Real-Time Diagnosis of Winding Axial Displacement in Power Transformers Using Time and Frequency Responses

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Article Received: 15 Sept 2024, Revised: 24 Oct 2024, Accepted: 04 Nov 2024

Abstract: The importance of a power transformer lies not only in its capital cost but also in the financial losses incurred due to the lack of supplied energy during its failure. Fault diagnosis in power transformers through online monitoring has gained significant attention over the past decade. The transfer function method has been increasingly employed for fault diagnosis in power equipment, particularly for detecting winding deformations in transformers. This paper investigates the online diagnosis of winding axial displacement in power transformers using time and frequency domain responses. The sensitivity of each method for detecting axial displacement is compared. Among the various criteria, the peak amplitude in the step response at the first extremum was selected as the most effective criterion, although other criteria showed slightly higher sensitivity. The monotonic variation of this criterion with respect to axial displacement played a significant role in this selection.

Keywords: Frequency Response, Online Fault Diagnosis, Power Transformer, Time Response, Transfer Function, Winding Axial Displacement.

Reference: to this paper should be made as follows: Milad Bandehzadeh, Hamid Radmanesh, Payam Rabbanifar and Shahram Javadi, Real-Time Diagnosis of Winding Axial Displacement in Power Transformers Using Time and Frequency Responses, Int J of Advanced Design and Manufacturing Technology, Vol. 2, No. 1, 2008, pp. 43–54.

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Introduction

A power transformer is one of the most crucial components in a power system [1]-[4]. Its significance extends beyond its capital cost, as the financial losses resulting from energy supply interruptions during transformer failures are considerable [1]-[2]. The failure of high-voltage transformers can cause irreparable damage to the entire power system [5]. Failures and defects in transformers can be categorized into three types: electrical, thermal, and mechanical. While electrical and thermal faults can be mitigated with appropriate monitoring and maintenance, mechanical defects often remain present in the transformer until the end of its operational life cycle. Electromagnetic forces acting on transformer windings, particularly during short circuit events (which can be 100 to 900 times greater than forces under rated load conditions), are a primary cause of winding deformation and, consequently, transformer failure [1]-[8]. Inrush currents, which occur more frequently and last longer than

short circuit currents, also contribute to this issue [1]-[6]. Furthermore, during transportation to its installation site or in the event of an earthquake, winding deformation may also occur [9]-[11]. Over the past decade, fault diagnosis based on online monitoring has received significant attention. The adoption of more advanced diagnostic methods, however, introduces new challenges. Among the various advanced online methods for diagnosing winding deformation are transformer tank vibration analysis, ultrasonic testing, short circuit impedance measurements, transfer function analysis, and the use of leakage parameters [12]-[38]. Axial displacement or radial deformation of transformer windings, often caused by electromagnetic forces, is a critical issue [39]. Therefore, diagnosing axial displacement and radial deformation can be achieved using transfer function and short circuit impedance methods. Measuring the short circuit impedance of a transformer and comparing the obtained values with previous measurements or factory test results is an effective approach for diagnosing winding deformation. In other words, the short circuit impedance method relies on comparisons over time. This impedance is influenced by the transformer configuration and the distance between windings. A change in short circuit impedance of more than 3% in a transformer should be considered significant [36]. The transfer function method is widely used to describe the behavior of a system and has increasingly been employed in diagnosing power equipment faults, particularly winding deformations in transformers [37]-[38]. Various terminal conditions for measuring the transfer function of power transformers are illustrated in Fig. 1.

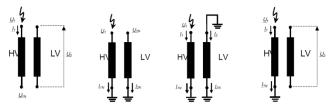


Fig. 1 Different terminal conditions for measuring the transfer function of a power transformer.

Faults such as short-circuited turns, mechanical damage to windings and the core, and loose turns can be detected using the transfer function method [40]-[43]. The high-frequency behavior of the windings is characterized by their resonances (transfer maxima) and transfer minima. Determining the exact location and severity of these faults remains an active area of research. This method is inherently comparative, meaning that the measurement results must be compared to reference values. If significant deviations are observed, it indicates a fault in the transformer, and appropriate corrective action must be taken [40]. The correlation between specific faults and the variations in the transfer function is not yet fully understood. These relationships can be established either through direct measurements on power transformers or by developing an appropriate model for simulation purposes [40].

A typical section of a detailed power transformer model is shown in Fig. 2 [42]. This figure illustrates in Fig. 2. This figure shows the ith unit of the high voltage (HV) winding and the jth unit of the low voltage (LV) winding, which contains self-inductance (L), mutual inductance (M), parallel capacitance of each unit (Kp), earth capacitance(Ce), capacitance between LV and HV windings (CHL), series resistance that represents the conductor ohmic losses of each unit (Rs), shunt resistance that represents dielectric losses (Rp) and insulation resistance between each unit and earth (tank or core) [42].

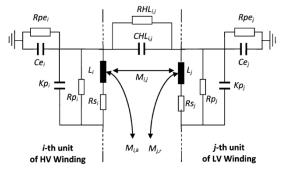


Fig. 2 A typical section of detailed model of the power transformer

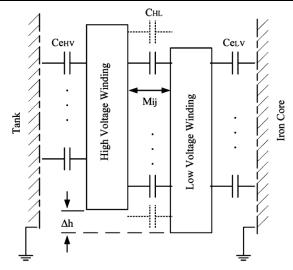


Fig. 3 Axial displacement of the HV winding with respect to the LV winding.

Axial displacement defects involve the axial movement of the high voltage (HV) winding relative to the low voltage (LV) winding, as shown in Fig. 3 [42]. This paper investigates the online diagnosis of winding axial displacement in power transformers using time and frequency responses. The sensitivity of each method for diagnosing axial displacement has been compared.

2 Transformer Specification

The specifications of the studied single-phase transformer are presented in Table 1. The HV winding is of the disk type, while the LV winding is of the layer type.

Table 1 Specification of the Transformer [43]

Parameter	Definition	Value	Unit
S rated	Rated Apparent Power	1.6	MVA
$V_{\rm rated,HV}$	Rated Voltage of High Voltage (HV) Winding	20	kV
$V_{rated,LV}$	Rated Voltage of Low Voltage (LV) Winding	0.4	kV
N _{Disks,HV}	Number of Disks in HV Winding	38	-
N _T , End Disks	Number of Turns in 8 Bottom and 8 Top Disks of HV Winding	20	-
N _T , Intermediate Disks	Number of Turns in 22 Intermediate Disks of HV Winding	21	-
N _{Layers,LV}	Number of Layers in LV Winding	2	-
N _{T,Layers,LV}	Number of Turns in each Layer of LV Winding	13	-

N _{Paral. Cond.,}	Number of Paralleled		
LV	Conductors in	3	-
	LV Winding		
R _{in, LV}	Internal Radius		
	of the LV	93	mm
	winding		
Rout, LV	External Radius		
	of the LV	106	mm
	winding		
D _{LV, Layers}	Distance		
	between the	4	mm
	Layers of the		111111
	LV winding		
$D_{LV, HV}$	Distance		
	between the LV	12.5	mm
	and HV	12.3	mm
	windings		
$R_{in, HV}$	Internal Radius		
	of the HV	118.5	mm
	winding		
$R_{out, HV}$	External Radius		
	of the HV	176.5	mm
	winding		
Cond.	Dimensions of		_
LV,Dim	the LV	3.35 * 11.8	mm^2
	Conductors		
Cond.	Dimensions of		_
HV,Dim	the HV	2.12 * 8.5	mm^2
	Conductors		
W_{ins}	Thickness of		
	the Insulation	0.5	mm
	Paper		
H_{LV}	Height of the	536	mm
	LV winding	230	111111
H_{HV}	Height of the	494	mm
	HV winding		111111
R _{core}	Core Radius	90	mm

The transfer function of the studied transformer was determined using the system identification method outlined in [43]. The zeros, poles, and constant coefficient of the 16th-order transfer function for the healthy transformer, obtained using the system identification toolbox in MATLAB software with a 97.69% fit, are presented in Table 2. Additionally, the corresponding values for the transformer with 15, 30, 45, and 60 mm axial displacement of the winding are provided in Tables 3 through 6, respectively.

Table 2 Zeros, Poles, and Constant Coefficient of the 16th-Order Transfer Function of the Healthy Transformer

	[43]	
oles (*10 ⁶)	eros (*10 ⁶)	t Coefficient (K)
$219 \pm j5.6952$	$001 \pm j5.5288$	
$806 \pm j3.9986$	$817 \pm j3.7341$	
$562 \pm j2.9719$	$520 \pm j3.0027$	
$511 \pm j2.3665$	$440 \pm j1.8607$	6274 *1010
$335 \pm j1.2686$	$336 \pm j1.2934$	02/4 10
$163 \pm j0.7268$	$999 \pm j0.7260$	
$137 \pm j0.7058$	$71 \pm j0.0000$	
$138 \pm j0.5650$	$163 \pm j0.5655$	

Table 3 Zeros, Poles, and Constant Coefficient of the 16th-Order Transfer Function of the Transformer with 15 mm Axial Displacement [43]

mm / Kiai Displacement [15]			
oles (*10 ⁶)	eros (*10 ⁶)	t Coefficient (K)	
$945 \pm j5.6837$	$859 \pm j5.5355$		
$563 \pm j4.6225$	$627 \pm j4.6457$		
$728 \pm j3.9823$	$619 \pm j3.7366$		
$606 \pm j2.9423$	$613 \pm j2.9759$	4952*10 ¹⁰	
$502 \pm j2.3637$	$363 \pm j1.8624$	4932 10 2	
$287 \pm j1.2681$	$285 \pm j1.2922$		
$164 \pm j0.7351$	$092 \pm j0.0000$		
$002 \pm j0.6010$	$002 \pm j0.6019$		

Table 4 Zeros, Poles and Constant Coefficient of the 16th Order Transfer Function of the Transformer Considering 30 mm Axial Displacement [43]

Considering 50 in	iii Axiai Dispiacciiicii	· [¬J]
Poles (*10 ⁶)	Zeros (*10 ⁶)	Constant Coefficient (K)
$-0.1049 \pm j5.6798$	$-0.0885 \pm j5.5221$	
$-0.1835 \pm j4.1648$	$-0.2246 \pm j4.1451$	
$-0.0676 \pm j3.9695$	$-0.0470 \pm j3.7486$	
$-0.0625 \pm j2.9315$	$-0.0646 \pm j2.9696$	$5.8040*10^{10}$
$-0.0507 \pm j2.3876$	$-0.0403 \pm j1.8636$	3.8040*10
$-0.0284 \pm j1.2732$	$-0.0282 \pm j1.2988$	
$-0.0167 \pm j0.7495$	$-0.0107 \pm j0.0000$	
$-0.0011 \pm j0.5722$	$-0.0010 \pm j0.5720$	

Table 5 Zeros, Poles, and Constant Coefficient of the 16th-Order Transfer Function of the Transformer with 45 mm Axial Displacement [43]

Poles (*10 ⁶)	Zeros (*10 ⁶)	Constant Coefficient (K)
$-0.1267 \pm j5.6611$	$-0.0956 \pm j5.5012$	
$-0.0800 \pm j3.9978$	$-0.0849 \pm j3.7239$	
$-0.0493 \pm j2.9378$	$-0.0443 \pm j2.9764$	
$-0.0524 \pm j2.4157$	$-0.0488 \pm j1.8562$	6.5992*10 ¹⁰
$-0.0314 \pm j1.2851$	$-0.0280 \pm j1.3132$	0.3992110
$-0.0168 \pm j0.7696$	$0.0156 \pm j0.0000$	
$-0.3883 \pm j0.3953$	$-0.3719 \pm j0.4211$	
$-0.0431 \pm j0.6018$	$-0.0494 \pm j0.6036$	

Table 6 Zeros, Poles, and Constant Coefficient of the 16th-Order Transfer Function of the Transformer with 60 mm Axial Displacement [43]

Poles (*10 ⁶)	Zeros (*10 ⁶)	Constant Coefficient (K)
$-0.0983 \pm j5.6776$	$-0.0907 \pm j5.5380$	
$-0.0871 \pm j4.6701$	$-0.0879 \pm j4.6952$	
$-0.0731 \pm j3.9989$	$-0.0653 \pm j3.7295$	
$-0.0548 \pm j2.9082$	$-0.0571 \pm j2.9606$	$6.8210*10^{10}$
$-0.0531 \pm j2.4604$	$-0.0350 \pm j1.8567$	0.8210*10**
$-0.0177 \pm j0.7946$	$-0.0300 \pm j1.3130$	
$-0.0293 \pm j1.2861$	$-0.0027 \pm j0.0000$	
$-0.1490 \pm j0.1798$	$-0.1540 \pm j0.1730$	

3 Time And Frequency Responses

The step response, impulse response, and Bode diagram of the transfer function for the healthy transformer are presented in Figs. 4 to 6, respectively. These figures has been plotted using MATLAB, which is a very powerful tool for theses problems.

Limitations for this study are:

- nonlinearity has not been modeled.
- The effect of temperature change can not be examined.

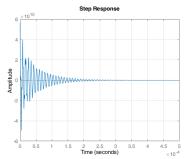


Fig. 4 Step response of the transfer function of the healthy transformer.

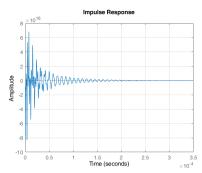


Fig. 5 Impulse response of the transfer function of the healthy transformer.

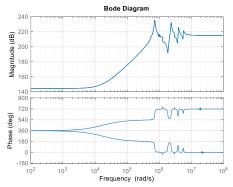


Fig. 6 Bode diagram of the transfer function of the healthy transformer. The step response, impulse response, and Bode diagram of the transfer function for the healthy transformer and transformers with various axial displacement conditions are presented in Figs. 7 to 9, respectively.

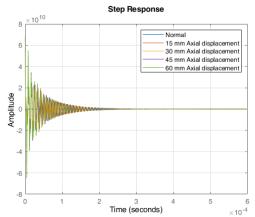


Fig. 7 Step response of the transfer function of the healthy transformer and transformer with other axially displaced winding condition.

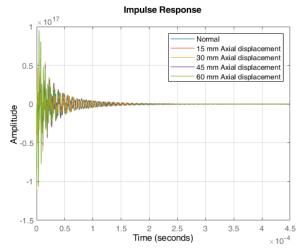


Fig. 8 Impulse response of the transfer function of the healthy transformer and transformer with other axially displaced winding condition.

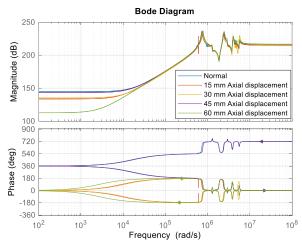


Fig. 9 Bode diagram of the transfer function of the healthy transformer and transformer with other axially displaced winding condition.

4 Discussion

Based on the results of the time and frequency responses presented in Section III, we can conclude the following:

- The sensitivity of the Bode diagram (frequency domain response) for detecting axial displacement is greater than that of the step and impulse responses (time domain responses).
- A significant difference in the magnitude (dB) of the Bode diagram at low frequencies is clearly observed in Table 7. The table shows that as the displacement increases, the magnitude (dB) decreases, although this reduction is not monotonic. The maximum percentage reduction occurs at the maximum displacement, which is 22.07%. The value of magnitude around the 100 rad/s is constant in each case and 100 rad/s is the lowest frequency which is considered in plot.

Table 7 Difference in the Magnitude of Bode Diagram at 100 rad/s

Condition	Magnitude (dB)	Percent of Change in Magnitude (dB) with respect to Healthy Case
Healthy	145	-
15 mm Axial	134	-7.59
Displacement		
30 mm Axial	135	-6.90
Displacement		

45 mm Axial	143	-1.38
Displacement		
60 mm Axial	113	-22.07
Displacement		

- The number of local extrema is the same in both the magnitude (dB) and phase (degrees) plots of the Bode diagram, except for one case with axial displacement (15 mm displacement). In the case of 15 mm axial displacement, two additional extrema appear around 6.01×10^5 rad/s and 6.02×10^5 rad/s. The magnitudes (dB) at these points are 228 dB and 202 dB, respectively. In other cases (excluding the 15 mm axial displacement), the average magnitude at these frequencies is 214 dB. Therefore, for the case with 15 mm axial displacement, the magnitudes at these two additional extrema show changes of 6.54% and -5.61%, respectively, compared to the average magnitude in the other cases.
- The peaks of the local extrema in both the magnitude and phase plots of the Bode diagram show slight differences when the windings are axially displaced. A comparison of the magnitude (dB) values at the first local maximum of the Bode diagram is presented in Table 8.

Table 8 Difference in the Magnitude of Bode Diagram at the First Local Maximum

Condition	Magnitude (dB)	Percent of Change in Magnitude (dB) with respect to Healthy Case
Healthy	235.9	-
15 mm Axial Displacement	236.2	0.13
30 mm Axial Displacement	235.5	-0.17
45 mm Axial Displacement	236.95	0.45
60 mm Axial Displacement	237.15	0.53

• The peak amplitudes of the step and impulse responses show a significant difference, while their settling times are nearly the same. The peak amplitudes at the first extremum of the step and impulse responses are presented in Tables 9 and 10. The peaks in the first extremums have the largest values with respect to other extremums.

Table 9 Difference in the Peak Amplitudes in the Step Response at Its First Extremum

Condition	Amplitude * 10 ¹⁰	Percent of Change in Amplitude with respect to Healthy Case
Healthy	5.65	-
15 mm Axial Displacement	5.5	-2.65
30 mm Axial Displacement	5.8	2.65
45 mm Axial Displacement	6.6	16.81
60 mm Axial Displacement	6.85	21.24

Table 10 Difference in the Peak Amplitudes in the Impulse Response at Its First Extremum

Condition	Amplitude * 10 ¹⁶	Percent of Change in Amplitude with respect to Healthy Case
Healthy	-8.3	=
15 mm Axial Displacement	-7.7	-7.23

30 mm Axial Displacement	-10.9	31.33
45 mm Axial Displacement	-10.2	22.89
60 mm Axial Displacement	-10.51	26.63

All local extremums have been placed between 10⁵-10⁷ rad/s (15.9 kHz -1.59 MHz).

5 Conclusion

In this paper, the online diagnosis of winding axial displacement in power transformers using time and frequency responses has been investigated. The sensitivity of each method for diagnosing axial displacement has been compared. As discussed in the results section, the most sensitive criterion is the peak amplitude in the impulse response at its first extremum. The change in this criterion for the case with 30 mm axial displacement is 31.33% compared to the healthy case. It should be noted that the percentage change in this criterion is not monotonic with respect to the axial displacement. The second most sensitive criterion is the magnitude of the Bode diagram at 100 rad/s. The largest change in this criterion, occurring at 60 mm axial displacement, is -22.07% compared to the healthy case. However, like the previous criterion, the percentage change in this case is not monotonic with respect to axial displacement. The third most sensitive criterion is the peak amplitude in the step response at its first extremum. The change in this criterion for the 60 mm axial displacement case is 21.24% compared to the healthy case. The advantage of this criterion is its monotonic behavior with respect to axial displacement. Therefore, this criterion is considered the best for diagnosing axial displacement.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no known financial or personal conflicts of interest that could have influenced the work reported in this paper.

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