

INVESTIGATION ON THE PERFORMANCE OF XLPE CABLE INSULATION
USING TANGENT DELTA METHOD

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to Allah S.W.T my creator, my strong pillar, my source of inspiration, wisdom, knowledge and understanding. Special dedication to my beloved parents, Hj Misuari bin Ariff and Hjh Frika Abaka, my brothers and sisters Amina, Aishah, Kamil, Adenan and Anita who always support me all the way and encourage me to finish this work successfully. Lastly, special thanks to my supervisor, lecturers, colleagues, and friends who are always be by my side, helping and supporting me all of the time, thank you so much for everything.

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ABSTRACT

Insulation is one of the most crucial components of a cable. Failure of insulating material will lead to breakdown and consequently may cause electrical shock or injury. For that reason, analysis of insulation condition is critical to monitor the performance of high voltage cable insulation so that suitable preventive maintenance and mitigation can be planned accordingly to avoid permanent damage to the cable. In this study, the condition of medium voltage (MV) cable insulation is monitored based on tangent delta or dissipation factor value from tangent delta measurement as per IEEE 400.2 Standard. The evaluation will be useful for maintenance personnel to predict the remaining life expectancy and to prioritize cable replacement as well as it is also useful for determining what other tests may be worthwhile to diagnose the cable condition. As expected, the result shows that high value of tangent delta was measured in a degraded cable insulation.

ABSTRAK

Penebat adalah salah satu komponen yang paling penting dalam kabel. Kegagalan bahan penebat akan menyebabkan kerusakan dan akibatnya boleh menyebabkan kejutan atau kecederaan elektrik. Atas sebab itu, analisis keadaan penebat adalah penting untuk memantau prestasi penebat kabel voltan tinggi supaya penyelenggaraan pencegahan dan mitigasi yang sesuai dapat dirancang dengan sewajarnya untuk mengelakkan kerosakan kekal pada kabel. Dalam kajian ini, keadaan penebat kabel pada kabel voltan sederhana dipantau berdasarkan delta tangen atau nilai faktor pelepasan dari ukuran delta tangen mengikut piawai IEEE 400.2. Penilaian ini akan berguna untuk kakitangan penyelenggaraan dalam meramalkan jangka hayat kabel, membantu dalam menganalisa keutamaan penggantian kabel serta ia juga berguna untuk menentukan ujian-ujian lain yang mungkin berbaloi untuk dijalankan untuk mendiagnosis keadaan kabel. Seperti yang dijangka, nilai delta tangen adalah tinggi setelah diukur pada penebat kabel yang merosot .

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	TITLE	PAGE
	DECLARATION	iii
	DEDICATION	iv
	ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	v
	ABSTRACT	vi
	ABSTRAK	vii
	TABLE OF CONTENTS	viii
	LIST OF TABLES	x
	LIST OF FIGURES	xiii
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xv
	LIST OF SYMBOLS	xvi
	LIST OF APPENDICES	xvii
CHAPTER 1	INTRODUCTION	1
1.1	Problem Background	1
1.2	Problem Statement	2
1.3	Research Goal	2
1.3.1	Research Objectives	2
1.3.2	Scope of Work	3
CHAPTER 2	LITERATURE REVIEW	5
2.1	XLPE cable insulation degradation	5
2.2	Electrical field test for shielded power cable	6
2.2.1	Type 1 Field Test	6
2.2.2	Type 2 Field Test	6
2.3	Insulation Dissipation Factor test or Tan Delta test	6
2.4	VLF Tan Delta test	9
CHAPTER 3	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	11
3.1	Introduction	11

3.1.1	Collection of cable data and specification	11
3.1.2	VLF Tan Delta test for XLPE cable	14
3.1.3	VLF Tan Delta test analysis	16
CHAPTER 4	RESULT AND DISCUSSION	19
4.1	Introduction	19
4.1.1	Result for Circuit 1	19
4.1.2	Result for Circuit 2	21
4.1.3	Result for Circuit 3	23
4.1.4	Result for Circuit 4	25
4.1.5	Result for Circuit 5	27
4.1.6	Result for Circuit 6	29
4.1.7	Result for Circuit 7	31
4.1.8	Result for Circuit 8	33
4.1.9	Result for Circuit 9	35
4.1.10	Result for Circuit 10	37
4.1.11	Result for Circuit 11	39
4.2	Result and Discussion	41
4.3	Chapter Summary	45
CHAPTER 5	CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS	47
5.1	Research Outcomes	47
5.2	Contributions to Knowledge	47
5.3	Future Works	47
5.4	Conclusion	48
REFERENCES		49

LIST OF TABLES

TABLE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Table 3.1	Summary of cable size and circuit details	11
Table 3.2	Thickness specification of cable layers	13
Table 3.3	6.6 kV XLPE cable construction specification	14
Table 3.4	Voltage level step for test	14
Table 3.5	Historical figures of merit for condition assessment of service-aged PE-based insulations (e.g., PE, XLPE, and TRXLPE) using 0.1 Hz [16].	17
Table 4.1	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 1 Red phase	19
Table 4.2	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 1 Yellow phase	20
Table 4.3	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 1 Blue phase	20
Table 4.4	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 2 Red phase	21
Table 4.5	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 2 Yellow phase	22
Table 4.6	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 2 Blue phase	22
Table 4.7	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 3 Red phase	23
Table 4.8	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 3 Yellow phase	24
Table 4.9	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 3 Blue phase	24
Table 4.10	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 4 Red phase	25
Table 4.11	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 4 Yellow phase	26
Table 4.12	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 4 Blue phase	26
Table 4.13	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 5 Red phase	27
Table 4.14	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 5 Yellow phase	28
Table 4.15	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 5 Blue phase	28
Table 4.16	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 6 Red phase	29

Table 4.17	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 6 Yellow phase	30
Table 4.18	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 6 Blue phase	30
Table 4.19	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 7 Red phase	31
Table 4.20	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 7 Yellow phase	32
Table 4.21	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 7 Blue phase	32
Table 4.22	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 8 Red phase	33
Table 4.23	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 8 Yellow phase	34
Table 4.24	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 8 Blue phase	34
Table 4.25	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 9 Red phase	35
Table 4.26	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 9 Yellow phase	36
Table 4.27	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 9 Blue phase	36
Table 4.28	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 10 Red phase	37
Table 4.29	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 10 Yellow phase	38
Table 4.30	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 10 Blue phase	38
Table 4.31	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 11 Red phase	39
Table 4.32	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 11 Yellow phase	40
Table 4.33	MTD, SDTD, DTD measurement for Circuit 11 Blue phase	40
Table 4.34	Summary of Tan Delta Test Result	42
Table 4.35	Condition assessment for MTD reading (circuit 9, red phase) at U_0	43
Table 4.36	Condition assessment for MTD reading (circuit 9, yellow phase) at U_0	43
Table 4.37	Condition assessment for MTD reading (circuit 9, blue phase) at U_0	43
Table 4.38	Condition assessment for SDTD reading (circuit 9, red phase) at U_0	44

Table 4.39	Condition assessment for SDTD reading (circuit 9, yellow phase) at U _o	44
Table 4.40	Condition assessment for SDTD reading (circuit 9, blue phase) at U _o	44

LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE NO.	TITLE	PAGE
Figure 2.1	Dielectric Vector Group	8
Figure 2.2	AC sine wave [13]	9
Figure 3.1	MV Single Line Diagram of 6.6 kV SGM-TG3	12
Figure 3.2	A three core 6.6 kV XLPE cable cross sectional diagram	13
Figure 3.3	Set up measurement of Tan Delta test	15
Figure 3.4	Test result shown at the Baur Viol test measurement at $0.5U_0$	16
Figure 4.1	MTD graph for Circuit 1	20
Figure 4.2	SDTD graph for Circuit 1	21
Figure 4.3	DTD graph for Circuit 1	21
Figure 4.4	MTD graph for Circuit 2	22
Figure 4.5	SDTD graph for Circuit 2	23
Figure 4.6	DTD graph for Circuit 2	23
Figure 4.7	MTD graph for Circuit 3	24
Figure 4.8	SDTD graph for Circuit 3	25
Figure 4.9	DTD graph for Circuit 3	25
Figure 4.10	MTD graph for Circuit 4	26
Figure 4.11	SDTD graph for Circuit 4	27
Figure 4.12	DTD graph for Circuit 4	27
Figure 4.13	MTD graph for Circuit 5	28
Figure 4.14	SDTD graph for Circuit 5	29
Figure 4.15	DTD graph for Circuit 5	29
Figure 4.16	MTD graph for Circuit 6	30
Figure 4.17	SDTD graph for Circuit 6	31
Figure 4.18	DTD graph for Circuit 6	31
Figure 4.19	MTD graph for Circuit 7	32

Figure 4.20	SDTD graph for Circuit 7	33
Figure 4.21	DTD graph for Circuit 7	33
Figure 4.22	MTD graph for Circuit 8	34
Figure 4.23	SDTD graph for Circuit 8	35
Figure 4.24	DTD graph for Circuit 8	35
Figure 4.25	MTD graph for Circuit 9	36
Figure 4.26	SDTD graph for Circuit 9	37
Figure 4.27	DTD graph for Circuit 9	37
Figure 4.28	MTD graph for Circuit 10	38
Figure 4.29	SDTD graph for Circuit 10	39
Figure 4.30	DTD graph for Circuit 10	39
Figure 4.31	MTD graph for Circuit 11	40
Figure 4.32	SDTD graph for Circuit 11	41
Figure 4.33	DTD graph for Circuit 11	41

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

TD	-	Tangent Delta
DTD	-	Differential Tan Delta
MV	-	Medium Voltage
IEEE	-	The Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
VLF	-	Very Low Frequency
Hz	-	Hertz
SLG	-	Single Line Diagram
XLPE	-	Crosslinked Polyethylene
PILC	-	Paper Insulated, Lead Covered
PE	-	Polyethylene
U _o	-	Normal phase-to-ground operating voltage.
SDTD	-	Standard Deviation Tan Delta (Stability Tan Delta)
VCB	-	Vacuum Circuit Breaker
GTG3	-	Gas Turbine Generator 3
EEB	-	Electrical Equipment Building
SGM TG3	-	Block 3 Medium Voltage Busbar
BSDG	-	Black Start Diesel Generator
ECP	-	Electro Chlorination Plant
SFC	-	Static Frequency Converter
ATR	-	Auxiliary Transformer
TR3	-	Transformer Unit 3

LIST OF SYMBOLS

δ	-	Angle
C	-	Capacitance
R	-	Resistance
I	-	Current
V	-	Voltage
I_R	-	Resistive current
I_C	-	Capacitive current
o	-	Degree

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Problem Background

Insulation and electric field profiles for high voltage (HV) and medium voltage (MV) equipment must be carefully designed. Pressure, temperature, humidity, field configurations, nature of applied voltage, flaws in dielectric materials, material & surface characteristics of electrodes, and other factors influence breakdown strength. A good dielectric in solid means low dielectric loss, high mechanical strength, free from gaseous inclusion and moisture, resistant to thermal and chemical deterioration. Insulation failure is invariably unpredictable, and it is frequently violent. Eventually this activity will lead to disruptive failure of the cable feeder. As a result, the degradation of cable insulation is a continuous concern.

The reliability and continuity of electrical supply are dependent on the healthiness of the insulating dielectric in power system equipment. The behaviours and conditions that influence the ageing of insulating dielectrics have received a lot of attention. One of the factors related to the insulating dielectric is the loss factor $\tan \delta$. Loss factor $\tan \delta$ commonly known as loss tangent or dissipation factor and usually depends upon frequency, applied electric stress and the temperature. Defects in cable insulation like water trees, electrical trees, moisture and air pockets which may contribute to cable breakdown can be determined through diagnostic test that determine the loss angle δ . An increasing angle indicates an increase in the resistive current through the insulation which means the insulation is contaminated. Thus, the insulation integrity and quality of electrical equipment should be verified.

As has been discovered, ageing and deterioration of XLPE insulation will certainly occur during the long-term operation of power cables due to electrical, thermal, and mechanical factors. This may cause insulation dielectric strength to deteriorate, increasing the risk of unexpected power cable failure and early life end. Therefore, it is required to conduct a condition assessment of cable insulation to ensure the safety of transmission and distribution power lines.

1.2 Problem Statement

Originally intended to evaluate oil filled transformers, a DC Hipot testing has proven to be a reliable and useful test for Paper Insulated Lead Covered (PILC) cables. When used to XLPE cables, however, several investigations have proven beyond a shadow of a doubt that DC Hipot testing causes premature cable failure due to the creation of space charges [15]. Apart from DC Hipot test that have potential to cause premature failure of cable, there are few other test that can be used to investigate and determine the XLPE cable insulation condition such as VLF testing, Tan Delta or Partial Discharge test. In order to investigate the insulation condition or degradation by means of presence of moisture, electrical trees and water trees, VLF Tan Delta test is able to rate the cables by severity of insulation deterioration based on IEEE 400.2-2013 Standard “Guide for Field Testing of Shielded Power Cable Systems Using Very Low Frequency (VLF) (less than 1 Hz)” to help to prioritize replacement or to perform other test to further investigate the insulation condition.

1.3 Research Goal

1.3.1 Research Objectives

The objectives of the research are:

- (a) To investigate the performance of 6.6 kV XLPE MV cable using tangent delta or dissipation factor measurement.

- (b) To analyse the measurement result based on the IEEE 400.2-2013 Standard “Guide for Field Testing of Shielded Power Cable Systems Using Very Low Frequency (VLF) (less than 1 Hz)

1.3.2 Scope of Work

- i. The approach method and calculation of the analysis is based on the IEEE 400.2-2013 Standard which is “Guide for Field Testing of Shielded Power Cable Systems Using Very Low Frequency (VLF) (less than 1 Hz)”.
- ii. Analysis is only limited to 6.6 kV XLPE cable since there is no offline test or online monitoring system installed at the 6.6 kV cable thus its critical to prioritize it. The 11 kV interconnection unable to be test since it is using bus duct instead of cable, thus tan delta test is not able to be done.
- iii. The project is focus on measurement only without any simulation.

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