

# Transformer Protection

Scott R. Secrest, PE  
Director of Engineering



PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar



# Power Transformer Protection

1. Protection Philosophies
2. Overvoltage Protection
3. Overcurrent and Thermal Protection
  - a. Transformer Damage Curve
  - b. Fuse Protection
  - c. Overcurrent Relay Protection
  - d. Differential Protection
  - e. Thermal Protection
  - f. Gas Pressure
4. Monitoring and On-Line Diagnostics

# Power Transformer Protection



PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar

# Transformer Protection Philosophies

1. Reasons to provide transformer protection
  - a. Detect and Isolate Faulty Equipment
  - b. Maintain System Stability
  - c. Limit Damage
  - d. Minimize Fire Risk
  - e. Minimize Risk to Personnel
  
2. Factors Affecting Transformer Protection
  - a. Cost of Repair
  - b. Cost of Down Time
  - c. Affects on the Rest of the System
  - d. Potential to Damage Adjacent Equipment
  - e. Length of Time to Repair or Replace

# Transformer Protection Philosophies

## 3. Basic Tenets of Protection

- a. Speed
- b. Sensitivity
- c. Reliability
- d. Security

## 4. Applicable Standards

- a. C57.12.00 – IEEE Standard General Requirements for Liquid-Immersed Distribution, Power, and Regulating Transformers
- b. C57.12.80 – IEEE Standard Terminology for Power and Distribution Transformers
- c. C57.109 - IEEE Guide for Liquid-Immersed Transformer Through-Fault-Current Duration
- d. C37.91 – IEEE Guide for Protecting Power Transformers
- e. C62.22 – IEEE Guide for the Application of Metal-Oxide Surge Arresters for Alternating-Current Systems

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

## Types of Over Voltages

1. Temporary
  - a. Power Frequency
  - b. Relatively Long Duration (seconds to hours)
  - c. Attributable to Ground Faults, Load Rejection, Low Frequency Resonance
2. Transient
  - a. Fast Rate of Rise
  - b. Short Duration (microseconds to milliseconds)
  - c. Attributable to Lightning, Switching, Flashover and Restrike Phenomena

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

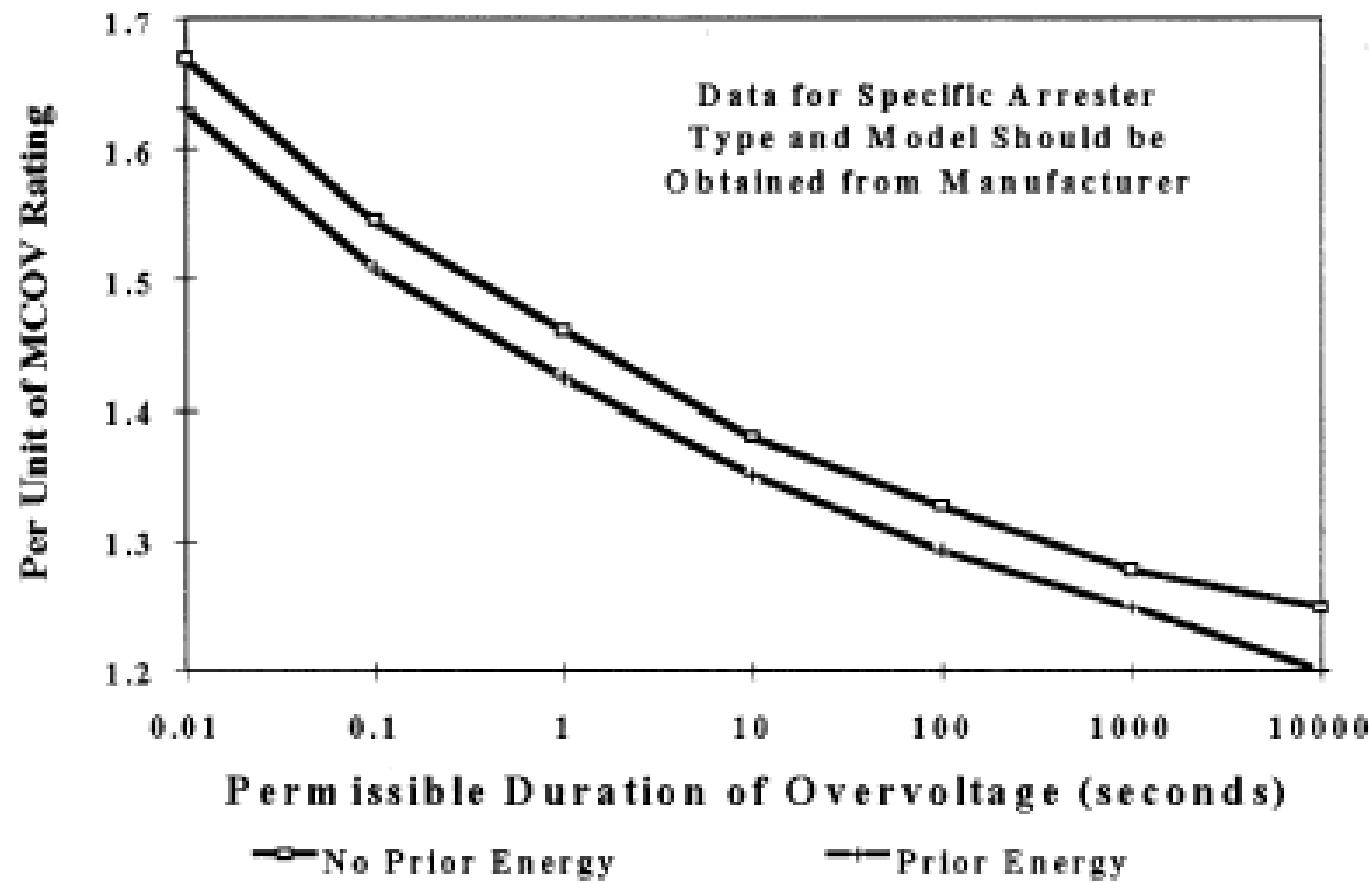
## Considerations for Overvoltage Protection

Temporary Overvoltage Levels and Duration

Equipment BIL

System Grounding

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection



# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

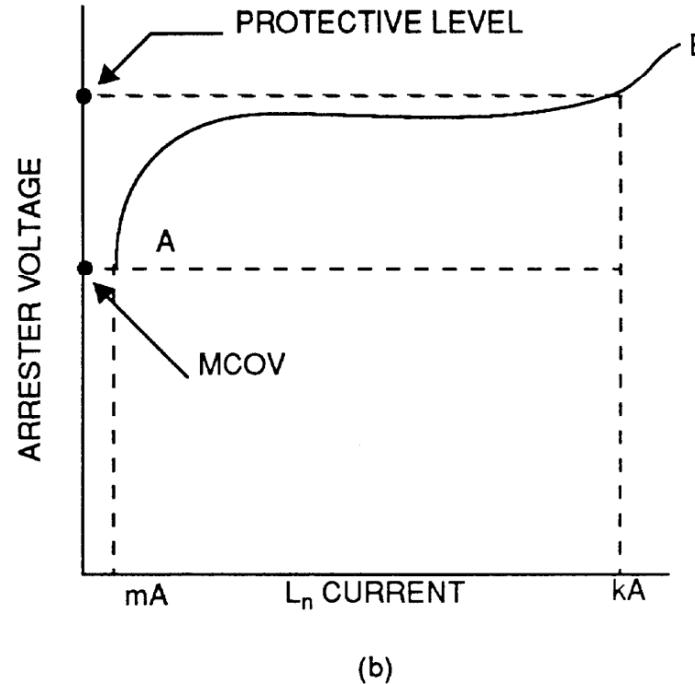
## Equipment Overvoltage Withstand Ratings

**Table 8 – High-voltage winding insulation levels of three-phase transformers**

High-Voltage Ratings (V)	Basic Impulse Insulation Level (kV)	
	Distribution Transformers	Power Transformers
2 400	45	60
4 160	60	75
4 800	60	75
6 900	75	95
7 200	75	95
12 000	95	110
13 200	95	110
13 800	95	110
23 000	125	150
34 500	150	200
46 000	–	250
69 000	–	350
115 000	–	450
138 000	–	550
161 000	–	650
230 000	–	750

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

## Gapless Metal Oxide Arrester Characteristics



(b)

Rated Voltage kVrms	MCOV kVrms	0.5 μsec 10 kA Max IR-kVcrest	Switching Surge Maximum IR-kVcrest <sup>l</sup>	8/20 μs Maximum Discharge Voltage - kVcrest					
				1.5 kA	3 kA	5 kA	10 kA	20 kA	40 kA
3	2.55	8.4	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.6	8.4	9.6
6	5.10	16.7	11.9	12.8	13.5	14.1	15.2	16.8	19.1
9	7.65	25.0	17.8	19.2	20.2	21.1	22.7	25.1	28.3
10	8.40	27.8	19.8	21.4	22.5	23.5	25.3	28.0	31.8
12	10.2	33.3	23.7	25.6	26.9	28.1	30.3	33.5	38.1
15	12.7	41.7	29.7	32.0	33.7	35.2	37.9	42.0	47.6
18	15.3	50.1	35.6	38.4	40.4	42.3	45.5	50.0	57.2
21	17.0	56.3	40.1	43.2	45.5	47.6	51.2	56.7	64.4
24	19.5	63.9	45.5	49.1	51.6	54.0	58.1	64.3	73.0
27	22.0	72.9	51.9	56.0	58.9	61.6	66.3	73.4	83.3
30	24.4	80.4	57.2	61.7	64.9	67.9	73.1	80.9	91.9
36	29.0	95.9	68.3	73.6	77.4	81.0	87.2	96.5	109.6
39	31.5	104.2	74.2	80.0	84.1	88.0	94.7	104.8	119.0
45	36.5	120.9	86.1	92.8	97.6	102.1	109.9	121.7	138.1
48	39.0	128.7	91.6	98.8	103.9	108.7	117.0	129.5	147.1
54	42.0	144.4	102.8	110.9	116.6	122.0	131.3	145.3	165.0
60	48.0	163.5	116.4	125.5	132.0	138.0	148.6	164.5	186.8
66	53.0	179.9	128.0	138.1	145.2	151.8	163.5	181.0	205.5
72	57.0	191.8	136.6	147.3	154.9	162.0	174.4	193.1	219.2
90	70.0	241.8	172.1	185.6	195.2	204.2	219.8	243.3	276.3
96	76.0	257.4	183.2	197.6	207.8	217.4	234.0	259.0	294.1
108	84.0	288.9	205.6	221.8	233.2	244.0	262.6	290.7	330.1
120	98.0	326.9	241.3	251.0	263.9	276.1	297.2	329.0	373.6
132	106.0	362.7	267.7	278.5	292.8	306.3	329.7	365.0	414.4
144	115.0	386.1	285.0	296.5	311.7	326.1	351.0	388.6	441.2

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection



TRANSFORMER

NO. CLASS OA/FA/FOA THREE PHASE 60 HERTZ (1)

**CAUTION!** INSTRUCTION BOOK INSIDE BOX  
BEFORE INSTALLING OR OPERATING READ INSTRUCTIONS

VOLTAGE RATING 115000-13800Y/7970

KVA RATING 33000 CONTINUOUS 65°C RISE SELF COOLED

KVA RATING 44000 CONTINUOUS 65°C RISE FORCED AIR

KVA RATING 55000 CONTINUOUS 65°C RISE FORCED OIL-AIR

P.O. NO. 497501

IMPEDANCE VOLTS % 115000-13800Y VOLTS AT 33000KVA

HV WINDING CONNECTION				
VOLTS	TAP CHANGER POS	AMP AT 33000 KVA	AMP AT 44000 KVA	AMP AT 55000 KVA
120000	1	159	213	265
117500	2	162	216	270
115000	3	166	221	275
112500	4	169	225	282
110000	5	173	231	289

FOR STEP DOWN OPERATION

APPROXIMATE WEIGHTS IN POUNDS

TOTAL	165100
UNTANKING	86200
TANK AND FITTINGS	33300
MAIN TANK TYPE II OIL 5120 GAL	45600

LIQUID LEVEL CHANGES 1.1 INCH PER 10°C CHANGE IN LIQUID TEMPERATURE.

LIQUID LEVEL BELOW TOP SURFACE OF THE HIGHEST POINT OF MANHOLE FLANGE AT 25°C IS 12.1 INCHES.

MAXIMUM OPERATING PRESSURE OF LIQUID PRESERVATION SYSTEM 7.5 POUNDS POSITIVE TO 5.0 POUNDS NEGATIVE.

TANK SUITABLE FOR 14.7 POUNDS VACUUM FILLING.

CT-A IS FOR USE WITH WINDING TEMPERATURE EQUIPMENT.

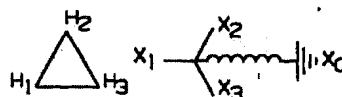
CT'S 1,2,3,5,6,7,9,10,11 ARE 1200/5 AMP.  
(ACC CLASS 10CB00).

CT'S 21,22,23 ARE 3000/5 AMP. (METERING ACC. 0.3B1.B).  
CT'S 25,26,27,29,30,31 ARE 3000/5 AMP.

LV WINDING CONNECTION			
VOLTS	AMP 33000 KVA	AMP 44000 KVA	AMP 55000 KVA
13800	1380	1840	2300

ITEM	BIL -KV
H <sub>1</sub> H <sub>2</sub> H <sub>3</sub>	450
X <sub>0</sub> X <sub>1</sub> X <sub>2</sub> X <sub>3</sub>	110

ALL WINDINGS COPPER



VECTOR DIAGRAM

DATE OF MANUFACTURE \_\_\_\_\_

SOUND LEVEL GUARANTEED

OA = 61 dB

FA = 65 dB

FOA = 66 dB

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

Transformer Primary Rated Line to Ground Voltage:

$$\frac{115kV}{\sqrt{3}} = 66.4kV$$

Transformer Secondary Rated Line to Ground Voltage:

$$\frac{13.8kV}{\sqrt{3}} = 7.97kV$$

However – Note that the secondary neutral is reactor grounded

# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

Table 1 Typical Arrester Ratings for System Voltages					
Nominal System L-L Voltage (kV)	Arrester Rating (kV)		Nominal System L-L Voltage (kV)	Arrester Rating (kV)	
	Grounded Neutral Circuits	High Impedance Grounded, Ungrounded, or Temporarily Ungrounded		Grounded Neutral Circuits	High Impedance Grounded, Ungrounded, or Temporarily Ungrounded
2.4	2.7	3.0	69	54 60 --	--
4.16	3.0 4.5	-- 4.5 5.1		--	66 72
4.8	4.5 5.1 --	-- 5.1 6.0	115	90 90	--
6.9	6.0 -- --	-- 7.5 8.5	138	108 120 --	108 120 --
12.47	9.0 10 --	-- -- 12	161	108 120 132 144	-- -- 132 144
13.2,13.8	10 12 -- --	-- -- 15 18	230	120 132 144 172 180 192 --	-- -- 144 168 -- --
23, 24.94	18 21 24 --	-- -- 24 27	345	228 240 258 264 276 288 294 300 312 300 312 336 360	-- 240 -- -- -- 288 294 300 312 -- -- -- --
34.5	27 30 --	-- -- 36			288 294 300 312
46	39 --	-- 48	400		312 336 360



# Transformer Overvoltage Protection

Table 2a Polymer Station Arrester Characteristics

Rated Voltage kVrms	MCOV kVrms	0.5 μsec 10 kA Max IR-kVcrest	Switching Surge Maximum IR-kVcrest <sup>1</sup>	8/20 μs Maximum Discharge Voltage - kVcrest					
				1.5 kA	3 kA	5 kA	10 kA	20 kA	40 kA
3	2.55	8.4	6.0	6.4	6.7	7.1	7.6	8.4	9.6
6	5.10	16.7	11.9	12.8	13.5	14.1	15.2	16.8	19.1
9	7.65	25.0	17.8	19.2	20.2	21.1	22.7	25.1	28.3
10	8.40	27.8	19.8	21.1	22.5	23.5	25.3	28.0	31.8
12	10.2	33.3	23.7	25.6	26.9	28.1	30.3	33.5	38.1
15	12.7	41.7	29.7	32.0	33.7	35.2	37.9	42.0	47.6
18	15.3	50.1	35.6	38.4	40.4	42.3	45.5	50.0	57.2
21	17.0	56.3	40.1	43.2	45.5	47.6	51.2	56.7	64.4
24	19.5	63.9	45.5	49.1	51.6	54.0	58.1	64.3	73.0
27	22.0	72.9	51.9	56.0	58.9	61.6	66.3	73.4	83.3
30	24.4	80.4	57.2	61.7	64.9	67.9	73.1	80.9	91.9
36	29.0	95.9	68.3	73.6	77.4	81.0	87.2	96.5	109.6
39	31.5	104.2	74.2	80.0	84.1	88.0	94.7	104.8	119.0
45	36.5	120.9	86.1	92.8	97.6	102.1	109.9	121.7	138.1
48	39.0	128.7	91.6	98.8	103.9	108.7	117.0	129.5	147.1
54	42.0	144.4	102.8	110.9	116.6	122.0	131.3	145.3	165.0
60	48.0	163.5	116.4	125.5	132.0	138.0	148.6	164.5	186.8
66	53.0	179.9	128.0	138.1	145.2	151.8	163.5	181.0	205.5
72	57.0	191.8	136.6	147.3	154.9	162.0	174.4	193.1	219.2
90	70.0	241.8	172.1	185.6	195.2	204.2	219.8	243.3	276.3
96	76.0	257.4	183.2	197.6	207.8	217.4	234.0	259.0	294.1
108	84.0	288.9	205.6	221.8	233.2	244.0	262.6	290.7	330.1
120	98.0	326.9	241.3	251.0	263.9	276.1	297.2	329.0	373.6
132	106.0	362.7	267.7	278.5	292.8	306.3	329.7	365.0	414.4
144	115.0	386.1	285.0	296.5	311.7	326.1	351.0	388.6	441.2

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Protect Transformer from Overloads

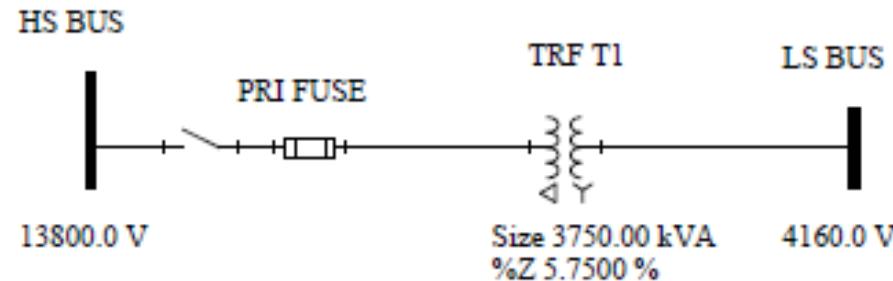
*C57.91 - IEEE Guide for Loading Mineral-Oil-Immersed Transformers*

Protect Transformer from Internal Faults

Protect Transformer from Through Faults

*C57.109 - IEEE Guide for Liquid-Immersed Transformer Through-Fault-Current Duration*

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection



# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

- Rated Current
  - Rated kVA and Voltage plus adjustments from C57.91*
- Inrush Current
  - 12x Rated Current for 0.1 sec*
- Short Circuit Currents
  - From system fault study, available SCC on Primary, Sec based on Trf. Z*
- Transformer Damage Curve
  - Calculated per C57.109*

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Rated Transformer Primary Current:

$$\frac{3750000}{\sqrt{3} * 13800} = 157A$$

Rated Transformer Secondary Current:

$$\frac{3750000}{\sqrt{3} * 4160} = 520A$$

Transformer Inrush Current:

$$157 * 12 = 1884A$$

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Transformer Damage Curve – C57.109

**Table 1—Transformer categories**

Category	Single phase (kVA)	Three phase (kVA)
I*	5 to 500	15 to 500
II	501 to 1667	501 to 5000
III	1668 to 10 000	5001 to 30 000
IV	Above 10 000	Above 30 000

\*Category I shall include distribution transformers manufactured in accordance with IEEE Std C57.12.20-1988 up through 500 kVA, single phase or three phase. In addition, autotransformers of 500 equivalent two-winding kilovoltamperes or less, which are manufactured as distribution transformers in accordance with IEEE Std C57.12.20-1988, shall be included in Category I, even though their nameplate kVA may exceed 500.

NOTE—All kilovoltampere ratings are minimum nameplate kVA for the principal windings.

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Transformer Damage Curve – C57.109

**Table 2—Transformer short-time thermal load capability**

Time	Times rated current
2 s	25.0
10 s	11.3
30 s	6.3
60 s	4.75
5 min	3.0
30 min	2.0

$$i^2 t = 1250$$

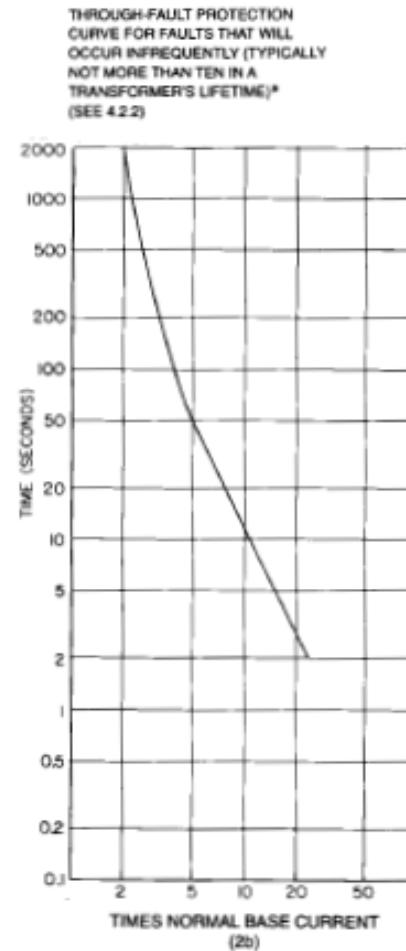
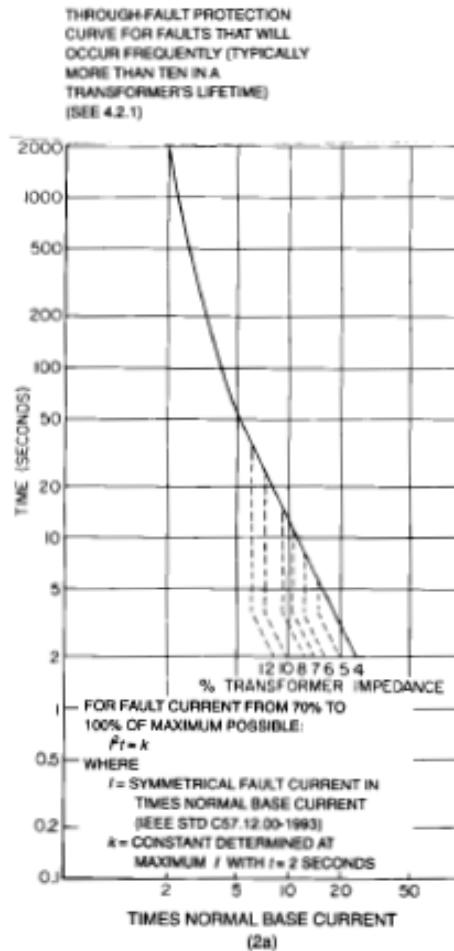
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Transformer Damage Curve – C57.109

Figure 2—Category II transformers  
501 to 1667 kVA single-phase  
501 to 5000 kVA three-phase

$$i^2 t = K$$

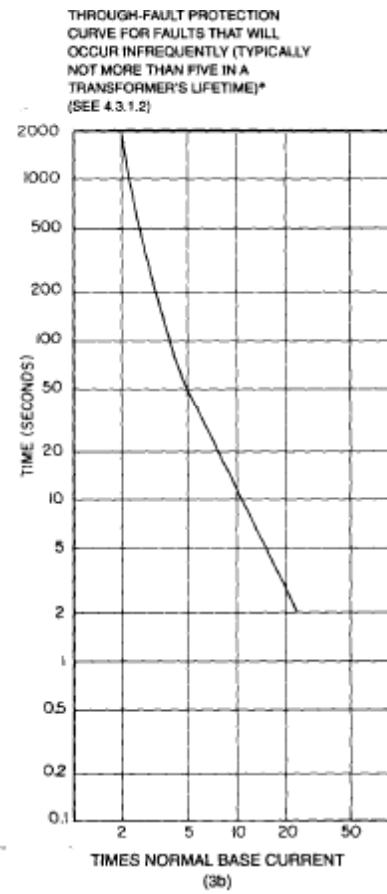
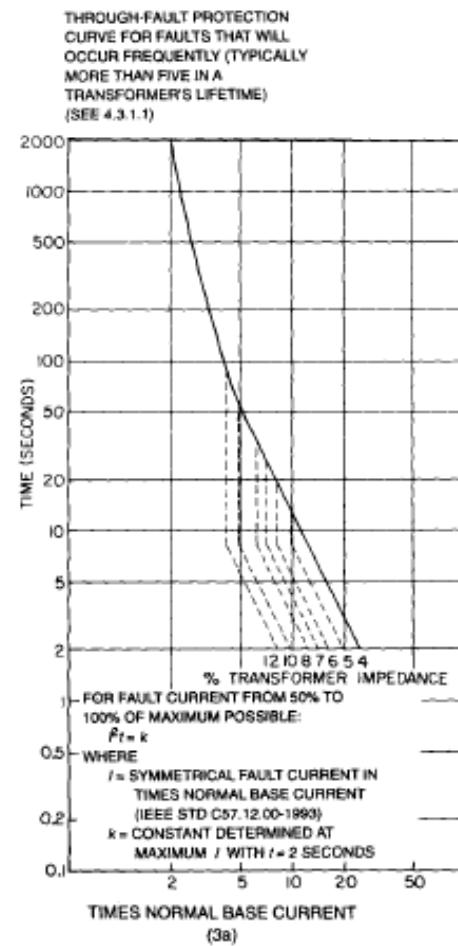
$$K = \frac{2}{Z_T^2}$$



# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Transformer Damage Curve – C57.109

Figure 3—Category III transformers  
1668 to 10 000 kVA single-phase  
5001 to 30 000 KVA three-phase



\*This curve may also be used for backup protection where the transformer is exposed to frequent faults normally cleared by high-speed relaying.

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Transformer Damage Curve – C57.109

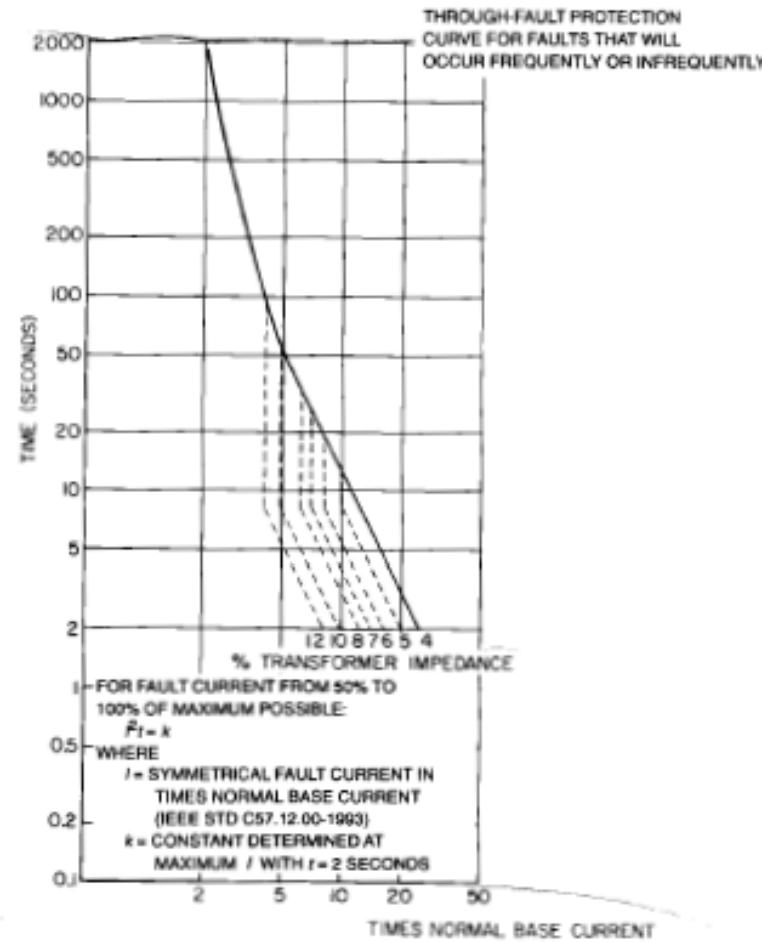
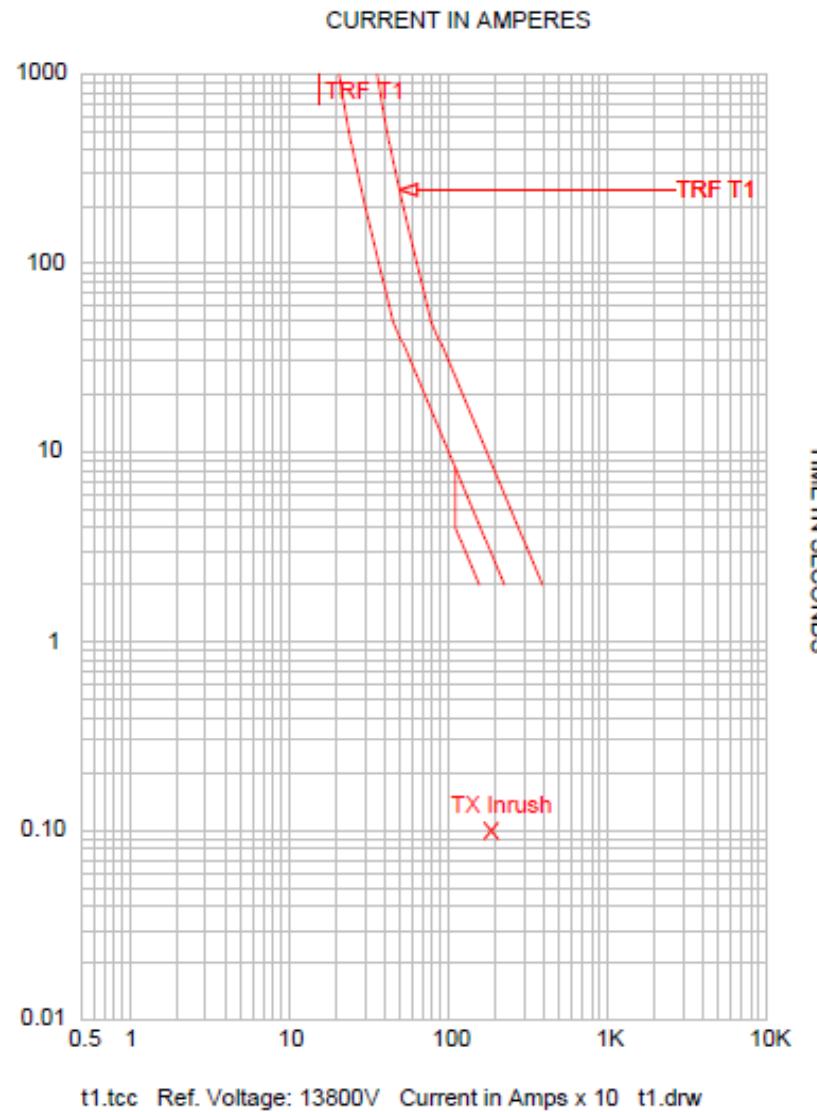


Figure 4—Category IV transformers  
above 10 000 kVA single-phase  
above 30 000 kVA three-phase

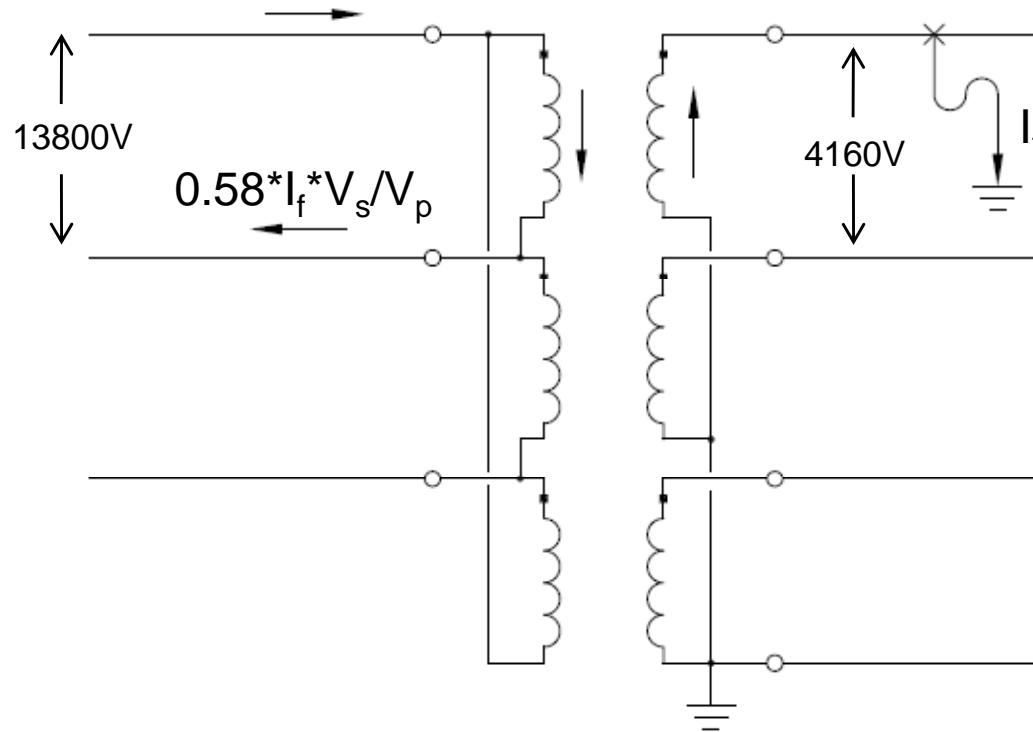
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection



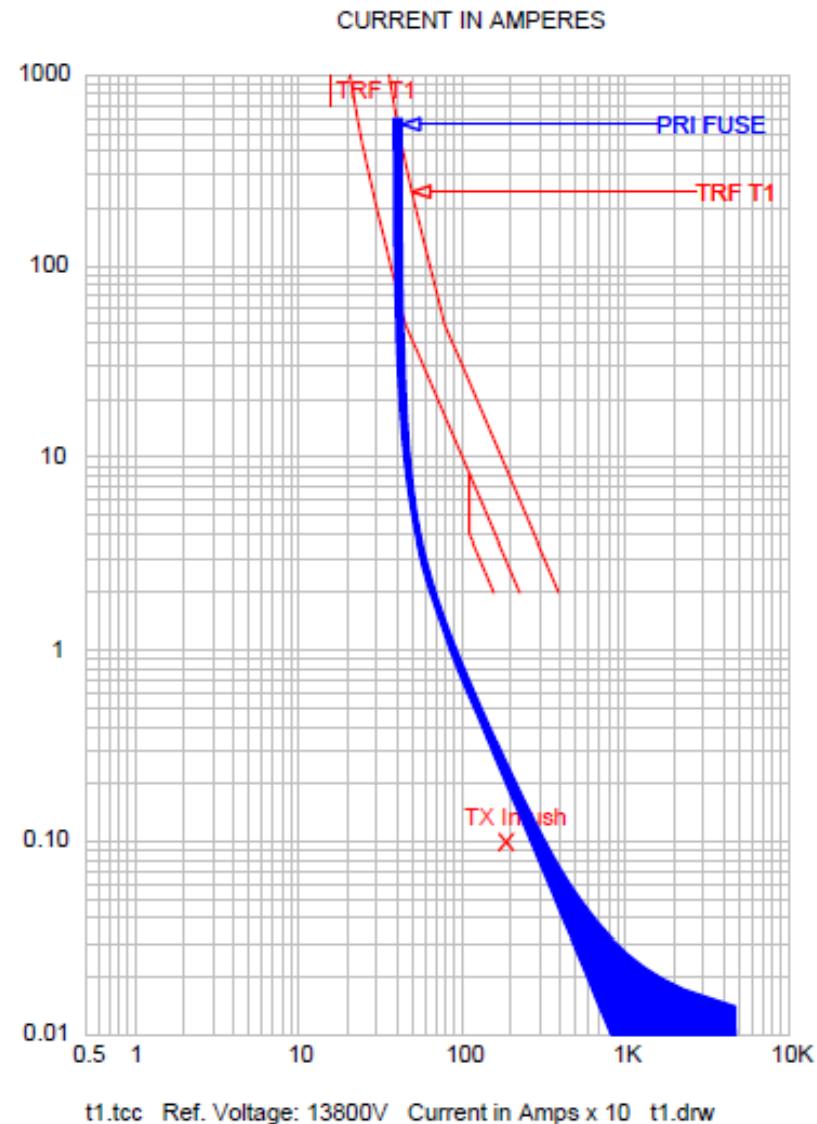
PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Unbalanced Fault Through Delta-Wye Transformer

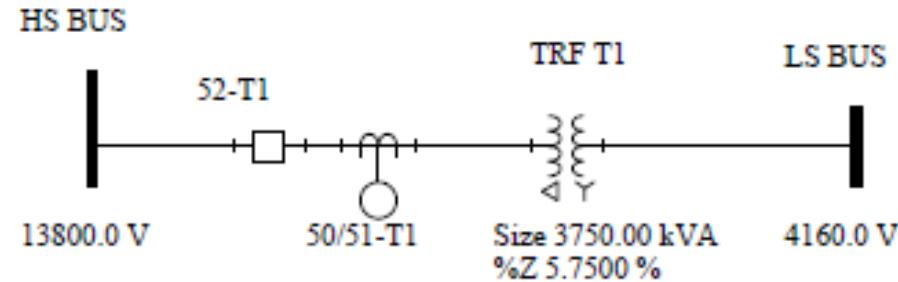


# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

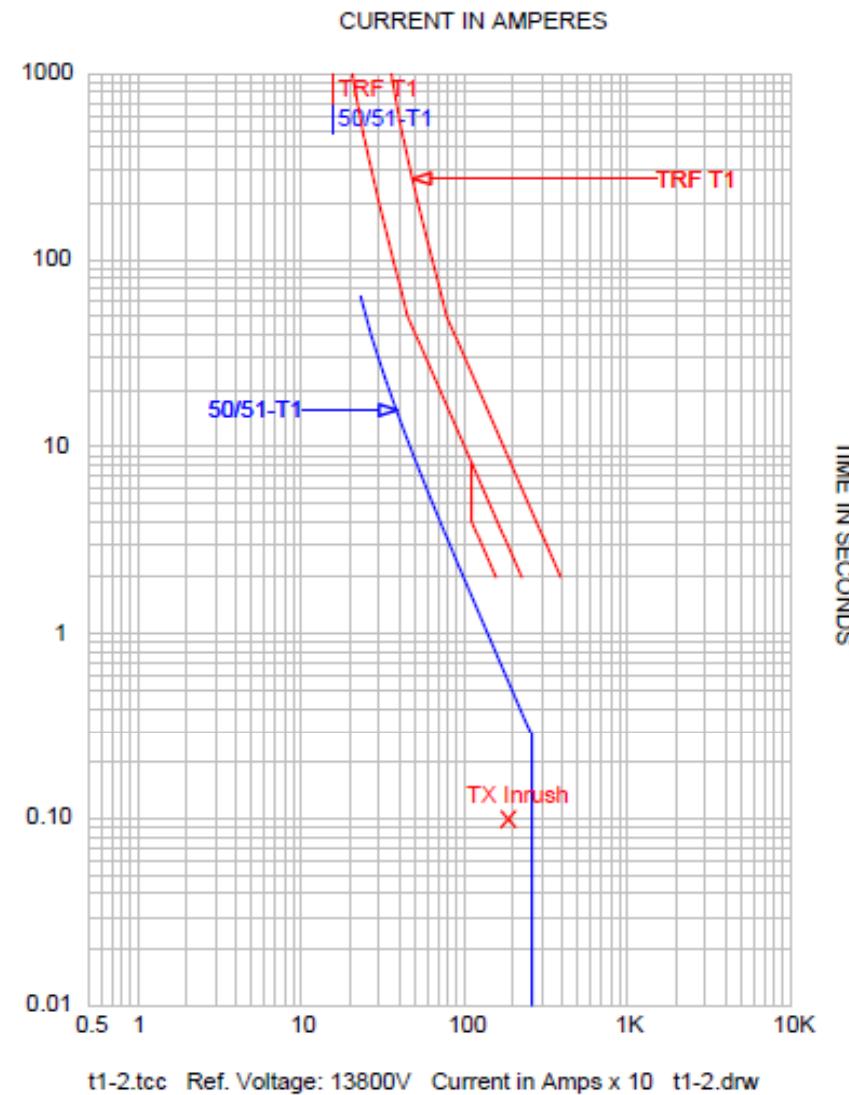


PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection



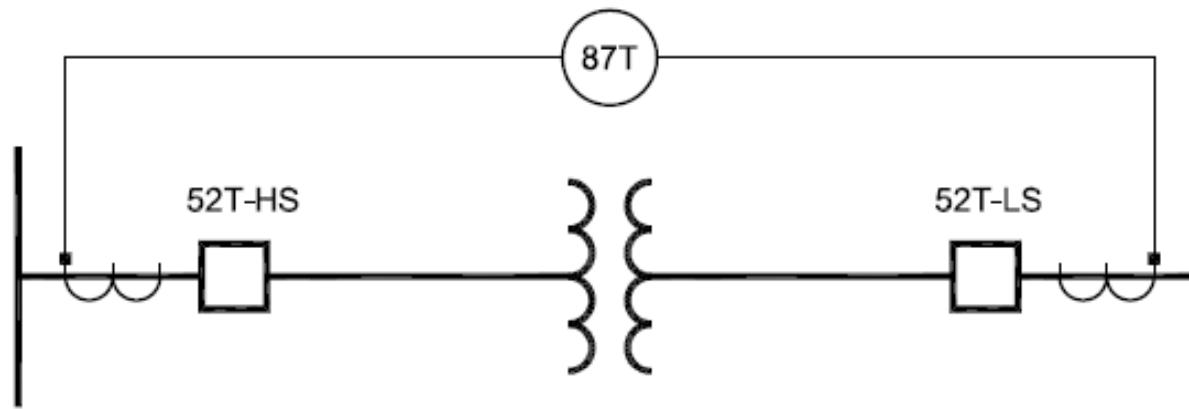
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection



PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

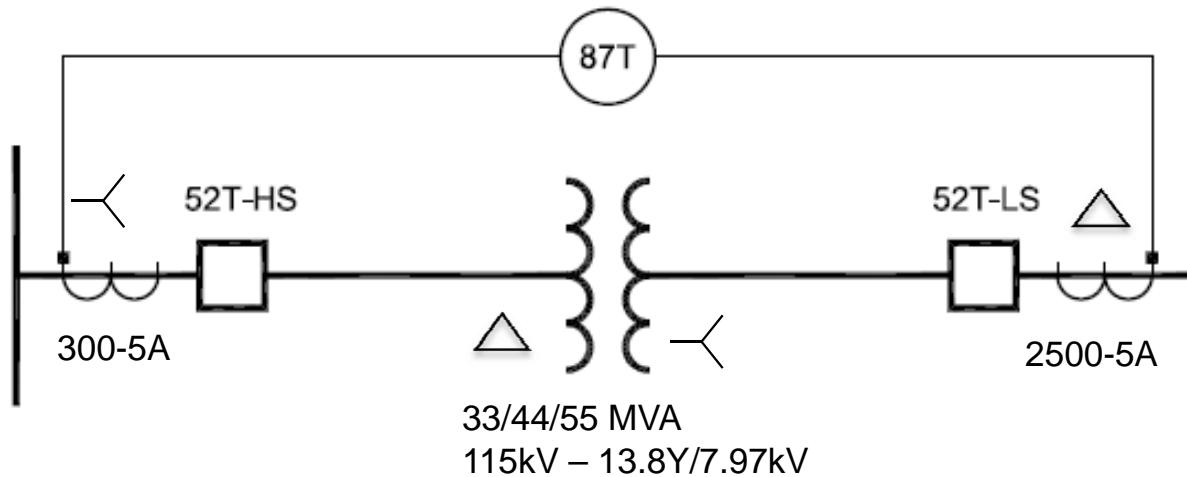
## Transformer Differential Protection



High Speed, Sensitive Protection for Internal Faults  
Looks at current flowing into and out of zone  
Unequal currents means fault in the zone

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

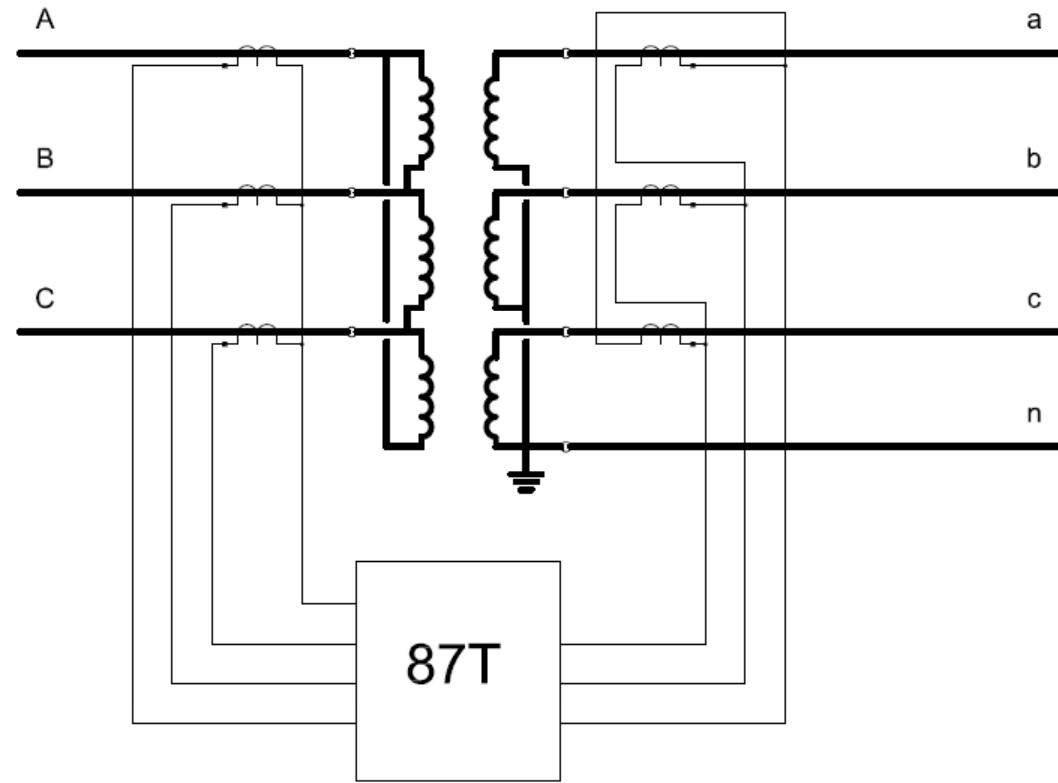
## Special Considerations for Transformer Differential Relays



- Different Currents at Zone Boundaries
- Typically Have a  $30^\circ$  Phase Shift from Primary to Secondary
- Usually Have Mismatch in CT secondary currents, especially w/ LTC's
- Primary and Secondary CT's may have Different Saturation Characteristics
- Have to Worry About Transformer Inrush Current

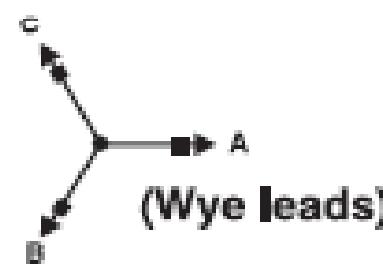
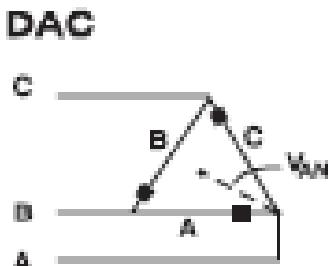
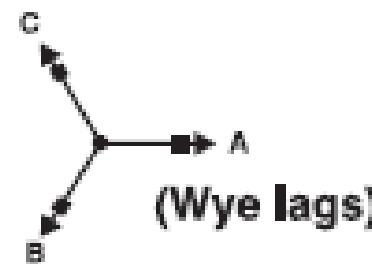
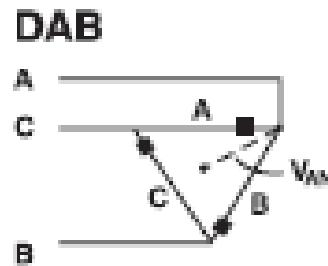
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Dealing w/ Delta-Wye Phase Shift  
Traditional Method w/ Wye-Delta Connected CT's



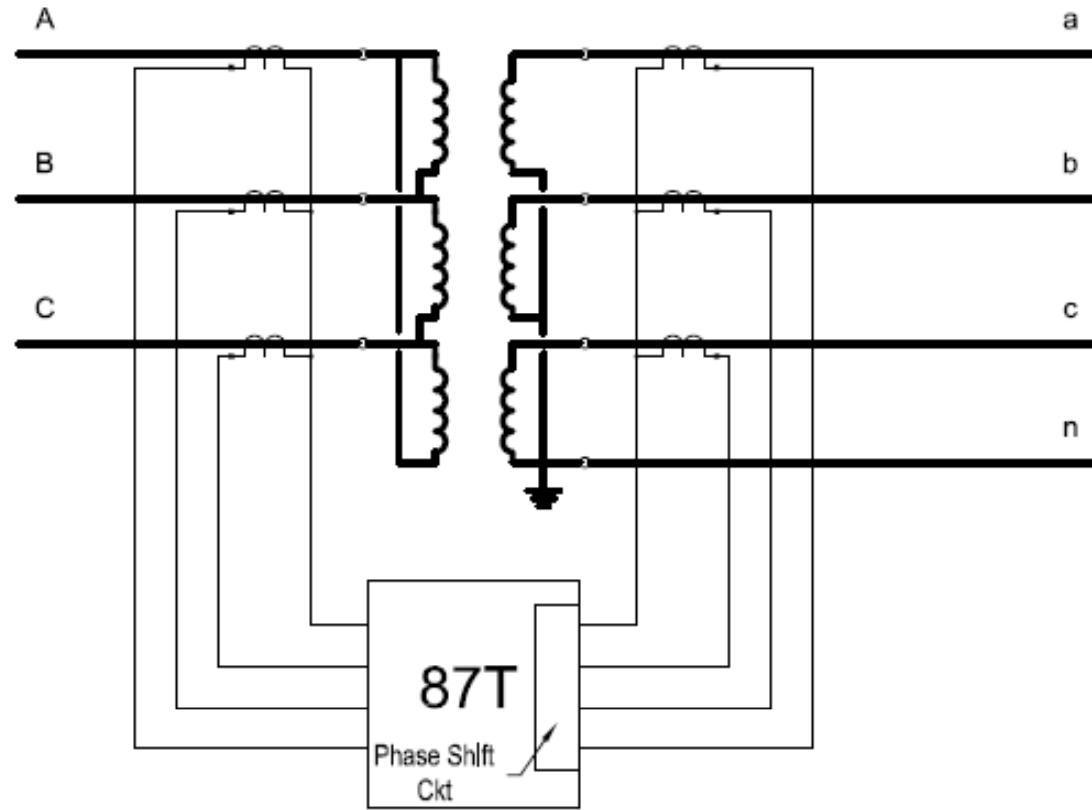
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Dealing w/ Delta-Wye Phase Shift  
Traditional Method w/ Wye-Delta Connected CT's



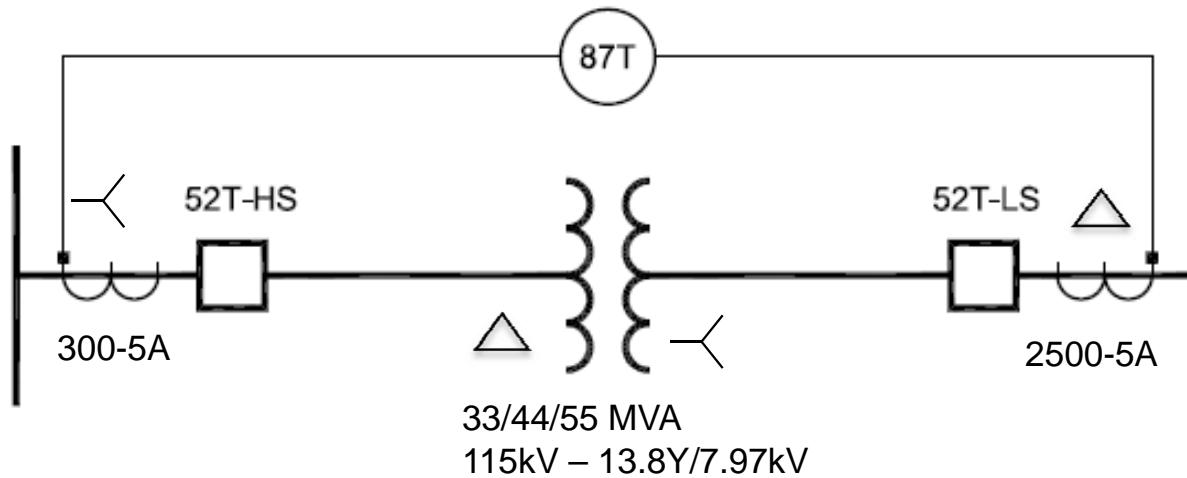
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Dealing w/ Delta-Wye Phase Shift  
New Method w/ Wye Connected CT's and Phase Shift in Relay



# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Current Mismatch, Restraint, and Slope



$$I_p = \frac{55000000}{115000 * \sqrt{3}} = 276.1A$$

$$I_s = \frac{55000000}{13800 * \sqrt{3}} = 2301A$$

For Wye Connected CT's

$$I_{P\text{Rel}} = 276.1A * \frac{5}{300} = 4.61A$$

$$I_{S\text{Rel}} = 2301A * \frac{5}{2500} = 4.60A$$

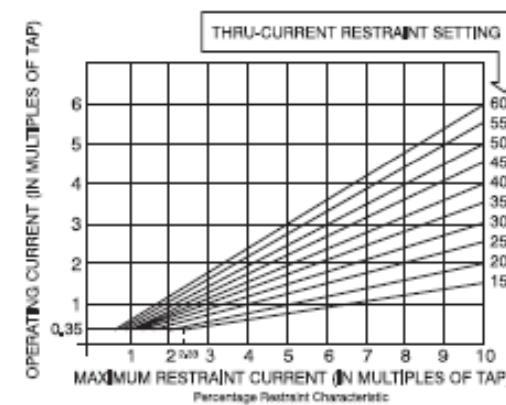
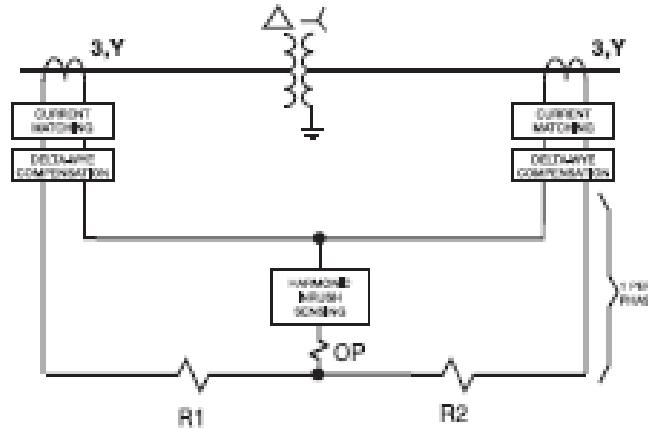
For Delta Connected CT's

$$I_{S\text{Rel}} = 2301A * \frac{5}{2500} * \sqrt{3} = 7.97A$$

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Current Mismatch, Restraint, and Slope

- Older Style Relays Had Fixed Taps
- New Numerical Relays Have Wider Range of Tap Settings
- All bets off for LTC's
- Quality and location of CT's can affect saturation differently
- Transformer Differential Relays Use Restraint Coil to Compensate

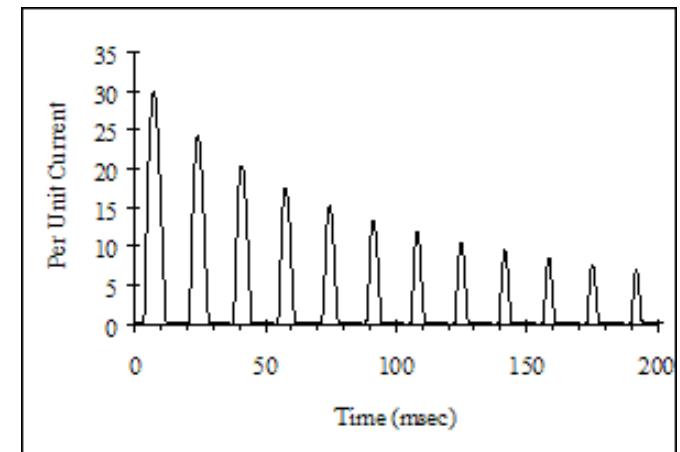


- Slope: Ratio of Operating Current to Restraint Current

# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

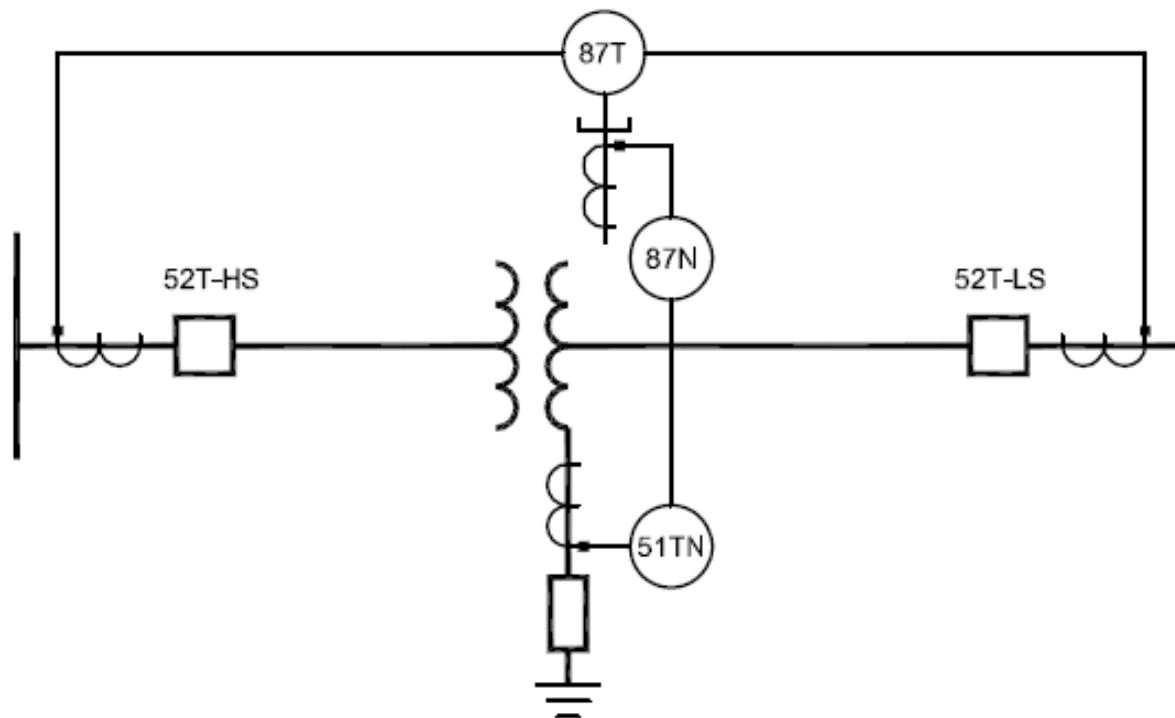
## Inrush Current

- Caused by residual flux in transformer core
- Current Flows in One Set of Windings (typically the Primary) which could fool differential relays
- Characterized by DC offset and high 2<sup>nd</sup> harmonic content.
- If unloaded or lightly loaded, can also have high 5<sup>th</sup> harmonic content
- Transformer Differential Relays utilize Harmonic Filters to discriminate between Inrush Currents and Internal Faults



# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Ground Fault Sensing



# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

Advantages of Newer Style Numerical Relays

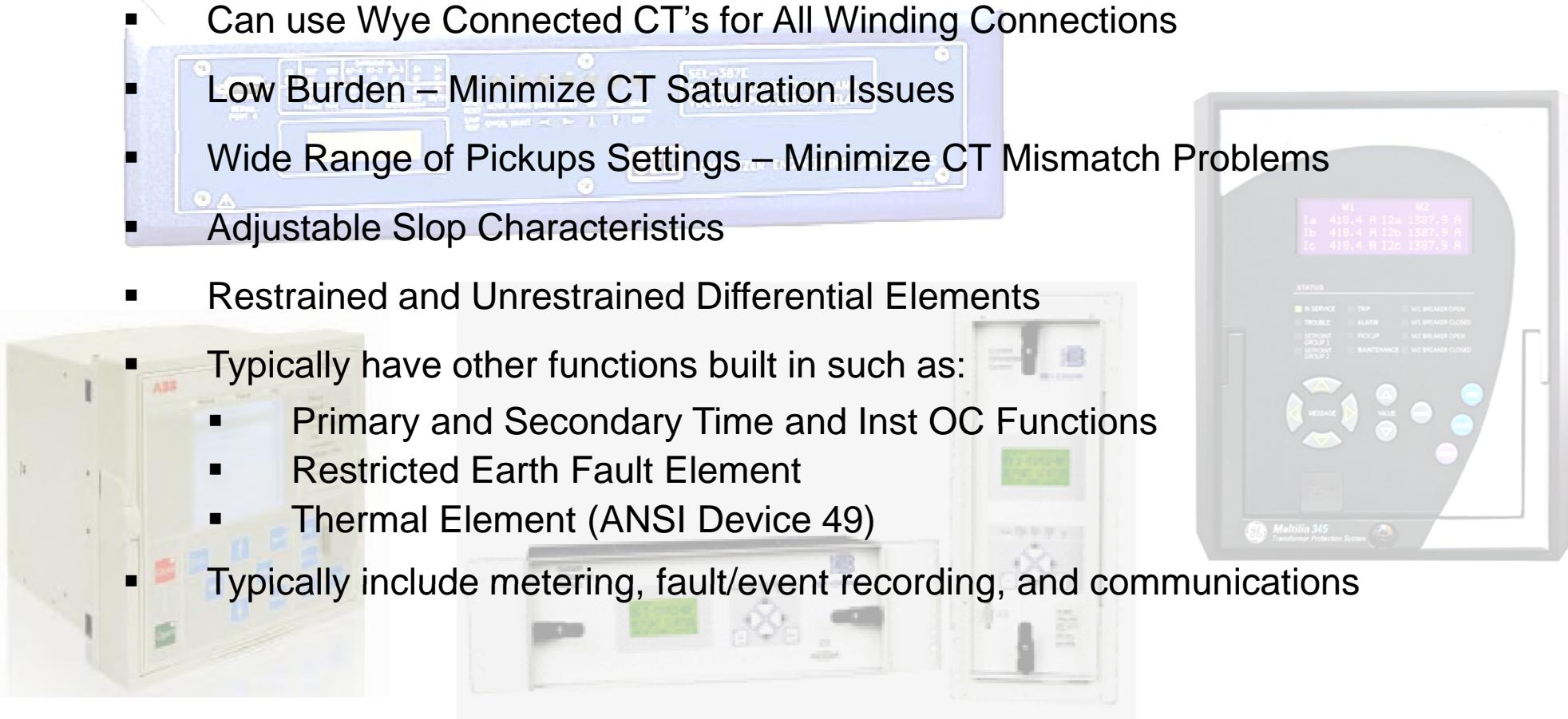


PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar

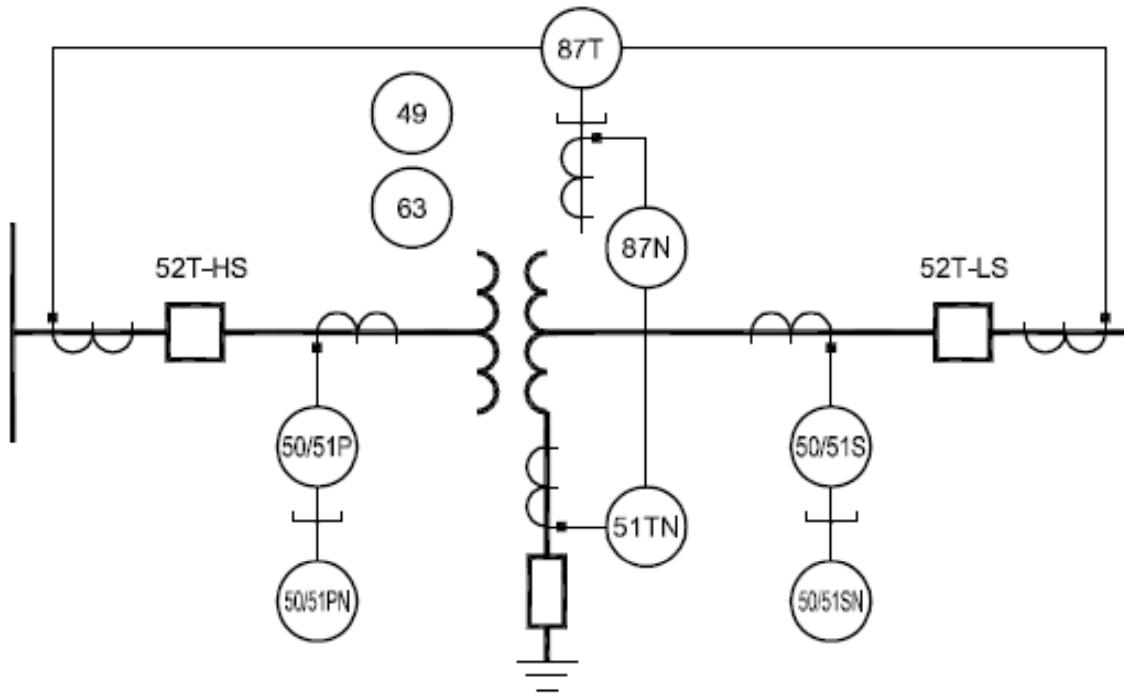
# Transformer Overcurrent Protection

## Advantages of Newer Style Numerical Relays

- Can use Wye Connected CT's for All Winding Connections
- Low Burden – Minimize CT Saturation Issues
- Wide Range of Pickups Settings – Minimize CT Mismatch Problems
- Adjustable Slope Characteristics
- Restrained and Unrestrained Differential Elements
- Typically have other functions built in such as:
  - Primary and Secondary Time and Inst OC Functions
  - Restricted Earth Fault Element
  - Thermal Element (ANSI Device 49)
- Typically include metering, fault/event recording, and communications



# Other Transformer Protection



# Other Transformer Protection



Sudden Pressure Relay



Buchholz Relay

## ANSI Device 63 Sudden Pressure or Rate of Rise Relay

- Sudden Pressure or Rate of Rise Relay Applied on Sealed Tank Designs >5 MVA
- Detects rapid changes in tank pressure due to decomposition of transformer oil by an arc
- Designed to ignore slow changes in tank pressure due to thermal cycling.

## Gas Accumulator (Buchholz) Relay

- Applied on Conservator Tank Designs
- Installed in Pipe connecting Main and Aux Tanks
- Trips for Rapid Gas Flow to Conservator Tank
- Alarms for Slow Flow

# Transformer Monitoring



## Standard Gauges and Indicators

- Liquid Level
- Tank Pressure
- Oil Temperature
- Hot Spot Temperature
- Gauges have contacts which can be brought back to SCADA



## LTC Controls

- LTC Position
- LTC Malfunction

## Fan/Pump Controls

- Fan/Pump Operating Stages
- Fan/Pump Malfunction

# Transformer Monitoring



On-Line Water in Oil Monitoring

On-Line Dissolved Gas Monitoring

On-Line Acoustical and Partial Discharge Monitoring



PES Boston Chapter Transformer Seminar