Exercise 6.4 – Short-Circuit Current and Dimensioning in Medium-Low-Voltage Networks

For the electrical network represented in Figure 1, you must:

- 1. Define and verify the characteristics of the medium-voltage (MV) line cable (EPR insulation), taking into account a maximum intervention time of 350 ms for circuit breaker I1 after a three-phase short circuit.
- 2. Determine the direct and inverse impedances of the medium-voltage network.
- 3. Define and verify the characteristics of the low-voltage (LV) line cable (EPR insulation), considering a maximum intervention time of 150 ms for circuit breaker I3 after a three-phase short circuit.
- 4. Calculate the three-phase short-circuit current for circuit breakers I5 and define its characteristics in terms of breaking and re-closing capacities.

Medium-Voltage Network Data (MV):

- Nominal voltage: 20 kV
- Neutral state of the network: isolated
- Short-circuit power: 350 MVA
- Ratio $R_{cc}^{MV}/X_{cc}^{MV}=0$

Transformer MV/LV Data (attached data):

- Nominal power: 500 kVA
- Nominal transformation ratio: 20/0.4 kV
- Winding connection: Delta (20 kV winding) Star grounded (0.4 kV winding)
- Oil-cooled.

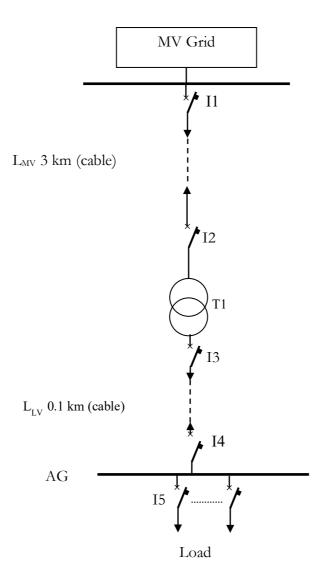


Figure 2 – Grid Schematics

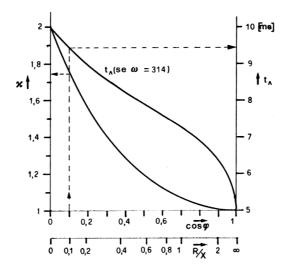


Figure 1 – χ Factor as a function of the ratio R_{CC}/X_{CC} of the short-circuit impedance \bar{Z}_{CC} .

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Characteristics of low voltage cables (0.4kV) with EPR insulation (K=143)

Conductor	Maximum Amperage [A]					
cross-section	30 °C in	at 30°C in	at 20 °C buried tube		at 20°C buried	
[mm2]	air	air tube	p=1	p=1.5	p=1	p=1.5
1.5	24	20	22	21	35	32
2.5	33	28	29	27	45	39
4	45	37	37	35	58	51
6	58	48	47	44	73	64
10	80	66	63	59	97	85
16	107	88	82	77	125	110
25	135	117	108	100	160	141
35	169	144	132	121	191	169
50	207	175	166	150	226	199
70	268	222	204	184	277	244
95	328	269	242	217	331	292
120	383	312	274	251	377	332
150	444	355	324	287	420	370
185	510	417	364	323	476	419
240	607	490	427	379	550	484
300	703	-	484	429	620	546
400	823	-	564	500	700	616

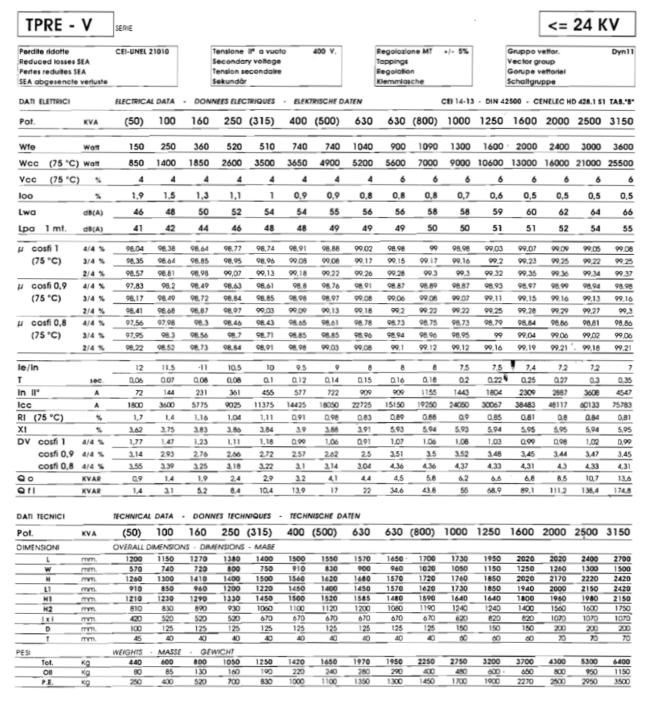
Conductor cross-	Resistance [oh:	m/km] at 70°C	Reactance [ohm/km] at 50°C		
section [mm2]	Dc	c.a	unipolar	multipolar	
1.5	15.9	15.9	0.147	0.106	
2.5	9.55	9.55	0.186	0.098	
4	5.92	5.92	0.129	0.097	
6	3.95	3.95	0.121	0.092	
10	2.29	2.29	0.111	0.086	
16	1.45	1.45	0.103	0.081	
25	0.93	0.93	0.097	0.080	
35	0.66	0.66	0.093	0.077	
50	0.46	0.46	0.090	0.076	
70	0.33	0.33	0.086	0.074	
95	0.25	0.25	0.085	0.074	
120	0.193	0.194	0.081	-	
150	0.154	0.156	0.081	-	
185	0.127	0.129	0.081	-	
240	0.096	0.099	0.080	-	
300	0.090	0.092	0.080	-	
400	0.086	0.087	0.080	-	

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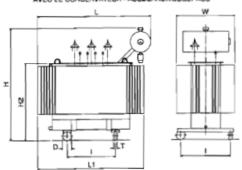
Characteristics of medium voltage cables (20kV) with EPR insulation (K = 143)

Section	Specific Resistance	Reactance	Specific Capacity	Maximum
[mm2]	[Ohm/km]	[Ohm/km]	$[\mu F/km]$	Current Value [A]
25	0.929	0.15	0.18	157
35	0.670	0.14	0.17	190
50	0.495	0.13	0.19	228
70	0.344	0.13	0.21	284
95	0.248	0.12	0.23	346
120	0.198	0.12	0.25	399

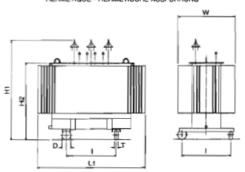
MV/LV transformer data



CON CONSERVATORE - OIL CONSERVATOR AVEC LE CONSERVATEUR - AUSDEHNUNGSGEFÄSS



TIPO ERMETICO - HERMETICALLY-SEALED HERMETIQUE - HERMETISCHE AUSFÜHRUNG



Q1 – Define and verify the characteristics of the $L_{\rm MV}$ line in medium voltage cable (EPR insulation) taking into account a maximum intervention time of 350 ms of the I1 circuit breakers after a three-phase short circuit.

In order to define the characteristics of the line connecting the MV network and the T1 transformer, it must be taken into account that the line must guarantee the full power supply of the transformer. So, the maximum operating current of the line is simply:

$$I_{T_1} = \frac{S_{T_1}}{\sqrt{3}V_n^{MT}} = \frac{500 \cdot 10^3 VA}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 20 \cdot 10^3 V} = 14.4A$$

From the table of characteristics of medium-voltage cables, we will choose the cable $A^{L_{MV}} = 25mm^2$, whose maximum current value is 157 A. On the other hand, the minimum cross-section of the cable L= $25mm^2$ A_{MV} necessary to satisfy the Joule integral $(I_{cc}^2 \Delta t \le K^2 A^2)$ is:

$$A_{min}^{L_{MV}} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(I_{cc,3ph}^{MV}\right)^2 \Delta t}{K^2}}$$

To determine the minimum cable cross-section of the L_{MV} line, it is first necessary to determine the maximum short-circuit current for this cable which corresponds to the 3-ph short-circuit current of the MV network.

$$I_{cc,3ph}^{MT} = \frac{S_{cc}^{MT}}{\sqrt{3}V_n^{MT}} = \frac{350 \cdot 10^6 VA}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 20 \cdot 10^3 V} = 10.1kA$$

To determine the $A_{min}^{L_{MV}}$, the coefficient K = 143 (EPR insulation of the cable) must be taken into account:

$$A_{min}^{L_{MV}} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(I_{cc,3ph}^{MV}\right)^2 \Delta t}{K^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{(10.1 \cdot 10^3 A)^2 \cdot 0.35s}{143^2}} = 41.8 mm^2$$

Therefore, the cross-section to choose for the L_{MV} cable is $A^{L_{MV}} = 50mm^2$.

For the chosen cable, here are the electrical parameters:

resistance per unit length:
$$r_{pul}=0.495 \frac{\Omega}{km}$$
 reactance per unit length: $x_{pul}=0.13 \frac{\Omega}{km}$ Capacity per unit length: $c_{pul}=0.19 \frac{\mu F}{km}$

And the electrical parameters for L_{MV} cable:

Longitudinal resistance:
$$r^{L_{MV}}=0.495\frac{\Omega}{km}3km=1.485\Omega$$

Longitudinal reactance: $x^{L_{MV}}=0.13\frac{\Omega}{km}3km=0.39\Omega$
Shunt Capacity: $c^{L_{MV}}=0.19\frac{\mu F}{km}3km=0.57\mu F$

Q2 – Determine the impedances at the direct sequence, inverse of the medium voltage network

With the knowledge of the short-circuit power of the MV network ($S_{cc}^{MT} = 350MVA$), and consequently of the 3-ph short-circuit current of the MV network ($I_{cc,3ph}^{MT} = 10.1kA$), we can calculate the absolute value of the short-circuit impedance of the MV network:

$$|\bar{Z}_{cc}^{MV}| = \frac{V_n^{MV}}{\sqrt{3}I_{cc,3ph}^{MT}} = \frac{20 \cdot 10^3 V}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 10.1 \cdot 10^3 A} = 1.14\Omega$$

The hypothesis $R_{cc}^{MV}/X_{cc}^{MV}=0$ allows us to determine the complex value of the short-circuit impedance of the MV network:

$$\bar{Z}_{cc}^{MV} = 0 + j1.14\Omega$$

Therefore, we can determine the forward and inverse sequence impedances of the MV network:

$$\bar{Z}_{d}^{MV} = \bar{Z}_{i}^{MV} = \bar{Z}_{cc}^{MV} = 0 + j1.14\Omega$$

Q3 – Define and verify the characteristics of the $L_{\rm LV}$ low-voltage cable line (EPR insulation), taking into account a maximum intervention time of 150 ms of the I3 circuit breaker after a three-phase short circuit.

As with the L_{MV} line, in order to define the characteristics of the L_{LV} line connecting the T_1 transformer to the AG bus, it must be taken into account that the line must guarantee the full power supply of the AG bus. Therefore, the maximum operating current of this line is simply associated with the nominal power of the transformer T_1 and the nominal voltage at the secondary of this machine:

$$I_n^{T_1"} = \frac{S^{T_1}}{\sqrt{3}V_n^{LV}} = \frac{500 \cdot 10^3 VA}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 400V} = 721.7A$$

From the table of characteristics of low voltage cables, we will choose the cable $A^{L_{BT}} = 400mm^2$ with an installation at a maximum temperature of 30 °C in air (first column of the table of characteristics of low voltage cables, 0.4kV, with EPR insulation) because it has a maximum current intensity of 823 A.

On the other hand, the minimum cross-section of the cable L_{LV} necessary to satisfy the Joule integral $(:I_{cc}^2 \Delta t \le K^2 A^2)$ is

$$A_{min}^{L_{LV}} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(I_{cc,3ph}^{I_3}\right)^2 \Delta t}{K^2}}$$

To determine the minimum cross-section $A_{min}^{L_{LV}}$ of the cable of the L_{LV} line, it is first necessary to determine the maximum short-circuit current for this cable which corresponds to the short-circuit current 3-ph in correspondence of the circuit breaker I3 (i.e., just downstream of the transformer T₁) $I_{cc,3ph}^{I_3}$:

$$\bar{I}_{cc,3ph}^{I_3} = \frac{V_n^{bt}}{\sqrt{3}\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}}$$

It is therefore necessary to determine the impedance $\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}$ of the direct sequence upstream of the circuit breaker I_3 .

Upstream of this circuit breaker, we have the T_1 transformer, the L_{MV} line and the MV network. Therefore, the $\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}$ is simply given by the sum of the direct sequence impedances of the transformer T_1 , the L_{MV} line and the MV network.

$$\bar{Z}_d^{\,I_3} = \bar{Z}_d^{MV''} + \bar{Z}_d^{L_{MV}''} + \bar{Z}_d^{T_1''}$$

WARNING: the $\bar{l}_{cc,3ph}^{I_3}$ is calculated on the low voltage side of T_1 , so the direct sequence impedances of the transformer T_1 , the L_{MV} line and the MV network must be related to the secondary of the transformer T_1 .

With knowledge of the transformation ratio of T_1 ($k = \frac{20kV}{0.4VkV} = 50$), we can calculate $\bar{Z}_d^{MT''}$ and $\bar{Z}_d^{LMT''}$:

$$\bar{Z}_d^{MV''} = \frac{\bar{Z}_d^{MV}}{k^2} = \frac{j1.14\Omega}{50^2} = j0.46 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

$$\bar{Z}_d^{L_{MV}"} = \frac{\bar{Z}_d^{L_{MV}}}{k^2} = \frac{r_{L_{MV}} + jx_{L_{MV}}}{k^2} = \frac{(1.485 + j0.39)\Omega}{50^2} = (0.59 + j0.16) \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

To determine $\bar{Z}_d^{T_1"}$, we must use the characteristics of the transformers in the table "MV/LV transformer data" and recall that, for the T_1 transformer with the connections of the triangle winding (20kV winding) – earth-bound star (0.4 kV winding), we have that:

$$\bar{Z}_{d}^{T_{1}"} = \bar{Z}_{i}^{T_{1}"} = \bar{Z}_{0}^{T_{1}"} = \bar{Z}_{cc}^{T_{1}"}$$

For a machine of $500 \, kVA$, we have:

$$V_{cc}^{T_1} = 4\%$$

$$P_{cc}^{T_1} = 4900 W$$

Therefore, the short-circuit voltage (in V) at the secondary of the transformer $(V_{cc}^{T_1"})$ is:

$$V_{cc}^{T_1"} = 0.04 \cdot 400V = 16V$$

Through the knowledge of the nominal current of the transformer at the secondary level $(I_n^{T_1"} = 721.7A)$ and the definition of the short-circuit voltage of a transformer $(V_{cc}^{T_1"} = \sqrt{3} Z_{cc}^{T_1"} I_n^{T_1"})$, we can calculate the module of the short-circuit impedance:

$$Z_{cc}^{T_1"} = \frac{V_{cc}^{T_1"}}{\sqrt{3} I_n^{T_1"}} = \frac{16V}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 721.7A} = 12.8 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega$$

The real part of the impedance $Z_{cc}^{T_1"}$ is associated with the losses $P_{cc}^{T_1}$ because $P_{cc}^{T_1} = 3R_{cc}^{T_1"}(I_n^{T_1"})^2$, therefore:

$$R_{cc}^{T_1"} = \frac{P_{cc}^{T_1}}{3\left(I_n^{T_1"}\right)^2} = \frac{4900W}{3 \cdot (721.7A)^2} = 3.14 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega$$

The imaginary part of the impedance $Z_{cc}^{T_1"}$ is:

$$X_{cc}^{T_1"} = \sqrt{\left(Z_{cc}^{T_1"}\right)^2 - \left(R_{cc}^{T_1"}\right)^2} = \sqrt{(12.8 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2 - (3.14 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2} = 12.41 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

And the complex impedance $\bar{Z}_{cc}^{T_1'}$

$$\bar{Z}_{cc}^{T_1"} = \bar{Z}_d^{T_1"} = (3.14 + j12.41) \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega$$

We can therefore calculate the complex impedance $\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}$ of the direct sequence upstream of the circuit breaker I₃

$$\begin{split} \bar{Z}_d^{I_3} &= \bar{Z}_d^{MV''} + \bar{Z}_d^{L_{MV}''} + \bar{Z}_d^{T_1''} \\ &= j0.46 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega + (0.59 + j0.16) \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega + (3.14 + j12.41) \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega \\ &= (3.73 + j13.03) \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega \end{split}$$

And also the module
$$|\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}| = \sqrt{(3.73\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2 + (13.03\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2} = 13.55\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

The module of the 3-ph short-circuit current in correspondence with the I3 circuit breaker is:

$$I_{cc,3ph}^{I_3} = \frac{V_n^{bt}}{\sqrt{3}Z_d^{I_3}} = \frac{400V}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 13.55 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega} = 17043A$$

Therefore, the minimum cross-section of the L_{LV} cable necessary to satisfy the Joule integral $(I_{cc}^2 \Delta t \le K^2 A^2)$ is (it should be remembered that in the data of the exercise we have a maximum intervention time of 150ms of the circuit breaker I₃ after a three-phase short circuit):

$$A_{min}^{L} = \sqrt{\frac{\left(I_{cc,3ph}^{I_3}\right)^2 \Delta t}{K^2}} = \sqrt{\frac{(17043A)^2 0.15s}{(143)^2}} = 46.1mm^2$$

Consequently, the cross-section $A^{L_{LV}} = 400mm^2$ is more than sufficient to satisfy the thermal verification of the Joule integral for a 3-ph short circuit in correspondence with the circuit breaker

For the chosen cable, here are the electrical parameters:

- resistance per unit length: $r_{pul} = 0.087 \frac{\Omega}{km}$ reactance per unit length: $x_{pul} = 0.080 \frac{\Omega}{km}$

And the electrical parameters for L_{LV} cable:

- Longitudinal resistance: $r^{L_{LV}}=0.087\frac{\Omega}{km}0.1km=8.7\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$
- Longitudinal reactance: $x^{L_{LV}} = 0.080 \frac{\Omega}{km} 0.1 km = 8 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega$

Q4 – Calculate the three-phase short-circuit current for I₅ circuit breakers and define its characteristics in terms of breaking and restoring capacity. (0.75/4 pts).

For the breaking and restoring capacity of I_5 , it is first necessary to determine the maximum short-circuit current corresponding to this circuit breaker, which corresponds to the short-circuit current 3-ph corresponding to the end of the L_{LV} cable:

$$\bar{I}_{cc,3ph}^{I_5} = \frac{V_n^{LV}}{\sqrt{3}\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}}$$

It is therefore necessary to determine the impedance $\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}$ of the direct sequence in correspondence to I_5 . Upstream of this circuit breaker, we have:

- the line L_{LV} ,
- the T₁ transformer,
- the L_{MV} line and
- the MV network.

Therefore, the $\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}$ is simply given by the sum of the direct sequence impedances of the L_{LV} cable, the T1 transformer, the L_{MV} line and the MV network. It should be noted that the sum of the direct sequence impedances of the transformer T1, the L_{MV} line and the MV network has already been calculated when the short-circuit current for the circuit breaker I3 has been calculated ($\bar{Z}_d^{I_3}$).

We can therefore calculate the complex impedance $\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}$ of direct sequence upstream of the circuit breaker I_5 .

$$\bar{Z}_{d}^{I_{5}} = \left(\bar{Z}_{d}^{MV''} + \bar{Z}_{d}^{L_{MV}''} + \bar{Z}_{d}^{T_{1}''}\right) + \bar{Z}_{d}^{L_{LV}} = \bar{Z}_{d}^{I_{3}} + \bar{Z}_{d}^{L_{LV}} = \bar{Z}_{d}^{I_{3}} + (r^{L_{LV}} + jx^{L_{LV}})$$

$$= (3.73 + j13.03) \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega + (8.7 + j8) \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega = (12.43 + j21.03) \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

And also, the module
$$\left|\bar{Z}_d^{\ I_5}\right| = \sqrt{(12.43\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2 + (21.03\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega)^2} = 24.43\cdot 10^{-3}\Omega$$

The module of the 3-ph short-circuit current in correspondence with the I5 circuit breaker is:

$$I_{cc,3ph}^{I_5} = \frac{V_n^{LV}}{\sqrt{3}Z_d^{I_5}} = \frac{400V}{\sqrt{3} \cdot 24.43 \cdot 10^{-3}\Omega} = 9453A$$

Therefore, the breaking capacity of the I5 circuit breaker must be greater than $I_{cc,3ph}^{I_5}$

$$PC_{I_5} > 9453A$$
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For the restoring power, the factor χ for the impedance $\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}$ must be determined. First, we need to calculate the ratio between the real and imaginary part of $\bar{Z}_d^{I_5}$:

$$\frac{R_d^{I_5}}{X_d^{I_5}} = \frac{12.43 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega}{21.03 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega} = 0.59$$

Through Fig. 2, we have that $\chi^{I_5} \approx 1.2$. Therefore, the peak current for a 3-ph short circuit in correspondence to the I₅ circuit breaker is:

$$I_{peak,3ph}^{I_5} = \sqrt{2}\chi^{I_5}I_{cc,3ph}^{I_5} = \sqrt{2} \cdot 1.2 \cdot 9453A = 16042A$$

Therefore, the restoring power of the I5 circuit breaker must be greater than $I_{peak,3ph}^{I_5}$:

$$PR_{I_5} > 16042A$$
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