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# Modelling of Transformer Windings and Computation of Very Fast Transient Over-Voltages

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**Abstract** - The main objective of this paper is represented by analysis and modeling of the transformer windings stressed by over-voltage with direct impact on voltage distribution across the winding. The authors considered both approaches in modeling the winding: windings with distributed electrical parameters respectively composed from disk coils with concentrated parameters. Both types of voltages applied across the transformer winding will generate free oscillations which are analyzed further on. According to the model, the transformer's windings are divided in several disk coils with concentrated known parameters. This results in a complete electrical network used for simulations. All simulations have been performed using the software package SYSEG (SYmbolic State Equation Generation).

**Keywords:** transformer, over-voltage, modeling, disk coils, simulation, resonance, eigenvalues.

## I. INTRODUCTION

When considering the time variation one can classify the over-voltages as fast transient (FTO), respectively very fast transient (VFTO). The over-voltages across the transformer windings can be triggered by external (atmospheric electrical discharges in the neighborhood of the installations containing the transformers or even onto it) or internal (commutation following connection/disconnection procedures in the installations containing lines and transformers, fast transient phenomena, faulty situations etc.) causes.

Two types of over-voltages are taken into consideration: aperiodic pulses of short duration, respectively periodic waveforms available, [1-12, 14]. Both have magnitudes which can significantly exceed the rated voltage value of the transformer. The oscillations of the over-voltage waveforms are dangerous due to the resonance phenomenon usually recorded for fast transients. This is caused by the capacitances and inductivities of overall transformer winding. Due to the fact that for high frequencies the magnetic field doesn't penetrate the ferromagnetic core of the transformer, the only magnetic field taken into consideration is the leakage one produced by the high voltage winding. Despite the fact that the turns are series connected, the current through the entire winding doesn't have the same value. This fact is explained by the presence of the inherent local capacitors formed between the winding and the ground,

respectively between the high voltage windings and the adjacent windings. Consequently, the space distribution of the magnetic field becomes more complicated, [1-12, 14].

## II. MODELLING THE HIGH VOLTAGE WINDING OF THE TRANSFORMER FOR OVER-VOLTAGES STUDY PURPOSES

Most of the studies consider two categories of models regarding the high voltage winding over-voltage stress analysis:

a) The model built with the consideration of the line with distributed parameters (similar to the long electrical lines theory)

b) The model based upon concentrated parameters. Each of the models has two versions due to the fact that the neutral point of the winding (wye-connected) is either isolated or connected to the ground.

In terms of the occurrence of physical phenomena in the windings, the application the two models delivers significantly different results when analyzing the distribution and propagation of the over-voltage waveform across the winding. In the same time, the two models treat differently the phenomenon of the over-voltage waveform reflection at the borders between the winding zones which are characterized by different values for parameters.

### A. Modelling the System with Distributed Parameters

For the three-phased transformer with distributed parameters, the values of the capacitance and conductance between one phase high voltage winding (AX) and the other two (BY, CZ) are considered negligible. The proposed equivalent circuit for the model with distributed parameters is presented in Fig. 1. The notations for the specific parameters per unit of length used further are  $R$ ,  $R_i$ ,  $L$ ,  $K$ ,  $C$  and  $G$ . When applying the Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL) in the nodes  $a$ ,  $a'$ , followed by the Kirchhoff's Voltage Law along the closed circuit loop  $aa'bb'$ , one can obtain the system of equations (1).

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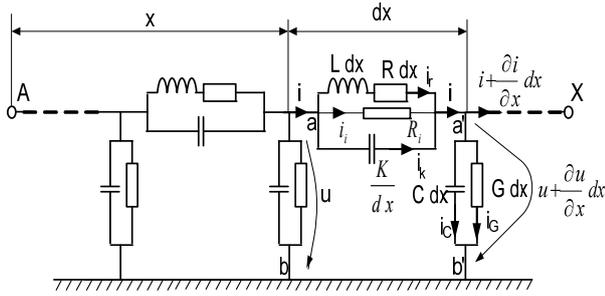


Fig. 1. The equivalent circuit for the model with distributed parameters.

$$\begin{aligned}
 (a): \quad & i = i_r + i_k + i_i ; \\
 (a'): \quad & i - \left( i + \frac{\partial i}{\partial x} dx \right) - \left( C \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + G u \right) dx = 0 ; \\
 (aa'bb'): \quad & \frac{dx}{K} \int i_k dt + \left( u + \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} dx \right) - u = 0 ; \\
 \frac{dx}{K} \int i_k dt = & \left( R i_r + L \frac{\partial i}{\partial t} \right) dx = R_i i_i dx ; \\
 \Rightarrow -\frac{\partial i}{\partial x} = & C \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} + G u ; \quad \frac{i_k}{K} = R \frac{\partial i_r}{\partial t} + \\
 L \frac{\partial^2 i_r}{\partial t^2} = & R_i \frac{\partial i_i}{\partial t} = -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} ; \\
 i_k = -K \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} ; \quad & i_i = -G_i \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} ; \quad G_i = \frac{1}{R_i} ; \\
 i_r = i + K \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} + & G_i \frac{\partial u}{\partial x} \\
 \Rightarrow R \left( \frac{\partial i}{\partial t} + K \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} + G_i \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} \right) + & \\
 L \left( \frac{\partial^2 i}{\partial t^2} + K \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x \partial t^3} + G_i \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x \partial t^2} \right) = & -\frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x \partial t} .
 \end{aligned} \tag{1}$$

In the system (1), when deriving with respect to the variable  $x$  and substituting the current  $i$ , one can obtain a differential equation with partial derivatives (2) in terms of the voltage  $u$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 LK \frac{\partial^5 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^3} + (RK + LG_i) \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + RG_i \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} - & \\
 LC \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial t^3} - (RC + LG) \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - RG \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} = & -\frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} .
 \end{aligned} \tag{2}$$

The equation (2) represents an extension of the already known equations of the systems with distributed parameters.

For  $K = 0$ ,  $R_i = 0$  and  $G_i = 0$  the equation (2) becomes:

$$LK \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - LC \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} = 0 . \tag{3}$$

When the neutral point is connected to the ground, the equation (2) has the solution:

$$u(x,t) = U_{tr} \left( \frac{x}{l} - \frac{2}{l} \sum_{k=1,2,3,\dots,\mu_n} \frac{\Gamma_n}{\mu_n} \sin(\mu_n(l-x)) \cdot \cos \left( \frac{\mu_n \rho t}{\sqrt{\alpha^2 + \mu_n^2}} \right) \right) \tag{4}$$

$$\text{where: } \alpha = \sqrt{\frac{C}{K}}, \quad \rho = \sqrt{\frac{1}{LK}}, \quad \mu_n = \frac{n\pi}{l}, \quad \Gamma_n = \frac{\alpha^2}{\alpha^2 + \mu_n^2} .$$

When the neutral point is insulated the equation (2) has the solution:

$$u(x,t) = U_{tr} \left( \frac{x}{l} - \frac{2}{l} \sum_{k=1,2,3,\dots,\mu_n} \frac{\Gamma_n}{\mu_n} \sin(\mu_n(l-x)) \cdot \cos \left( \frac{\mu_n \rho t}{\sqrt{\alpha^2 + \mu_n^2}} \right) \right) \tag{5}$$

When imposing  $K = 0$  and  $R_i = 0$ , the equation (2) becomes the classical voltage equation of the long lines, while for  $G_i = 0$ , equation (2) is used to solve and study the over-voltage distribution along across the winding of the transformer. Dielectric loss, which cannot be neglected at high frequencies, motivates the presence of the insulation conductance  $G$  and  $G_i$ .

For simplification reasons, we've considered  $G_i = 0$ .

When applying the Laplace Transform for equation (2), the voltage equation is reshaped in (6):

$$\begin{aligned}
 KL p^2 \frac{\partial^2 u(p)}{\partial x^2} + KR p \frac{\partial^2 u(p)}{\partial x^2} + \frac{\partial^2 u(p)}{\partial x^2} - & \\
 LC p^2 u(p) - (RC + LG) p u(p) - RG u(p) = & 0 .
 \end{aligned} \tag{6}$$

With adequate initial conditions (null) will obtain the equation (7):

$$\frac{\partial^2 u(p)}{\partial x^2} - \lambda^2 u(p) = 0 ; \tag{7}$$

$$\lambda^2 = \frac{LC p^2 + (RC + LG) p + RG}{KL p^2 + KR p + 1} .$$

A generic solution of the equation (6) is given in the relation (8) by:

$$\begin{aligned}
 u(p) = A e^{\lambda x} + B e^{-\lambda x} \text{ or} & \\
 u(p) = A' ch \lambda x + B' sh \lambda x . &
 \end{aligned} \tag{8}$$

The values of the constants  $A$  and  $B$  are uniquely determined for border conditions ( $x = 0$  and  $x = l$ ), where  $l$  is the length of the winding.

Equation (2) for  $G_i \neq 0$  can be presented simpler, clearer and easier to use one is transformed in equation (9).

$$\begin{aligned}
 \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \frac{R}{L} \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \frac{1}{KL} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - \frac{C}{K} \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - & \\
 \left( \frac{RC}{KL} + \frac{GC}{KC} \right) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \frac{RG}{KL} u = & 0 \Rightarrow
 \end{aligned}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\partial^4 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t^2} + \rho \frac{\partial^3 u}{\partial x^2 \partial t} + \beta \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial x^2} - \alpha^2 \frac{\partial^2 u}{\partial t^2} - \alpha^2 (\rho + \gamma) \frac{\partial u}{\partial t} - \rho \alpha^2 \gamma u = 0. \quad (9)$$

The following notations contributed to the simplification of the voltage equation from above:

$$\alpha^2 = \frac{C}{K}; \quad \rho = \frac{R}{L}; \quad \gamma = \frac{G}{C} = \frac{G}{\alpha^2 K}; \quad (10)$$

$$\beta = \frac{1}{KL}; \quad G_i = 0.$$

In order to obtain the solution of equation (5) in time domain, one can choose certain specialized software package(s), upon availability. However, the existing numerical methods have the capability of direct integration for the equations (2) or (9).

The authors highlight another procedure for obtaining the solution of the equation with partial derivatives for (2) when  $G_i = 0$ . This is well-known method of separation of variables, in which is assumed a solution of the following type:

$$u(x, t) = X(x) \cdot T(t). \quad (11)$$

When substituting (8) in the equation with partial derivatives (9), will result:

$$\begin{aligned} & X''(x) \cdot T''(t) + \rho X''(x) \cdot T'(t) + \beta X''(x) \cdot T(t) - \\ & \alpha^2 X(x) \cdot T''(t) - \alpha^2 (\rho + \gamma) X(x) \cdot T'(t) - \\ & \rho \alpha^2 X(x) \cdot T(t) = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & X''(x) \cdot [T''(t) + \rho T'(t) + \beta T(t)] - \\ & X(x) \cdot [\alpha^2 T''(t) + \alpha^2 (\rho + \gamma) T'(t) + \rho \alpha^2 T(t)] = 0 \\ \Rightarrow & \frac{X''(x)}{X(x)} = \frac{\alpha^2 T''(t) + \alpha^2 (\rho + \gamma) T'(t) + \rho \alpha^2 T(t)}{T''(t) + \rho T'(t) + \beta T(t)} = ct. \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

The equation with partial derivatives is equivalent to two differential equations of second order with constant coefficients. These equations can be solved separately.

The equation with the independent variable  $x$  requires border conditions, while the one with independent variable  $t$  requires initial conditions.

### B. Modelling the System with Lumped Parameters

There are two categories of calculation models treated in the literature: Gray Box Model and Black Box Model.

Gray Box Model is typically used for design purposes, when studying the transformer winding under the resonance conditions, highlighting the voltage distribution across the winding. This model consists of a combination of *RLC* Ladder Network and Multi-conductor Transmission Line Model – MTL [1-4].

The *RLC* Ladder Network is a model in which R, L, C are concentrated parameters. Initial version of the model (based upon “flat coils”) had limited frequency range in terms of kilohertz while the present version (based upon “turn-by-turn”) can offer modeling capabilities in the

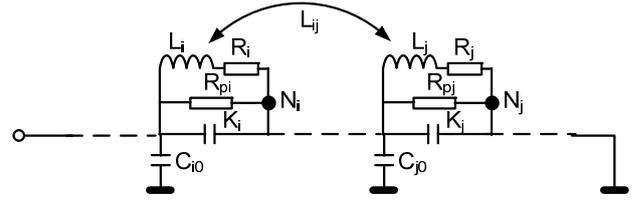


Fig. 2. The Disk Coils i and j from the *RLC* network [2].

range of megahertz. The *RLC* Ladder Model is the best choice when involving the transient study under over-voltage conditions. The main reason is represented by the possibilities of assembling very accurate and complex equivalent circuits of the transformer windings. However, for high power ratings, high voltage transformers, modeling the transformer winding on “turn-by-turn” basis with the purpose of studying the distribution of the over-voltage across it can become cumbersome and present difficulties to simulate. When modelling the transformer winding, the disk coil has an equivalent circuit with multiple structure and parameters displayed in Fig. 2, [2, 3].

The base element of the model is composed by the disk coil with all of the three branches connected in parallel with the capacitance  $C_{i0}$  with respect to the ground (according to Fig. 2);

Series connected elements  $R_i$  and  $L_i$  represent the resistance, respectively the inductance of the disk coil, while  $K_i$  is the equivalent capacitance between the coil’s turns. The capacitor  $K_i$  has dielectric losses symbolized here by the resistance  $R_{pi}$ . The only mutual inductivities  $L_{ij}$  accounted for in the model are those between two coils ( $i$  and  $j$  for example), while the mutual inductivities between the turns belonging to the same coil are neglected. The entire model suffers very beneficial simplifications in this way.

When applying Kirchhoff’s equations one can obtain the equations for currents, voltages and operational impedances referring the  $N$  nodes, assembled in a matrix form.

Similar models are currently used for the study of the over-voltage at the terminals of rotational motors [5, 6].

### C. Electrical Parameters Used in Modelling and Studying the Over-Voltage Phenomena

The knowledge of electrical parameters like resistance, conductivity, inductivity and capacitance, up to a certain degree of accuracy was proven essential when modelling the transformer with the purpose of studying the over-voltages.

Many papers from the literature, focused on the topic of the over-voltage stress of the transformer’s windings are available [7-10], and they represent clear and significant contributions. This section is dedicated further on to important elements concerning the electrical parameters. In every modeling procedure, resistance, as parameter, must be evaluated including the complete skin effect which is occurring at high frequencies and for fast transients of the current through conductor.

When the skin effect occurs, the current is distributed towards the outside surface of the conductor, with a depth of penetration  $\delta$ . The specific resistance per unit of length

of conductor with an arbitrarily chosen are is given by relationships (11).

In the expressions (11)  $\rho$  is the electrical resistivity,  $\mu$  is the magnetic permeability (for copper  $\mu = \mu_0$ ), while  $p$  is the perimeter of the conductor.

$$R_\delta = \frac{1 \cdot \rho}{p \delta}; \quad \delta = \sqrt{\frac{2 \rho}{\omega \mu}} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\pi \sigma f \mu}} \Rightarrow$$

$$R_\delta = \frac{1}{p} \sqrt{\frac{\pi f \mu}{\sigma}}; \quad \rho = \frac{1}{\sigma} \quad (13)$$

In the expressions (13)  $\rho$  is the electrical resistivity,  $\mu$  is the magnetic permeability (for copper  $\mu = \mu_0$ ), while  $p$  is the perimeter of the conductor.

The conductivity  $G$  of the insulation material depends upon angular frequency  $\omega$ , capacitance  $C$ , and the dielectric loss factor  $\text{tg} \delta_{iz}$ , and can be calculated with the relationship (14) according to [10].

$$G = \omega C \text{tg} \delta = 2 \pi f C \text{tg} \delta_{iz} \quad (14)$$

When using an existing transformer for performing specific simple tests, valuable results become input data for calculating the capacitive elements of the model [10]. When knowing the geometrical dimensions of the winding, one can calculate the capacitances using analytical results for the plane or cylindrical capacitor. For the transformer windings, the biggest challenge appears to be the calculation of its self and mutual inductances.

When determining the inductivity per unit of length, there are two components: one related to the external magnetic field surrounding the conductor  $L_e$ , the other one to the magnetic field inside the conductor  $L_i$ .

For the evaluation of the component  $L_e$ , one can the propagation speed of the over-voltage waves, which propagate through a dielectric material with magnetic permeability  $\mu = \mu_0$  and electrical permittivity  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r$  ( $\varepsilon_r$  is the relative permittivity of the material). The relative permittivity of the material modifies the value of the capacitance only, which leads to the following relationships.

In the relations (14),  $C$  is the speed of light determined by the constants  $\mu_0$  and  $\varepsilon_0$ ; for each geometric configuration of the capacitor, the capacitance  $C$  is proportional to the permittivity  $\varepsilon = \varepsilon_0 \varepsilon_r$ , so the capacitance is defined by the relationship  $C = C_0 \varepsilon_r$ , in which  $C_0$  is the capacitance of the material with permittivity  $\varepsilon_0$ .

$$v_0 = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L C}} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L C_0 \varepsilon_r}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\varepsilon_r}}$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{\varepsilon_r}{c^2 C} = L_e; \quad C = C_0 \varepsilon_r; \quad C = \frac{1}{\sqrt{L C_0}} \quad (15)$$

The capacitance  $C$  appears relatively easy to calculate and immediately the inductivity  $L_e$  results from (15).

The calculation of the internal component of the inductivity  $L_i$  requires the results obtained when considering the penetration of the electromagnetic field inside of the conductive semi-space. The conductor is a straight line, with a cylindrical shape, the cross-sectional

area  $S$ . When the condition  $\delta \ll S^{1/2}$  is fulfilled, the net skin-effect condition is fulfilled.

In case of the fulfillment of the skin-effect condition, the wave impedance has the real part equal to its imaginary one (16).

$$\underline{Z}_s = \frac{E}{H} = R_s + j \omega L_s; \quad R_s = \omega L_s;$$

$$L_s = L_i \Rightarrow L_i = \frac{R_s}{\omega} = \frac{R_s}{2 \pi f} \quad (16)$$

This means that for a given pulsation  $\omega$  the inductivity  $L$  is determined straight from the resistance  $R$ . The total inductivity comes from the addition of the external and internal inductivities:  $L = L_e + L_i$ .

In [9], the authors highlight the fact that the magnetic core of the transformer is assembled from laminated metal sheets of anisotropic type. This means that the permeability of the transformer's magnetic core displays different values on different directions: along the column  $\mu_z$  and perpendicular to the column  $\mu_r$  one.

### III. ASSEMBLING THE TRANSFORMER WIDING MODEL FOR OVER-VOLTAGE STRESS STUDY

The transitory regime encountered for over-voltage conditions requires an analysis when using the RLC Ladder Network model. The electrical network built-up requires the division in identical disk coils. Here, the authors considered a cylindrical winding, divided in 12 disk coils with concentrated parameters (Fig. 3), [12, 13]. The simulations appeal directly to the schematic circuit from Fig. 3 and the results consist of the time variations of the voltages across the disk coils, allowing physical interpretations and evaluations.

#### A. Simulations Regarding the Voltage Distribution Across the Transformer Widing

When using the RLC network from Fig. 3, there are two versions: one with a homogeneous winding in which the electrical parameters are the same for all disk coils and one non-homogeneous version. In the latter, the coils from the beginning of the winding have reinforced insulation which results in an augmented space between the turns and decreased values for capacitances. For homogeneous winding case, the electric parameters have the following values, given by the relation (17):

$$L_1 = L_4 = L_7 = L_{10} = L_{13} = L_{16} = L_{19} = L_{22} =$$

$$= L_{25} = L_{28} = L_{31} = L_{34} = 4 \cdot 10^{-6} \text{ H}$$

$$R_2 = R_5 = R_8 = R_{11} = R_{14} = R_{17} = R_{20} = R_{23} = R_{26} =$$

$$= R_{32} = R_{35} = 2 \cdot 10^{-3} \Omega$$

$$C_3 = C_6 = C_9 = C_{12} = C_{15} = C_{18} = C_{21} = C_{24} =$$

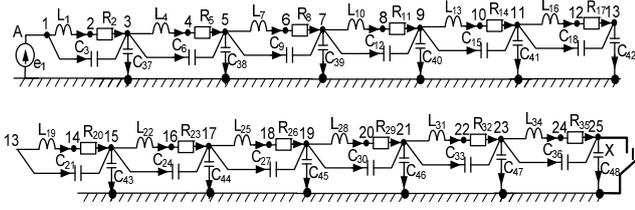
$$= C_{27} = C_{30} = C_{33} = C_{36} = 30 \text{ pF}$$

$$C_{37} = C_{38} = C_{39} = C_{40} = C_{41} = C_{42} = C_{43} =$$

$$= C_{44} = C_{45} = C_{46} = C_{47} = C_{48} = 90 \text{ pF} \quad (17)$$

The values have been calculated from the geometrical dimensions of the transformer having the following data:  $S_n = 620 \text{ kVA}$ ;  $U_h = 10.5/10/9.5 \text{ kV}$  and  $U_l = 0.4 \text{ kV}$ .

For the non-homogeneous winding case, the only modified values for capacitances  $C_3, C_6, C_9$  are:



This is explained by the fact that when the neutral is grounded, the variation of  $u_{C3}$  voltage depends exclusively upon the over-voltage  $e_i$ ; when the neutral is isolated, there is an occurrence of over-voltage waveforms across the transformer's winding at the node 25 (Fig. 3), due to the fact that node 25 determines a separation between zones of the circuits with much different values for the electrical parameters. When considering the frequency (pulsation) domain, no major interaction between the pulsation of over-voltage  $e_i$  and free oscillations pulsation  $\omega_0$  can be accounted for. In fact, the pulsation of the free oscillations  $\omega_0$  has a much larger value than  $\omega_2$ , which makes the time variation of the voltage  $u_{C3}$  to be determined mainly by the over-voltage  $e_i$  and the reflection of the over-voltage waveforms in nodes which separate circuit zones with different values of electrical parameters.

The time variation of the voltage  $u_{C36}$  (Fig. 5) is significantly different from  $u_{C3}$ , especially when the winding has the neutral isolated. In this case there the over-voltage distribution is profoundly non-uniform. The voltage across the last coil has way lower amplitude values with respect to the voltages  $u_{C3}$  and  $u_{C6}$  for both intervals ( $e_i \neq 0$  and  $e_i = 0$ ). For the winding with grounded neutral there are very little variations for the voltages  $u_{C3}$  and  $u_{C36}$ . The over-voltage distribution is almost uniform in this case.

The observations and conclusions cover a 12  $\mu s$  interval; after a longer duration, all the voltages across the disk coils will approach null value. The main difference between the two cases is represented by the node 25. The voltage  $u_{C48}$  across the capacitor  $C_{48}$  offers a good explanation for the differences encountered in both situations regardin the neutral point of the winding.

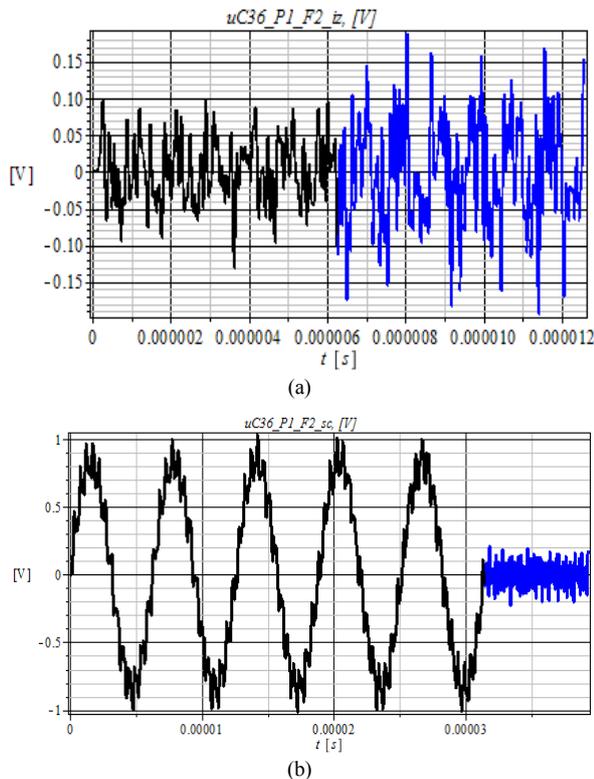


Fig. 5. Time variation of the voltage  $u_{C36}$  for  $\omega_2 = 10^6$  rad/s: a) winding with isolated neutral; b) winding with grounded neutral.

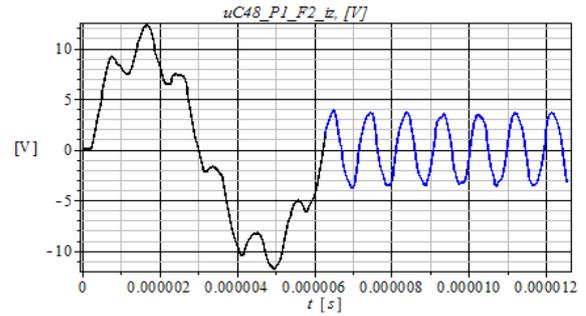


Fig. 6. Time variation of the voltage  $u_{C48}$  for  $\omega_2 = 10^6$  rad/s and winding with isolated neutral

When the neutral point is isolated, due to the multiple reflections occurred at the node 25, most of the over-voltage is recorded at the terminals of the capacitor  $C_{48}$ . The over-voltage applied across the last turns of the transformer winding has dangerously high values in this case.

*Case B. Simulations for the pulsation  $\omega_1 = 10^7$  rad/s.*

This pulsation, having much closer value to the free oscillation pulsation than  $\omega_2$ , is the originator of much higher voltages across the disk coils that in study case A.

All of the phenomena analyzed in case "A" are still present, yet insignificant in comparison with the resonance phenomena occurring between the pulsation of the over-voltage  $e_i$  and the free oscillations. For case "B", the recorded over-voltage  $u_{C3}$  and  $u_{C6}$  across the disk coils have much higher amplitudes than in case "A" (see Figs. 7 and 8). The voltages across the disk coils display a slight decay once the distance with respect to the terminal A increases.

The last coil from the RLC model (Fig. 3) withstands the highest voltage stress when the neutral point is connected to the ground (Fig. 8).

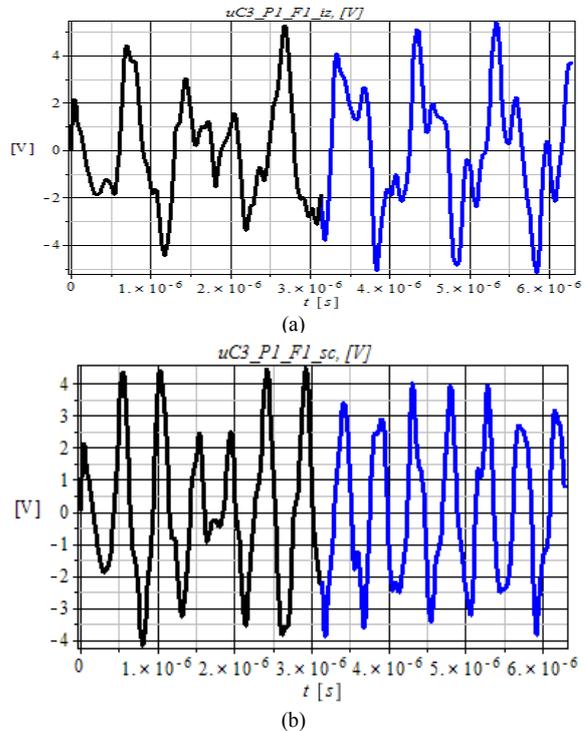


Fig. 7. Time variation of the voltage  $u_{C3}$  for  $\omega_1 = 10^7$  rad/s: a) winding with isolated neutral; b) winding with grounded neutral.