

Methods in Single Phase to Ground Faults on Power Distribution Systems

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Abstract: This study highlights the main contributions for the single phase to ground faults on distribution networks field throughout a last three decades from classic methods to heuristic methods. The surveys about 76 papers that are published in the field, the quantity of existing methods for each method is determined and categorized. The study includes graphs and tables explaining the frequency of each single phase to ground faults methods and so that, researchers in the same field can be used this paper as a guideline for their research.

Key words: Single phase to ground faults, distribution power network, detection fault, classic, heuristic, guideline

INTRODUCTION

Fault detection on power distribution networks represents a high important matter to consider to ensure reliability, safety and to prevent accidents, failure in equipment and undesired outage. The source of fault may be caused result from different reasons such like contact between lines through metal that produces a short circuit path, contact due to trees and wind or temporary contact of birds or animals. Number of faults lasts for a short duration of time and get back to healthy operating state, this type of faults are called temporary faults. Other form of faults is called permanent faults which will stay till the short circuit is recognized and cleared. If temporary fault is not removed, finally it will become permanent fault sooner or later. Permanent faults may be caused due to different reasons such as metal objects falling on overhead lines, failure of cable insulation due to incorrect maintenance and lines falling on Earth. In distribution systems, faults can classify into four main types; single line to ground fault, line to line fault, double line to ground fault and three-phase to ground fault. Single line to ground fault SLGF happens when one conductor of a distribution network has touched earth through animal contact or a line fall on the earth. The 70% of fault in distribution systems is due to single line to ground fault (Lim and Dorr, 2000). Line to Line Faults LLF happens when one of three phase touch another phase due to high wind while 15% of fault in distribution systems is a type of line to line fault (Lim and Dorr, 2000). Double Line to Ground Fault DLGF happens at the rate of 10% in distribution network (Lim and Dorr, 2000). Three-Phase to Ground Fault TPGF may be produced due to failure in

equipment, a conductor makes contact with other phases or tower falling on ground. Generally, TPGF is not common at the rate of 5% in distribution network (Lim and Dorr, 2000). Although, the fault is not frequent, the happening of TPGF is risky when fault current is very large. Hence, with a view to prevent equipment damage and customer loss, fault has to be cleared as soon as possible. According to a study by Piesciorovsky and Schulz (2017), faults are the reason for more than 80% of the interruptions in distribution network. Generally, the SLGF represents the most common one and want to detect, so that, the faulty feeder can be isolated and want to detect, so that, the faulty feeder can be isolated quickly (Lim and Dorr, 2000).

Use overcurrent devices for detecting faults in distribution network are the most common practice of utilities. Overcurrent devices track the current in line and detect a fault when the current become higher than a threshold of overcurrent devices (Piesciorovsky and Schulz, 2017; Nikolaidis *et al.*, 2016). The threshold for overcurrent devices depend on the load current. Commonly, the value of threshold is a slightly higher than the rated load current of the feeder. However, this technique does not detect the fault that draws current less than threshold level during fault occurrence. Furthermore, the amount of fault current during ground faults occurrence in a power distribution network depends on the type of grounding of distribution substation transformer where fault current is desired to be very low for healthy feeder. There are various way for grounding of substation transformer, e.g., ungrounded system, solidly grounded system, resistance grounded system and Resonant Grounding system (RG). Among these types of

grounding, resonant grounding system based techniques can reduce the fault current of SLGF to a very small value depending on line impedance and impedance of fault. This means that the value of fault currents is very small and the overcurrent devices do not detect.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Nature of single phase to ground faults and simulation and general consideration

Nature: Distribution system protection plays an important role in the security and reliability of power supply to customers by isolating an affected section of the system when a fault occurs. Many medium voltage distribution networks around the world are neutral through Resonant Grounding system (RG) (Lim and Dorr, 2000). The advantage of resonant grounding system just produces small zero sequence current in the system and the current flows through line to ground capacitance, moreover, the voltage between lines remains symmetrical and does not have effect on the load of power supply. Hence, fault detection in Resonant Grounding system (RG) is a significant problem in that there is a large amount of fuzziness in the fault information for fault diagnosis. This situation is mainly attributed to the following factors: faults usually do not draw enough fault current to operate conventional protective devices due to lower voltage levels and higher system impedances (Zeng *et al.*, 2008; Cui *et al.*, 2010). Operating condition variations invalidate the protection schemes that have predetermined setting value. Different fault cases exhibit complex sets of features and widely varying behaviors which limit the application of protection schemes based on single fault features (Lin *et al.*, 2010).

Simulation: Most of researchers have used special software program for model the single line to ground fault on power distribution network, researchers use signals that get from simulation to collect data about the feeder at healthy and unhealthy operation then signals are examined by using certain methods to detect faults.

There are several types of software program used for simulation power distribution systems, some of researchers have used Electromagnetic Transients Program (EMTP) for illustrating their system (Wang *et al.*, 2016; Heidari, 2010; Hanninen, 2001; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Sheng and Rovnyak, 2004; Wai and Yibin, 1998; Eldin *et al.*, 2009; Chang, 2010; Lobos *et al.*, 2001; Yeo *et al.*, 2003; Chaari and Meunier, 1994; Ravlic and Marusic, 2015; Perera *et al.*, 2009; Wang *et al.*, 2013; Mora *et al.*, 2006; Kasinathan, 2007; Robertson *et al.*, 1996; Loos *et al.*, 2013; Guo and Yang, 2017; Loos, 2013; Elkalashy *et al.*, 2007; Yan-wen *et al.*, 2011; Dwivedi and Yu, 2011; Vijayachandran and Mathew, 2012; Dong and Shi, 2008; Lin *et al.*, 2011;

Nayebi *et al.*, 2012; Kawady *et al.*, 2010; Michalik *et al.*, 2007; Bi *et al.*, 2004; Lai *et al.*, 2012; Sedighi *et al.*, 2005; Chaari *et al.*, 1996; Lin *et al.*, 2014; Zeng *et al.*, 2008; Kim *et al.*, 2004; Assef *et al.*, 1998. Others have used the Power Systems Computer Aided Design (PSCAD) for implementing power system (Hietalahti, 2010; Zeng *et al.*, 2017; Chen *et al.*, 2015; Jansson and Wadstrom, 2014; Venkataraman *et al.*, 2014; Zhou *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2015; Shao *et al.*, 2016; Barik *et al.*, 2018), simulations are conducted in MATLAB/SimPower systems to get the fault signals (Venkataraman *et al.*, 2014; Zhou *et al.*, 2017; Wang *et al.*, 2015; Shao *et al.*, 2016; Barik *et al.*, 2018; Sagastabeitia *et al.*, 2011).

Simulation includes extensive scenarios for various operation mode of distribution network. The simulation scenarios are as follows:

- Changing the reactance of the arc suppression coil for getting various compensated ratio to simulate different compensation scenarios
- Varying the factors of distribution lines, involved the conductance and lengths of the lines for simulating various practical conditions in distribution network
- Change the inception angle of the fault
- Change the resistance of neutral for testing immune of method to high transition resistance

Adaptive arc suppression coil grounded network:

When a single line ground faults occur in a distribution network, arc suppression coil is designed to be in a entire parallel resonance to the ground capacitance, thus, for entire compensating the fault point current and effective way for preventing firing an arc at the fault point and extinguish the arc in shortly duration.

Arc suppression coil is set to be over-compensating with the ground capacitance. If arc suppression coil sets entire compensating the ground capacitance of the network or nearly resonance, that may create series resonance and produce hazardous overvoltage, if the voltages between lines are little non-symmetrical and a zero sequence voltage creates during normal operation case (Xiaobin *et al.*, 2018).

In the following sections, various approaches to detect single phase to ground fault are reviewed and in the conclusions, these algorithms are compared. The taxonomy of these algorithms is shown in Fig. 1. This figure declares that detection methods of SLGF either depend on based on intelligently decisive tools or classically extracting the features.

SLGF features used in detection methods: There were methods presented based on the displacement of neutral voltage (Sagastabeitia *et al.*, 2011) where an increase the neutral voltage due to unbalance between phase voltages. Moldovanova *et al.* (2016) proposed method based on

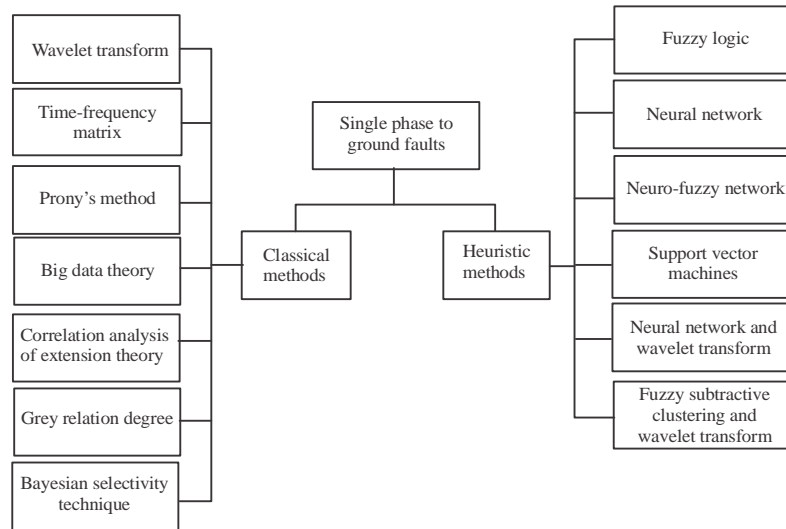


Fig. 1: Taxonomy of single phase to ground fault detection algorithms detect

characteristics of steady-state current when SLGF occurs, only the steady-state current of the fault phase load superimposed on the fault feeder upstream to the substation switch will change while the steady-state current of the other paths will not change. Therefore, the method of fault detection is to find the path for power supply from the substation switch to the fault point.

Algorithms based on transient zero-sequence: Bi *et al.* (2004) presents a novel method for selection fault feeder based on the transient signal and wavelet transform. It captures zero-sequence current of the post-fault transient of each feeder and wavelet transform is utilized for extracting the high frequency components and supply fundamental frequency. Guo and Yang (2017) analyzes the amplitude-frequency spectra of zero-sequence current in the network with neutral grounding through Peterson-coil under transient earth faults. A detection algorithm utilize the value of the zero-sequence current of the unhealthy feeder must be higher than that of any other healthy feeder for detection single phase to ground fault (Lin *et al.*, 2011). Dong and Shi (2008) utilizes zero-sequence current traveling waves for identifying the faulty feeder and the residual voltage of bus bar for determining a status due to fault or switch operation. Liu and Huang (2017), a novel method to detect fault feeder is suggested, based on a Polarity Distribution Matrix (PDM) and Time-Frequency Matrix (TFM) singular values clustering algorithm. By using waveform transformation and a Hilbert-Huang transform band-pass filter to the waveform of transient zero-sequence current for each feeder. Chaari and Meunier (1994) has used a recursive wavelet transform to analyze two types of currents during the fault: the zero-sequence

current in the faulted feeder and also the zero-sequence current in the healthy feeder. Longhua and Qinghai (2002) presents algorithm including two units: a fault feeder identification unit and a fault event detection unit. the algorithm is based on data distribution kurtosis of transient zero-sequence current, both units are sued for detection whether a SLGF has occurred and capture the time of starting fault. Bin and Hongchun (2008) uses principle that is based on the feature that the amplitude of zero-sequence current of faulty feeder is higher than that of sound feeder, therefore, the selective ground-fault protection can be detected simply. By Li (2013), the characteristics variables of zero-sequence current and the correlation function are utilized for identifying the correlation then the results use for selection the faulted feeder. Ma *et al.* (2015) wavelet signals of the zero-sequence current are separated and extracted that is based on the method of discrete wavelet multi resolution analysis. Lin *et al.* (2010) the compensation method is presented to review the zero-sequence admittances difference between the faulty line and healthy line.

Algorithms based on voltage phase comparison: Chunju *et al.* (2007) has used the phase relationship between the negative sequence current at the fault point and the negative sequence current at substation to calculate angular difference between the fault voltage and the measured current.

SLGF feature extractors: SLGs are followed by variations in the fundamental frequency and harmonic components. However, these variations are dynamics that have caused time varying in nature due to the dynamics of arc faults. Consequently, methods that explain how can

use the time varying nature of the fundamental and harmonic components using signal processing methods such as Prony method, wavelet transform and grey relation degree and other techniques to recognize the pattern of fault current signals are convenience to identify the SLGF. These algorithms are classified as follows:

Algorithms based on wavelet transform: By Dong and Shi (2008), a scheme of SLGF feeder identification in distribution system with the application of a wavelet transform technique is introduced. Bi *et al.* (2004) uses wavelet packet for extracting the supply fundamental frequency end high frequency components from the post-fault transient zero-sequence current of each feeder. Liang *et al.* (2002) wavelet transform is applied for extraction fault features from the fault currents. Neural network and fuzzy theory are used for fuzzifying the extracted features. The researcher creates wavelet fuzzy neural network by integrated the wavelet with fuzzy neural network. Chaari and Meunier (1994), a recursive wavelet transform is used for analyzing two types of fault currents that are the zero-sequence currents in the faulted feeder and in the sound feeder. Wangyi *et al.* (2009), the early detection theory based on the WT is utilized for processing fault current waveforms and an early detection method of SLGF is introduced for 10-kV middle-voltage distribution networks. Zeng *et al.* (2017) the characteristics of SLGF transient signal is analyzed determinedly using wavelet transform. Chaari *et al.* (1996) wavelets are applied for analyzing transient SLGF in a 20 kV resonant grounded network as generated by EMTP. Ma *et al.* (2016) wavelet signals of the zero-sequence current are separated and extracted that is based on the method of discrete wavelet multi resolution analysis.

Algorithms based on the grey relation degree: Wang *et al.* (2017) proposed a protection method to detect faulted feeder based on the grey relation degree for characterizing the similarity among waveforms signals. Slope relation degree, one kind of grey relation degrees is selected for characterizing the similarity between curves of transient zero-sequence currents for faulted feeder and other feeders and the slope relation matrix which represents the relationship among all feeders can be established.

Algorithms based on a time-frequency matrix: Liu and Huang (2018) presents a new fault detection scheme based on a Polarity Distribution Matrix (PDM) and Time-Frequency Matrix (TFM) singular values clustering

algorithm. By using a waveform transformation and Hilbert-Huang transform band-pass filter for the transient zero-sequence current signals of each feeder. Chaari *et al.* (1995), the time-frequency matrix is obtained by using the DWPT to the collected transient zero-sequence current signals of the faulted feeder and healthy feeders.

Algorithms based on Prony's method: This algorithm is used for analyzing earth fault currents in 20 kV networks protected by arc suppression coil. The differences of Prony's parameters in terms of some of the power system features (capacitive current, fault resistance and distance between the busbar and the fault of the entire network) are presented (Elkalashy *et al.*, 2010).

Algorithms based on theory of Big Data: Barik *et al.* (2018) uses big data theory for detecting faulty feeders by making use of a mass of data from the grid which contains of both electrical and non-electrical quantities.

Algorithms based extension theory: By Li (2013), the features of zero-sequence current and the correlation function are used for identifying correlation analysis and the matter element of extension theory and use the results to select the faulty lines.

Algorithms based on the Bayesian selectivity technique: Guo and Tian proposes technique mainly depends on using the Bayesian theorem after discrete wavelet transform-based transient feature extraction. By Fan (2017), a novel algorithm of fault line detection based on Bayesian compressed sensing theory was presented.

Heuristic methods

The fuzzy logic: By Liu and Huang (2018), fuzzy c-means clustering is presented to the APFM for detection the fault feeder by classifying the faulty feeder and sound feeders into two categories without a certain threshold setting. By Zeng *et al.* (2016), a new SLGF protection method without threshold setting is presented. The fault detection is achieved based on operating states rather than setting values. A fuzzy c-means clustering is applied by classifying the operating state of the protected feeder into non-fault states and fault states.

Neural network: Momoh *et al.* (1997), the neural network method is used to design the single-phase earth fault detection model of distribution network. Bin Sulaiman *et al.* (2013), introduced an integrated package for fault detection in both grounded or ungrounded distribution network. It uses Artificial Neural Networks (ANN) for detection, classifying and locating

faults. Assef *et al.* (1998) introduces algorithm based on making the comparison between the residual current and phase currents uses artificial neural networks.

The neuro-fuzzy network: Liang *et al.* (2002), wavelet transform is applied for extraction fault features from the fault currents. Neural network and fuzzy theory are used for fuzzifying the extracted features. The researcher creates wavelet fuzzy neural network by integrated the wavelet with fuzzy neural network.

Support vector machines: Yan-wen *et al.* (2011), Support Vector Machines (SVM) are utilized for recognizing the working situation of Peterson-coil-grounding system and for detection the fault feeder or-bus. Chaari *et al.* (1995), The two classifiers (Adaboost+CART and Support Vector Machines SVM) are presented. The classifiers are trained using a large number of characteristics vectors under different types of fault statuses and factors, respectively.

Combination of neural network and wavelet transform: DWT is used for extracting features of the high impedance fault and normal operation waveforms. The features extracted which includes the energy of approximate and detail coefficients of the current, voltage and power waveforms calculated at a selected level frequency are using for training and testing the Probabilistic Neural Network (PNN) for a precise classification of high impedance fault from normal operation.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Chronological analysis: A total of 76 papers are surveyed in this study, covering a sufficient depth of works in the single phase to ground faults detection field for the last three decades. Most of the reviewed papers deal with determination of nature and behavior of single phase to ground faults as well as the presentation of type of program for simulation of these types of faults and general considerations about single phase to ground faults. These papers were explained in Section II. Researcher present their efforts about single phase to ground faults events detection which are presented in Fig. 1 in about 8% of papers. These papers were described in section V. To simplify the analyzing process, abbreviations are used for the name of each method. These abbreviations are summarized in Table 1. According to this survey from the start of single phase to ground faults detection, about 60% of papers are related to classic algorithms and 40% to heuristic algorithms. This meaningful raising

Table 1: Abbreviations defined for various algorithms

Methods/Algorithm	ABB
Classic methods	
Wavelet Transform	WT
Time Frequency Matrix	TFM
Prony's Method	PM
Big Data Theory	BDT
Correlation Analysis of Extension Theory	CAET
Grey Relation Degree	GRD
Bayesian Selectivity Technique	BST
Heuristic methods	
Fuzzy Logic	FL
Neural Network	NN
Neuro Fuzzy Network	NFN
Support Vector Machines	SVM
Neural Network and Wavelet Transform	NNWT

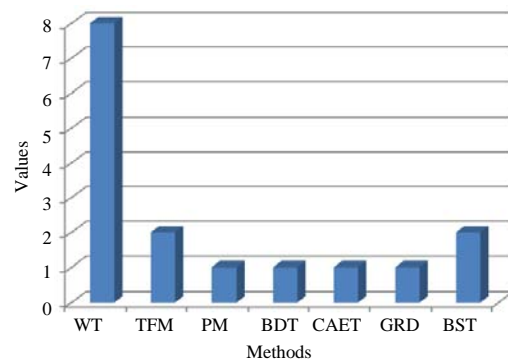


Fig. 2: No. of paper per classic methods

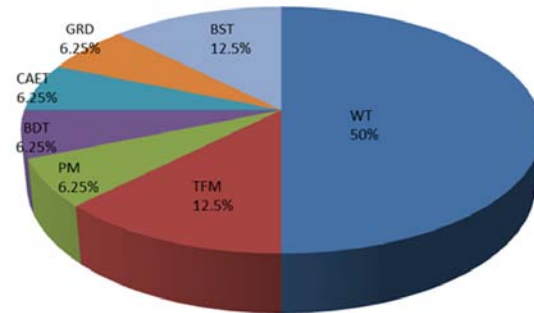


Fig. 3: The portion of contribution of each classic algorithm

in using the heuristic method is originated from the emergence of SPG detection based on neural networks.

The summary of above mentioned analysis is shown in Fig. 1. The portion of contribution for both classic and heuristic algorithms are shown in Fig. 2-5, respectively. Figure 2 and 4 show number of papers for both classic and heuristic algorithms and acronyms should be defined the first time they appear in the text, even after the have already been defined in the abstract. Do not use abbreviations in the title unless they are unavoidable.

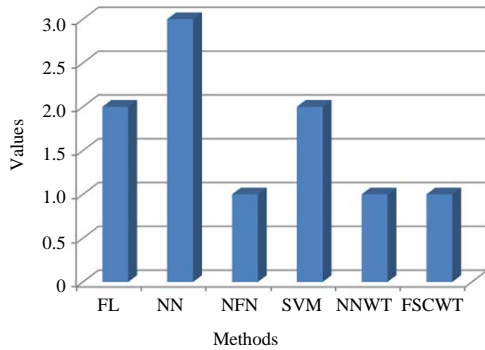


Fig. 4: No. of paper per heuristic methods

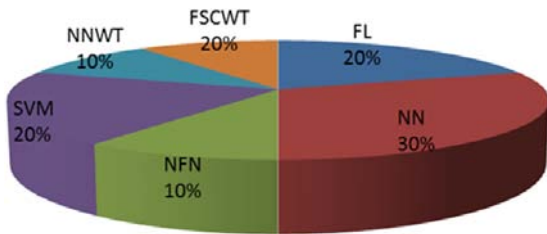


Fig. 5: The portion of contribution of each heuristic algorithm

CONCLUSION

In this study, near to 76 papers are surveyed about single phase to ground faults detection. This study classifies the mentioned algorithms to two major groups: classic methods and heuristic methods. Next, the algorithms belonging to each method are introduced. It terminates with tables and graphs determining the frequency of each algorithm. This study can be utilized as a guideline for researchers in this field where the single phase to ground faults detection is still a bending research area.

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