

Power Systems

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Spotlight on Modern Transformer Design

With 121 figures

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This book is dedicated to my family

Foreword

Power transformer advantages of high efficiency and reliability have certainly contributed to the domination of alternating current in power networks since the beginning of the last century. From early times, their design has been a major concern and has been the subject of extended research. The first efforts were based on conveniently adapted analytical solutions enabling one to optimize their construction and to take advantage of the improvements in magnetic and electric material properties.

During recent decades the development of the philosophy of transformer design has been a logical extension of the use of computers and numerical tools enabling one to model accurately the geometrical complexities as well as the nonlinear material characteristics for problem analysis. In addition, optimization algorithms have been very successfully combined with numerical techniques to represent the electromagnetic and thermal phenomena developed in power transformers, resulting in very powerful composite computational methodologies. In particular, artificial intelligence algorithms incorporated in such techniques have dramatically enhanced the speed and capability for achieving detailed optimum designs.

With this book Professor Pavlos Georgilakis contributes to the diffusion of composite numerical methodologies for power transformer design based on the combination of standard design techniques for transformers with advanced numerical methods such as the finite element method, and efficient optimization algorithms such as sequential quadratic programming, the branch-and-bound technique, genetic algorithms, decision trees and artificial neural networks. The proposed approach to the subject creates a proper link between the various methodologies implemented and their particular contribution to this field. The important problem of transformer selection criteria is systematically treated by using total owning cost considerations and external environmental cost issues.

The author's involvement in research both in the design office of a transformer construction company and the Technical University of Crete has given him a wide experience of the subject. His previous industry experience is reflected in the book by many references to actual practices. His academic background and the number of papers he has published in refereed journals ensure that a thorough theoretical treatment is given to important topics.

An important advantage of this work is that all methodologies presented are illustrated through detailed practical examples, concerning general power transformer construction, including also the shell type core transformer case. The proposed examples cover all features of power transformer design and have been

worked out in a rigorous and coherent manner. The introductory detailed presentation of the fundamental topics and phenomena involved enables the implementation of a textbook for teaching step by step the mysteries of transformer design both at undergraduate and postgraduate level. Certainly, it constitutes an excellent reference for researchers in the field, practicing electrical engineers and transformer design office use.

Without any doubt, the book fills an important knowledge gap in our energy conservation challenges!

Athens, Greece
February 2009

John A. Tegopoulos
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Preface

Many of the standard books on transformers are now over ten years old and some much older. Much has changed in the transformer industry since these books were written. Newer and better materials are now available for core and winding construction. Powerful computers now make it possible to produce more detailed models of the electrical, mechanical and thermal behavior of transformers than previously possible. The ever-increasing competition in the global market has put tremendous responsibilities on the transformer industry to increase transformer reliability while reducing cost, since high quality, low cost products have become the key to survival. However, it is difficult, if at all possible, to meet today's transformer design demands via conventional design techniques.

Today, artificial intelligence is widely used in modeling nonlinear and large-scale systems, especially when explicit mathematical models are difficult to obtain or are completely lacking. Moreover, artificial intelligence is computationally efficient in solving hard optimization problems.

The limitations of the analytical techniques as well as the progress of computers facilitated the development of numerical techniques for the solution of electromagnetic field problems. Among the numerical techniques, the most popular method for the solution of electromagnetic field problems is the finite element method. A very real advantage of the finite element method is its ability to deal with complex geometries. Another advantage is that it yields stable and accurate solutions.

The subject of the book is *Modern Transformer Design*. This book introduces a novel approach to transformer design using artificial intelligence and numerical techniques.

The author worked in the transformer industry for 10 years before joining academia. He has vast experience in the design, development and manufacturing of transformers. The author has developed the bulk of the results presented in the book during the last 10 years, while some of the results appear for the first time.

There is no other book including shell type transformer design by means of magnetic field analysis and artificial intelligence techniques. Most of the material in the book is an expanded and detailed version of the author's original work in the field of transformer design. The basic philosophy of the book is that we learn by applying. That is why the book has many numerical examples that illustrate the use of the techniques for a variety of real-world transformer designs.

The book will be particularly useful to graduate and postgraduate students in electric power engineering devices, researchers in the design and implementation

of power transformers, transformer designers and power engineering professionals. More specifically:

1. Graduate and postgraduate students as well as researchers will learn new methodologies for transformer design optimization (TDO). Moreover, they will be able to apply and extend the methodologies of the book to the optimization of different types of transformers or to the optimization of other electrical machines and devices. They will also find real and accurate data since all transformer design examples are from actual constructed and tested transformers.
2. Transformer designers will be helped to apply artificial intelligence to optimizing their transformer designs. In order to assist them, the book presents the basic principles of artificial intelligence methods in separate chapters and in stand-alone form, i.e., the transformer designers will find the majority of the information they need within the book. Moreover, transformer designers can extend the methodologies of the book to optimize the designs of specific transformer types and technologies they use at their transformer manufacturing plant.
3. Power engineering professionals working in electric utilities, industries, public authorities and design offices will find information to improve transformer specifications. They will find methodologies in the book that will help them in their transformer purchasing decisions. In particular, they will save money by purchasing the most cost-effective and energy-efficient transformers.

The material of the book is organized in three parts and eight chapters. Part I, which includes Chaps. 1 and 2, is devoted to the presentation of conventional transformer design. Part II, which includes Chaps. 3 to 5, presents the evaluation and optimization techniques that will be used in the third part of the book for the solution of a number of transformer design problems. Part III, which includes Chaps. 6 to 8, is dedicated to modern transformer design and it illustrates clearly how artificial intelligence and numerical techniques successfully solve a number of hard transformer design evaluation and optimization problems.

Chapter 1 is an introduction to transformer fundamentals. It describes the basic principles for the analysis of magnetic circuits, the correspondence between electric and magnetic circuits, and the modeling of magnetic materials used in the construction of the transformer magnetic circuit. It presents a transformer equivalent circuit, a method to determine the parameters of the equivalent circuit, and formulas to compute voltage regulation and efficiency. It defines the electrical characteristics of a transformer, e.g., rated power, rated voltages, frequency, no-load losses, load losses, and impedance voltage. It describes two interesting transformer operating modes, i.e., overloading and parallel operation. It gives a list of standards that are typically used for transformer manufacturing. It presents the type, routine, and special tests that are performed on transformers. It classifies transformers according to their use, cooling medium, insulating medium, and core construction.

Finally, Chap. 1 describes the type and characteristics of transformers studied in this book.

Chapter 2 deals with the conventional design of wound core type transformers. It formulates the TDO problem and solves it using a multiple design method that is commonly referred to as the conventional TDO method. A design example of an actual commercial transformer is worked out throughout this chapter showing all the calculations that are needed to design a transformer. The example-driven presentation of the conventional TDO method makes this chapter unique in the transformer design literature.

Transformers involve magnetostatic problems. These problems can be solved by analytical and numerical techniques. The limitations of the analytical techniques as well as the progress of computers has facilitated the development of numerical techniques. Among the numerical techniques, the most popular method in the solution of magnetostatic problems is the finite element method. A very strong advantage of the finite element method is its ability to deal with complex geometries. Another advantage is that it yields stable and accurate solutions. Chapter 3 presents the finite element method for the solution of linear and nonlinear magnetostatic problems, the latter being very common in transformer design. Carefully selected arithmetic examples make clear the application of the finite element method in the solution of linear and nonlinear magnetostatic problems.

Classification aims at predicting the future class, and forecasting aims at predicting the future value of a system that is intrinsically uncertain. Chapter 4 briefly presents two artificial intelligence methods, namely decision trees and artificial neural networks. The decision tree methodology is a nonparametric inductive learning technique, able to produce classifiers for a given problem that can assess new, unseen situations and/or uncover the mechanisms driving this problem. The artificial neural network is a computer information processing system that is capable of adequately representing nonlinear functions. The decision tree technique is appropriate for the solution of classification problems. The artificial neural network method is suitable for the solution of both classification and forecasting problems.

Chapter 5 is devoted to optimization and is organized into five sections. Section 5.1 is an introduction to optimization. Section 5.2 presents an active set method that effectively solves quadratic programming problems. Section 5.3 describes the sequential quadratic programming method, which is one of the best methods for solving nonlinearly constrained optimization problems. The sequential quadratic programming method iteratively solves a sequence of quadratic programming subproblems. Section 5.4 presents the branch-and-bound method, which, in conjunction with sequential quadratic programming, effectively solves mixed-integer nonlinear programming problems (such as the TDO problem of Chap. 7). Section 5.5 is devoted to the genetic algorithm method, which successfully solves complex optimization problems (such as the transformer no-load loss minimization problem of Chap. 7). The four optimization methods that are presented in this chapter are accompanied by carefully selected and analytically solved arithmetic examples

that make clear the application of the methods to the solution of a variety of optimization problems.

Chapter 6 is devoted to the evaluation of transformer technical characteristics. Decision trees and artificial neural networks solve the no-load loss classification problem. Artificial neural networks solve the no-load loss prediction problem. Impedance voltage evaluation is implemented using a particular finite element model with detailed representation of winding geometry.

Chapter 7 deals with modern design optimization of wound core type transformers. Four methods are presented that solve important transformer design problems. First, genetic algorithms are combined with artificial neural networks to optimally group $4 \cdot N$ available individual cores into N transformers so as to minimize the total no-load loss of N transformers. This method significantly reduces the no-load loss design margin as well as the cost of transformer main materials. Second, decision trees and artificial neural networks successfully solve the winding material selection problem, thus avoiding the need to optimize the transformer twice, once with copper and once with aluminum windings. Third, a mixed integer programming–finite element method is developed for solution of the TDO problem. Finally, a recursive genetic algorithm–finite element method is developed to solve the TDO problem and is compared with the mixed integer programming–finite element method. The recursive genetic algorithm approach can also be very useful for the solution of other optimization problems in electric machines and power systems.

Chapter 8 deals with transformer selection by electric utilities and industrial transformer users. It reviews the classical total owning cost formula and it also introduces the external environmental cost due to transformer losses. Using the methodologies of this chapter, transformer users will save money by purchasing the most cost-effective and energy-efficient transformers.

Much of the material presented in this book was obtained through teamwork with colleagues at the National Technical University of Athens, the Technical University of Crete and Schneider Electric AE.

I would like to express my most sincere thanks to Professor Nikos Hatzigiorgiariou, supervisor of my PhD dissertation, for his continuous guidance, encouragement and support throughout my PhD and for introducing me to artificial intelligence based transformer design. Special thanks go to Professor Antonios Kladas for excellent and fruitful research collaboration in the area of numerical techniques for analysis of the transformer magnetic field.

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This book would not have been possible without the understanding and patience of my wife Liza.

Chania, Greece
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Contents

Part I	Conventional Transformer Design	1
1	Transformers	3
1.1	Introduction	3
1.2	Magnetic Circuits	4
1.2.1	General	4
1.2.2	Analysis of Magnetic Circuits	7
1.2.3	Flux Linkage	9
1.2.4	Magnetic Materials	10
1.3	Transformer Fundamentals	12
1.3.1	Equivalent Circuit	12
1.3.2	Derivation of Equivalent Circuit Parameters	14
1.3.3	Voltage Regulation	18
1.3.4	Efficiency	23
1.4	Transformer Electrical Characteristics	27
1.4.1	Rated Power	27
1.4.2	Temperature Rise	28
1.4.3	Ambient Temperature	28
1.4.4	Altitude of Installation	29
1.4.5	Impedance Voltage	29
1.4.6	No-Load Losses	29
1.4.7	Load Losses	30
1.4.8	Rated Voltages	31
1.4.9	Vector Group	31
1.4.10	Frequency	32
1.4.11	Noise	32
1.4.12	Short-Circuit Current	32
1.4.13	No-Load Current	32
1.5	Transformer Operation	33
1.5.1	Overloading	33
1.5.2	Parallel Operation	33
1.5.3	Load Distribution to Transformers in Parallel Operation	34
1.6	Transformer Standards and Tolerances	35
1.6.1	Transformer Standards	35
1.6.2	Tolerances	36

1.7	Transformer Tests	37
1.7.1	Type Tests	37
1.7.2	Routine Tests	37
1.7.3	Special Tests	39
1.8	Transformer Types	39
1.8.1	Classification According to Transformer Use	40
1.8.2	Classification According to Transformer Cooling Method	40
1.8.3	Classification According to Transformer Insulating Medium	41
1.8.4	Classification According to Transformer Core Construction	41
1.9	Transformers Studied in this Book	42
	References	43
2	Conventional Transformer Design	45
2.1	Nomenclature	45
2.2	Introduction	49
2.3	Problem Formulation	49
2.3.1	Objective Function	50
2.3.2	Constraints	52
2.3.3	Mathematical Formulation of the TDO Problem	57
2.3.4	Characteristics of the TDO Problem	58
2.4	Conventional Transformer Design Optimization Method	59
2.4.1	Methodology	59
2.4.2	Case Study	62
2.4.3	Repetitive Transformer Design Process	66
2.5	Example of Transformer Design Data	68
2.5.1	Values of Description Variables	70
2.5.2	Values of Special Variables	70
2.5.3	Values of Default Variables	70
2.5.4	Values of Cost Variables	70
2.5.5	Values of Various Variables	71
2.5.6	Values of Conductor Cross-Section Calculation Variables	71
2.5.7	Values of Design Variables	71
2.6	Calculation of Volts per Turn and Thickness of Core Leg	74
2.6.1	Calculation of Volts per Turn	74
2.6.2	Calculation of Thickness of Core Leg	74
2.6.3	Example 2.1	76
2.7	Calculation of Layer Insulation	77
2.7.1	Layer Insulation of LV Winding	78
2.7.2	Layer Insulation of HV Winding	78
2.7.3	Example 2.2	78
2.8	Calculation of Winding and Core Dimensions	79
2.8.1	Example 2.3	79
2.9	Calculation of Core Weight and No-Load Loss	84
2.9.1	Example 2.4	86

2.10	Calculation of Inductive Part of Impedance Voltage	87
2.10.1	Example 2.5	89
2.11	Calculation of Load Loss	94
2.11.1	Example 2.6	94
2.12	Calculation of Impedance Voltage	99
2.12.1	Example 2.7	100
2.13	Calculation of Coil Length	100
2.13.1	Example 2.8	101
2.14	Calculation of Tank Dimensions	102
2.14.1	Example 2.9	102
2.15	Calculation of Winding Gradient and Oil Gradient	103
2.15.1	Example 2.10	103
2.16	Calculation of Heat Transfer	106
2.16.1	Example 2.11	108
2.17	Calculation of the Weight of Insulating Materials	110
2.17.1	Example 2.12	110
2.18	Calculation of the Weight of Ducts	114
2.18.1	Example 2.13	114
2.19	Calculation of the Weight of Oil	115
2.19.1	Example 2.14	115
2.20	Calculation of the Weight of Sheet Steel	116
2.20.1	Example 2.15	117
2.21	Calculation of the Weight of Corrugated Panels	117
2.21.1	Example 2.16	117
2.22	Calculation of the Cost of Transformer Main Materials	117
2.22.1	Example 2.17	118
2.23	Calculation of Transformer Manufacturing Cost	119
2.23.1	Example 2.18	120
	References	122

Part II Evaluation and Optimization Methods 123

3 Numerical Analysis 125

3.1	Introduction	125
3.1.1	Magnetostatic Problems	125
3.1.2	Methods for the Solution of Magnetostatic Problems	127
3.2	Finite Element Method	128
3.2.1	Introduction	128
3.2.2	Applications to Power Engineering	129
3.2.3	Solution of Linear Magnetostatic Problems	130
3.2.4	Solution of Nonlinear Magnetostatic Problems	146
	References	153

4	Classification and Forecasting	157
4.1	Introduction	157
4.2	Automatic Learning	158
4.3	Data Mining	158
4.3.1	Representation	159
4.3.2	Attribute Selection	159
4.3.3	Model Selection	159
4.3.4	Interpretation and Validation	159
4.3.5	Model Use	160
4.4	Learning Set and Test Set	160
4.4.1	Classification	160
4.4.2	Forecasting	161
4.5	Decision Trees	162
4.5.1	Introduction	162
4.5.2	Applications to Power Systems	163
4.5.3	General Characteristics	164
4.5.4	Top Down Induction	165
4.5.5	Optimal Splitting Rule	167
4.5.6	Stop Splitting Rule	170
4.5.7	Overview of Decision Tree Building Algorithm	173
4.5.8	Example 4.1	174
4.5.9	Example 4.2	179
4.6	Artificial Neural Networks	185
4.6.1	Introduction	185
4.6.2	Applications to Power Systems	186
4.6.3	ANN Types	187
4.6.4	Neuron Mathematical Model	188
4.6.5	ANN Architectures	189
4.6.6	ANN Training	191
4.6.7	ANN Configuration	205
4.6.8	Example 4.5	207
4.7	Hybrid Decision Tree–Neural Network Classifier	210
4.7.1	Example 4.6	211
	References	212
5	Optimization	219
5.1	Introduction	219
5.2	Quadratic Programming	222
5.2.1	Methodology	222
5.2.2	Applications to Power Systems	225
5.2.3	Example 5.1	225
5.3	Sequential Quadratic Programming	231
5.3.1	Methodology	231
5.3.2	Applications to Power Systems	233

5.3.3	Example 5.2	233
5.4	Branch-and-Bound	239
5.4.1	Methodology	239
5.4.2	Applications to Power Systems	241
5.4.3	Example 5.3	241
5.5	Genetic Algorithms	244
5.5.1	Methodology	244
5.5.2	Applications to Power Systems	248
5.5.3	Example 5.4	249
	References	256
 Part III Modern Transformer Design		263
 6 Evaluation of Transformer Technical Characteristics		265
6.1	Introduction	265
6.2	No-Load Loss Classification with Decision Trees and Artificial Neural Networks	266
6.2.1	Introduction	266
6.2.2	Individual Core	267
6.2.3	Transformer	281
6.3	No-Load Loss Forecasting with Artificial Neural Networks	292
6.3.1	Introduction	292
6.3.2	Forecasting Accuracy	294
6.3.3	Individual Core	294
6.3.4	Transformer	298
6.4	Impedance Voltage Evaluation with Numerical Models	301
6.4.1	Introduction	301
6.4.2	Finite Element Model	302
6.4.3	Results and Discussion	317
	References	325
 7 Transformer Design Optimization		331
7.1	Introduction	331
7.2	No-Load Loss Reduction with Genetic Algorithms	332
7.2.1	Introduction	332
7.2.2	Conventional Core Grouping Process	332
7.2.3	Genetic Algorithm Solution to the TNLLR Problem	334
7.2.4	Results	341
7.3	Winding Material Selection with Decision Trees and Artificial Neural Networks	343
7.3.1	Introduction	343
7.3.2	Creation of Knowledge Base	344

- 7.3.3 Decision Trees 346
- 7.3.4 Adaptive Trained Neural Networks 349
- 7.3.5 Synthesis 359
- 7.4 Transformer Design Optimization with Branch-and-Bound 359
 - 7.4.1 Introduction 359
 - 7.4.2 MIP-FEM Methodology 360
 - 7.4.3 Results and Discussion 364
- 7.5 Transformer Design Optimization with Genetic Algorithms 368
 - 7.5.1 Introduction 368
 - 7.5.2 Recursive GA-FEM Methodology 368
 - 7.5.3 Results and Discussion 372
- References 374

- 8 Transformer Selection 377**
 - 8.1 Introduction 377
 - 8.2 Total Owning Cost for Industrial and Commercial Users 378
 - 8.2.1 Cost Evaluation Method 378
 - 8.2.2 Example 8.1 382
 - 8.2.3 Example 8.2 385
 - 8.2.4 Example 8.3 385
 - 8.3 Total Owning Cost for Electric Utilities 391
 - 8.3.1 Cost Evaluation Method 391
 - 8.3.2 Example 8.4 394
 - 8.3.3 Example 8.5 396
 - 8.4 Proposed TOC Incorporating Environmental Cost 400
 - 8.4.1 Introduction 400
 - 8.4.2 Cost Evaluation Method 402
 - 8.4.3 Example 8.6 407
 - 8.4.4 Example 8.7 408
 - 8.4.5 Example 8.8 409
 - 8.4.6 Example 8.9 411
 - 8.4.7 Example 8.10 417
 - References 419

- Index 423**