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Tai-Ken Lu Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C., tklu@mail.ntou.edu.tw

Chien-Ta Yeh Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C.

Min-Doon Dirn Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C.

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# ESTIMATION MODEL OF TRANSFORMER IRON LOSS USING NEURAL NETWORK

Tai-Ken Lu\*, Chien-Ta Yeh\*, and Min-Doon Dirn\*

Key words: transformer, iron loss, neural network.

### **ABSTRACT**

When we want to calculate the transformer iron loss in operation, in addition to considering the nonlinear hysteretic phenomenon of transformer itself and the natural unbalanced characteristic, the actual situation that the transformer is operated under three phase unbalance state should also be considered. This results in very non-regular change of the transformer iron loss, and the accuracy of the polynomial model that is commonly used to estimate the iron loss of the transformer in the past is thus reduced. Since neural network has parallel processing capability, which can process highly nonlinear function problem, hence, in this study, we try to use neural network model to set up the nonlinear relationship between the iron loss and voltage of the transformer. Therefore, we can only measure the voltage value to get accurate transformer iron loss.

As we compare the neural network model set up in this study to the conventional polynomial method, we can find that neural network model has lower average error rate; this is especially in the prediction of the total transformer iron loss in the three phase balance system, and it is found that the prediction error can be reduced by 50%.

# **I. INTRODUCTION**

Since the global population keeps increasing and every industry keeps growing, the global consumption on energy thus doubles; however, the storage of these fossil fuels is limited and will get exhausted for sure someday. In addition, massive use of petrochemical fuel could also cause climate change and endanger the environment and ecology, hence, in order to reduce the green house gas release as promised by each country in the Kyoto Protocol and to reduce the energy shortage pressure, each country has to devote to the enhance of energy utilization efficiency.

To electric power system, in addition to the copper loss in power transmission and distribution loss, another loss that occupies a larger proportion is the transformer loss. Transformer loss can be divided into two parts such as iron loss and copper loss; although copper loss is larger, yet it will be generated only when it is loaded; however, although iron loss is smaller, yet it will be generated for 24 hours as long as the transformer is added with voltage; hence, iron loss occupies a pretty large proportion in transformer loss.

In the past, studies related to the iron loss of transformer can be roughly divided into (1) Measurement method [2, 3, 14, 17, 18], (2) Finite Element Method [1, 13, 15, 19], (3) Equivalent circuit method [7, 8, 12, 16, 20], and (4) Neural network method [4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11]; among them, equivalent circuit method is applied in the real operation analysis, and the measurement method, finite element method and neural network are commonly used in the analysis of the effect on the iron loss of the transformer in the past when transformer core material and structure is changed. All the above mentioned literature does not investigate in depth the effect on the iron loss of the transformer by the three phase non-equilibrium factor.

In the past, literature that uses neural network method to investigate the iron loss of the transformer is mostly in the design and manufacturing of transformer; in this study, we try to apply neural network in the real operation of transformer. We try to use neural network model to set up the nonlinear relationship between iron loss and voltage of transformer. Therefore, we only need to measure voltage value to get accurate iron loss of the transformer.

This model can evaluate the iron loss of on-line transformer under three phase balanced/unbalanced system, then it can estimate the contribution that the three phase load reorganized to the carbon reduction and energy saving.

# **II. TRANSFORMER**

When we are about to estimate the transformer iron loss in operation, factors that have to be considered include the nonlinear magnetization characteristic of the core of the transformer itself, the natural unbalanced characteristic of three phase transformer, as well as the situation that the voltage of the alternating current system is not of fixed value

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*<sup>\*</sup>Department of Electrical Engineering, National Taiwan Ocean University, Keelung, Taiwan, R.O.C.*



**Fig. 1. Excitation phenomenon.** 



**Fig. 2. The evolvement of three phase core-type transformer.** 

but will change slightly along with the size of the loading. In the following, we will make a detailed description by aiming at the nonlinear characteristic of the transformer itself:

#### **1. Nonlinear Magnetization Characteristic of Core**

Due to the nonlinear hysteresis and saturation characteristic of the core of transformer, when transformer is excited by AC voltage, the waveform of the exciting current,  $i_{\phi}$ , will have a sudden change and be different from the voltage sine wave (As shown in Fig. 1). This nonlinear magnetization characteristic will make it more difficult to estimate the iron loss of transformer.

# **2. Three Phase Transformer Natural Unbalanced Characteristic**

During the development process of three phase transformer, it is first three single phase core-type transformer as shown in Fig. 2(a), and each transformer is similar to single phase transformer. If the electromotive force of these transformers are balanced sine waves, then the magnetic fluxes  $\phi$ <sub>a</sub>,  $\phi$ <sub>b</sub>,  $\phi$ <sub>c</sub> will be balanced sine waves too, and the total magnetic flux that passes through the core legs of these magnetic fluxes will be zero, hence, the core leg can be neglected as shown in Fig. 2(b). However, since core is formed by stacked pieces, hence, it is easier to be manufactured by using the linear arrangement structure as shown in Fig. 2(c). From the core structure of Fig.  $2(c)$ , it can be seen that the magnetic path of A and C part is slightly longer than that of B, hence, A, B, C phases are not totally symmetrical, and this is the reason of the natural unbalanced characteristic of the three phase transformer.

# **III. THE IRON LOSS MODEL OF TRANSFORMER**

# **1. Polynomial Representation of the Transformer Iron Loss**

In conventional way of calculation, the transformer iron loss is divided into hysteresis and eddy current loss for respective calculation. However, magnetic flux density is not as easy to be measured as voltage, hence, many people proposed respectively polynomials that use voltage as the independent variable for the calculation. The past researches can be roughly divided into the following three models:

Polynomial model 1 [11]:

$$
P_{core} = \frac{\text{KVA Rating}}{\text{System Base}} (AV^2 + Be^{CV^2})
$$
 (1)

Polynomial model 2 [14]:

$$
P_{core} = (C'_{o} + C'_{a} \phi_{pu}^{4})V^{2}
$$
 (2)

Polynomial model 3 [15]:

$$
P_{core} = C_6 V_6 + C_5 V_5 + C_4 V_4 + C_3 V_3 + C_2 V_2 + C_1 V + C_0 \tag{3}
$$

Here *Pcore* is the per-unit value of iron loss of transformer, *V*  is the per-unit value of the operation voltage of transformer,  $\phi_{pu}$  is the per-unit value of magnetic flux, *A*, *B*, *C<sub>i</sub>*, *C<sub>j</sub>* are respectively the coefficient of each model.

#### **2. Neural Network Model of the Transformer Iron Loss**

The neural network model of three phase voltage and three phase iron loss (Model I): In this model, A, B, C three phase voltages are used as the three inputs of the neural network, and the three phase iron losses are three output terms.

The neural network model of three phase voltage and total iron loss (Model II): In this model, A, B, C three phase voltages are used as the three inputs of the neural network, and the three phase total iron loss is the output term.

The neural network model of voltage of each phase and iron loss of each phase (Model III): In this model, the neural network model for the voltage and iron loss of each phase is set up respectively; the phase voltage is used as one input term of the neural network and phase iron loss is used as one output term.



**Fig. 3. The architecture of back-propagation network.** 



**Fig. 4. The learning process flow of back-propagation network.** 

# **IV. NEURAL NETWORK**

#### **1. Introduction to Back-Propagation Networks**

In 1985, Rumelhart Mcclelland added a buried layer to the back-propagation network and change the operation function into smooth and differentiable transfer function, the backpropagation network that is mostly used currently is thus formed; back-propagation network can process the exclusive OR (which is abbreviated as XOR) issue that the back-propagation model can not handle.

Back-propagation network is a multiple layer feed-forward network that has learning capability; the concept of the gradient steepest descent method is used to adjust the parameter, then after iterative operation, the error is minimized and the most accurate solution is obtained.

Since back-propagation network has higher learning accuracy and faster recall speed, the output value can be continuous and complicated sample identification as well as highly nonlinear function issue can be handled. Therefore, backpropagation network is the most representative one among the current neural network learning models and is the most used neural network.

#### **2. Network Architecture of Back-Propagation Network**

Figure 3 is the architecture of back-propagation network, where there are *N* neural units in the input layer, *L* neural units in the buried layer and *K* neural units in the output layer; here the number of neural unit in the buried layer will be dependent on the problem and there is no specific method to decide it; usually, the optimum number is found by trial and error method.

# **3. Network Operation of Back-Propagation Network**

Back-propagation network is a way of setting up mapping input value and output value; it assembles simple and nonlinear function, and after many times of assemblies, a complicated function form is set up to solve the complicated mapping issue. Figure 4 is the learning process flow of backpropagation network.

# **V. MEASUREMENT OF THE TRANSFORMER IRON LOSS**

#### **1. Measurement of Three Phase Balance System**

Since in real AC system, voltage is not fixed but will have slight change along with the change of the loading and the amplitude of change is about within  $\pm$  10% of the nominal voltage; therefore, in this study, the iron loss change of the transformer within  $\pm$  10% of the nominal voltage will be measured. Figure 5 is the iron loss measurement process flow of the transformer under three phase balance system. The transformer for experimental use is Shihlin three phase, 10KVA, 11400V/120V transformer. The standard power supply is Elgar 5200.

#### **2. Measurement of Three Phase Unbalance System**

Since the load connected to real three phase AC system will not be the same, hence, three phase transformer is operating under three phase unbalance. However, the voltage combination for three phase unbalance is infinite, and in order to distribute evenly all kinds of three phase unbalance voltage combinations, this study divides 90% nominal voltage to 110% nominal voltage into three sections, hence, there will be 27 configurations for the three phase voltage, and 10 three phase unbalance voltages will be taken randomly from each configuration to perform the experiment. Figure 6 is the measurement process flow of the transformer iron loss under three phase unbalance system.

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**Fig. 5. The experimental flow of open circuit of transformer under three phase balance system.** 



**Fig. 6. The experimental process flow of open circuit of transformed under three phase unbalance system.** 



**Fig. 7. The relationship between iron loss value and voltage of each phase of the transformer.** 

# **VI. IRON LOSS MEASUREMENT AND ANALYSIS FOR TRANSFORMER**

#### **1. Three Phase Balance System**

Figure 7 shows the relationship between the iron loss and voltage of each phase of transformer. It can be seen from the figure. that even under three phase balance system, the iron loss value of each phase of the transformer is not the same; meanwhile, the larger the voltage, the larger the difference of the three phase iron loss value. In addition, we can also that the iron loss value of each phase will increase with the increase in the voltage; among them, the A phase iron loss change is the most regular one and C phase iron loss change is the most irregular. There are a total of 57 measurement data.

#### **2. Three Phase Unbalance System**

In this study, one of the configurations ( $V_a \in [107, 114]$ , *V<sub>b</sub>* ∈ [114, 121], *V<sub>c</sub>* ∈ [99, 107]) is randomly taken for 10 sets of three phase unbalance voltage experimental measurement results and listed in Table 1; it can be seen from the experimental data in the table that under three phase unbalance system, the different mutual inductance voltage of each phase of the transformer has resulted in more irregular change of the iron loss. Therefore, it is very difficult to use general method to acquire accurate iron loss for the operation of transformer under three phase unbalance system.

# **VII. SIMULATION RESULT ANALYSIS**

### **1. Three Phase Balance System**

In this study, three different types of transformer iron loss neural network models will be used for the simulation and analysis. Meanwhile, the accuracy, training time and the average prediction error rate of these three neural network

	Table 1, The Hyll 1955 measurement result under three phase unbalance system.										
		2		4		6			Q	10	
Va	113.24	112.09	110.07	109.96	113.09	109.34	107.81	108.81	112.80	111.84	
Vb	115.16	118.43	116.39	114.12	119.13	120.76	117.05	115.85	117.52	114.49	
Vc	105.32	101.19	100.26	104.55	103.86	104.68	99.95	106.19	104.00	103.29	
Pa	54.90	63.50	49.30	44.70	66.00	64.80	48.60	51.80	54.80	53.10	
Ph	39.40	37.90	40.30	36.42	43.60	46.80	37.60	41.60	43.40	35.51	
$P_{\rm C}$	41.75	38.88	31.74	36.58	42.90	40.71	31.38	33.70	42.55	36.18	

**Table 1. The iron loss measurement result under three phase unbalance system.** 

**Table 2. The training result of neural network model I.** 

Number of neural unit in first buried layer	Number of neural unit in second buried layer	Number of iteration	Training time	Accuracy	Single phase predicted average error $(\%)$		Three phase predicted average $error (\% )$	
80	25	30000	4 min	$3.87241 \times 10^{-5}$	1.18	1.19	3.85	2.07
90	25	30000	4 min	$2.69858 \times 10^{-5}$	0.89	1.46	3.49	1.95
95	25	30000	4 min	$1.61946 \times 10^{-5}$	0.94	1.19	3.67	1.93
97	25	30000	4 min	$3.67521 \times 10^{-5}$	1.43	1.62	2.64	1.90
100	25	30000	4 min	$1.84568 \times 10^{-5}$	0.96	1.58	3.44	1.99
110	25	30000	4 min	$1.32434 \times 10^{-5}$	0.89	1.53	3.84	2.08
120	25	2914	40 sec	$9.99737 \times 10^{-6}$	0.76	1.29	4.22	2.09
200	25	11125	$2 \text{ min}$	$9.94484 \times 10^{-6}$	1.04	1.59	3.72	2.12
97	10	30000	4 min	$1.5733 \times 10^{-5}$	0.94	0.82	4.49	2.08
97	15	30000	4 min	$4.6379 \times 10^{-5}$	0.43	1.39	2.97	1.60
97	20	30000	4 min	$1.108 \times 10^{-4}$	0.64	2.08	2.10	1.61
97	25	30000	4 min	$3.67521 \times 10^{-5}$	1.43	1.63	2.64	1.90
97	30	30000	4 min	$2.2498 \times 10^{-5}$	0.56	1.30	3.53	1.80
97	35	30000	4 min	$1.0351 \times 10^{-5}$	0.41	1.52	3.44	1.79

deductions will be compared; moreover, the result will be compared to all kinds of polynomial models as proposed in the literature.

Table 2 is the training result of model I neural network. Here three phase average error rate is used to adjust the number of neural unit in the buried layer. Since the prediction and estimation of single layer buried layer is worse, hence, in this study, two layers of buried layer are adopted to set up neural network model. First, the number of neural unit in second buried layer is fixed at 25, then different number of neural unit of first layer is tried, and it is found that the average error rate of 1.898171% when the first layer is of 97 neural unit is minimum. Next, we fix the first buried layer at 97 neural units and let the second buried layer neural unit number vary from 10 to 35 with interval of five neural units for the testing of average error rate, then it can be found that when the second buried layer is of 15 neural units, the average error rate is minimum. Therefore, the model architecture of model I neural network is: input layer composes the three neural units for the input of A, B, C phase voltage; the first buried layer is of 97 neural units, the second buried layer is of 15 neural units, and the output layer composes three neural units for the output of A, B, C phase iron loss value. Model II and model III are set up by the same steps. The number of neural unit is as shown in Table 3. The training sample number is 23 and the verification sample number is 2.

In Table 3, under three phase balance system, all the major parameters of the neural network models of three transformer iron losses are compared. It can be seen from the table that the training time for model III is the shortest and the network response is the best, which is because the relationship between voltage of each phase and iron loss of each phase is simpler. On the contrary, the relationship of model I is more complicated and the time needed for the training is thus longer and the network response is worse as well as a higher prediction error rate.

However, the total iron loss has the most obvious change along with voltage and the change is more regular, hence, model II has the lowest prediction error rate.

Table 4 is a comparison among neural network model II and three polynomial models under three phase balance system, wherein the coefficient of the polynomial is obtained through the least square method. By comparing the result, it can be seen that the error rate by using neural network to estimate the

	Model I	Model II	Model III			
			$\mathbf{\mathsf{A}}$			
Number of neural unit in first buried layer	97	97	50	50	40	
Number of neural unit in second buried layer	15	21		10	10	
Number of iteration	30000	30000	4059	5206	4969	
Training time	4 min	4 min	$15 \text{ sec}$	$15 \text{ sec}$	15 sec	
Accuracy $(\times 10^{-5})$	4.638	1.646	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Predicted average error (%)	1.596	0.588	0.185	0.821	1.587	

**Table 3. The training comparisons of all kinds of neural network models under three phase balance system.** 

**Table 4. Comparisons between neural network model 2 and three polynomial models under three phase balance system.** 

Estimation model		Error $(\%)$
Polynomial model 1	$P_{core} = \frac{10\text{KVA}}{10\text{KVA}} (0.007V^2 + 0.020e^{0.00063965V^2})$	1.25
Polynomial model 2	$P_{core} = (-0.006 + (1.22 \times 10^{-10})V^4)V^2$	11.02
Polynomial model 3	$P_{core} = (-5.43 \times 10^{-7})V^6 + (0.0002)V^5 - 0.013V^4 - 4.25V^3 + 853.38V^2 - 59143V + 1.47 \times 10^6$	1.06
Neural network model II	$P_{core}$	0.59

#### **Table 5. Comparisons between neural network model 3 and three polynomial models under three phase balance system.**



total transformer iron loss is about half of that of the polynomial model.

Table 5 is a comparison between neural network model III and three polynomial models under three phase balance system; among three polynomial models, model 3 has smaller A phase iron loss estimation error rate, that is, about 0.88%, model 1 has smaller estimation error rates for B, C phase iron losses, and the error rates are respectively 0.93% and 2.01%; however, the use of neural network to estimate the iron loss value of each phase of transformer has error rates smaller than

**Table 6. Comparisons of all kinds of neural network models.** 

	Model I	Model II	Model III			
			A			
Number of neural unit in first buried layer	97	97	50	50	40	
Number of neural unit in second buried layer	15	21		10	10	
Number of iteration	30000	30000	4059	5206	4969	
Training time	4 min	4 min	$15 \text{ sec}$	$15 \text{ sec}$	$15 \text{ sec}$	
Accuracy $(\times 10^{-5})$	4.638	1.646	1.0	1.0	1.0	
Predicted average error rates (%)	1.596	0.588	0.185	0.821	1.587	

**Table 7. Comparisons of the error rate of model II and three polynomial models.** 



those of three polynomial models, the error rates are respectively 0.19%, 0.82% and 1.59%.

#### **2. Three Phase Unbalance System**

In this study, three different types of transformer iron loss neural network models will be used for the simulation and analysis; meanwhile, the accuracy, training time and the predicted average error rates of these three neural network deductions will be compared, and will be further compared to the result of polynomial model as proposed in the reference literature. There are 270 training samples in the neural network model, and 20 verification samples.

In Table 6, under three phase unbalance system, all the major parameters of the neural network models of three transformer iron losses are compared. It can be seen from the table that the training time for model II is the shortest, the network convergence response is the best and the prediction error rate is the lowest, which is because that the total iron loss shows the most obvious trend and more regular change along with the change in voltage. On the contrary, the relationship of model I is more complicated, hence, the time needed will be longer and the network convergence response is worse and the prediction error rate is higher.

Table 7 is a comparison of the error rates between model II

and three polynomial models, among them, the coefficient of polynomial model is found by the least square method; among the polynomial models, model 3 has minimum error rate with average error rate of 3.56%; however, the use of neural network for the prediction of total iron loss has an average error rate of 2.45%. Table 8 is a comparison of the error rate of model III and those of three polynomial models, and among the three polynomial models, model 3 has minimum error rate, and the error rates are respectively 4.78%, 4.44% and 4.86%; however, when neural network is used to predict the total iron loss of each phase of transformer, the error rates can be reduced to 3.32%, 4.02% and 4.29%.

### **VIII. CONCLUSION**

Since in real three phase AC system, the connected three phase loadings will not be the same, hence, three phase transformer operates under three phase unbalance state, which in turn makes the iron loss change of transformer very irregular. In this study, three different neural network models are used respectively to set up the nonlinear relationship between voltage and iron loss of the transformer under three phase system. After neural network operation, no matter in the prediction of the iron loss of each phase of the transformer or

Estimation		Min	Max	Avg
model		error	error	error
		(% )	(% )	(% )
Polynomial model 1	$P_{core, A} = \frac{\text{KVA Rating}}{\text{System Base}} (0.004V^2 + (3.56 \times 10^{-7})e^{0.0012V^2})$	2.27	63.67 15.68	
	$P_{core, B} = \frac{\text{KVA Rating}}{\text{System Base}} (0.004V^2 + 377.78e^{-0.00043V^2})$	0.98	64.50 22.15	
	$P_{core, C} = \frac{\text{KVA Rating}}{\text{System Base}} (0.004V^2 + (4.80 \times 10^{-10})e^{0.0017V^2})$	3.75	43.12 22.92	
	$P_{core,A} = (0.006 + (1.73 \times 10^{-12}) V_a^4) V_a^2 + (-0.0005 + (1.26 \times 10^{-11}) V_b^4) V_b^2 + (-0.007 + (2.43 \times 10^{-11}) V_c^4) V_c^2$	0.42	17.08	7.41
Polynomial model 2	$P_{core,B} = (-0.007 + (1.71 \times 10^{-11})V_a^4)V_a^2 + (0.008 - (1.06 \times 10^{-11})V_b^4)V_b^2 + (-0.003 + (3.07 \times 10^{-11})V_c^4)V_c^2$	2.28	16.69	9.12
	$P_{core,C} = (-0.01 + (4.44 \times 10^{-11})V_a^4)V_a^2 + (0.004 - (7.68 \times 10^{-12})V_b^4)V_b^2 + (0.004 + (4.43 \times 10^{-12})V_c^4)V_c^2$	0.81	19.49	5.79
Polynomial model 3	$P_{core A} = (8.46 \times 10^{-8})V_a^6 - (2.94 \times 10^{-5})V_a^5 + 0.0009V_a^4 + 0.90V_a^3 - 158.68V_a^2 + 10624V_a + (5.94 \times 10^{-8})V_b^6$ $-(2.39\times10^{-5})V_h^5+0.002V_h^4+0.26V_h^3-71.31V_h^2+5321.3V_h-(9.71\times10^{-8})V_c^6+(3.33\times10^{-5})V_c^5$ $-0.0007Vb4 - 1.12Vc3 + 192.01Vc2 - 12704Vc - 89092$	0.72	25.52	4.78
	$P_{core,B}=(-7.35\times10^{-8})V_a^6+(1.27\times10^{-5})V_a^5+0.007V_a^4-2.52V_a^3+336.98V_a^2-20573V_a-(3.20\times10^{-7})V_b^6$ $+0.0001V_b^5 - 0.014V_b^4 - 1.27V_b^3 + 374.02V_b^2 - 28211V_b - (5.17 \times 10^{-8})V_c^6 + (5.00 \times 10^{-5})V_c^5$ $-0.02V_c^4 + 3.31V_c^3 - 326.21V_c^2 + 16714V_c + 8.6378 \times 10^5$	1.08	13.33	4.44
	$P_{core\ C} = (-1.32 \times 10^{-7}) V_a^6 + (9.26 \times 10^{-5}) V_a^5 - 0.03 V_a^4 + 4.08 V_a^3 - 346.85 V_a^2 + 15645 V_a + (2.8676 \times 10^{-7}) V_b^6$ $-0.0001V_h^5 + 0.008V_h^4 + 1.92V_h^3 - 412.67V_h^2 + 29093V_h + (1.94 \times 10^{-7})V_c^6 - 0.0001V_c^5$ + $0.031V_h^4$ – $4.17V_c^3$ + $317.56V_c^2$ – $12844V_c$ – $8.0637 \times 10^5$	1.07	16.79	4.86
	$P_{core,A}$		9.78	3.32
Neural network	$P_{core,B}$		9.25	4.02
model III				
	$P_{core,C}$		11.21	4.29

**Table 8. Comparisons of the error rate of model III and those of three polynomial models.** 

the total iron loss, the error rate of the neural network model set up by this study is lower than that of polynomial method, this is especially true in the prediction of the total iron loss of transformer under three phase equilibrium system, the prediction error rate can be reduced by 50%. Therefore, neural network is more suitable to be used in the estimation of the transformer iron loss within dynamic power system.

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