$$(9) \quad d_0 = \frac{G_{0s}}{\omega C_{0s}}$$

$$(10) \quad s = \frac{1}{\omega^2 L_d C_{0s}} - 1$$

where: L_d – inductance of Petersen coil.

Analysis of formulas (7) and (8) clearly shows that sensitivity of zero sequence voltage component of YY0 can

be improved by changing d_0 and s or by decreasing U_{0n} setting value during certain earth fault conditions. However reduction of U_{0n} setting value can only be made during earth fault and after analysis of measured values therefore relay has to be additionally equipped with adaptive algorithm. Two methods of adaptive algorithms are presented in next paragraphs.

Decision making algorithm for shunt impedance connected to neutral point

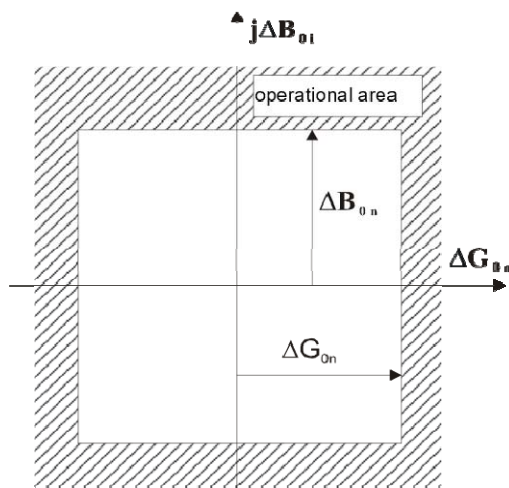


Fig. 1 Characteristic of YY0 protective relay

Based on analysis of formula (7) it is clear that zero sequence voltage level for a given C_{0s} and R_F values strongly depends on damping coefficient – d_0 and detuning factor – s . During operation of ACF value of d_0 coefficient is increased. Alternatively instead of forcing resistor it is possible to connect forcing reactor (reactive zero sequence current forcing arrangement – RCF). In that case value of coefficient of earth fault current compensation detuning s is changed. In practice not only value of detuning factor s can be changed but also its sign.

Another possibility to change s is to disconnect coil, which is normally connected to neutral point of a grounding transformer. If RCF is used an additional criterion which analyses zero sequence susceptance growth of line is required. Therefore universal admittance characteristic presented in the figure 1 should be used. In order to include susceptance region in the characteristic, additional criterion has to be included in decision making algorithm. Criterion is analogical to (1), but signals in I_0 current circuit are additionally shifted 90° . As a result characteristic presented in the Figure 1 is created. Area inside a rectangle characteristic (square) is non-operational area. ΔB_0 states for susceptance growth necessary for relay operation and ΔG_0 is conductance growth necessary for operation.

As is previously described RCF is similar to ACF, however operational experiences shows that in many situations RCF devices can be more effective than ACF. Especially in case of high impedance earth faults.

Fig. 2 presents $R_F=f(s)$ curves, which describe maximum earth fault resistance seen by YY0 relay in 15 kV compensated network with total ground fault current equals to 120 A. Analysis of curves allows us to conclude that in typical compensated polish networks with detuning factor lower than 0,1 region of detected fault can be significantly bigger if RCF device is used (curve 2) comparing to ACF (curve 1). A phenomena is explained by the fact that negative influence of RCF reactance on zero sequence voltage is lower than in case of ACF.

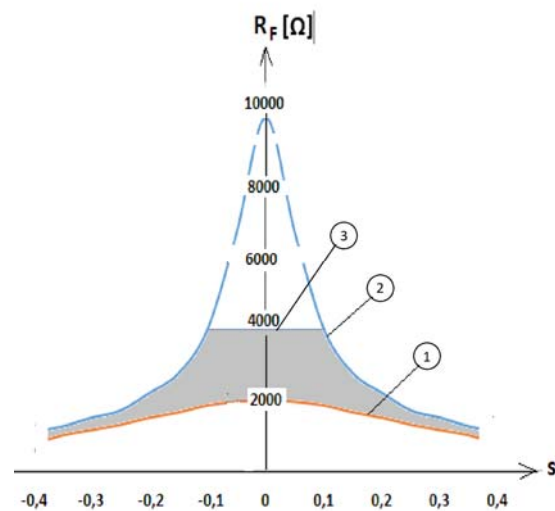


Fig. 2 Maximum fault resistances detected by YY0 relay after operation of active/reactive zero sequence current forcing arrangements

Curves 1 and 2 presents the effectiveness of YY0 relay for earth fault detection after operation of RCF or ACF which enforces 20% rise of a total earth fault current. It is assumed that U_{0n} set value is 15% of phase voltage of a network. Moreover it is assumed that phase-to-ground capacitance is equal in all phases (symmetrical network) and natural damping factor d_0 is smaller than 0,04.

In practice effectiveness of YY0 during operation of RCF device is limited by curve 3. Maximal effectiveness (4000 Ω) can be achieved when detuning coefficient after operation of RCF is reduced to 0,1. Following conditions can occur only when:

- network is undercompensated (detuning is no bigger than -0,1; $s = -0,1$) and after operation of RCF network becomes overcompensated (detuning factor is no bigger than 0,1),
- network is overcompensated (detuning factor is no bigger than 0,1; $s = 0,1$) and after operation of RCF network becomes undercompensated (detuning factor is no bigger than -0,1; $s = -0,1$).

Effectiveness of an earth fault detection is reduced for all other detuning factors. When operation of RCF results in relatively big detuning factor, an effectiveness of earth fault detection will be reduced to 2000 Ω so it will be lower than effectiveness after operation of ACF.

Adaptive algorithm of ACF and RCF compares different variants and choose a better one – ACF or RCF and optimal control of shunt impedance. It is recommended to reduce reactance of coil if network is undercompensated and to increase reactance when network is overcompensated. System for shunt impedance control is presented in the Fig. 3. Control algorithm, which is responsible for measuring voltage level and tuning of Petersen coil plays an important role in the system. RCF increases an earth fault current by connection of additional reactance L_{NW} or reduce a ground fault current (reduce inductive current) by disconnecting a reactance, which is normally connected between neutral point of grounding transformer and a ground. In order to operate properly the system needs to measure detuning factor continuously. Commonly used systems for active compensation and passive systems for control of an earth fault parameters ensure access to necessary parameters.

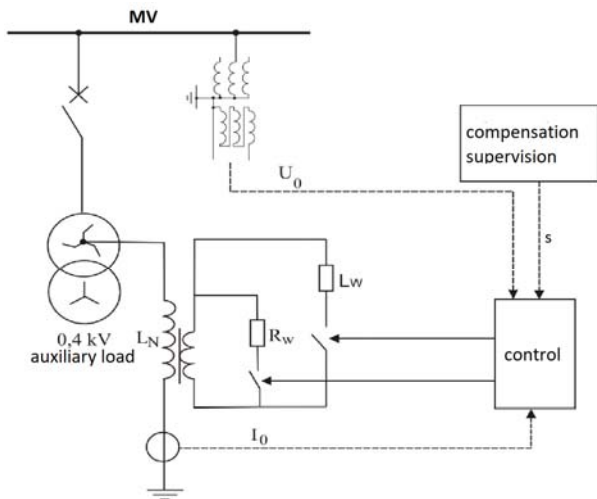


Fig. 3 Control system of shunt, neutral point impedance

Connection of additional resistance to neutral point is justified only when fault resistance is low (relatively big value of U_{op} – i.e. above 50% of phase voltage) or when detuning factor (absolute) is too big. It is also possible to make a decision about ACF activation based on level of natural asymmetry of a network.

Adaptive settings

As is explained in previous paragraphs an effectiveness of YY0 operation is limited by sensitivity of zero sequence voltage component. In typical Polish networks start-up values of voltage are in range of 0,15-0,2 of phase voltage. Specific value is determined by natural phase-to-ground asymmetry of a network and resonance effect during normal operating conditions of a network. As a result of the phenomena voltage is increased permanently during normal operation conditions. Voltage rise is described by formula (11).

$$(11) \quad U_{op} = U_{orez} = \frac{U_{asn}}{\sqrt{d_0^2 + s^2}}$$

where: U_{asn} – voltage resulting from zero-sequence leakage and natural asymmetry, U_{orez} – voltage resulting from resonance effect between phase-to-ground capacitance of a network and Petersen coil.

One can clearly observe that an amplitude of the voltage could be easily reduced by increasing d_0 and s factors. The detuning is however not recommended since an earth fault current extinguishing capabilities of a Petersen fault are reduced. The best condition to extinguish an electric arc can be observed when coefficient of detuning of earth fault current compensation equals 0 – coil current fully compensates a capacitive current of a network. Consequently to reduce negative aspect of resonance effect it is only possible to apply devices, which increase phase-to-ground damping factor. In typical compensated medium voltage networks in Poland and typical ACF systems damping can be raised to approximately 0,2, in these way a voltage resulting from resonance effect is reduced a few times. As a result less restricted requirements could be used during selection of U_{on} starting values. Reduction of U_{on} settings usually improves effectiveness of YY0 relay and increases the range of detected high impedance faults.

Voltage effects resulting from operation of ACF became the foundation for development of conductance protection decision algorithm making in Institute of Electrical

Power Engineering of Poznan University of Technology. Adaptive functions are included in this algorithm [8]. Similar functions can be implemented in YY0 relay, which operates according to following rules:

- adaptive function is activated only during resistance fault and when U_{op} is below U_{on} after operation of ACF device,
- setting value is changed only after additional resistive component of a current is detected (effect of ACF operation),
- when adaptive function is activated a set value of voltage criterion is reduced and setting of conduction rise is increased,
- reduction of U_{op} is between 15% to 5% of phase voltage,
- a value of conductance rise depends on ratio of U_{op} measured before and after operation of PFR and typically is lower than 150% of base value.

After taking into account defined network parameters a performance analysis of YY0 with adaptive function is performed. Partial results of the analysis are presented in the table 1.

Table 1. Values of fault resistance detected by YY0 relay with adaptive function

U_{on} According to adaptive function	Detected fault resistance R_f [Ω]		
	for $s = 0$	for $s = 0,1$	for $s = 0,2$
10 % U_f	3300	3000	2500
7,5 % U_f	4500	4500	3300
5 % U_f	7000	6200	5000

One can easily notice that thanks to adaptive settings during harsh conditions – high resistance faults (above a few thousands ohms), an effectiveness of earth fault detection is significantly increased. Possibility of reduction U_{on} setting to 0,05 in well compensated network allows for detection of earth faults with fault resistance above 7000 Ω . In case of networks with a big share of overhead lines and capacitive current in range of 80 – 90 A the effectiveness can be even higher – up to 10000 Ω .

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