Design and Analysis of Gas Insulated Busduct with Polymeric Spacers under Void Defect

A. Jagadeesh, G.V. Sivakrishna Rao and G.V. Nagesh Kumar

Abstract: Due to rapid growth of population, energy utilization increased which substantial required reliable, economical and flexible technology to meet the demand. The unique properties of Gas insulated systems (GIS) made it an alternative to meet the demand. Power engineers face a lot of challenges during GIS components design. GIS generally fail to operate in case of insulation and spacer failures as it leads to increase of electric field stress at the triple junction. Though utmost care has been taken during the manufacturing process, minute imperfections in the form of voids, delimitations, protrusions, cracks, etc., can occur which leads to the operation failure of GIS. Hence, for high level of dependability, vital importance is to be given to the electric field pattern along the surface periphery of the spacer. In this paper, analysis of electric field for a Polymeric spacer with different Filler concentrations of Nitrates, Carbides and Oxides under the void imperfection is carried. The reduction of Electric Field is carried with the insertion of metal inserts. The results are presented and analysed for different voltages without and with metal inserts.

Index Terms: Electric Field, Spacer, Protrusion, Gas Insulated Bus duct.

I. INTRODUCTION

Increase in energy consumption demands Gas Insulated systems. To support the stressed conductors in the system, the use of solid insulators is essential. The solid insulating spacer is noted to be the weakest point in GIS systems as it is responsible for surface flashover and breakdown in dielectric strength. Hence, there is a need for manufacturing reliable and flashover free spacers [1-3]. High field stresses results in flashover at critical level of three junctions in a spacer which in turn causes instigation of partial discharges. Spacer’s profile is assumed to be the main variable responsible for field pattern and show the uniformity is attained by excepting the proper profile. [2, 6-8].

GIS distinctive features enable us to consider it above air insulated substations. During its operation, several defects like protrusions, depressions, delamination, voids, etc., occur. Hence, these improper manufacturing defects and roughness on spacer’s surface affects the breakdown strength of GIS.

Insulation and spacer failures are few important aspects that are to be taken care during the manufacturing and operation process of GIS as its failure may lead to breakdown of dielectric strength which was identified by Cookson et al. [11]. Tsuoi and Misaki [12] designed a cone type spacer and improved the surface shape of the spacer with a slight change in contact position which proved prolific in decline of local field intensification. Voids, delamination, cracks, protrusions, etc on the surface of the spacers were noticed in GIB which influenced pattern of field resulting in spacer failure of the spacer.

In this paper, Polymeric spacer has been designed and different filler concentrations of nitrates, oxides and carbides have been considered. Metallic inserts help in decreasing the field stress at triple junction. To study the affect of metal inserts, analysis without and with metal inserts have been carried under void imperfection by considering various applied voltages.

II. ELECTRIC FIELD COMPUTATION

In GIB, spacers and SF₆ gas are the two main insulating media with insulating materials as alumina and silica filled epoxy. Charge simulation method has provided acceptable results for computing electric field but was time consuming in selecting the correct count and kind of charges which resulted in the rise of FEM technology. This technique reduces the energy by segregating the region under consideration into triangular elements for 2Dimensional problems or tetrahedrons for 3Dimensional problems. The stored energy W in the portion having volume U in anisotropic dielectric material under steady state conditions by assuming Rectangular coordinate system and Laplacian field is considered as:

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int_{A} e |\nabla V|^2 |du$$

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \int \left[ \epsilon_{r} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \epsilon_{r} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \right)^2 + \epsilon_{r} \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial z} \right)^2 \right] dxdydz$$

Moreover, when minute level field behavior is considered, in two dimensional, the total energy can be determined using equation (3).

$$W = \frac{1}{2} \epsilon_{r} \int_{\Omega} \left[ \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial x} \right)^2 + \left( \frac{\partial \psi}{\partial y} \right)^2 \right] dxdy$$

Where energy density per elementary area dA is (W/\phi). To apply minimisation criteria on the above equations, few below given assumptions are to be considered.
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- V(x,y,z) is voltage distribution endless over the region and
- Its derivative may exist.

Discretization must be made to find a solution for the continuous function. Hence, considered area is subdivided into triangular elements. Thus:

\[ \frac{W}{\varphi} = \frac{1}{2} \cdot \epsilon \cdot \sum_{i=1}^{n} \left( \frac{\partial V_{x}}{\partial x} + \frac{\partial V_{y}}{\partial y} ight)^{2} \cdot A_{i} \]  

(4)

Where,
- \( n \) is the total quantity of elements,
- \( A_{i} \) corresponds to \( i^{th} \) element.

Hence minimisation of the energy within the complete system can be written as

\[ \frac{\partial X}{\partial [V(x,y)]=0, \text{ where } X = \frac{W}{\varphi}} \]  

(5)

To calculate the unknown potential at nodes, the above approximation may be taken. In Individual element the field is taken to be constant and can be determined by the following equation.

\[ E = -i \frac{\partial V(x,y)}{\partial x} - j \frac{\partial V(x,y)}{\partial y} \]  

(6)

III. POLYMERIC SPACER

In GIS, insulation clearance between high and low voltage electrodes is an important factor. Hence solid insulators are important as mechanical supports to create the insulation clearance. In the insulation of a gas-solid interface, various factors to be taken into consideration are contamination particles, voids, electric field intensification at triple junction and charging on the spacer surface along with the electric field distribution on the spacer surface. Hence, different techniques were introduced as a solution to the above considered factors.

Designing of insulating spacers was one important aspect to the electrical engineer and so they required keen knowledge on electric field distribution. Epoxy or cast resin finds great application in high voltage systems as insulation. Currently epoxy with nano reinforcement has drawn a lot of interest as it improves the properties of epoxy considerably. For analysis a polymer spacer has been designed and different fillers of nitrates, carbides and oxides have been considered. The relative permittivity’s, break down voltages and electric field distributions are determined and analyzed for the designed cone type spacer with different dielectric coatings of nano nitrides. Among different techniques Finite Element Method technique has been employed to compute the electric field.

For its excellent mechanical, electrical properties and chemical stability, epoxy resin is most preferred material for high voltage systems as it has high insulation because of adequate mechanical, electrical qualities as well as chemical stability. Such resins are relatively immune to chemical corrosion and work as effective generally stable to chemical attacks and are excellent adherents with slow shrinkage during curing and no volatile gas emissions. However, these advantages make epoxy use quite expensive. They can also not be expected to exceed a 140°C temperature. Their use is therefore excluded in high-tech areas where service temperatures are higher.

Polymer composite contains as its main constituents 1) polymer matrix, 2) fillers and 3) interaction zone. Nano composites of epoxy are available in dimensions below 100 nm with less percentage by weight of the total material. Such composites have good thermal conductivity, strong resistivity for temperature and high breakdown [17]. Fillers are of one dimensional or three-dimensional and have very good engineering properties including thermal, mechanical and electrical types.

In high voltage apparatus, epoxy resin is extensively in use as insulation. A practical epoxy resin has dielectric permittivity depending on the filler type. Epoxy fillers are expensive and cannot be expected beyond a temperature of 140°C. NMC (Nano / micro composites) is useful in grading of GIS spacer by lower \( \epsilon_{1} \) due to reduction in loading normally less than 10 wt percent, due to their lower r. Lewis was inspired in electrical insulation by polymer nano-dielectrics as nano-dielectric insulation performs better in certain areas compared to conventional materials of insulation.

The zone of interaction for the nano-particles and the polymer matrix is considered as an independent region. If nano particles are in remote distribution, Carriers are controlled in an interaction zone which diminishes the mobility and density of carriers. Mobility of charge carriers is higher with the loading of the filler [17-19]. The strength between nano-particles and polymeric matrix has a direct influence on the thickness of the interaction zone. Nano-dielectrics show some uniqueness caused by the large interaction zone. A structural change is seen when nano-fillers are introduced into the polymer matrix because of the interaction between polymer and nano-filler. The use of inorganic fillers such as boron nitride, aluminium nitride in polymeric matrices reduces costs, improves fire resistances and mechanical properties like tensile strength. It also increases the permittivity of epoxy nanocomposite[16, 20].

IV. CALCULATION OF RELATIVE PERMITTIVITY

The magnitude of electric field is affected by dielectric constant that is with a high dielectric constant, the electric field reduces. Nano and micro composites on combining with epoxy resin increases the overall permittivity of the composite in comparison with simple epoxy and composite epoxy. Hence, GIS preferred them.

Conductivity increases when the filler concentration is abruptly increased. The overlapping of nano and micro particles are dependable on the rate of dispersion in the epoxy resin. Lichtenecker-Rother mixing rule can be extended for the dielectric property of 2 phase dielectric materials as shown in the below equation (7)

\[ Log \epsilon_c = x Log \epsilon_1 + y Log \epsilon_2 + z Log \epsilon_3 \]  

(7)

Where \( \epsilon_c \) is the final joint permittivity, \( \epsilon_1, \epsilon_2, \epsilon_3 \) are the permittivity of the filler and epoxy \( x, y, z \) are related to the
quantity of the filler material and polymer concentrations. The permittivity values of epoxy and that of alumina permittivity (Al2O3) is 3.6 and 9.2 and then the effective permittivity of 5 percent by weight of nano and 65wt percent by weight of micro is 16.759.

V. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
Considering different filler concentrations, the electric field stress for different values of permittivity are analyzed and the results are plotted. The analysis has been done with and without metal inserts in the polymer spacers. Figure 2 represents electric potential under the presence of void with and without metal insert in the polymer spacer. Figure 3 represents the electric field stress for 72.5, 145 and 220KV applied voltages when silica nitrate filler is considered. The analysis has been done for the spacer with and without metal inserts. From the figure, it is obvious that as the filler quantity is increasing the final value of permittivity increases. Contrarily, the field stress is sufficiently less by using metal inserts. Fig.4 represents the electric field stress for Aluminum Nitrate filler for different values of voltages and it is seen that the ultimate permittivity proportional increases with filler concentration and that the electrical field stress decreases with the use of metal inserts. It can also be seen that the permittivity value for aluminum nitrate is more when compared with silica nitrate filler concentration. Table1 represents nitrate filler concentrations in a polymer spacer. As seen in the table, as and when the voltage level increases for different filler concentration values, the field at inside and outside ends also increases for a plain polymer, without and with metal inserts. It can also be noted that when the filler concentration increases, resultant permittivity value increases whereas the electric field at the inside and outside. Moreover, we can come to a conclusion that the electric field almost reduces to zero when the metal inserts have been included in the polymer spacers with the increase in applied voltage. The use of Aluminum nitrate filler concentration reduces the value of electric field stress to a great extent when compared with Silicon nitrate filler. The electrical field stress for Titanium dioxide and Magnesium oxide for different voltages is analyzed and the resultant graphs have been represented in figures 5 and 6. In figs.5 and 6, It can be seen that the subsequent permittivity is higher for the higher quantity of filler and is higher in the case of titanium dioxide. It is clearly shown that the electric field stress has been reduced to almost zero when metal inserts have been included in both the cases. In Table 2, for the concentration of oxides filler, we can observe that with the increase in applied voltage, the electric field value also increases and as the quantity of the filler increases, the resultant permittivity becomes high. The electrical field stress reduces to a high level when compared without metal inserts with the use of metal inserts. Figures 7 and 8 represent the electric field stress for Boron carbide and Silicon carbide filler material. It is noticed that the resultant permittivity value increases with the increase in filler concentration and also it can be seen that for Boron carbide the value of permittivity is more compared to silicon carbide. Also, the value of electric field stress is lessened to a greater extent when the metal inserts have been included in the spacer which can be clearly seen in table 3 that represents carbide filler concentration. Hence, it can be concluded that using different filler materials and with the presence of metal insert in the polymer spacer, there is an overall reduction of electric field stress i.e. almost to zero when compared with the absence of metal inserts.

VI. CONCLUSION
The design and optimization process is of great importance for a Gas insulated Busduct. An electrical engineer can design a reliable and effective GIS if a thorough study is made on electric field distribution which in turn helps to avoid possible flashovers especially on the spacer surface and at the triple junction. Spacer’s shape plays a significant role in designing. A polymer spacer was designed and different filler concentration of nitrates, carbides, oxides have been taken for analysis. It can be observed that the resultant dielectric quality of the composite increases with the increase in filler concentration due to the addition of mixtures of nitrates, carbides and oxides to the base epoxy resin. From the tables, it can be concluded that metal inserts help in reducing the field stress. As the voltage applied, it can be concluded.
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(i) At 72.5KV voltage

(ii) At 145KV voltage

(iii) At 220KV voltage

*Fig.3 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Silica Nitrate filler*
At 72.5KV voltage

At 145KV voltage

At 220KV voltage

Fig.4 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Aluminium Nitrate filler
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(i) At 72.5KV voltage

(ii) At 145KV voltage

(iii) At 220KV voltage

Fig.5 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Titanium dioxide filler
Fig. 6 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Magnesium oxide filler

(i) At 72.5KV voltage

(ii) At 145KV voltage

(iii) At 220KV voltage
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(i) At 72.5KV voltage

(ii) At 145KV voltage

(iii) At 220KV voltage

Fig.7 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Boron carbide filler
Fig. 8 Electric field stress with metal inserts under void for Silicon carbide filler

(i) At 72.5KV voltage

(ii) At 145KV voltage

(iii) At 220KV voltage
### Table 1: Electrical field stress for various voltages and different nitrate filler concentrations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nitrate Filler Concentration (wt%)</th>
<th>72kV</th>
<th>140kV</th>
<th>220kV</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Silica Nitrate</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
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<td>8.783</td>
<td>6.860</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
<td>5.731</td>
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<td>2.950</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>3.903</td>
<td>1.703</td>
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<tr>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>3.022</td>
<td>1.703</td>
<td>0.941</td>
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<tr>
<td>(b) Aluminium Nitrates</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.2</td>
<td></td>
<td>7.761</td>
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<td></td>
<td>1.703</td>
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### Table 2: Electrical field stress for various voltages and different oxide filler concentrations

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Oxide Filler Concentration (wt%)</th>
<th>72kV</th>
<th>140kV</th>
<th>220kV</th>
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<tr>
<td>(a) Titanium dioxide</td>
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<td>0.2</td>
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<td>10.289</td>
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<td>7.751</td>
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<td>2.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.0</td>
<td></td>
<td>1.703</td>
<td>0.941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Magnesium Oxide</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>0.2</td>
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<td>3.0</td>
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<td>0.941</td>
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### Table 3: Electrical field stress for various voltages and different Carbide filler concentrations

<table>
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<th>140kV</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>(a) Boron Carbide</td>
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### REFERENCES


