

Welcome to a brief presentation on Electrical Signature Analysis.

My name is Dr Howard Penrose and I will be your narrator.

T-Solutions is a maintenance and reliability management consulting firm based in Chesapeake Virginia. Our primary clients include the US Navy and US Coast Guard.

This presentation is part 1 of 2

Historically, the electrical reliability and maintenance professional was limited in ability to evaluate condition of equipment. This resulted in challenges where the electrical professional was not as effective as their mechanical counterparts, where tools such as vibration analysis and similar technologies were developed. Repair by replacement had been the norm.

[Wait til finished]

In recent history, this has changed with the application of motor circuit analysis and electrical signature analysis technologies. In this presentation, we will briefly discuss the application of ESA.

This is a cutaway of a three-phase induction motor.

The fan is used to cool the motor.

Bearings and end shields hold the rotor centered in the motor

Stator laminations are designed to expel heat from the motor and reduce losses

Stator windings are designed to be 120 degrees out of phase from each other and should be balanced.

Rotor windings are a series of bars that are shorted at each end of the rotor and have current induced into them during motor operation.

Between the stator and rotor windings is an air gap that must be maintained evenly about the stator. Uneven air gaps will cause low level vibration and will cause bearings to fail early.

A motor uses the magnetic properties of attraction and repulsion to turn a shaft.

In this simple diagram, wound coils around the stators create polarity.

As the current changes direction, polarity changes, causing the rotor to be continually attracted and repulsed as it moves.

Changes to impedance, inductance, and phase angle will effect the operation of the motor: its reliability, efficiency, and ability to develop torque.

In effect, an electric motor is an energy converter, converting electrical energy to mechanical torque.

As the three phases of electrical voltage seperated by 120 electrical degrees enter the motor winding, which is seperated by 120 electrical degrees, current and resulting magnetic fields are created. The sinusoidal waveform progressing from a positive value to a negative value generate a rotating field in the airgap of the stator.

The rotating fields cut through the conductors, or rotor bars, of the rotor. The result is current flow and a second magnetic field. The motor acts, quite literally, as a transformer with a rotating secondary with the stator as the primary and rotor as the secondary.

The current flow in the rotor, with it at a standstill, is the same frequency as the supply voltage. For example, a 60 hertz supply provides a 60 Hz field in the rotor. This generates a very high current, which is reflected through the stator windings as the four to eight times running current seen at the motor leads.

The magnet fields generated from the high current interact with the stator magnetic fields in the airgap between the stator and rotor. As a result, the rotor winding begins to follow the stator rotating field. The rotor can never catch up, however, as the rotating fields must always cut through the rotor bars.

The relationship is such that, as the motor is loaded, the rotor slows down. This causes an increase in the rotor frequency and, as a result, the rotor current, which is again seen across the airgap and stator windings as an increase in current at the motor leads. From about 50% to 100% of load, the current can provide a reasonable estimate of loading.

The rotor bars and shorting rings are connected to the rotor shaft, and, as a result, as the squirrel cage turns in the magnetic fields, torque is delivered through the shaft.

Together all of the components make up the electric motor.

What is a Motor System?

- The motor system includes the power distribution system; the motor starting, control, and drive system; the motor; the mechanical coupling; the mechanical load; and the process.
- The facility power distribution system includes components such as inplant wiring and transformers.
- The starting, control, and drive system includes the motor starter and adjustable speed drives.
- The motor itself in this outline is an induction motor.
- The mechanical coupling refers to components like v-belts and power transmission devices.
- The mechanical load refers to the driven equipment, such as a pump, fan, compressor, or conveyor.
- The process is what is being accomplished, such as water pumping, mixing, or aeration.
- Most users look at motor systems from the component level and try to evaluate or troubleshoot.
- The systems approach is a way of looking at the reliability of the entire system and the relationship and synergy of the components.

In this presentation, we will be focused on the voltage signature analysis of Electrical Signature Analysis. The system used is an Electrical Signature Analyzer.

Electrical signature analysis can be used to perform:

•System Current Signature Analysis is used for viewing systems other than motor current signature analysis including transformers and other loads.

•System Voltage Signature Analysis is used for viewing systems upstream of the point being tested including generators, controls, VFD's and other supply loads

•Power Quality Analysis is used for performing advanced power analysis and data logging for power factor, voltage, current, demand, transients, surges, sags, swells and other power-related problems, including phase to neutral analysis.

•Motor Current Signature Analysis is used as a method for analyzing downstream of the point of test towards an electric motor for detecting rotor bar faults, later stage winding faults, and mechanical problems.

The area that needs to be concentrated on, in order to understand electrical signature analysis, is the motor airgap and how it effect current.

In order to understand how ESA works, it is important to know a few rules as to how magnetic fields, current and the supply frequency work to produce the signal we analyze.

First, the strength of the magnetic field decreases by the square of the distance from the source. This means, that as the rotor bars recede or approach the stator magnetic fields, it will result in a change to the current in the stator.

A line frequency voltage is provided to the motor.

The motor converts the voltage frequency to the current frequency. Any defects in the motor or load generate additional frequencies within the current. In effect, the motor is a fault generator.

The line frequency acts as the carrier frequency which can be put through a fast fourier transform, or FFT, in order to pull the amplitude modulated frequencies out for analysis in an amplitude versus frequency spectra.

In a perfect motor, the rotor is centered in the stator and all of the fields are even. If a perfect voltage sine wave is introduced, a perfect current sine wave results.

If there are any defect frequencies in the voltage sine wave, then those frequencies will appear in the current FFT, but at a smaller magnitude due to the dampening effect through the motor and fields. In order to compare equivalent magnitudes, the results of both are shown in dB.

When looking around the line frequency, it is common to 'demodulate' or remove the carrier frequency in order to look at the low frequency issues in the motor current.

In the case of static eccentricity, where the rotor is operating close to one side of the stator constantly, the magnitude of the interaction of the field on the side close to the stator is higher and away lower. As the north and south fields occur close to the high and low magnitudes, the result is a series of frequency sidebands around the number of rotor bars times the running speed, also known as the rotor bar frequency.

This type of signature usually shows as one and three times line frequency around the rotor bar frequency.

In the case of dynamic eccentricity, the rotor moves within the field at the running speed of the motor. This results in a frequency that is similar to static eccentricity, but with running speed frequencies around the line frequency sidebands.

All rotor and load related faults result in some form of rotor eccentricity with the movement of the rotor towards and away from the stator causing changes to the current waveform.

The degree of movement within the airgap causes a change in the magnitude of the dB signature sidebands. Because we are dealing with magnetic fields, there is normally not a peak at the calculated frequency, only at the sidebands, unless there is a significant fault.

The shaft and rotor in the motor is not truly rigid. It moves.

One cause of movement is unbalance which puts a force on the rotor and resulting movement in the airgap.

Another cause is outside forces on the shaft, such as misalignment, belt tensioning, etc.

Torque on the output shaft will also cause the rotor to flex within the airgap, usually causing a raised noise floor around the line frequency or other frequencies.

Hot spots in the rotor will cause the rotor to bend causing dynamic eccentricity.

In a quick overview, the modulated carrier frequency is the line frequency. As a result higher frequency faults will end up as multiples of the rotor bars and running speed for rotating problems and stator slots and running speed for stator problems. In almost all cases, there will be sidebands of the line frequency as it is the carrier frequency. The amplitude of these sidebands are relative to the magnitude of the fault.

Rotor bar faults, one of the strengths of ESA, show as sidebands of twice slip frequency around the line frequency current.

Believe it or not, it is not a significant leap from AC testing to DC testing using ESA. We are going to take this leap in one slide!

ESA uses sinusoidal voltage and current as the carrier. In the case of DC motors, when the sine wave passes through the DC drive, a small set of frequencies known as the form factor, which consist of the line frequency and the number of SCR's times the line frequency, result. These values are normally very low, in a good DC circuit.

Most faults occur in low frequency, or less than 120 Hz, and sidebands around the SCR frequency.

Knowing this, we will run through a short analysis of a DC system utilizing an RCM-Based approach.

As the system we will be analyzing includes gears, we will quickly discuss gear ratios.

In a system that has a series of gears which include a 10 tooth gear, 20 tooth gear and 25 tooth gear, the intitial RPM is 1750, the reduced mid-speed is 875 RPM and the output speed is 700 RPM. The related frequencies are these speeds divided by 60 Hz.

The system under review consists of a DC drive, a DC motor, a shaft with a coupling, a right angle gear with a 3.71 gear ratio, an output shaft that has bearings and mechanical seals and a four blade propellor on the output.

The max speed is 1800 RPM on the DC motor and 485 RPM on the output shaft.

The way that I have successfully walked through most analysis on systems include four basic steps:

- 1. Determine the components of the system
- 2. Determine the basic failure modes and effects of the system
- 3. Determine the associated fault frequencies of the most common faults
- 4. Analyze the data and FFT's

When reviewing the system, the components are as follow:

Voltage signature issues identify problems in the DC drive.

In Current, the following components are reviewed:

- •The DC motor
- •Couplings
- •Shaft
- •Gears
- •Bearings
- •Seals
- •Propellor

In the Failure Modes and Effects Analysis, the following is performed:

•Determine all possible failures, both obvious and hidden

•Determine the probability

•Understand that 20% of the potential faults will be 80% of the findings

•Analyze less likely faults if the primary faults do not show, in the instance of troubleshooting.

With the DC drive, the possible faults include:

- •SCR Failure for either the fields or armature
- •Firing cards for the fields or armature
- •The loss of an incoming phase

The functional issues show as:

- •Overspeed or loss of torque due to a loss of the fields
- •Torsional pulsation or loss of speed due to armature issues
- •The loss of an incoming phase results in rectifying issues

DC motor faults include:

In the fields:

- •Shorted fields which result in overspeed or reduced torque
- •Grounded fields will end with the same

In the armature:

•Brushes, commutator wear, grounding, shorted coils, failing bearings or unbalance.

In the driven equipment, the following issues may result:

- •Coupling misalignment
- •Bearings and seals of the driven shaft before the gears
- •Gear backlash or broken or cracked gear teeth
- •Bearings and seals of the output shaft
- •Propellor blade or cavitation problems

Based on the history of this type of system, voltage signature analysis will be used to evaluate the armature drive circuit to detect SCR or firing card problems.

Current signature analysis will be used to view conditions of the DC motor and load:

•In the DC motor, we will look for brush and commutator faults, grounded conditions and armature unbalance

•In the driven load, we will look for misalignment, seals, gears and propellor blade wear or damage.

In voltage and current high frequency FFT's, there should be line frequency peaks with degrading harmonics and there should be SCR frequency peaks with degrading harmonics.

In low frequency current, there should be a low running speed peak and possible turbulence identified as a raised noise floor.

The estimated running speed can be calculated by dividing the actual armature voltage by the nameplate voltage, the result is multiplied by the nameplate RPM.

In the next presentation, we will cover the analysis of two of these systems at different load points.

For more information on the development of your maintenance and reliability programs, contact:

T-Solutions, 135 Hanbury rd, suite c1, Chesapeake, virginia. Phone 757-410-0233 or go to our website: http://www.tsoln-inc.com.

For direct information on the development of your motor management program or service, contact Howard Penrose, Vice President of electrical reliability programs at hpenrose@tsoln-inc.com or phone 860-577-8537

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Who Should Attend?

Maintenance and Reliability Professionals, Planners, Managers and others with motor system maintenance responsibilities

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Dr. Penrose has over 20 years in the electric motor industry from motor repair to advanced reliability research and applications using modern CBM and maintenance technologies.

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See Next Page for Reservation Information

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Reservation Form

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Contact Charlene Beamon or Michael McHenry by phone, fax this form to us or email now! cbeamon@tsoln-inc.com

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Instructor: Howard W Penrose, Ph.D.

Note: Agenda will vary as necessary

Electric Motor System Maintenance and Management Workshop

*Does not require any electrical or mechanical maintenance background. Required basic principles for understanding class materials and goals.

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