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Designed to seamlessly consolidate functions, Relion relays are smarter, more flexible and more adaptable. Easy to integrate and with an extensive function library, the Relion family of protection and control delivers advanced functionality and improved performance.





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**ABB Protective Relay School Webinar Series** 

## Feeder Protection Fundamentals Tim Erwin October 29, 2013



#### Topics

- System Overview
- Why is feeder protection necessary
- The Protection team
  - Fuses
  - Breakers/reclosers
  - Relays
  - CT's
- Characteristics of protective devices
  - Fuses
  - Circuit breakers, relays and reclosers
- Principles of feeder coordination



#### **Distribution System Voltage Class**



Percent of Distribution Systems at the Nominal voltage Class

Trend to larger nominal voltage class

- Increasing load density
- Lower cost of higher voltage equipment





# WHY IS FEEDER PROTECTION NECESSARY?









## Lightning



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#### Blackout



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#### **Chaos and Confusion**



#### **Transmission Line Tower Flashover**





#### **Transformer Failure**





#### **Generator Failure**





#### **Overhead Distribution Feeder Faults**

Temporary (non-persistent) - 85%

- Lightning causing flashover
- Wind blowing tree branches into line(s)

Permanent (persistent) – 15%

- Broken insulator
- Fallen tree
- Automobile accident involving utility pole



#### **Typical Distribution Substation Feeder Circuit**



Transformer Primary

- Rural primary fuses
- Urban breaker or circuit switch

Feeder Circuit

- Breaker in protective zone
- Breakers controlled by protective relays
- Reclosers
- Sectionalizers
- Lateral Tapped Fuses

#### **Fault Current Levels**



- Function of

- Substation transformer size (source impedance)
- Distribution voltage
- Fault location
- 10kA majority
- 10-20kA moderate number
- 20kA few

Distance in Feet (one way) From the Substation to the Fault

Fault Current Vs. Distance to Fault on the Feeder

#### Application

- Protection to be applied based on exposure
- Higher voltage feeders tend to be longer with more exposure to faults
- Apply downline devices . . . reclosers, fuses, based typically on 3 to 5 MVA of load per segment



#### **The Protection Team**

Feeder protection consists of a team of coordinated devices:

- Fuses
- Breakers/Reclosers
  - Relay(s)
  - The sensors
    - PTs
    - CTs
    - Etc.
- The interconnection



#### **Distribution Protection**

Required characteristics of protective devices are:

- Sensitivity responsive to fault conditions
- Reliability operate when required (dependability) and no-operation when not required (security)
- Selectivity –isolate minimum amount of system and interrupt service to fewest customers
- Speed minimize system and apparatus damage



Reliability

#### DEPENDABILITY

#### SECURITY

The certainty of correct operation in response to system trouble. The ability of the system to avoid undesired operations with or without faults.



Reliability





The certainty of operation in response to system trouble The ability of the system to avoid misoperation with or without faults



## **General Relaying Philosophy**

#### "Zone Protection"

- Generator
- Transformer
- Bus
- Transmission Lines
- Motors























**Distribution Fuses** 



#### Typical Distribution Substation Feeder Circuit: Fuses



#### **Distribution Fuses**

- Continuous current rating
- Interruption rating
- Curve characteristics
  - Minimum melt
  - Total clearing



#### **Fuse Characteristic**





## **Distribution Fuses - Expulsion**

- K link
- T link (slower clearing at high current)
- Common low current clearing time based on fuse rating
- 300 sec <=100 A rating</li>
- 600 sec > 100 A rating





## **Distribution Fuses – Current Limiting**

#### General purpose

- Rated maximum interrupting down to current that causes melting in one hour
- Melting 150% to 200%



## **Distribution Fuses – Current Limiting**

#### Backup

- Rated maximum interrupting down to rated minimum interrupting
- Requires application with expulsion fuse for low current protection



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#### Fuse Coordination - Rule of Thumb




#### **Fused Cutouts**





## Distribution Circuit Breakers and Reclosers





#### Typical Distribution Substation Feeder Circuit: Breakers and Reclosers





#### **Distribution Circuit Breaker / Recloser**

Interruption medium

- Oil
- Vacuum under oil
- Vacuum

Operating mechanism

- Electromechanical (spring charging)
- Magnetic actuator

Fault sensing and control

- Electromechanical
- Solid state
- Microprocessor

#### Operating Mechanisms: ESV (spring charge) vs. OVR



Spring charged mechanism

- Over 300 total parts
- Many moving parts
- 2000 Operation
- Three phase operation only



Magnetic actuator

- One moving part
- No maintenance
- 10,000 Operation
- Single and three phase

#### Oil Reclosers vs. Solid Dielectric

#### Oil

- Lower interrupting ratings
- Clearing time / coordination can vary depending on temperature and condition of oil
- Reclosing must be delayed on older units without vacuum bottles to allow for out gassing
- 2000 Operations or less
- Requires 5 7 year maintenance schedule

Magnetic Actuation, Solid Dielectric

- High fault interrupting capability
- High load current rating
- One size fits all amp rating (interchangeability)
- Low maintenance costs
- Environmentally friendly



#### Medium Voltage Vacuum Breakers

- 15kV/27kVBreaker
  - Single Bottle design
  - 15kV & 27kV
  - Stored Energy or magnetic Mechanism
- 38 KV Breaker
  - 38kV
  - Two bottle per phase design
  - Stored Energy or Magnetic Mechanism
- Vacuum Interruption
- Definite purpose rated ANSI C37.06 2000
  Table 2A



#### **MV Breaker Ratings**

	Туре Х	R-MAG	Type R	R-MAG	Туре V
Voltage , kV	15	15	27	27	38
Continuous Current, A	600 / 1200 / 2000 / 3000	600 / 1200 / 2000 / 3000	1200 / 2000	1200 / 2000	1200 / 2000
Interrupting, kA	12 - 25	12 - 25	12 - 20	12 - 25	25 - 40
BIL	110	110	125 - 150	125 - 150	150 - 200

BIL (Basic Impulse Level): Impulse withstand voltage

Type V two bottle design allows for back-to-back capacitor switching up to 1200 A



#### **Automatic Recloser**

- Improve reliability of service
- Pole-top mounting eliminates need to build substation
- Three-phase unit can replace breaker in substation for lower current ratings



Three Phase





- Breakers and Reclosers provide the physical interruption
- Both require a protective relay to signal when to operate





## **Distribution Circuit Protective Relays**



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# WHAT IS RELAYING



#### Relays

Relays are electromechanical, solid-state (static) or microprocessor-based (digital/numerical) devices that are used throughout the power system to detect abnormal and unsafe conditions and take corrective action



#### Classification of Relays - Defined in IEEE C37.90

Classification by Function

- **Protective** Detects intolerable conditions and defective apparatus.
- Monitoring Verify conditions in the protection and/or power system.
- **Reclosing** Establish closing sequences for a circuit breaker following a protective relay trip.
- Regulating Operates to maintain operating parameters within a defined region.
- Auxiliary Operates in response to other [relay] actions to provide additional functionality
- **Synchronizing** Assures that proper conditions exist for interconnecting two sections of the power system.



#### **Classification of Relays**

Classification by Input

- Current (Generator, Motor, Transformer, Feeder)
- Voltage (Generator, Motor, Transformer, Feeder)
- Power (Generator, Motor, Transformer, Feeder)
- Frequency (Generator, Motor, Feeder)
- Temperature (Generator, Motor, Transformer)
- Pressure (Transformer)
- Flow (Generator, Motor, Transformer, Feeder)
- Vibration (Generator, Motor)



#### **Classification of Relays**

#### **Classification by Performance Characteristics**

- Overcurrent
- Over/under voltage
- Distance
- Directional
- Inverse time, definite time

- Ground/phase
- High or slow speed
- Current differential
- Phase comparison
- Directional comparison



#### **Classification of Relays**

**Classification by Technology** 

- Electromechanical
- Solid state (Static)
- Microprocessor-based (Digital/Numerical)





## **Relay Input Sources**

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#### **Typical Distribution Substation Feeder Circuit**





#### Purpose

- Provide input signal (replica of power system voltage and current) to Relays
  - Reduce level suitable for relays (typically 120V and 69V depending on line-line or line to neutral connection)
  - Provide isolation





- Voltage transformation
  - Electromagnetic voltage transformer
  - Coupling capacitance voltage transformer
  - Optical voltage transformer
- Current transformation
  - Electromagnetic current transformer
  - Optical current transformer
  - Rogowski coil



Voltage (potential) Transformer (VT/PT)

- Do not differ materially from constant-potential power transformers except
  - Power rating is small
  - Designed for minimum ratio & phase angle error



#### **Current Transformer Basics**

- Current or series transformer primary connected in series with the line
- Ratio of transformation is approximately inverse ratio of turns. i.e 2000/5
- Differs from constant-potential transformer
  - Primary current is determined entirely by the load on the system and not by its own secondary load



#### **Current Transformer Basics**

- Secondary winding should never be open-circuited
  - Flux in the core, instead of being the difference of the primary & secondary ampere-turns, will now be due to the total primary ampere-turns acting alone
  - This causes a large increase in flux, producing excessive core loss & heating, as well as high voltage across the secondary terminals

```
\begin{array}{ll} V_{CD} = V_{S} = & I_{L}(Z_{L} + Z_{lead} + Z_{B}) \\ V_{CD} = & V_{S} = & I_{L}(Z_{L} + Z_{lead} + \infty) \\ \text{Where } Z_{B} \text{ is the load presented to} \\ \text{the CT by the relay.} \end{array}
```

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#### Steady State Performance of CT

- ANSI accuracy classes
  - Class C indicates that the leakage flux is negligible and the excitation characteristic can be used directly to determine performance. The Ct ratio error can thus be calculated. It is assumed that the burden and excitation currents are in phase and that the secondary winding is distributed uniformly.

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#### Steady State Performance of CT

#### ANSI accuracy classes



**Figure 5-6** ANSI accuracy standard chart for class C current transformers.

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#### D.C. Saturation of a CT

Saturation of a CT may occur as a result of any one or combination of:

- Off-set fault currents (dc component)
- Residual flux in the core

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#### D.C. Saturation Effect in Current



Figure 5-9 Dc saturation of current transformer.

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## **Over Current Relay Characteristics**

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#### **Recloser or Breaker Relay Characteristic**





#### **Overcurrent Current Device Characteristics**



#### **Time Overcurrent Curves**





#### Time Overcurrent Curve – Time Dial



Current in Multiples of Tap (pickup)



#### **Recloser Curves**



#### **Distribution Feeder Phase Protection**

- Pickup tap setting typically is 2, but never less than 1.5, times the normal maximum load interruption rating
- Or 1.25 times the short-time maximum load rating of the feeder



#### **Distribution Feeder Ground Protection**

Pickup commonly based on one of the following

- % Above estimated normal load unbalance
- % Above estimated load unbalance due to switching
- % Of the phase overcurrent pickup
- % Of the feeder emergency load rating
- % Of the feeder normal load rating

Permissible Unbalance

- Not above 25% of load current is typical rule-of-thumb, but some allow up to 50%
- Pickup setting of ground element to be 2 4 times the permissible unbalance






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Distance in Feet (one way) From the Substation to the Fault









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## **Coordination Terminology**



Upstream Source-side Protected Backup Downstream Load-side Protecting Down-line Local (where you are)



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Current

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f1M



























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## Fuse Coordination - Rule of Thumb





## Fuse Coordination - Rule of Thumb





- Most utilities require complete coordination between phase time-overcurrent elements down through customer owned protective devices
- Those who allow miscoordination only permit it at high current levels where the result is likely to be simultaneous fuse blowing and feeder tripping





## **Feeder Coordination Example**



- Time-Current Curves drawn based on the 13.2kv system currents
  Assumptions
  - Maximum load through recloser = 230A
  - Maximum load at feeder breaker = 330A
  - 65T and 100T fuses used at lateral taps



- With 230A maximum load, select 560A phase pickup setting for the recloser (240%)
  - for both phase time and instantaneous units
- Select 280A pickup for ground overcurrent element (50% of phase pickup)
  - for both ground time and instantaneous units
- Select ground time-curve of recloser to coordinate with the 100T fuse



- Assuming 400:5 ct ratio for the substation relays, 330A max load = 4.125A secondary
- Select 9A tap for phase relays = 720A pickup
- Select 4A tap for ground relay = 320A pickup
- Select ground relay time-dial to coordinate with recloser ground curve. Select phase relay time dial to coordinate with recloser phase curve



- Phase overcurrent relay curve must also coordinate with transformer primary side fuses and transformer frequent-fault capability
- Primary side fuse must protect transformer per transformer infrequent-fault capability curve





## **Feeder Coordination Example**





- Transformer fuse is the slowest (C&D)
- OC Relay and Recloser slow curves faster than 65T and 100T Fuses (3,4,5 & 6)





•Recloser fast curves faster than 65T and 100T Fuses

•Recloser is operating in a "fuse save" mode:

•Fast curve (1&2) will open recloser before down stream fuses open

•This will allow a transient fault on a fused tap to be cleared before blowing the fuse

•After a pre-determined number of operations, usually one or two, the fast curves are blocked and the recloser allows the fuse to blow if the fault is in the fuse's zone of protection.

•If the fault is on the feeder the recloser will operate again, typically going to lockout after one or two more operations.

•Each recloser operation will have a longer open time to allow the fault to clear

•This **reduces the outage time** on the taps for transient faults, saving the fuse and not having to dispatch a crew to replace the fuse.





The breaker is operating in a fuse blowing mode:

• If the fault is on the tap above the recloser the 100T fuse will open before the breaker

•This reduces the number of customers affected by the outage to only those on the tap.



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