

# New Indirect Measurement Procedure For Determining The Regulation Characteristics Of The Synchronous Machine

1<sup>st</sup> Jožef Varga  
WOLONG-SEVER d.o.o.  
Subotica, Serbia  
vargadrjzosef@gmail.com

2<sup>nd</sup> Petar Jerkan  
WOLONG-SEVER d.o.o.  
Subotica, Serbia  
petar.jerkan@rs.atb-motors.com

3<sup>rd</sup> Aleksandar Najdanović  
WOLONG-SEVER d.o.o.  
Subotica, Serbia  
aleksandar.najdanovic86@gmail.com

**Abstract-** The paper presents a new, indirect method of measurement, for determining the characteristics of the regulation of synchronous machines with salient poles. The method is based on the measurement results in the no-load and short circuit conditions. The difference in comparison to the existing similar methods is, according to the authors, in determining the characteristics of regulation at different loads in the original way. This method takes into account the influence of the change in the flux leakage of the field windings depending on the excitation currents in the original way. This leads to the fact that, according to the proposed procedure, the indirectly obtained regulation characteristics will be much more accurate and reliable compared to the results obtained by the previous similar indirect procedures.

**Index Terms** - synchronous machines, testing, measurements, regulation characteristics, no-load condition, short circuit condition, load current, excitation current.

## I. FOREWORD

Determining the reliable value of the excitation current  $I_f$  at synchronous machines has great significance not only because of the correct choices of the regulator but also because of determining the real value of the power losses in the excitation windings. The last statement has important role with the indirect determining of the efficiency  $\eta$  of the big synchronous generators.

By regulation characteristic we consider the changes in the excitation current of the synchronous machines  $I_f$  which depends on the load currents  $I_s$  at the constant nominal voltage  $U_n$  at different power factors ( $\cos\varphi$ ) which are also constant. Most accurately we can obtain these values  $I_f=f(I_s)$  with direct current measurements in different load conditions, but such measurements last long. Besides, this the direct measurements of the synchronous generators with large rated powers are mostly unachievable with the existing equipment in the available test laboratories of the manufacturers. Because of that, the manufacturers of the electric machines in such cases use indirect measurement methods for determining the regulation characteristic which are more achievable and definitely need to be the constituting part of the test protocol. It's taken by default that indirectly obtained characteristics  $I_f=f(I_s)$  need to be maximally matching with the characteristics that could be obtained with the direct measurement method.

In literature „Testing the electric machines“ from different authors we can find a description of the different methods for indirect determination of the

characteristics of the regulation of synchronous machines with salient poles. All indirect methods are based on the results of measurement in the generator no-load condition, on the results of measurements in a stabilized generator short circuit and, if necessary, on the results of additional measurements in order to determine the stator winding leakage reactance  $X_s$ . For indirect determination of the regulation characteristics of the synchronous machine we need to have the following data from the results of the stated standard measurements:

### A. No-Load Characteristic

This characteristic represents a change in the value of the induced phase voltages in the  $U_e$  depending on the value of the excitation current  $I_{f0}$  at the constant speed of rotation  $n_n$ . The general shape of the no-load characteristics  $U_e=f(I_{f0})$  of synchronous generators is graphically depicted in Fig. 1.1

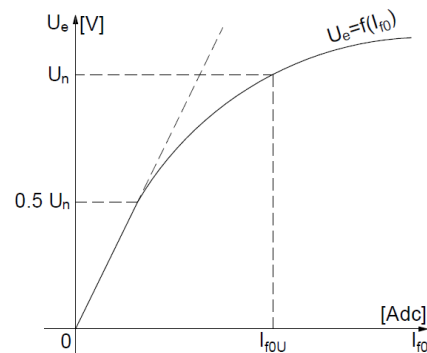


Fig.1.1 General characteristic of the no-load condition of the synchronous machine

It can be noticed that the induced  $U_e$  voltage in the initial part of the no-load characteristic practically grows linearly with the increase of the excitation current  $I_{f0}$ . Due to this, the initial part of this characteristic in the range of induced voltages  $0 < U_e \% < 50\%$  can be analytically presented with the linear equation which passes through the origin of the coordinate system. Above about 50% of the induced voltages the  $U_e=f(I_{f0})$  characteristics begin to increase more and more to the apices. Due to such non-linearity, this part of the characteristics should be represented by a polynomial. In the described way we arrive at the fitted function of the no-load characteristics which will be the basis in later analytical considerations.

### B. Continuous Short-Circuit Characteristic

Under the short circuit characteristic, the synchronous machine implies changes in the value of the excitation current  $I_{fc}$ , depending on the fixed short-circuit current  $I_{sc}$  in the short-circuit stator rings at the constant rotational speed of the indicated value. In this operating

condition, the magnetic induction in the air gap has a small value due to ( $U=0$ ). As a result, the main magnetic circuit of the generator is not saturated, which results in the short-circuit characteristic  $I_{fc}=f(I_{sc})$  being a linear function, which in general can be represented as shown in Fig. 1.2

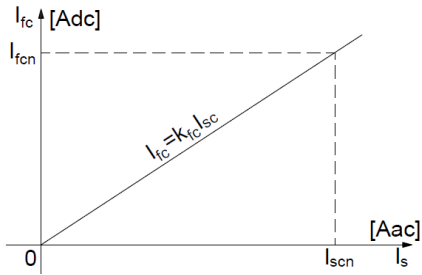


Fig.1.2 General shape of characteristic of the stabilized short-circuit run of synchronous machines

For purpose of later analytical considerations, it is desirable to present this characteristic with an equation as follows:

$$I_{fc} = k_{fc} I_{sc} \quad (1.1)$$

In equation (1.1), the multiplier  $k_{fc}$  represents the slope of curve of the equation, and  $I_{sc}$  is the value of the fixed short-circuit current in the armature due to the field current  $I_{fc}$  at the indicated rotational speed. In this case the slope of curve  $k_{fc}$  can be determined on the basis of only one measurement in the region of such an field current  $I_{fcn}$  which causes the short circuit of  $I_{scn}$  of the indicated value in the following way:

$$k_{fc} = I_{fcn} / I_{scn} \quad (1.2)$$

It should be noted in particular that in practice these lines can intersect the abscissa slightly above zero due to the residual remanent magnetism. But this intersection point is variable due to variables. Therefore, in further consideration, this fact will not be taken into account.

### C. Resistance And Leakage Reactance Of The Stator Windings

The values of the induced voltage  $E$  of synchronous generators in different load conditions can be determined starting from the value of the rated voltage  $U$ , adding the voltage drops on hot resistance  $R_s$  and on the leakage reactance of the stator winding  $X_s$ .

Measurement of the value of hot resistance  $R_s$  does not pose any problem since it is an integral part of standard measurements in order to determine the temperature of the stator winding temperature rise. A different case is with the measurement of the leakage reactance of the stator windings  $X_s$ . Its measurement is much more complex and is not an integral part of standard measurements. Therefore, in the ATB Sever test laboratory, with the indirect determination of the synchronous generator's regulation characteristics, for  $X_s$ , we use the values obtained from design calculation. In connection with this, we would like to emphasize in particular that the value of the leakage reactance  $X_s$  essentially has the same value as the Potier reactance ( $X_s = X_p$ ). It follows that, in the absence of calculating the value of the leakage reactance, the measurement method for determining the Potier reactance  $X_p$ , as described in the literature [2] and [3], can also be used. This

measurement process, however, is long lasting and unreliable.

For this reason, the authors of this paper suggest, instead of Potier's method, the measurement of the impedance of stator windings  $Z_{imp}$  with the pulled out rotor. This simple measurement can be carried out on a wound stator before mounting in standard measurements for the purpose of checking symmetry. The measurement procedure is as follows:

At the stator winding terminals, we connect such an  $U_{imp}$  voltage so that the current in them is equal to the rated current  $I_{sn}$ . The value of impedance of stator windings is then:

$$Z_{imp} = U_{imp} / I_{sn} \quad (1.3)$$

After that taking into account the measured resistance values  $R_s$  we calculate the total reactance of stator windings with the pulled out rotor according to the equation:

$$X_{imp} = \sqrt{Z_{imp}^2 - R_s^2} \quad (1.4)$$

This reactance consists of two parts as follows:

$$X_{imp} = X_s + X_{m\phi} \quad (1.5)$$

The first component  $X_s$  originates from the leakage flux of the stator windings, and the second component  $X_{m\phi}$  of those fluxes of stator windings that are closed through the cavities of the rotor. The second component is not separately measurable. In the literature [2, 3, 4], [3], [6], we can find suitable analytic equations for determining it. Taking into account the required stator winding leakage reactance is:

$$X_s = X_{imp} - X_{m\phi} \quad (1.6)$$

In particular, we want to emphasize that according to the experience of the author, the values of the components  $X_s$  and  $X_{m\phi}$  do not differ much ( $X_s \approx X_{m\phi}$ ) and we will not make a big mistake if we use the leakage reactance in the calculation of the control characteristics according to the following approximate equation:

$$X_s \approx 0.5 X_{imp} \quad (1.7)$$

## II. THE EXISTING METHODS

In this chapter we will briefly describe the existing procedures that serve to indirectly determine the indicated value of the field current of the synchronous generators. Common to these procedures is that they are all described as graphic procedures. Authors of this paper have all processed these features in an analytical form. On the basis of the obtained analytical equations, the control characteristics for a wide range of load from a no-load to 125% of the rated load at different power factors in over-excited and under-excited operating conditions were calculated. After that, the obtained regulation characteristics were compared with the results of the corresponding direct measurements. The results of the comparison showed that all existing procedures have certain disadvantages. It has been shown that the control characteristics obtained with existing procedures throughout the range of operation deviate, in a greater or lesser extent, from the exact control characteristics determined by direct measurements. The aim of the authors in this paper was to point out the above

deficiencies and to describe a new indirect method in which observed shortcomings were remedied.

We would like to note that in subsequent discussions of various procedures, we will limit the description to over-excited modes. It is assumed that the analytical equations obtained in this way will also be valid in under-excited modes, taking into account the angles of the power factor  $\varphi$  with negative signs ( $\sin\varphi$  will have a negative sign).

#### A. The American Method

This procedure was first proposed by the American Electrical Engineering Society (AIEE). The description of the proposed graphic procedure for indirect determination of the rated value of the excitation current can be found in almost all the most important works in the field of synchronous machines. In this procedure, we need to know: the characteristic of the no-load, the short-circuit characteristic, and the resistance values of  $R_s$ , or the value of the stator winding leakage reactance  $X_s$ . The value of the induced voltage  $E$  at different load currents  $I_s$  with the given power factor  $\cos\varphi$  can be determined on the basis of the vector diagram shown in Fig.2.1

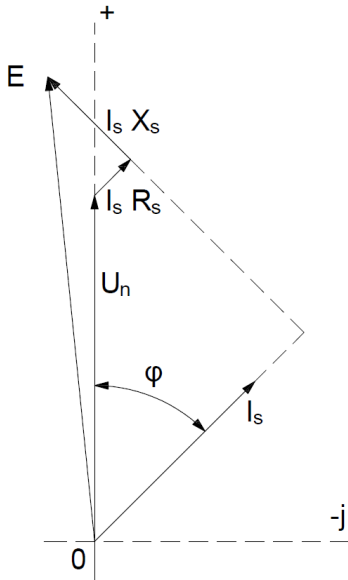


Fig.2.1 Vector-diagram of the loaded synchronous generator in an over-excited condition for determining  $E$

Starting from this vector diagram for determining the values of induced voltage  $E$  with the indicated voltage  $U_n$ , we can write the following equation:

$$E = \sqrt{(U_n \cos\varphi + I_s R_s)^2 + (U_n \sin\varphi + I_s X_s)^2} \quad (2.1)$$

The principle of determining the excitation current of synchronous generators according to the American empirical procedure AIEE is shown in Fig.2.2 On the ordinate, the indication of the no-load in the appropriate scale is applied to the value of the indicated voltage  $U_n$  and the value of the calculated induced voltage  $E$  at the selected load current  $I_s$  with the selected power factor  $\cos\varphi$ . Then from the coordinate system center point  $O$ , we draw the straight line so that it coincides with the linear part of the no-load characteristic. The horizontal line drawn from the top of the voltage vector  $U_n$  intersects this line in point  $B$ . If we

draw a line from this point downwards to the normal in relation to the abscissa, then the corresponding relation, the section  $\overline{OA}$  is the part of the exciting current of the no-load  $I_{f\delta}$  which belongs to the air gap at the rated voltage

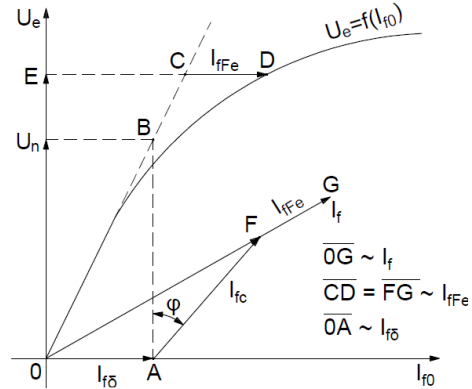


Fig.2.2 The American AIEE procedure for the indirect determination of the value of the excitation current of loaded synchronous generators

The horizontal line drawn from the calculated value of the peak of the induced voltage vector at the selected load current  $I_s$ , intersects the straight line in point  $C$ , and the saturated part of the no-load characteristic in point  $D$ . The section  $\overline{CD}$  represents the part of the excitation current  $I_{fFe}$  which belongs to the iron-part of the magnetic circuit. The needed value of the excitation current  $I_f$  in over-excited mode is determined as follows:

On the right side of the vertical  $\overline{AB}$  from point  $A$  under angle  $\varphi$  we draw corresponding values of the short-circuit excitation currents  $I_{fc}$ . When determining its value, we can use the equation (1.1), assuming that the load current is equal to the short-circuit current:  $I_s = I_{sc}$ . At the end, the excitation current  $I_f \sim \overline{OC}$  at the given load current  $I_s$  we obtain in the way that the components  $I_{f\delta}$  and  $I_{fc}$  we summarize as vectors and on this sum in direction of resulting vector we add component  $I_{fFe}$ .

In an under-excited mode, the procedure is the same. The only difference is that in this case the values of the excitation current  $I_{fc}$  from point  $A$  at angle  $\varphi$  are applied to the left in relation to the vertical  $\overline{AB}$ . It is taken by default that the described procedure can be automated by use of a computer. In this case based on the fitted characteristic of the no-load and on the basis of the linear part equation and the characteristic for each current load the values of  $I_{f\delta}$  and  $I_{fFe}$  are determined, and then from the short circuit characteristics and the corresponding value of the  $I_{fc}$  current. By applying these components for the determination of the excitation current  $I_f$  for different load currents  $I_s$  in the case of different factors of the  $\cos\varphi$  force in over-excited condition, we can write the following equation:

$$I_f = \sqrt{I_{f\delta}^2 + I_{fc}^2 + 2I_{f\delta}I_{fc}\sin\varphi + I_{fFe}^2} \quad (2.2)$$

According to the author's experience the american procedure gives acceptable results for loaded condition at power factor  $\cos\varphi = 1$ . However in over-excited condition, there are always measured less





results from the first iteration. For this purpose, using the right values of the induced voltage  $E$  from the first iteration from the fitted empty path  $U_e=f(I_{f0})$ , we read the associated excitation currents  $I_{f0E}=I_{f0}(E)$  and the value of the no-load  $I_{f0U}=I_{f0}(U_n)$  at the indicated voltage. Thereafter, the coefficient of fictive increase of drops  $v$  in at different load currents  $I_s$  is determined according to the following equation:

$$v = I_{f0E} / I_{f0U} = OF/OC \quad (3.3)$$

In the continuation of the second iteration we determine the fictitious induced voltages of the  $E_v$  on the basis of the equation (3.1), whereas for the coefficients  $v$  we use the calculated values from the first iteration according to the equation (3.3). Then, using the same procedure as for the first iteration, we determine the true values of the regulation characteristic  $I_f=f(I_s)$  true value for the different load currents  $I_s$  with the different values of the power factor  $\cos\varphi$  in the over-excited and, if necessary, in the under-excited conditions.

#### IV. APPLICATION EXAMPLE

An example of the application of the new indirect measurement procedure for determining the control characteristic  $I_f=f(I_s)$  will be shown on a specific synchronous generator produced by the ATB SEVER plant with the following indicated data:

- Generator type: GSOTE 400 Lk-6
- Apparent power: S=600 kVA
- Power factor:  $\cos\varphi=0.8$  ind
- Voltage: U=690 V
- Connection: Y
- Current:  $I_s=502$  Aac
- Frequency:  $f=50$ Hz
- Rotation speed:  $n=1000$  min<sup>-1</sup>
- Excitation voltage:  $U_f=100.6$  Vdc
- Excitation current:  $I_f=68$  Adc
- Leakage reactance of the stator windings:  $X_s=0.0689\Omega$
- Stator reactance without the rotor:  $X_{imp}=1.41\Omega$

In addition to the above mentioned data, the following characteristics have been applied in the indirect procedures for determining the control characteristics from the previous measurements:  
 -The characteristic of the no-load  $U=f(I_{f0})$ , which is shown in Fig. 4.1

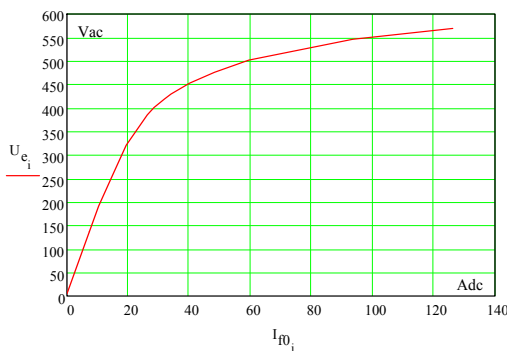


Fig.4.1 No-load characteristic (measurement result)

-Short-circuit characteristic  $I_{fc}=k_{fc}I_{sc}$ , which is shown on Fig. 4.2

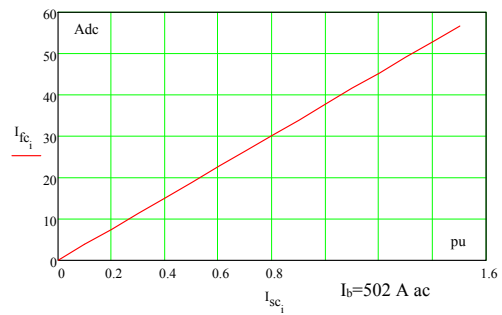


Fig.4.2 Short-circuit characteristic(measurement result)

This characteristic can be shown using the straight-line equation. The slope of curve of this line in this case has value:  $k_{fc}=0.07527$

#### A. Results And Comparison

Since synchronous generators are in most cases ordered for work in over-excited conditions, consideration will primarily be given to this area. The regulation characteristics besides the display with the indicated power factor  $\cos\varphi_n = \cos\varphi_n$  will also be shown for cases with the power factor  $\cos\varphi_n = 0$  and  $\cos\varphi_n = 1$ . The characteristics of the regulation  $I_f = f(I_s)$  of the synchronous generator with the specified power factor obtained on the basis of direct measurements are shown in Fig. 4.3

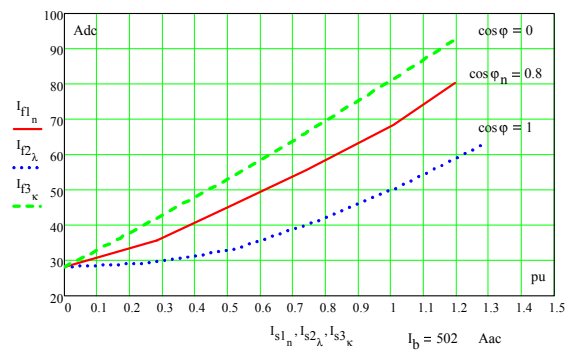


Fig. 4.3 The regulation characteristics obtained based on direct measurements (over-excited mode)

Considering direct measurements these characteristics we can take as accurate and they will be base for future consideration for comparison with regulation characteristics obtained with indirect methods.

The regulation characteristics for the shown synchronous generator are obtained based on suggested indirect method and are shown on Fig 4.4:

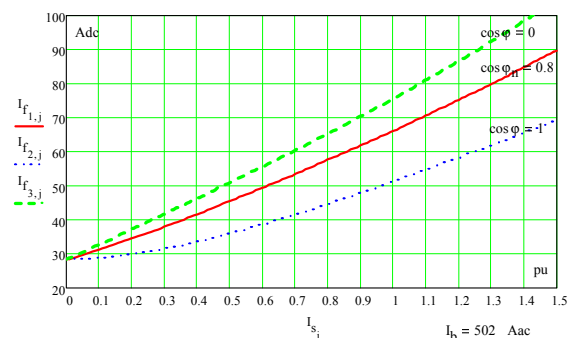


Fig. 4.4 Regulation characteristics obtained based on new indirect measurement method

It can be noted that the regulation characteristics according to the proposed indirect procedure at all power factors are very well in agreement with the regulation characteristics according to *Fig.4.3*.

The comparative values of the excitation currents which, according to the result of the application of the existing indirect methods, belong to the rated load current  $I_s=502Aac$  for different power factors are given in Table *Fig.4.5*.

Based on the table, we can conclude that in relation to the exact values from the direct measurements in terms of the field currents at the indicated loads, the most accurate results are the new indirect method and the semi-indirect Swedish method.

Rated current	$I_{sn} = 502 Aac$		
	$\cos\varphi_n=0.8$	$\cos\varphi=1$	$\cos\varphi=0$
Direct measurement $I_f [Aac]$	67.5	50.0	80.5
<b>New method</b> $I_f [Aac]$	<b>66.2</b>	<b>51.2</b>	<b>76.0</b>
American method $I_f [Aac]$	63.6	50.9	70.8
Swedish method $I_f [Aac]$	67.4	48.7	80.5
Hungarian method $I_f [Aac]$	69.7	48.6	85.2

*Fig.4.5 Table of rated values of excitation currents obtained based on different measurement methods*

## V. CONCLUSION

Based on the facts presented in the previous chapters, it can be noted that in the new indirect procedure for determining the excitation currents of synchronous machines, all the defects that were found by the authors in the existing similar indirect procedures were noticed. For this reason, the indirect procedure proposed by the authors is proposed for use in all those cases where the available test station does not have the appropriate equipment for direct measurement of excitation currents and the efficiencies.

Such cases can occur with high-voltage synchronous generators due to excessive power, due to the unappropriate rated voltages and due to the unappropriate frequency in relation to the available network. But similar cases may arise even when the test station does not have the appropriate loading generating machines for the purpose of measuring measurements of excitation currents and the efficiency in different load modes.

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