A New Approach for Transformer Interturn Faults Detection Using Vibration Frequency Analysis

S. Hajiaghasi* (C.A.), K. Abbaszadeh** and A. Salemnia*

Abstract: Interturn fault detection is a challenging issue in power transformer protection. In this paper, interturn faults of distribution transformer are studied and a new online detection method based on vibration analysis is proposed. Transformer electromagnetic forces are analyzed by time stepping finite element (TSFE) modeling of interturn fault. Since the vibration associated with inter-turn faults is caused by electromagnetic forces, axial and radial electromagnetic forces for various interturn faults are studied. Transformer winding vibration under interturn faults is studied through an equivalent mathematical model combined with electromagnetic force analysis. The results show that it is feasible to predict the interturn winding faults of transformer windings with the transformer vibration analysis method. Simulation and experimentation studies are carried out on 20/0.4 kV, 50 kVA distribution transformer. The results confirm the effectiveness of the proposed method.

Keywords: Transformer, Vibration, Interturn Fault, Electromagnetic Force.

1 Introduction

Demands growth for safe and reliable electrical energy supply is important factor from power suppliers and consumers point of view [1]. Transformer faults can be categorized into internal and external types. Statistics shows that 70–80% of the power transformers damages arise from internal faults. Among the internal faults, winding faults (interturn and layer to layer, phase-to-ground and phase to phase faults) are the most important internal faults in transformers. Detection of winding interturn fault, particularly at low current is critical. The interturn faults have large impact on the transformer lifetime [2]. Initial detection of the interturn fault in power transformers is so important due to high cost and a lot of time to repair. This is more important particularly for transformers nearing the end of their lifetime in which fault is more expected. The percent of various faults in transformers are shown in Fig. 1 [3]. It should be noted that about 30% of failures are due to the winding faults. As initial winding short circuit occurs, the location of short circuit is overheated. Overheating causes winding insulator deterioration and fault extension [4]. Early influence of these faults is very little on transformer primary and secondary line currents so there is not the possibility of using fuses or differential relays for detection of these faults. There have been many investigations on internal short circuit faults modeling in power transformers throughout the literature [4-8]. It can be concluded that finite element method (FEM) is a powerful and precise numerical technique for transformer interturn fault modeling [9]. Various methods are used for transformer interturn fault detection [10]. A summary of different methods used for interturn fault detection is given in Table 1.

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Fig. 1 The block diagram of the considered hybrid micro grid.
Interturn faults must be detected as soon as possible, so between techniques reviewed in Table 1, online-based methods are more attractive. Although most methods have online capability detection but the complexity and precision of the method should also be considered. Vibration-based methods have good feature for interturn faults detection. Although most researches have studied the transformer vibration, there have been little in-depth researches on winding vibration and none of them have investigated vibration analysis for interturn faults. The study of winding vibration can be divided into two steps. The first step is to obtain the distributed electromagnetic forces within the winding. Next, the winding vibration is calculated through an equivalent mathematical model [35]. Electromagnetic forces usually are calculated for short circuit condition. Because of transformer complicate structure, FEM based methods successfully are used for transformer electromagnetic force calculation [37-39]. An accurate understanding of the vibration characteristics of transformers is necessary for detecting electrical and mechanical faults in a transformer using vibration-based monitoring techniques. Some researchers have explored the inherent mechanical characteristics of windings [40-43]. Analysis of transformer electromagnetic vibration noise are presented in [44].

In [45], the transmission of vibration (from winding to tank) is examined experimentally in a 110 kV power transformer with and without cooling oil. Reference [46] describes a method for detecting faults in the tap selector by means of vibration measurements during tap changer operation, using envelope analysis based on Hilbert transform and Wavelet decomposition.

However, most of the existing research focuses on the winding vibration under normal conditions, winding deformation, mechanical faults and none of them investigate transformer vibration analysis under interturn faults. In this paper, transformer winding vibration under interturn fault are studied through an equivalent mathematical model combined with electromagnetic force analysis. Since the vibration associated with inter-turn faults is caused by electromagnetic forces, axial and radial electromagnetic forces for various interturn faults are studied. Experimental tests for simulation verification are done by a new method that uses ADXL330 sensor for vibration measurement. This paper is arranged as follows: first faulty transformer modeling is presented in Section 2. Then, faulty transformer analysis is presented in Section 3. Simulation and experimental results, are presented in Section 4 and Section 5 respectively. Finally, conclusions are given in Section 6.
2 Faulty Transformer Finite Element Modeling

A three-phase three-leg core-type transformer is modeled by the 2 dimension time stepping finite element method. Specifications of the proposed transformer are presented in Table 2. In transformer modelling, the dimensions of the core is exactly similar to those of actual core of laboratory transformer. High voltage (HV) and low voltage (LV) windings are also modelled with actual dimensions. The magnetization characteristic of the core material provided by the manufacturer is used.

Because of different magnitude of flux density in each part of the core, to calculate the exact electromagnetic force under various interturn short circuit, HV windings is divided into 20 sections and LV windings is divided into 90 sections; then axial and radial electromagnetic force in each section of windings is calculated. Using the Maxwell’s equations, the computation of the magnetic field in the geometry of the transformer with the Coulomb gauge can be shown as (1)

$$\nabla \times \left( \frac{1}{\mu} \nabla \times A \right) + \sigma \left( \frac{\partial A}{\partial t} + \nabla V \right) = J, \tag{1}$$

$$\nabla . A = 0$$

where $A$ is the vector of magnetic potential, $J$, is current density, $\mu$ is the magnetic permeability, $\sigma$ is the electric conductivity and $\nabla . A = 0$ is the Coulomb gauge. Generally, transformer transient analysis is divided into two parts: formulation of electromagnetic FE and connection of external circuit.

In FEM, electric and magnetic circuit are coupled and matrix equations are solved at each step time to model dynamic behavior of the transformer. When a turn to turn fault on the transformer windings occurs, the distribution of the electromagnetic field inside the transformer and the terminal values in the circuit domain alter. Maxwell equations can describe the behavior of the transformer regardless of the health or faulty conditions.

The principle used to model various internal winding fault is to divide the winding which across it the interturn fault occurs in two parts: the faulty part and the rest coils in the circuit.

Transformer geometry and coils to model the interturn fault is shown in Fig. 2.

To create the interturn fault by FEM, modification of the geometry domain and circuit domain is necessary. Modelling of internal fault on HV winding is shown in Fig. 2(c). As illustrated in Fig. 2(c), limiting fault resistance ($R_f$) is utilized to initiate the fault on the winding. In fact, the fault resistance models the resistive part of the dielectric material in the dielectric equivalent parallel circuit model of the shorted turns. However, the fault severity depends on fault impedance and the number of shorted turns. Therefore, with the developed FEM of the transformer, internal winding faults can be simulated at different part of LV and HV windings with different levels of severity.

![Transformer finite element modeling](image)

**Fig. 2** Transformer internal fault modelling, a) Geometry domain, b) LV circuit domain and c) HV circuit domain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Unit</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary voltage</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>kV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary voltage</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>kV</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated power</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>kVA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of primary winding turns</td>
<td>4155</td>
<td>turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary winding resistance /phase</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No. of secondary winding turns</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>turn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary winding resistance /phase</td>
<td>0.0089</td>
<td>Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Width of window</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of HV winding</td>
<td>225</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Height of LV winding</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV radius</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HV radius</td>
<td>83.5</td>
<td>mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary and secondary connection</td>
<td>Y/Z(zigzag)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooling Method</td>
<td>ONAN</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voltage regulation</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 2 Transformer specifications.
3 Faulty Transformer Analysis

3.1 Leakage Flux Analysis

When transformer is working in stable operation, the flux density of iron core and current in the windings are close to the rating. But when an interturn short circuit happens, the circulation current in faulty winding will be larger than the rated current. The transient magnetic flux, that includes the linkage and leakage flux, depends on the magnetization characteristic of core [47]. Especially, when interturn short-circuit occurs, the leakage flux density due to short-circuit current is increased enormously to several times the leakage flux density in the steady state operation. The leakage flux consists of radial and axial directions. To calculate the electromagnetic forces, first magnetic flux density should be yielded. This purpose will be obtained by solving electromagnetic potential vector equations as (2).

\[ \nabla^2 A = \begin{cases} \mu_0 J, & \text{n windings} \\ 0, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \]

(2)

After calculation of electromagnetic potential, the components of leakage flux are expressed using vector potential as (3).

\[ B = \nabla \times A = iB_r + jB_y \]

(3)

where, \( B_r \) and \( B_y \), are directional components of leakage flux density [T], respectively. \( J \) is the current density, \( \mu_0 \) is the air permeability. \( A \) is magnetic vector potential.

To transformer flux density analysis under normal and faulty conditions, the flux density of transformer for normal condition and faulty condition is given in Fig. 3. In Fig. 3(a) which shows transformer healthy state, magnetic flux lines pass vertically through the space between windings without any distortions so that if horizontal line passing through the middle of the transformer is assumed as reference axial, flux lines are totally symmetric with respect to this line. In Fig. 3(b), asymmetry in the distribution of magnetic flux lines under interturn fault is due to the increment of leakage flux and its radial component in the environment of linkage coils.

For transformer healthy state, leakage flux has a very small share of the total linkage flux and flux lines flow axially by passing through space between windings. Faraday rule states that induced electromotive force in a coil is proportional to the electromagnetic flux variation in the coil, so that for constant frequencies, the amount of electromagnetic flux entering the coil depends on the induced electromotive force in the coil terminals. Thus as the assumed coil is shorted, coil voltage decreases and circulating current created in coil, confines flux entering the coil. According to lens rule, circulating current in linkage coils is in the direction that resists its creating agent (input electromotive force). As a survey with ideal state, when a coil of complete conductivity is shorted through zero fault resistance, coil terminals voltage would be zero, therefore there is no flow of flux in the coil. It is evident as the coil conductivity and fault resistance decrease, more electromotive flux lines pass through the assumed coil and vice versa. Any way the limitation of electromagnetic flux entering into linkage coil causes more focus of linkage flux in linkage coils environment and symmetric distribution distortion of transformer magnetic flux. This is the cause for variation of search coils induced voltage in faulty state.

The electromagnetic force acting on the transformer winding is caused due to short-circuit current and leakage flux density. Magnetic flux density are decomposed into their radial and axial components. The electromagnetic forces may also be composed into their radial and axial components as (4).

\[ F = I(-iB_r + jB_y) = iF_r + jF_y \]

(4)

where \( I \) is the winding section current, \( F_r \) is radial component of force and \( F_y \) is axial component of force. According to (4), radial force depends on the axial component of the magnetic flux density, whereas the axial forces depend on the radial component of the magnetic flux density [48].

3.2 Vibration Analysis

Vibration analysis has two goals: 1) Investigating interturn faults effects on transformer vibration, 2) experimental validation of electromagnetic forces.
presented in the next section. Vibrations in the transformer are generated by the different forces appearing in the windings and core. The winding vibration is due to the electromagnetic forces caused by the interaction between the current circulating by a winding and the leakage flux. Referring to (4) forces are proportional to the current squared and have components in axial and radial directions. Since vibration depends on current squared, and considering that current is almost sinusoidal (50 Hz in this study), main harmonic of winding vibration is 100 Hz. The core vibration is caused by magnetostriction and magnetic forces. According to motion equations of mass, axial vibration model of the windings is built that is shown in Fig. 4.

Motion equations of mass elements can be written as (5).

\[
\begin{align*}
&\frac{d^2 z_n}{dt^2} + c_n \frac{dz_n}{dt} + k_n(z_n - z_{n-1}) + k_{n+1}(z_{n+1} - z_n) = F_n + m_n g \\
&\frac{d^2 z_{n+1}}{dt^2} + c_n \frac{dz_{n+1}}{dt} + k_n(z_n - z_{n-1}) + k_{n+1}(z_{n+1} - z_n) = F_{n+1} + m_{n+1} g \\
&\frac{d^2 z_{n+2}}{dt^2} + c_n \frac{dz_{n+2}}{dt} + k_n(z_n - z_{n-1}) + k_{n+1}(z_{n+1} - z_n) = F_{n+2} + m_{n+2} g \\
&\frac{d^2 z_{n+3}}{dt^2} + c_n \frac{dz_{n+3}}{dt} + k_n(z_n - z_{n-1}) + k_{n+1}(z_{n+1} - z_n) = F_{n+3} + m_{n+3} g
\end{align*}
\]

where \(m_n\) is mass of element \(n\), \(k_n\) elastic coefficient of spacer block between disk \(n\) and disk \(n+1\), \(k_B\) and \(k_H\) elastic coefficient of spacer block at winding ends, \(z_n\) is displacement of element \(n\), \(c_n\) is friction coefficient, \(m_n \frac{dz_n}{dt^2}\) is inertial force of element \(n\), \(c_n \frac{dz_n}{dt}\) is friction force of element \(n\), \(k_B(z_n - z_{n+1})\) is elastic force, \(F_n\) is electromagnetic force applied to element \(n\), \(m_n g\) is weight of element \(n\). Eq. (5) can be represented as (6).

\[
[M] \frac{d^2 [z]}{dt^2} + [C] \frac{dz}{dt} + [K] [z] = [F] + [m] g
\]

where

\[
[z] = \begin{bmatrix} z_1 \\ z_2 \\ \vdots \\ z_n \\ z_{n+1} \\ z_{n+2} \\ z_{n+3} \end{bmatrix}, \quad [F] = \begin{bmatrix} F_1 \\ F_2 \\ \vdots \\ F_n \\ F_{n+1} \\ F_{n+2} \\ F_{n+3} \end{bmatrix}, \quad [m] = \begin{bmatrix} m_1 \\ m_2 \\ \vdots \\ m_n \\ m_{n+1} \\ m_{n+2} \\ m_{n+3} \end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
[M] = \begin{bmatrix} m_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & m_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & m_{n+3} \end{bmatrix}, \quad [C] = \begin{bmatrix} c_1 & 0 & \cdots & 0 \\ 0 & c_2 & \cdots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 0 & 0 & \cdots & c_{n+3} \end{bmatrix}
\]

\[
[K] = \begin{bmatrix} k_{11} & -k_{12} & \cdots & -k_{1,n+3} \\ -k_{21} & k_{22} & \cdots & -k_{2,n+3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ -k_{n+1,1} & -k_{n+1,2} & \cdots & k_{n+1,n+3} \\ k_{12} & -k_{21} & \cdots & -k_{1,n+3} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ k_{n+1,n+3} & k_{n+2,1} & \cdots & k_{n+2,n+3} \end{bmatrix}
\]

4 Simulation Result

First, transformer healthy state is simulated. Fig. 5 shows transformer HV current. It is known that inrush current is created at the start-up time due to core nonlinearity nature that is damped after a small time and the current reaches steady state amount. Transformer steady state LV current is shown in Fig. 6. Then simulations are carried out for a 3% (3% of total winding) turn fault in the LV winding first layer with 5 mΩ fault resistance. Fig. 7 shows HV currents. It should be noted that for the faults occurred in LV winding, only HV faulty phase and line current increase. Circulating current passing through shorted circuit windings are brought in Fig. 8. It is obvious that its amplitude in the shorted circuit winding is determined according to fault severity. Circulating current exists only in shorted circuit windings and the other parts current does not change and only depends on load and input voltage.

After modelling the faults of transformer in FEM, electromagnetic forces for various interturn faults are calculated. The result of radial forces in LV winding is shown in Fig. 9(a) for a 5% turn fault in phase A and on top of LV winding (fault resistance is 5 mΩ). In this state the fault is created in inner part of LV winding. The radial forces are negative if it flows to the tank and it will be positive if it flows to the core. It can be seen that radial forces compress LV winding to core side. The amount of radial forces around the fault location is bigger than other part of LV winding. This force may cause vibration of winding in the fault location. Fig. 9(b) shows axial forces in LV winding. It can be concluded that axial forces compress LV winding in Y-axis direction in fault location. Radial forces in HV winding are shown in Fig. 9(c). It shows that radial forces on the HV winding are exerted in the tank side direction. Amount of axial force in HV winding is small.
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Fig. 5 HV currents from start-up to steady state.

Fig. 6 LV currents.

Fig. 7 HV currents under interturn fault.

Fig. 8 Circulating current (fault current) in faulty windings.

Fig. 9 Electromagnetic forces for 5% turn fault in phase A, a) Radial forces in LV winding, b) Axial forces in LV winding and c) Radial forces in HV winding.

4.1 Fault Location Effect

In this section the influence of location of interturn short circuit fault on electromagnetic force is investigated. For a constant fault severity (fault resistance is constant) in LV winding, the axial and radial electromagnetic forces for 3 different fault locations are calculated. Radial and axial forces in LV winding in these cases are shown in Fig. 10(a) and Fig. 10(b), respectively. These Figures represent when an interturn short circuit occurs, a high axial force compresses the fault location. For example, when fault occurs on the top of the winding, the upper parts of winding (that is shorted) are compressed. From Fig. 10(c) it can be seen that when fault occurs in the middle of winding, the forces are bigger than the other cases, this phenomenon occurs because the flux density in these locations of transformer is larger than other locations.

The results of radial forces for various interturn faults are shown in Table 3. To model HV to LV winding fault, the upper part of the high voltage coil is connected to the upper part of the low voltage coil. The fault resistance is considered 10 $\Omega$ in this case. From the results, it can be concluded that the faults between HV and LV windings are very dangerous. These types of faults are more dangerous than three short circuit faults, because enormous force is applied just to the fault location. The magnitudes of forces under these types of short circuit faults are very high that can lead to complete destruction of winding. This can be considered in the design of the transformer. Radial forces under
various interturn faults are shown in Table 4. It can be seen that magnitude of forces near fault location are larger than other locations.

![Graph showing radial force in LV and HV winding for various interturn fault types.](image)

**Table 3** Radial force in LV and HV winding for various interturn fault types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interturn Fault Types</th>
<th>Height of Winding</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5% the top of the LV winding</td>
<td>Force in LV (N)</td>
<td>143.49</td>
<td>118.7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.49</td>
<td>0.47</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>0.28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV(N)</td>
<td>-127</td>
<td>-90</td>
<td>-38</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>-14.1</td>
<td>-18</td>
<td>-5</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-4.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% the top of the HV winding</td>
<td>Force in LV(N)</td>
<td>-70.8</td>
<td>-226.9</td>
<td>-6.2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV(N)</td>
<td>194.6</td>
<td>-55</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>18.4</td>
<td>10.64</td>
<td>5.7</td>
<td>-0.78</td>
<td>-0.53</td>
<td>-0.47</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HV to LV interturn fault</td>
<td>Force in LV(kN)</td>
<td>67.8</td>
<td>164.42</td>
<td>228.4</td>
<td>253.4</td>
<td>261</td>
<td>258</td>
<td>240</td>
<td>200</td>
<td>140.2</td>
<td>56.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV(kN)</td>
<td>-1010</td>
<td>-1008</td>
<td>-1136</td>
<td>-931</td>
<td>-932</td>
<td>-1173</td>
<td>-931</td>
<td>-914</td>
<td>-887</td>
<td>-1.025</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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Table 4 Axial force in LV and HV winding for various interturn fault types.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Interturn Fault Types</th>
<th>Height of Winding</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
<th>6</th>
<th>7</th>
<th>8</th>
<th>9</th>
<th>10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5% the top of the LV winding</td>
<td>Force in LV (N)</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>1018.1</td>
<td>305.7</td>
<td>48.5</td>
<td>28.3</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>1.7</td>
<td>-0.1</td>
<td>-2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV (N)</td>
<td>-77.3</td>
<td>-182</td>
<td>-123.6</td>
<td>-54.2</td>
<td>-42</td>
<td>-30</td>
<td>-19.4</td>
<td>-11.4</td>
<td>-3.3</td>
<td>7.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5% the top of the HV winding</td>
<td>Force in LV (N)</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>-37.2</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV (N)</td>
<td>210</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>-39.5</td>
<td>-22.4</td>
<td>-16.5</td>
<td>-10</td>
<td>-7.4</td>
<td>-4.4</td>
<td>-1.6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HV to LV interturn fault</td>
<td>Force in LV (kN)</td>
<td>-258.8</td>
<td>-27.47</td>
<td>32.76</td>
<td>19.28</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>-4.8</td>
<td>-20.1</td>
<td>-34.2</td>
<td>18.6</td>
<td>240</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Force in HV (kN)</td>
<td>-562.6</td>
<td>-231</td>
<td>-129.4</td>
<td>-37.9</td>
<td>-11.5</td>
<td>21.94</td>
<td>39.95</td>
<td>76.9</td>
<td>138</td>
<td>582.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Fig. 11 Faulty transformer and measurement system.

5 Experimental Validation

5.1 Model Validation

A 50 kVA transformer is used to validate the simulation results. The parameters of the transformer is presented in Table 2. First transformer is disassembled and interturn faults are created in windings. To test different faults, windings come out from different locations of coils. Fig. 11 shows the transformer LV winding. For modelling various faults severity, various amounts of resistant are used in laboratory test. The results of tests were recorded through a 4-channel data acquisition system, with sampling time of 4×10⁻⁵ s. To measure the force, ADXL330 sensor is used. The ADXL330 is a small, thin, low power, complete three axis accelerometer with signal conditioned voltage outputs, all on a single monolithic IC. The product measures acceleration with a minimum full-scale range of ±3 g. It can measure the static acceleration of gravity in tilt-sensing applications, as well as dynamic acceleration resulting from motion, shock, or vibration. This sensor measures vibration in 3 axes (X, Y, Z). Sensor output is analog voltage proportional to axis vibration. Fig. 12 shows the transformer, data recorders and sensor mounted on HV winding in phase A.

Before doing the experiments, a full-load test was performed on the transformer to verify that the modifications had not changed the transformers’ normal operating characteristics. In each experimental test, before doing the measurements, the transformer was allowed to stabilize within some minutes before the fault to correspond with the failure-free operation, so-called normal state of the transformer. After each test, the condition of the transformer was assessed by visual inspection and also performing a full load test to ensure that the fault had not damaged the transformer or not.
changed its characteristics. The comparison between simulated and experimental LV phase voltages for healthy condition are shown in Fig. 13(a). The results show the voltage signals are similar. LV currents in full load condition for resistive load are shown in Fig. 13(b), it is clear that experimental tests and simulation results confirm each other. Three-phase resistive load is 3.1 Ω which is connected to the LV side, in experimental case.
Fig. 13(c) shows circulating current for a 1% (1% of total winding) fault on top of the LV winding. Fault resistance in this case is 0.06 Ω ($R_f = 0.06 \Omega$). From these figures, it is concluded that in faulty condition, experimental tests and simulation results are in agreement.

5.2 Vibration Analysis

When an interturn fault occurred in transformer winding, the current, leakage flux and electromagnetic force increase. When electromagnetic forces increase in axial and radial directions, the vibration of windings also increases. The amount of vibration increment depends on fault severity and sensor location. If fault severity increases, vibration amount increases too. For the same fault severity if fault occurs near the sensor location, vibration is larger than when fault occurs far from the sensor, but from various tests it is concluded that for different fault locations, in each phase vibration signal increases; that is because in transformers the HV and LV windings are tightly connected to each other and wrapped with insulation ribbons around the LV and HV windings that compresses winding tightly. Therefore to detect transformer fault by this method in each phase, one sensor must be used. To prove this claim, many tests have been carried out and 4 cases of these faults are brought in this paper. These faults are shown in Table 5. Y-axis frequency analysis for these cases are shown in Fig. 14. It can be seen that DC amount of vibration is increased in fault condition and for case 4, vibration is larger than case 2 with the same fault severity, it is because sensor is mounted close to the top of winding. Case 2 is a fault in the middle of the winding and its DC amount is larger than healthy state. Fig. 14 shows that at frequency 100Hz with increasing fault severity, the winding vibration increases based on Eq. (6).

Fig. 15 shows the vibration frequency spectrum along the X-axis. From these results it can be concluded that vibration frequency analysis can be used as an effective method for interturn fault detection. Considering vibration frequencies it can also be concluded for various faults severity and location, vibration frequencies spectrum changes which can be used to detect interturn fault location and severity by artificial intelligence methods. This method also can be used online more easily than other kinds of methods. Vibration analysis method which is descripted in this paper is a good method for transformer online monitoring.

### Table 5 Test properties.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Fault Severity</th>
<th>Fault Location</th>
<th>Phase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Case 1</td>
<td>Healthy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 2</td>
<td>5% LV winding</td>
<td>Mid of winding</td>
<td>A Phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 3</td>
<td>3% LV winding</td>
<td>Down of winding</td>
<td>A Phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case 4</td>
<td>5% LV winding</td>
<td>Top of winding</td>
<td>A Phase</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

![Fig. 14 FFT analysis of the Y axis vibration.](image-url)
To calculate forces experimentally, a new method based on vibration analysis is used. First, transformer is modelled with a mass-spring equations that is described in Section 3.2. In experimental test, a 1% fault is created between LV turns in external LV coil. In transformer, various sources of vibrations exist and these vibrations can change by various parameter such as voltage, current and etc. Therefore to compare the vibrations, the differential vibration between healthy and faulty condition is used. Using this idea, the part of vibrations that depend on other sources of transformer vibrations, are eliminated. It can be seen that various frequencies are available in vibration signals but the main sources of vibration are forces appearing in the winding and the core. Since vibration depends on current squared and considering that current is practically sinusoidal (50 Hz in This study), the winding vibration main harmonic component is 100 Hz [49-51].

\[ F_{wa} \propto I^2 \]  

(8)

It can be seen that with increasing fault severity, the vibration of winding increases and electromagnetic force in radial and axial direction of windings increases too. To verify the calculated electromagnetic forces by FEM, first axial force is calculated by doing simulation if the sensor is placed at the same location and has the same condition as in experimental test, then using curve fitting of MATLAB software, the axial force signal is converted to sinusoidal and cosinusoidal equation. Then these equations are applied to (6) and the vibrations in simulation are calculated. Fig. 16 compares frequency analysis of vibration, for experiment and simulation. It can be seen that at frequency of 100Hz, the error between simulation and experiment is about 5 percent and experimental and simulated calculations are very similar, thus the proper performance of simulations for force calculation is verified.

6 Conclusions

In this paper, transformer interturn short circuit was modelled, and a new method based on vibration analysis is proposed. Electromagnetic forces in axial and radial
directions for various interturn faults in the transformer are investigated, indicating exerted vibrations at fault location. Vibration signature at interturn fault is quite sensitive to the severity of electromagnetic forces, resulting by interturn fault current. According to these conclusions, the transformer vibration monitoring can be used for interturn winding fault detection and online condition monitoring. The results show that faulty windings can be distinguished from normal windings by analyzing the steady-state vibrations. The sensor that used for vibration measurement is very cheap, so this method is very cheap in comparison to other methods for fault detection. This method also can be easily used online for internal fault detection.

References


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