Application
Grounds in the field of a synchronous machine must be immediately detected, since the occurrence of a second ground might short circuit part of the field winding, and the resultant unbalance and vibration may damage the machine.

The DGF relay provides a reliable means for detecting grounds in the dc winding of the generator field. It uses a voltage divider consisting of a resistor and varistor connected across the field winding of the generator. The relay operating coil is connected from the mid-point of the voltage divider to ground. A ground in the generator field winding will cause current to flow through the moving coil of the DGF and operate the relay to trip or sound an alarm, as desired.

Operation
The DGF relay scheme does not require an external voltage source. It consists of a sensitive d’Arsonval type dc relay (.75-0-.75 milliamperes), and suitable resistors.

As shown in the internal wiring diagram (Figure 1), the relay utilizes a voltage divider circuit consisting of linear resistors $R_1$ and $R_p$ and a non-linear resistor (varistor) whose resistance decreases as the voltage applied across the resistor increases. If the field becomes grounded, a voltage will exist between point $M$ (Figure 2) and the ground point. This voltage will vary depending upon the magnitude of the exciter voltage, and also the point where the field is grounded. The voltage will be maximum if the field is grounded at either end of the field winding.

A null point will exist in the field winding where no voltage will be developed between point $M$ and ground. If the divider resistance between $M$ and the positive side of the exciter is equal to the divider resistance between $M$ and the negative side of the exciter, the null point will be at the center of the field winding. The non-linear resistor varies the location of the null point as the exciter voltage varies, so that a ground can be detected at any point in the field winding. The voltage characteristic of the non-linear resistor is shown in Figure 4. In the 250 and 375 volt types an additional resistor ($R_1$) is connected in series with the varistor to protect it from overvoltage.

The voltage divider is so proportioned that the field winding null position is located at mid-point when the field voltage is at 100% of rating; or at the 25% point from the negative end when 30% of the rated voltage is applied to the field. The outer curves in Figure 3 indicate the increase or decrease in supply voltage to close the relay contacts for a ground at the null point.

Features
Sensitivity: The sensitive D’Arsonval movement provides detection of fault resistances up to 335,000 ohms.

Full Protection: Includes protection against grounds at the null points by the use of a non-linear resistor.

Calibrated Dial: Visible with the cover on so that the contact settings can be determined by inspection.

Typical External Wiring, Center Zero Relay
Both contacts open when energized or de-energized.
Operating Characteristic of DGF Relay

![Graph showing the operating characteristic of a DGF relay. The graph displays the position of null points and contact closing points as a function of the percent of exciter nominal voltage.](image)

**Fig. 3**

**Typical Voltage Characteristic of Non-Linear Resistor (Varistor) of DGF Relay**

![Graph showing the typical voltage characteristic of a non-linear resistor (varistor) for a DGF relay. The graph displays the voltage across the varistor as a function of the dc current through it.](image)

**Fig. 4**

**Characteristics**

The operating unit of the DGF has an 0.75-0.75 milliamperes range. An adjustable contact is located on either side of the zero point. With a contact setting of 0.15 ma, a ground in the field winding can be detected for the following maximum fault resistances:

- **Exciter Rated Voltage:** 125 volts dc
- **Exciter Actual Voltage:** 100 volts dc

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fault Location</th>
<th>Maximum Fault Resistance</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Positive side of field winding</td>
<td>333,000 ohms</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Negative side of field winding</td>
<td>300,000 ohms(1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(c) 55% from negative side of field</td>
<td>33,000 ohms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) 44% from negative side of field</td>
<td>null point</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(1) Approximate value.

For base-load machine applications where the generator excitation remains constant for a period of time, the null point can be shifted by connecting a pushbutton in the circuit as shown in Figure 2 to short out part of the linear resistors. The bridge becomes unbalanced and current will flow in the relay if a ground exists at the null point.

**Coil Data**

The adjustable range of the DGF operating coil is ±0.75 milliamperes dc. The moving coil resistance is 90 ohms at 25°C. An overload of 22.5 milliamperes can be applied continuously to the moving coil without damage.

**Contact Data**

- **Moving:** The moving contacts will close a 1 ampere dc circuit, but should not be used to open appreciable current. An auxiliary type SG relay should be used to carry heavier currents.

- **Stationary:** Independently adjustable. Minimum setting is 0.15 ma either side of the moving contact.

**Further Information**

List Prices: PL 41-020
Technical Data: TD 41-025
Instructions: IL 41-747
Case Dimensions: DB 41-076
Other Protective Relays:
Application Selector Guide, TD 41-016

**July, 1991**
Field Ground Detection (Device Number: 64)

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<th>Internal Schematic</th>
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Notes:
- @ Has two self-contained resistors; one a varistor non-linear.
- ◊ Includes external resistor.