

IEEE Guide for Determining Fault Location on AC Transmission and Distribution Lines

IEEE Power and Energy Society

Sponsored by the
Power System Relaying Committee

IEEE
3 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5997
USA

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**Power System Relaying Committee
of the
IEEE Power and Energy Society**

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Abstract: Electrical faults on transmission and distribution lines are detected and isolated by system protective devices. Once the fault has been cleared, outage times can be reduced if the location of the fault can be determined more quickly. The techniques and application considerations for determining the location of a fault on ac transmission and distribution lines are outlined in this guide. Traditional approaches and the primary measurement techniques used in modern devices are reviewed: one- and two-terminal impedance-based methods and traveling-wave methods. Application considerations include: two- and three-terminal lines, series-compensated lines, parallel lines, untransposed lines, underground cables, fault resistance effects, and other power system conditions, including those unique to distribution systems.

Keywords: fault location, IEEE C37.114™, relays, synchrophasor, system protection, travelling waves

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Sukumar Brahma
Patrick T. Carroll
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Tony Seegers
Steve Turner
Jun Verzosa
Liancheng Wang
Ray Young
Zhiying Zhang
Sergio L. Zimath
Karl Zimmerman

The following members of the individual balloting committee voted on this guide. Balloters may have voted for approval, disapproval, or abstention.

William Ackerman
Ali Al Awazi
George Bartok
Philip Beaumont
Robert Beresh
Wallace Binder
William Bloethe
Brian Boysen
Gustavo Brunello
William Byrd
Paul Cardinal
Arvind Chaudhary
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Stephen Grier
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Ajit Gwal
Keith Harley
Roger Hedding
David Horvath

Yi Hu
Relu Ilie
Brian Johnson
Innocent Kamwa
John Kay
James Kinney
Gary Kobet
Joseph L. Koepfinger
Boris Kogan
Ljubomir Kojovic
Jim Kulchisky
Paneendra KumarBl
Chung-Yiu Lam
Raluca Lascu
Theo Laughner
Michael Lauxman
Roger Lawrence
Albert Livshitz
Federico Lopez
Om P. Malik
Omar Mazzoni
Dean Miller
John Miller
Daleep Mohla
Joe Mooney
Jerry Murphy
R. Jay Murphy
Michael Newman
Gary Nissen
Jim O'Brien

Lorraine Padden
Mirko Palazzo
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This introduction is not part of IEEE Std C37.114-2014, IEEE Guide for Determining Fault Location on AC Transmission and Distribution Lines.

This guide outlines the techniques and application considerations for determining the location of a fault on ac transmission and distribution lines. The guide reviews traditional approaches and the primary measurement techniques used in modern devices: one- and two-terminal impedance-based methods and traveling-wave methods. Application considerations include: two- and three-terminal lines, series-compensated lines, parallel lines, untransposed lines, underground cables, fault resistance effects, and other power system conditions, including those unique to distribution systems.

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1. Overview

1.1 Scope

This guide outlines the techniques and application considerations for determining the location of a fault on ac transmission and distribution lines. This document reviews traditional approaches and the primary measurement techniques used in modern devices: one- and two-terminal impedance-based methods, synchronized sampling methods and traveling-wave methods. Application considerations include: two- and three-terminal lines, series-compensated lines, parallel lines, untransposed lines, tapped lines, underground cables, fault resistance effects, and other power system conditions, including those unique to distribution systems.

1.2 Purpose

The guide assists power system engineers and operators in applying fault-locating techniques on their systems. Users learn the strengths and limitations of fault location data and when further analysis is required using additional methods and when more data must be gathered. This guide assists in fault location and therefore faster restoration of power systems through improved understanding of fault-locating techniques.