



## Measurement of Dissipation Factor of Inner Layers of Insulation in Three-Core Belted Cables

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### Abstract

This paper presents a substantiation of an approach for direct measurements of dielectric dissipation factor of layers of insulation between the conductors of three-core power cables. Proposed approach is based on grounding of the inspected dielectric layer through the sufficiently low electrical resistance. The results of carried out analysis, which was carried out taking into consideration the presence of numerous parasitic parameters of tested layer of insulation due to the capacitive coupling between the electrically conductive elements of three-core power cable, have shown that for the case of sufficiently low value of used resistor the value of phase shift between the waveforms of voltage drop on inspected layer of insulation and resistor, through which this layer of insulation is grounded, coincides with the value of phase shift between the sine waveforms of current and voltage for parallel equivalent scheme of tested layer of insulation with power losses. Because of the dependence of dielectric power loss angle on the value of phase shift between sine curves of current and voltage, the presented approach for the measurement of dielectric dissipation factor is based on such coincidence of values of phase shift. Depending on the value of applied resistor, the value of dissipation factor is calculated on the basis of measured value of phase shift between the voltage drop on the electrical resistor, through which tested layer of insulation is grounded, and either the waveform of voltage drop on the inspected layer of insulation, or the waveform of applied voltage. Factors that affect the accuracy of measurement are discussed, equivalent schemes of tested three core power cable for various ways of applying testing voltage are presented and the example of practical implementation of presented approach for dissipation factor measurement is also given. Further development of presented approach for dissipation factor measurement is supposed to include the comparative analysis of the results of its practical implementation with the results obtained by applying previously developed techniques based on aggregate measurements.

## INTRODUCTION

The problem of inevitable aging of equipment remains extremely actual for various technical applications [1–8]. Many applied issues of electrical engineering which concern the assessment of quality of electrical insulation can be solved by applying the value of dielectric dissipation factor. Because of the dependence on the degree of electrical insulation deterioration and on the quality of manufacturing, the value of dielectric dissipation factor is efficiently used in practice of testing the quality of insulation of rotating electrical machines [9–11], transformers [12], power and communication cables [13, 14] and also for such purposes as the study of process of water trees growing in electrical insulation [15].

In practice of testing the quality of insulation of high voltage power cables measurements of dissipation factor usually are carried out either in a wide range of high (above 1 kV) values of applied voltage with constant frequency, or by making measurements in a wide range of frequencies, but under a comparatively low (approximately 1 V) values of applied voltage. High voltage measurements can be carried out by applying the conventional scheme of Shering bridge [16] or modified amplifier-based scheme of Shering bridge [17], which allows to mitigate the effect of stray capacitance and is suitable for continuous measurements. High voltage measurements allow to make conclusions about the emergence of partial discharges in tested electrical insulation under the certain level of applied voltage [18]. Measurements carried out in a wide range of fre-

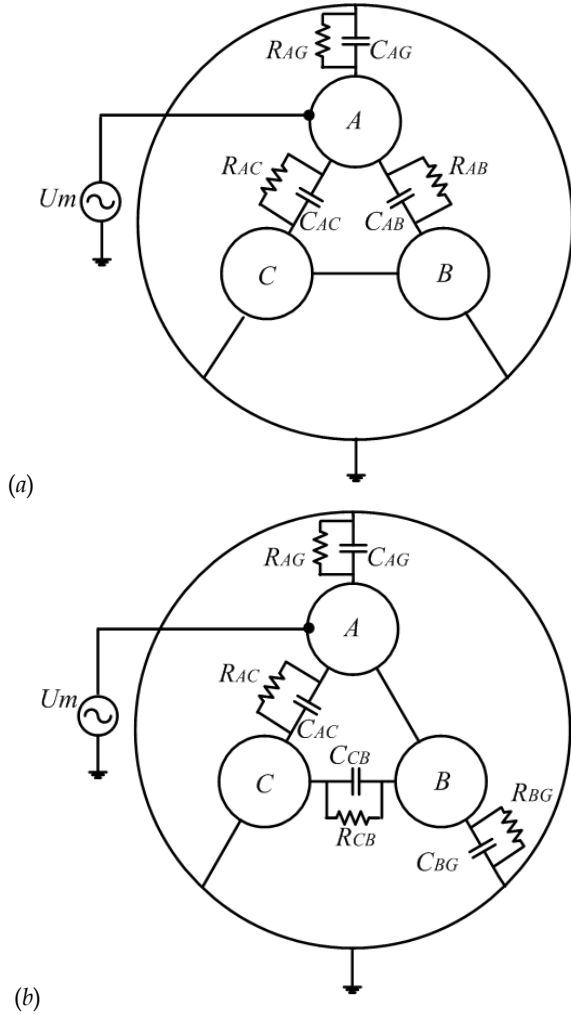
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As it can be concluded from the equivalent scheme on Fig. 1, each insulation layer can be characterized by its own electrical capacitance and power loss resistance. These parameters determine the individual values of dissipation factor of corresponding insulation layer between the conductive elements of power cable. In current paper the proposed approach for the measurement of individual

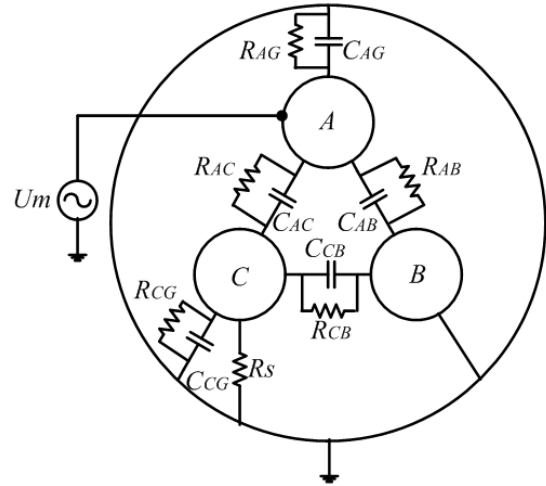
values of dissipation factor of insulation layers between the conductors of power cable is based on the considered in [31] schemes intended for the estimation of electrical capacitance between the adjacent conductive elements of power cable by applying aggregate measurements. These schemes are presented on Fig. 2.



**Figure 2.** Connection of conductors for getting aggregate values of electrical capacitance: determined by the parameters of 3 insulation layers in power cable (a); determined by the parameters of 4 insulation layers in power cable (b)

In this paper the technique for the dissipation factor measurement will be considered with respect to the value of dissipation factor of insulation layer between the conductors A and C on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2. Considered approach for the direct measurement of dissipation factor is based on presented on Fig. 2 schemes. However, on the contrary to the scheme on Fig. 2b, in considered case the inspected layer of insulation is grounded through some electrical resistance with a sufficiently low value. Besides, unlike the scheme presented on Fig. 2a, considered case does not imply the presence of connection between the C and B conductors. Such method of connection causes some voltage drop between this con-

ductor C and the ground. The existence of this additional voltage drop demands to take into consideration the presence of two additional insulation layers with their electrical capacitance and power loss resistance. The grounding of the conductor C through the low value resistor, as well as the previously mentioned presence of additional parasitic parameters caused by the voltage drop between the conductor C and the ground, is illustrated on Fig. 3.



**Figure 3.** Connection of conductors for the case of direct measurement of dielectric dissipation factor of insulation layer between the A and C conductors

As it can be concluded from the rearranged equivalent circuit presented on Fig. 3, the equivalent parameters of insulation layers between A and B conductors and between the conductor A and the sheath of power cable are connected in parallel with respect to the electrical capacitance of inspected insulation gap between the conductors A and C. Therefore, the value of current, flowing through the part of the equivalent circuit which contains the parameters of inspected insulation layer will depend on the parameters of this insulation gap itself ( $R_{AC}$ ,  $C_{AC}$ ) and also on the value of impedance of the part of equivalent circuit which contains connected in parallel parameters  $C_{CG}$ ,  $R_{CG}$ ,  $R_s$ ,  $C_{CB}$ ,  $R_{CB}$ . Every single insulation gap in three core power cable presented on Fig. 1 is characterized by its own connected in parallel electrical capacitance, caused by polarization processes, and shunt resistance, caused by the inevitable power losses in insulation. For elementary parallel equivalent circuit of dielectric material with power losses the absolute value of phase shift between the sine curves of current and voltage can be determined as:

$$\varphi = \arctan(\omega C_p R_p), \quad (1)$$

where  $\omega$  is the value of angular frequency of applied voltage,  $C_p$  is the value of electrical capacitance for parallel equivalent scheme,  $R_p$  is the value of power loss resistance for parallel equivalent scheme caused by dielectric power losses. Since the value of phase

shift between sine curves of current and voltage can be calculated by applying (1), the value of dissipation factor can be calculated by applying the following relation:

$$\tan(\delta) = \tan(90^\circ - \varphi), \quad (2)$$

where  $\delta$  is the value of power loss angle which complements the value of phase shift  $\varphi$  up to  $90^\circ$ .

Relations (1) and (2) can be applied to any elementary insulation layer between the conductive elements of power cable. Therefore, accurate technique for the dissipation factor measurement should be able to estimate the value of dissipation factor according to (2), on the basis of previously calculated according to (1) value of phase shift  $\varphi$ . The value of voltage drop, which is available for direct measurements, on insulation layer between the conductors  $A$  and  $C$  can be determined as:

$$U_1 = \frac{U_m R_{AC} (j\omega C_1 R_1 R_s + R_s + R_1)}{j\omega R_{AC} C_1 R_1 R_s + R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_s R_1 + jA}, \quad (3)$$

where  $R_1$  and  $C_1$  correspondingly denote the equivalent resistance and capacitance of connected in parallel insulation layers between the  $C$  and  $B$  conductors and between the conductor  $C$  and the grounded sheath of power cable:

$$R_1 = \frac{R_{CG} R_{CB}}{R_{CG} + R_{CB}}, \quad (4)$$

$$C_1 = C_{CG} + C_{CB}, \quad (5)$$

$$A = \omega R_s R_1 C_{AC} R_{AC}. \quad (6)$$

The value of voltage drop, on insulation layer between the grounded through  $R_s$  conductor  $C$  and the grounded sheath of power cable can be determined as:

$$U_2 = \frac{U_m R_1 R_s (j\omega C_{AC} R_{AC} + 1)}{j\omega R_{AC} C_1 R_1 R_s + R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_s R_1 + jA}. \quad (7)$$

Active and reactive components of  $U_1$  can be calculated as:

$$\text{Re}(U_1) = B_1 + B_2, \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Im}(U_1) = B_3 + B_4, \quad (9)$$

where  $B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4$  can be determined as:

$$B_1 = (R_s + R_1) U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (10)$$

$$B_2 = \omega C_1 R_1 R_s U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + R_s R_1 \omega C_{AC} R_{AC})}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (11)$$

$$B_3 = \omega C_1 R_1 R_s U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (12)$$

$$B_4 = -(R_s + R_1) U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + R_s R_1 \omega C_{AC} R_{AC})}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (13)$$

Active and reactive components of  $U_2$  can be calculated as:

$$\text{Re}(U_2) = B_5 + B_6, \quad (14)$$

$$\text{Im}(U_2) = B_7 + B_8, \quad (15)$$

where  $B_5, B_6, B_7, B_8$  can be determined as:

$$B_5 = R_1 R_s U_m \times \frac{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (16)$$

$$B_6 = \omega C_{AC} R_1 R_s U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + R_s R_1 \omega C_{AC} R_{AC})}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (17)$$

$$B_7 = \omega C_{AC} R_1 R_s U_m R_{AC} \times \frac{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}, \quad (18)$$

$$B_8 = -R_1 R_s U_m \times \frac{(R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + R_s R_1 \omega C_{AC} R_{AC})}{(R_{AC} R_s + R_{AC} R_1 + R_1 R_s)^2 + (R_{AC} \omega C_1 R_1 R_s + A)^2}. \quad (19)$$

In general form the relation for the value of phase shift between  $U_2$  and  $U_1$  can be determined as:

$$\varphi_{U_1 U_2} = \arctan\left(\frac{\text{Im}(U_2)}{\text{Re}(U_2)}\right) - \arctan\left(\frac{\text{Im}(U_1)}{\text{Re}(U_1)}\right). \quad (20)$$

By taking into consideration (7)–(8), the value of  $\varphi_{U_1}$  can be determined as:

$$\varphi_{U_1} = \text{atan}\left(\frac{g_1 - g_2 - g_3}{R_1 R_s^2 + R_{AC} R_1^2 + g_4 + g_5 + g_6 + g_7 + g_8}\right) \quad (21)$$

where the values of coefficients  $g_1 \dots g_8$  are determined according to:

$$g_1 = \omega C_1 R_1^2 R_s^2, \quad (22)$$

$$g_2 = \omega C_{AC} R_1 R_s^2 R_{AC}, \quad (23)$$

$$g_3 = \omega C_{AC} R_1^2 R_s R_{AC}, \quad (24)$$

$$g_4 = 2 R_s R_1 R_{AC}, \quad (25)$$

$$g_5 = R_{AC} R_s^2, \quad (26)$$

$$g_6 = \omega^2 C_1^2 R_1^2 R_s^2 R_{AC}, \quad (27)$$

$$g_7 = R_1^2 R_s, \quad (28)$$

$$g_8 = \omega^2 C_1 R_1^2 R_s^2 R_{AC} C_{AC}. \quad (29)$$

By taking into consideration (14)–(15), the value of  $\varphi_{U2}$  can be determined as:

$$\varphi_{U2} = \text{atan} \left( - \frac{g_9 - g_{10} - g_{11}}{R_{AC} R_s + R_1 R_{AC} + R_1 R_s + g_{12} + g_{13}} \right), \quad (30)$$

where the values of coefficients  $g_9 \dots g_{13}$  can be determined according to:

$$g_9 = R_s R_1 \omega R_{AC} C_1, \quad (31)$$

$$g_{10} = R_s \omega R_{AC}^2 C_{AC}, \quad (32)$$

$$g_{11} = R_1 \omega R_{AC}^2 C_{AC}, \quad (33)$$

$$g_{12} = R_s R_1 \omega^2 C_{AC} R_{AC}^2 C_1, \quad (34)$$

$$g_{13} = R_s R_1 \omega^2 C_{AC}^2 R_{AC}^2. \quad (35)$$

By taking into consideration (21) and (30) the value of phase shift between  $U_2$  and  $U_1$  can be determined according to (20). As it can be concluded from the analysis of (21), in case of  $R_s = 0$  the value of  $\varphi_{U1}$  is equal to zero. In this case the relation for  $\varphi_{U2}$  also can be substantially simplified and the absolute value of phase shift between  $U_1$  and  $U_2$  determined according to (20) will depend only on the value of power loss resistance and electrical capacitance of insulation layer between the conductors A and C:

$$\varphi_{U1U2} = \arctan(\omega C_{AC} R_{AC}). \quad (36)$$

As the form of (36) coincides with the form of (1), it is easy to infer that grounding of the conductor C through some resistance with negligible value allows to substantially mitigate the influence of parasitic parameters of nearby insulation layers. After the estimation of phase shift  $\varphi_{U1U2}$  according to (36) the value of dissipation factor of insulation layer between the A and C conductors can be easily determined by applying similar to (2) relation:

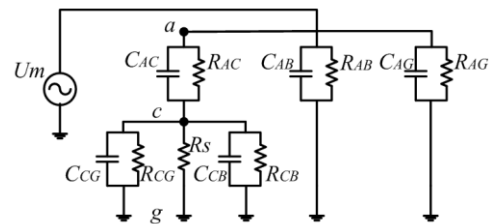
$$\tan(\delta_{AC}) = \tan(90^\circ - \varphi_{U1U2}), \quad (37)$$

where  $\delta_{AC}$  is the power loss angle which complements the value of phase shift between the voltage drop on insulation layer between the conductors A and C and current which flows through this insulation layer, up to  $90^\circ$ . However, the decreasing of  $R_s$  leads to the decreasing of voltage drop  $U_2$ . Such decreasing complicates measurements as it will obviously degrade their noise stability. This problem partially can be solved either by the increasing of the value of test voltage  $U_m$ , or by gaining  $U_2$  by applying appropriate amplifying circuits. In practice

it is impossible to reduce the value of  $R_s$  down to zero, as according to (6) in this case the value of voltage drop  $U_2$  also will be diminished down to zero and the result of the direct measurement of  $U_1$  will coincide with the value of test voltage  $U_m$ . The necessity of keeping the value of  $R_s$  at levels which will provide the ability for the direct measurements of  $U_2$  leads to some inaccuracy in estimated value of dissipation factor, as for the case of  $U_2 \neq 0$  the value of initial phase of  $U_1$  also differs from zero and the value of phase shift  $\varphi_{U1U2}$  determined according to (19), will not reflect accurately the dielectric properties of insulation layer between the conductors A and C. Consequently, the proposed approach for the dissipation factor measurement implies:

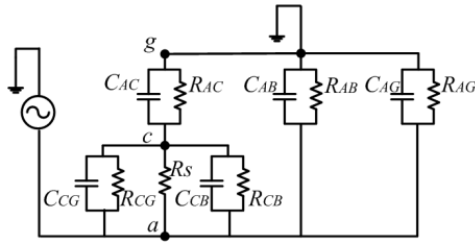
- grounding of the inspected layer of insulation through the low value resistance. Sufficiently low value of resistance implies that the value of voltage drop on this resistor and connected in parallel corresponding elements of scheme caused by the capacitive coupling between the adjacent conductive elements should be negligible in comparison with the value of applied voltage;
- measurement of  $\varphi_{U1}$  and  $\varphi_{U2}$ ;
- calculation of phase shift  $\varphi_{U1U2}$  between the values of voltage drop on inspected layer of insulation and  $R_s$ . For the case if the value of  $\varphi_{U1}$ , due to the sufficiently low value of  $R_s$ , is considered to be negligible, estimation of  $\varphi_{U1U2}$  can be carried out on the basis of measured value of  $\varphi_{U2}$ , i.e. in this case it is possible to assume that  $\varphi_{U1U2}$  is approximately equal to  $\varphi_{U2}$ ;
- calculation of dissipation factor according to (37).

Measurement of  $\varphi_{U1}$  and  $\varphi_{U2}$  can be carried out by applying the presented on Fig. 4, 5 schemes.



**Figure 4.** The applying of testing voltage for the measurements of phase of voltage drop  $\varphi_{U2}$

As it can be concluded from Fig. 4, the value of  $\varphi_{U2}$  should be measured as the value of phase shift between the applied to the tested cable voltage  $U_m$  and the value of voltage drop on  $R_s$ , i.e. between the values of voltage drop across the points  $ag$  and  $cg$  on Fig. 4. Measurement of  $\varphi_{U1}$  implies the inverse applying of voltage and is carried out by means of making measurements of the value of phase shift between  $U_m$  and the value of voltage drop across the points  $cg$  on Fig. 5.



**Figure 5.** The applying of testing voltage for the measurements of phase of voltage drop  $\varphi_{U1}$

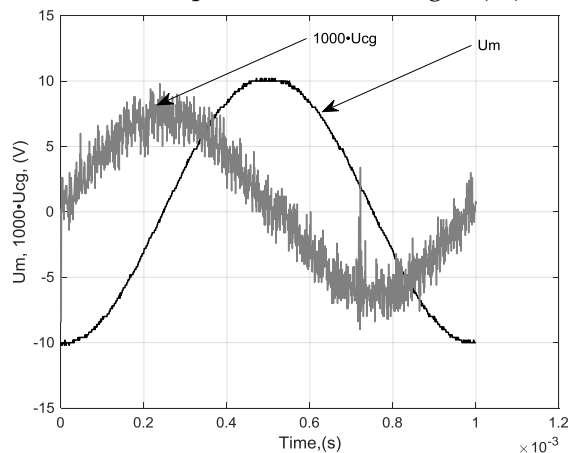
## RESULTS OF PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION AND DISCUSSION

Practical implementation of proposed approach for the estimation of dissipation factor has been carried out by measuring the values of dissipation factor of insulation layers between the conductors in a 3 core power cable with paper impregnated insulation after its 26 years of operation on a nuclear power plant. The value of phase shift between the values of voltage drop on tested layer of insulation and additional resistor  $R_s$  has been calculated by applying the conventional cross-correlation method. According to mentioned method the value of phase shift between two sine curves can be calculated according the following relation [35]:

$$\varphi = \arccos\left(\frac{R_{U1U2}}{\sqrt{R_{U1}R_{U2}}}\right), \quad (38)$$

where  $R_{U1U2}$  denotes the value of cross-correlation function between the analyzed sine curves,  $R_{U1}$  and  $R_{U2}$  correspondingly denote the values of autocorrelation functions of analyzed signals.

The values of autocorrelation functions  $R_{U1}$  and  $R_{U2}$ , as well as the value of  $R_{U1U2}$ , have to be calculated for zero values of their lag time. The frequency of applied voltage was equal to 1000 Hz. The value of  $R_s$  was selected equal to 994 Ohm. All calculations have been carried out under the assumption of negligible impact of  $\varphi_{U1}$  on the estimated value of dissipation factor. Fig. 6 presents typical voltage waveforms which have been obtained in order to carry out calculation of phase shift according to (38).



**Figure 6.** An example of analyzed waveforms of voltage

Fig. 6 also illustrates previously mentioned degrading of noise stability of measurements caused by the desire of eliminating the affect of  $\varphi_{U1}$  on the accuracy of carried out estimation by keeping the value of  $R_s$  at sufficiently low values, which eventually results in undesirable distortions of voltage drop between the points  $c$  and  $g$  on Fig. 4 and Fig. 5 by noise components.

The results of carried out measurements are presented in Table 1.

**Table 1.** The results of carried out measurements

Layer of insulation between the conductors	$\varphi_{U2}, ^\circ$	Dissipation factor, %
AC	89.24	1.33
AB	89.22	1.36
BC	89.08	1.60

Taking into consideration that all measurements have been carried out by applying values of voltage which are significantly lower than the values of voltage that affect the insulation of such cables under the normal conditions of operation and also possible increasing of dissipation factor due to the presence of partial discharges, obtained under the impact of significantly lower voltage values of dissipation factor presented in Table 1 can be considered to be pretty high. The reason for calculated high values of dielectric dissipation factor also can be caused by its frequency dependence.

## CONCLUSIONS

The values of dissipation factor of inner insulation layers in three core belted cables can be estimated by means of consecutive grounding of cores of tested power cable through the resistance with a sufficiently small value, followed by further measurement of phase shift between the values of voltage drop on the inspected layer of insulation and the values of voltage drop on this electrical resistance. Such grounding inevitably leads to the emergence of additional parasitic paths for current flow caused by the capacitive coupling between the grounded through this resistor core and other grounded elements of power cable. However, for the case of sufficiently low value of used resistance the effect of these parasitic elements of measurement scheme can be considered to be negligible.

## DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author(s).

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## Вимірювання тангенса кута діелектричних втрат внутрішніх шарів ізоляції в трьохжильних кабелях з поясною ізоляцією




Іван Костюков

**Анотація.** В статті представлено обґрунтування підходу до прямого вимірювання тангенса кута діелектричних втрат шарів ізоляції між жилами трьохжильних силових кабелів. Запропонований підхід заснований на заземленні досліджуваного шару ізоляції через достатньо низький електричний опір. Результати аналізу, проведеного з урахуванням наявності численних паразитарних параметрів досліджуваного шару ізоляції внаслідок ємнісних зв'язків між електропровідними елементами конструкції трьохжильного силового кабелю, показали, що для випадку достатньо низького значення електричного опору використаного резистора значення фазового зсуву між напругою на досліджуваному шарі ізоляції та резисторі, через який цей шар ізоляції заземлено, збігається зі значенням фазового зсуву між синусоїдальними кривими струму та напруги для паралельної схеми заміщення досліджуваного шару ізоляції з діелектричними втратами. Внаслідок залежності кута діелектричних втрат від величини фазового зсуву між струмом та напругою, представлений підхід до вимірювання тангенса кута діелектричних втрат базується на зазначеному збігу значень фазового зсуву. В залежності від величини використаного резистора, значення тангенса кута діелектричних втрат обчислюється на основі вимірювання значення фазового зсуву між падінням напруги на електричному резисторі, через який заземлено досліджуваний шар ізоляції, та між падінням напруги на досліджуваному шарі ізоляції, або між прикладеною до силового кабелю напругою. В статті також обговорено фактори, що впливають на точність вимірювань, запропоновано схеми заміщення досліджуваного трьохжильного силового кабелю для випадку різних способів подачі випробувальної напруги та наведено приклад практичної реалізації представленого підходу для вимірювання тангенса кута діелектричних втрат. Подальший розвиток представленого підходу до вимірювання тангенса кута діелектричних втрат повинен містити порівняльний аналіз результатів його практичної реалізації з результатами, отриманими шляхом застосування раніше розроблених та заснованих на сукупних вимірюваннях методик.

**Ключові слова:** взаємна кореляція, електрична ємність, старіння ізоляції, випробування ізоляції, фазовий зсув, діагностика силових кабелів, діелектричні втрати.

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