

Description

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

A. Field of the Invention

A rapid pressure rise relay is a device used on liquid cooled electric power transformers, to detect excessive rates of pressure rise within the tank as a result of internal arcing. This arcing occurs because of faults such as winding insulation breakdown. The output of the rapid pressure rise relay is commonly used to trip the transformer circuit and thus de-energize the transformer to prevent further damage.

B. Description of Prior Art

Mechanical devices for rapid pressure rise detection have been and continue to be a part of the protection practices for electric power transformers. In U. S. Patent Number 4,074,096, granted on February 14, 1978 in the name of Robert F. Romanowski, a bellows controlled sudden pressure rise relay is described. Other rate sensitive mechanical devices are known. These devices use mechanical components to determine the rate of change of pressure and then operate micro-switches to provide an electrical output. The momentary switch closure is commonly applied to a seal-in relay to maintain the tripped status. An electronic device sensitive to the pressure and the sign of the pressure rate is known from US-A- 4218716.

Object of the Invention

The object of the invention is to provide an electric power transformer with the maximum protection, from further damage caused by an internal fault, by tripping a transformed circuit as quickly as possible. However, faults external to a transformer such as transmission line faults can cause transformer tank pressure to rise due to winding heating and these events should not necessarily trip the transformer circuit. The discrimination between external and internal faults is provided by using a time delay and threshold. Rapid pressure rise relays can be mounted on the transformer in the gas space above the cooling oil or within the oil. The gas space acts as a snubber for pressure changes and, therefore, the response of the relay mounted in the gas space must be faster in order to compensate. The response curves for the mechanical rapid pressure rise relay described by Romanowski are shown in Figure (6). The key features of these curves are that 1) the relay must not operate for pressure changes of less than .22 psi/sec, and certain cardinal points for each curve. These are:

for the relay mounted in the gas space the time to operate for a pressure rate of 10 psi/sec is 0.178 sec. For the relay mounted in the oil, the time to operate for a pressure rate of 10 psi/sec is .267 sec.

The actual rate of rise of pressure due to external faults is dependent upon the transformer design, power system impedances and some additional factors that are not easily predictable. It is, therefore, desirable to provide a means to adjust the response of the relay after it has been installed. This can be done, through operating experience, by decreasing the response until external faults no longer cause the relay to operate. To facilitate repair and/or replacement of an installed relay, this adjustment should be set in such a manner that a replacement unit will have the same response as the original without the need to repeat the initial experimental process.

It is the object of this invention to provide a means to adjust the response of the relay, after it is installed, in such a fashion that a replacement relay can be easily set up to give the same response as the original relay.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

This problem is solved by the features of Claims 1, 3 and 4.

It can be shown that the relay response curves of Figure (6) follow the equation

$$t = -T \left(\ln \left[1 - \frac{dp \text{ Max}}{dp/dt} \right] \right)$$

Where: T is the time constant of the Time delay circuit. dp Max is the maximum rate of change of pressure which will not cause

relay to operate (0.22 psi/sec)

dp/dt is the rate of pressure change

t is the time of operate

Using the cardinal points and solving for T yields T=8 seconds for the relay mounted in the gas space and 12 seconds for the relay mounted in the oil.

Transformer tank pressure is detected by a pressure transmitter and an electrical signal is generated which is proportional to the pressure. In a preferred embodiment, the pressure transmitter signal is a current proportional to pressure which is converted to a voltage at a receiver. The tank pressure voltage V (P) is then differentiated and becomes a rate-of-change-of-pressure signal $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$.

The rate-of-change signal is then passed through the time delay circuit whose time constant T is field selectable. This time constant determines relay sensitivity, i.e. a long delay time means less

sensitivity and a short delay time means greater sensitivity. The selection of sensitivity from minimum to maximum is done using a calibrated rotary switch. Field replacement of an installed relay is accomplished by selecting the same rotary switch position for the replacement relay. This selection matches the sensitivity of the replacement relay with that of the relay being replaced.

The time delay output V_{out} is the input to a comparator stage that determines when output relays should be activated. The combined operations of the rapid pressure rise relay components generate the response described in the above equation.

Description of Figures

The invention is described in greater detail in the accompanying drawings, wherein:

Fig. 1 shows the block diagram of the preferred electronic rapid pressure relay control circuit;

Fig. 2 and 3 show representative pressure voltages, $V(p)$ and corresponding rate-of-change voltages $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$;

Fig. 4 and 5 show exponential voltage curves of V_{out} , generated by the time delay circuit from rate of change voltages, $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$;

Fig. 6 shows the rate vs. time relationship for representative gas space and oil rapid pressure rise relays.

Detailed Description of the Invention

Fig. 1 is the block diagram of the preferred electronic rapid pressure rise relay control circuit. In association with the liquid filled power transformer 10, the main components are the pressure transmitter assembly 12 and the power/control assembly 14. The pressure transmitter 12 converts the internal pressure of the transformer tank to an electrical signal (current) proportional to pressure and transmits this signal to the receiver circuit 16 of the power/control assembly 14. The receiver circuit 16 converts the transmitted pressure signal to a proportional voltage, $V(p)$ on conductor 18. The voltage $V(p)$ is then applied to a differentiator circuit 20 whose output, $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$, on conductor 22 is a voltage proportional to the rate of change of pressure.

The output of the differentiator 20 is the input to a time delay circuit 24, which provides the required time response. The delay circuit output, V_{out} , on conductor 26 is then applied to the comparator circuit 28 where it is compared to the threshold voltage V_{dpMax} at 30, which a voltage equivalent to dp_{Max} . V_{dpMax} represents the maximum rate of change of pressure which will not cause the relay to operate. Whenever V_{out} ex-

ceeds V_{dpMax} , the output of the comparator is true. Because the output of the comparator is transient, its output must be latched. The comparator output at 31 is used to set a latch circuit 32 which activates the relay driver 34. The contacts of output relays 36 are used by trip circuits and annunciators. The rapid pressure rise relay is then reset manually or when its supply power is removed.

It is noted that process transmitters and receivers as well as differentiators, time delay circuits, comparators, and electronic latches are all well known to those skilled in the art of electronic design or instrumentation. For instance, the pressure transmitter assembly 12 and subsequent generation and transmission of a signal representative of pressure may be accomplished by the use of the well known fundamentals taught by the following publications. Transducer Interfacing Handbook published by Analog Devices, Inc. 1980, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 80-65520. Pages 4.5.93-95 and 184-187. Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers, McGraw Hill Book Company, 1969, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 56-6964, Pages 15-49 and 15-50. Electronics Engineers' Handbook, McGraw Hill (c) 1975 Pages 24-5 to 24-11. Circuits for differentiation are well known as evidenced by Electronics Designers' Handbook, second edition, McGraw Hill (c) 1977, Pages 18-23 to 18-25. The slope of a curve fundamentals are treated by the publication Calculus and Analytic Geometry, fourth edition by George B. Thomas, Jr. (c) 1968, Addison Wesley Publishing Company, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 68-17568, Pages 30 to 35. The principles of RC circuits are discussed in the publication Pulse, Digital, and Switching Waveforms by Jacob Millman and Herbert Taub, McGraw Hill, (c) 1965 Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 64-66293.

Figure 3 shows the differentiator output $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$, for the two different increasing inputs $V_P(t)$ of Figure 2, are voltages with values proportional to the rate of change of the input voltage.

The differentiator output, $V(\frac{dp}{dt})$, is then applied to time delay circuit. The output of the time delay, V_{out} , rises exponentially toward the input value, as shown in Figure 4.

The relay operate time is determined by how long it takes for V_{out} to exceed V_{dpMax} as depicted in Figure 6.

It is understood that the methods disclosed in this invention could be carried out and performed by digital apparatus.

Claims

1. Electronic circuit apparatus for controlling the power to an electric power transformer having a liquid filled tank (10) comprising,



sensitivity and a short delay time means greater sensitivity. The selection of sensitivity from minimum to maximum is done using a calibrated rotary switch. Field replacement of an installed relay is accomplished by selecting the same rotary switch position for the replacement relay. This selection matches the sensitivity of the replacement relay with that of the relay being replaced.

The time delay output V_{out} is the input to a comparator stage that determines when output relays should be activated. The combined operations of the rapid pressure rise relay components generate the response described in the above equation.

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ceeds V_{dpMax} , the output of the comparator is true. Because the output of the comparator is transient, its output must be latched. The comparator output at 31 is used to set a latch circuit 32 which activates the relay driver 34. The contacts of output relays 36 are used by trip circuits and annunciators. The rapid pressure rise relay is then reset manually or when its supply power is removed.

It is noted that process transmitters and receivers as well as differentiators, time delay circuits, comparators, and electronic latches are all well known to those skilled in the art of electronic design or instrumentation. For instance, the pressure transmitter assembly 12 and subsequent generation and transmission of a signal representative of pressure may be accomplished by the use of the well known fundamentals taught by the following publications. Transducer Interfacing Handbook published by Analog Devices, Inc. 1980, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 80-65520. Pages 4.5.93-95 and 184-187. Standard Handbook for Electrical Engineers, McGraw Hill Book Company, 1969. Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 56-6964. Pages 15-49 and 15-50. Electronics Engineers' Handbook, McGraw Hill (c) 1975 Pages 24-5 to 24-11. Circuits for differentiation are well known as evidenced by Electronics Designers' Handbook, second edition, McGraw Hill (c) 1977, Pages 18-23 to 18-25. The slope of a curve fundamentals are treated by the publication Calculus and Analytic Geometry, fourth edition by George B. Thomas, Jr. (c) 1968, Addison Wesley Publishing Company, Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 68-17568, Pages 30 to 35. The principles of RC circuits are discussed in the publication Pulse, Digital, and Switching Waveforms by Jacob Millman and Herbert Taub, McGraw Hill, (c) 1965 Library of Congress Catalog Card No. 64-66293.

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The relay operate time is determined by how long it takes for V_{out} to exceed V_{dpMax} as depicted in Figure 6.

It is understood that the methods disclosed in this invention could be carried out and performed by digital apparatus.

Claims

1. Electronic circuit apparatus for controlling the power to an electric power transformer having a liquid filled tank (10) comprising,



means for measuring the pressure in the transformer tank,

means (12) for generating an electrical signal proportional to the pressure measured,

means (20) for differentiating the signal (18) proportional to the pressure measured to generate a signal (22) proportional to the rate of change of transformer tank pressure,

means (24) for providing a field adjustable time delay of the rate of change signal to generate a time response signal (26),

means for generating a maximum rate of change signal (30), and

means (28) for comparing the field adjustable time response signal (26) with the maximum rate of change signal (30), to generate a shut-off signal (31) when the said time response signal exceeds the maximum rate of change signal.

2. The apparatus of Claim 1 further comprising means (32, 38) responsive to the shut-off signal (31) to deactivate the power to the transformer (10).

3. Apparatus for controlling the power to an electric power transformer having a liquid filled tank comprising,

means for measuring the pressure in the transformer tank,

means (12) for generating an electrical signal proportional to the pressure measured,

means (20) for differentiating the signal (18) proportional to the pressure measured to generate a signal (22) proportional to the rate of change of transformer tank pressure,

means (24) for providing a field adjustable time delay of the rate of change signal to generate a time response signal (26),

means for generating a maximum rate of change signal (30),

means (28) for comparing the time response signal (26) with the maximum rate of change signal (30) to generate a shut-off signal (31) when the said time response signal (26) exceeds the maximum rate of change signal (30),

latch circuit means (32) to retain the comparator status and shut-off signal (31) until reset or until power is removed,

relay driver means (34) responsive to the shut-off signal, and

output relay means (36) responsive to the relay driver (34) to control current to the transformer windings.

4. The method of automatically controlling power to a transformer comprising the steps of:

measuring the pressure (12) in a liquid filled electric power transformer tank (10),

generating a voltage (18) proportional to the tank pressure measured,

differentiating (20) the tank pressure voltage to generate a voltage signal (22) proportional to the rate of change of tank pressure,

filtering (24) the rate of change signal to generate a time response signal (26), and

comparing (28) the time response signal (26) with the maximum rate of change of pressure signal (30) for which a control relay must not operate to turn off the transformer.

5. The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of activating control relay apparatus (32) (34) to deactivate the transformer when the time response signal is greater than the maximum rate of change of pressure signal.

Patentansprüche

1. Elektronisches Schaltkreisgerät für die Regelung der Zufuhrleistung zu einem elektrischen Leistungstransformator, der einen mit Flüssigkeit gefüllten Tank (10) hat, mit

- Einrichtungen zum Messen des Druckes in dem Transformatortank,
- Einrichtungen (12) um ein elektrisches Signal zu erzeugen, welches proportional zu dem gemessenen Druck ist,
- Einrichtungen (20), um das zu dem gemessenen Druck proportionale Signal (18) zu differenzieren, um ein Signal (22) zu erzeugen, welches proportional zu der Änderungsrate des Transformatortankdruckes ist,
- Einrichtungen, um über Feldeinstellung eine Zeitverzögerung des Änderungsratesignales bereitzustellen, um ein Zeitansprechsignal (26) zu erzeugen,
- Einrichtungen, um ein maximales Änderungsratesignal (30) zu erzeugen, und
- Einrichtungen (28), um das über Feldsteuerung einstellbare Zeitansprechsignal (26) mit dem maximale Änderungsratesignal (30) zu vergleichen, um ein Abschaltsignal (31) zu erzeugen, wenn das Zeitansprechsignal das maximale Änderungsratesignal übersteigt.

2. Gerät nach Anspruch 1, welches weiterhin Einrichtungen (32,38) aufweist, welche auf das Abschaltsignal (31) ansprechen, um die Leistungszufuhr zu dem Transformator (10) zu deaktivieren.



3. Gerät zum Steuern der Leistungszufuhr zu einem elektrischen Leistungstransformator, welcher einen mit Flüssigkeit gefüllten Tank hat, mit
- Einrichtungen zum Messen des Druckes in dem Transformatortank, 5
 - Einrichtungen (12) um ein elektrisches Signal zu erzeugen, welches proportional zu den gemessenen Druck ist,
 - Einrichtungen (20), um das zu dem gemessenen Druck proportionale Signal (18) zu differenzieren, um ein Signal (22) zu erzeugen, welches proportional zur Änderungsrate des Transformatortankdruckes ist, 10
 - Einrichtungen (24), um eine über Feldsteuerung einstellbare Zeitverzögerung des Änderungsratesignales bereitzustellen, um ein Zeitansprechsignal (26) zu erzeugen, 15
 - Einrichtungen, um ein maximales Änderungsratensignal (30) zu erzeugen, 20
 - Einrichtungen (28), um das Zeitansprechsignal (26) mit dem maximalen Änderungsratensignal (30) zu vergleichen, um ein Abschaltsignal (31) zu erzeugen, wenn das Zeitansprechsignal (26) das maximale Änderungsratensignal (30) überschreitet, 25
 - Verriegelungsschaltkreiseinrichtungen (32), um den Zustand des Komparators und des Abschaltsignales (31) bis zu einem Reset oder bis zur Leistungswegnahme beizubehalten, 30
 - Relaisstreibereinrichtungen (34), welche auf das Abschaltsignal ansprechen und 35
 - Ausgangsrelaisvorrichtungen (36), welche auf den Relaisstreiber (34) ansprechen, um den Strom zu den Transformatorwicklungen zu steuern bzw. zu überwachen. 40
4. Verfahren zum automatischen Steuern der Leistungszufuhr zu einem Transformator, mit den Schritten:
- Messen des Druckes (12) in einem mit Flüssigkeit gefüllten Tank (10) eines elektrischen Leistungstransformators,
 - Erzeugen einer Spannung, welche proportional zu dem gemessenen Tankdruck ist,
 - Differenzieren (20) der Tankdruckspannung, um ein Spannungssignal (22) zu erzeugen, welches proportional zur Änderungsrate des Tankdruckes ist, 50
 - Filtern (24) des Änderungsratesignals, um ein Zeitansprechsignal (26) zu erzeugen, und 55
 - Vergleichen (28) des Zeitansprechsignals (26) mit der maximalen Änderungsrate des Drucksignales (30), so daß für das Abschalten des Transformators ein Steuerrelais nicht arbeiten muß.
5. Verfahren nach Anspruch 4, welches weiterhin den Schritt aufweist, daß das Steuerrelaisgerät (32) (34) aktiviert wird, um den Transformator zu deaktivieren, wenn das Zeitansprechsignal größer ist als das Signal für die maximale Rate der Druckänderung.
- ### Revendications
1. Appareil à circuit électronique permettant de contrôler la puissance appliquée sur un transformateur de puissance électrique comportant un réservoir rempli de liquide (10) comprenant :
 - un moyen pour mesurer la pression dans le réservoir de transformateur ;
 - un moyen (12) pour générer un signal électrique proportionnel à la pression mesurée ;
 - un moyen (20) pour différencier le signal (18) proportionnel à la pression mesurée afin de générer un signal (22) proportionnel à la vitesse de variation de la pression de réservoir de transformateur ;
 - un moyen (24) pour produire un retard temporel réglable par plage du signal de vitesse de variation afin de générer un signal de réponse temporelle (26) ;
 - un moyen pour générer un signal de vitesse de variation maximum (30) ; et
 - un moyen (28) pour comparer le signal de réponse temporelle réglable par plage (26) au signal de vitesse de variation maximum (30) afin de générer un signal de coupure (31) lorsque ledit signal de réponse temporelle dépasse le signal de vitesse de variation maximum.
 2. Appareil selon la revendication 1, comprenant, en outre, un moyen (32, 38) sensible au signal de coupure (31) pour désactiver la puissance appliquée sur le transformateur (10).
 3. Appareil permettant de contrôler la puissance appliquée sur un transformateur de puissance électrique comportant un réservoir rempli de liquide comprenant :
 - un moyen pour mesurer la pression dans le réservoir de transformateur ;
 - un moyen (12) pour générer un signal électrique proportionnel à la pression mesurée ;



- un moyen (20) pour différencier le signal (18) proportionnel à la pression mesurée afin de générer un signal (22) proportionnel à la vitesse de variation de pression de réservoir de transformateur ; 5
- un moyen (24) pour produire un retard temporel réglable par plage du signal de vitesse de variation afin de générer un signal de réponse temporelle (26) ;
- un moyen pour générer un signal de vitesse de variation maximum (30) ; 10
- un moyen (28) pour comparer le signal de réponse temporelle (26) au signal de vitesse de variation maximum (30) afin de générer un signal de coupure (31) lorsque ledit signal de réponse temporelle (26) dépasse le signal de vitesse de variation maximum (30) ; 15
- un moyen de circuit de verrouillage (32) pour retenir le statut de comparateur et le signal de coupure (31) jusqu'à une remise à l'état initial ou jusqu'à ce que l'alimentation soit coupée ; 20
- un moyen d'amplificateur de relais (34) sensible au signal de coupure ; et
- un moyen de relais de sortie (36) sensible à l'amplificateur de relais (34) pour contrôler le courant appliqué aux enroulements du transformateur. 25
4. Procédé de contrôle automatique de la puissance appliquée à un transformateur comprenant les étapes de : 30
- mesure de la pression (12) dans un réservoir de transformateur de puissance électrique rempli de liquide (10) ; 35
- génération d'une tension (18) proportionnelle à la pression de réservoir mesurée ;
- différenciation (20) de la tension de pression de réservoir afin de générer un signal de tension (22) proportionnel à la vitesse de variation de pression de réservoir ; 40
- filtrage (24) du signal de vitesse de variation afin de générer un signal de réponse temporelle (26) ; et
- comparaison (28) du signal de réponse temporelle (26) au signal de vitesse de variation de pression maximum (30) pour lequel un relais de contrôle ne doit pas fonctionner pour couper le transformateur. 45
- 50
5. Procédé selon la revendication 4, comprenant, en outre, l'étape d'activation d'un appareil de relais de contrôle (32) (34) pour désactiver le transformateur lorsque le signal de réponse temporelle est supérieur au signal de vitesse de variation de pression maximum. 55