

UFCL-limiter

MV Fault Current Limiter



UFCL-limiter

The fastest limiting and switching device in the world



UFCL-limiter, the fault current limiter based on pyrotechnic technology, is the technological answer to the problem of higher level of short circuit current where system augmentation takes place and replacement of whole protection switchgear is not feasible.

Faults in electrical power systems are inevitable. Apart from the damages in the vicinity of the fault - e.g. due to the effects of an electric arc - the fault currents flowing from the sources to the location of the fault lead to high dynamical and thermal stresses being imposed on equipment like busbars, transformers and switchgear. The circuit-breakers further have to be capable of (selectively) interrupting the currents associated.

But, a growth in the generation of electrical energy and an increased interconnection of the networks lead to higher fault currents. Especially, the continuous growth in the generation of electrical energy has the consequence that networks approach or even exceed their limits with respect to the short-circuit current withstand capability. Therefore there is a considerable interest in devices which are capable of limiting fault currents. A fault current limiter can limit a fault current passing through it within the first half cycle.

The use of UFCL-limiters allows equipment to remain in service even if the prospective fault current exceeds its rated peak and short-time withstand current and in case of circuit breakers also its rated short-circuit making and breaking current. Replacement of equipment can be avoided or at least shifted to a later date. In case of newly planned networks UFCL-limiters allow the use of equipment with lower ratings which renders possible considerable cost savings. In case of newly planned networks fault current limiters allow the use of equipment with lower ratings which renders possible considerable cost savings.

How can UFCL-limiter protect the system?

Sometimes, UFCL-limiter is the only solution

As shown in Figure 1 below, the UFCL-limiter is installed in the bus-tie section and is series-connected to the bus coupling circuit breaker (CB). In the event that a short-circuit occurs in the outgoing feeder, the prospective short-circuit current flow through the outgoing feeder CB (I_k'') may reach 80kA_{rms} , which is equivalent to a peak current of 200kA_p . This exceeds the ratings of the CB (40kA_{rms} and 100kA). In other words, the CB is unable to provide protection against this high peak short-circuit current as the operation speed of the CB is too slow. This will lead to serious mechanical and even thermal stress damage to the system.

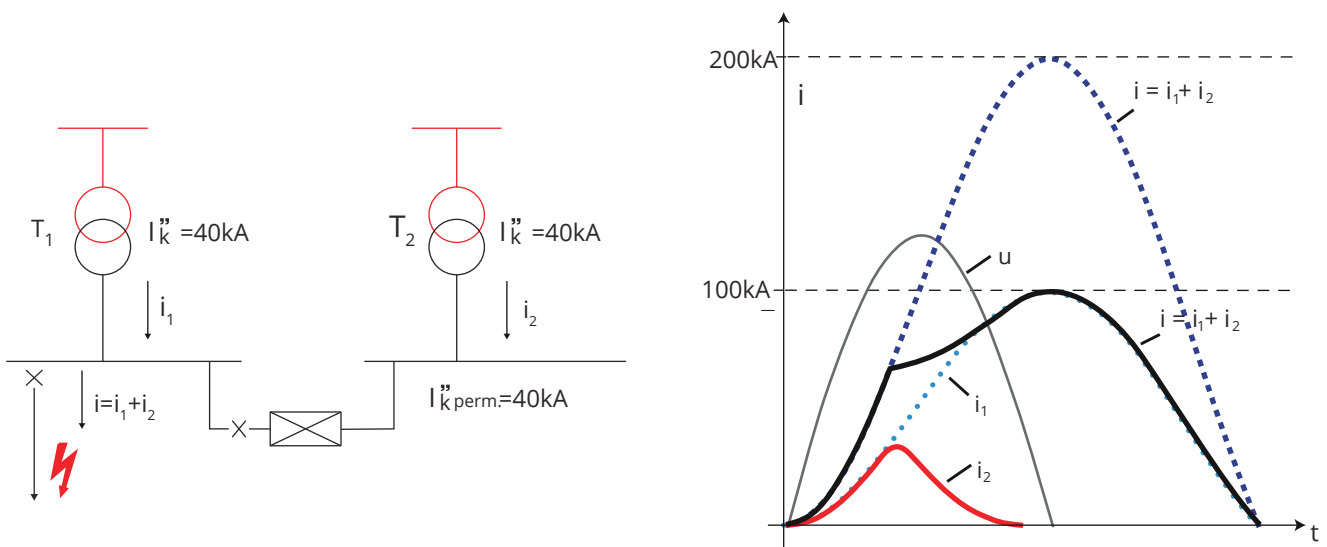


Figure-1

However, thanks to the high operation speed and current limiting capabilities of the UFCL-limiter, it is possible to resolve this issue without upgrading all the equipment in the system. By installing the UFCL-limiter on the strategic position of the bus-tie, the short circuit current i_2 contributed by T_2 is limited at the rise of the first cycle and interrupted before the prospective current i_2 reaches its peak. The total (peak) fault current flowing through the CB of the fault circuit is then kept to below 100kA ($i_1 + i_2 < 100\text{kA}$), which is the rated peak withstand current of the CB. Therefore the CB can withstand the fault current and trip to clear the fault safely.

In comparison with complex conventional solutions, the UFCL-limiter has both technical and economic advantages when used in transformer or generator feeders, in switchgear sectionalizing and connected in parallel with reactors. There is no need for customers to upgrade all the switchgear, busbars cables, etc.

The advantages of the use of a UFCL-limiter in a network are:

- Reduction of the short-circuit current of the system (compared to the short-circuit current with closed tie circuitbreaker)
- Reduction of voltage sags and flicker due to the lower total source impedance
- Reduction of harmonics due to the lower total source impedance
- Higher system availability due to the parallel connection of the feeding generators and transformers
- Higher loads possible in a sub-system (higher than the ratings of the feeding generators and transformers in that sub-system)



UFCL-limiter solves your problems

Reliable, proven, cost-effective

Features

- Conform to CIGRE Technical Brochure 239,497
- Conform to IEEE Std C37.302-2015
- Conform to IEC 62271-1 and IEC 60282-1
- Indoor or outdoor application
- Mounted in loose type as well as a metal-clad switchgear panel
- High duration with climate, land or offshore, cold winter or hot summer
- Easy to be installed and maintained, save money
- High reliability proofed in lots of installations

Benefits

- Reduces substation cost
- Solves short-circuit problems in new substations and substation extensions
- Optimum solution for interconnection of switchboards and substations
- In most cases the only technical solution
- Reliability and function proofed in lots of installations
- The peak short-circuit current will never be reached
- The short-circuit current is limited at the very first current rise

How does UFCL-limiter work?

Cutting-edge pyrotechnic technology

Principle

The interrupting device of UFCL-limiter, sometimes we call it current limiter inserts, which consists of two parallel conductors:

- A main conductor - ultra-fast interrupter
- A parallel fuse - special current limiting fuse

Under normal operation, the load current flows through the main conductor. When the interrupting impulse is given, the main conductor will be opened in a very short time, then the fault current is commutated to the parallel fuse. The fuse then limits and break the momentary current within the the first half cycle, less than 10ms.

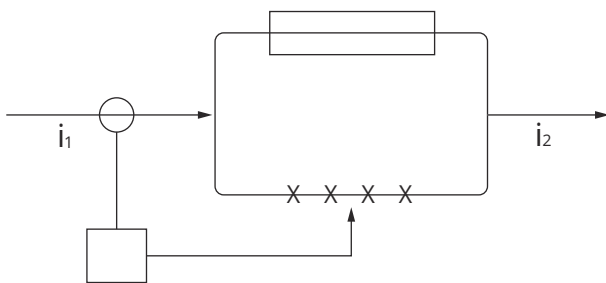


Figure-2

Tripping current transformer

Tripping current transformer is installed in the insulating tube of the ultra-fast interrupter, which measures the current flow through UFCL-limiter all the time and transmit the tripping signal to the tripping unit. Rogowski type current transformer has remarkable features of extremely high over-current factor and high precision.

Pyrotechnic switch

The pyrotechnic switch, ultra-fast interrupter is designed as a bursting bridge, which encloses multiple charges on it. On tripping, these charges are triggered and the ultra-fast interrupter opens at the rupture point rapidly.

Special current limiting fuse

Current limiting fuse is used to limit and break the short-circuit current. The over-voltage level will not exceed the standard IEC 60282-1.

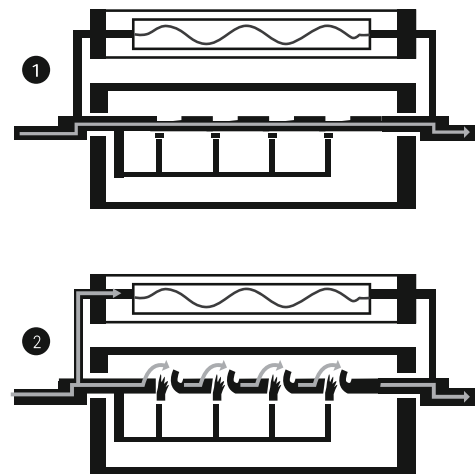


Figure-3

Tripping Unit

Tripping unit monitors the current supplied by the tripping current transformers continuously. It recognizes whether tripping is required. The three tripping units (one for per phase) work independently of each other.

Tripping criteria are as following:

- The instantaneous current value and
- The rate of current rise

UFCL-limiter's components

We put safety first

Bursting bridge with rectangular conductor, multi-charges structure make redundancy

Tripping units are located in high-voltage side and built-in anti-interference unit to reduce electromagnetic interference and enhance reliability

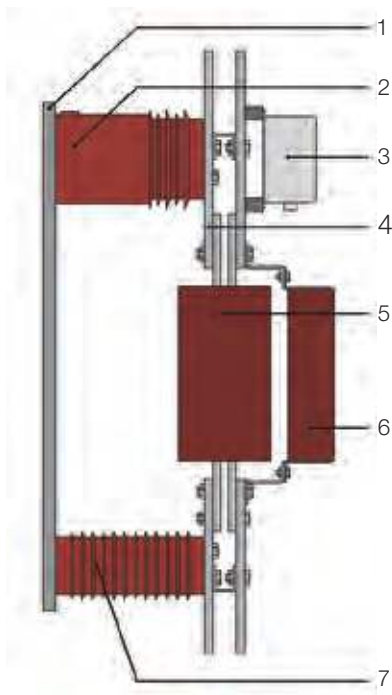


Figure-4: UFCL-limiter 12kV, 4000A (1 phase)

1. Base plate
2. Isolation transformer
3. Tripping unit
4. Busbar
5. Ultra-fast Interrupter
6. Special current Limiting Fuse
7. Insulator

Monitoring and indication unit

The monitoring and indication unit continuously monitors the basic function of UFCL-limiter and provide local and remote indication for:

- Trip signaling for each phase (three in total);
- Monitoring of readiness for operation;
- Monitoring of the supply voltages.

Isolation transformer

Isolation transformer provides auxiliary voltage for the tripping unit, the auxiliary voltage is got from power unit installed in the monitoring and indication unit, beside this, isolation is also the channel for the tripping unit output the action signal to indication unit.



Figure-5 Monitoring and Indication Unit



UFCL-limiter in loose equipment supply

Easy to be installed and maintained

The UFCL-limiters for standard applications of indoor and outdoor in loose type, the limiters can be mounted without switchgear panels, the difference between the outdoor and indoor products, is that the components of outdoor products are all for the application of outdoor use, special processes are made for the function of weather resistance.

One set of UFCL-limiter consists of the following components:

1. Current transformer (3 in total)
2. Tripping unit (3 in total)
3. Inserts (3 in total, including 3 fast interrupters and 3 fuses)
4. Isolation transformer (3 in total)
5. Insulator (3 in total)
6. A monitoring and indication unit

Technical Data

Rated voltage	kV	12	17.5	24	40.5
Rated current	A	1250 ~ 6300	1250 ~ 4000		1250 ~ 3150
Rated frequency	Hz	50/60			
Rated short-circuit breaking current	kA _{rms}	Up to 200			
Rated power-frequency withstand voltage	kV	28	38	50	80
Rated lightning impulse withstand voltage	kV	75	95	125	185
Tripping time	ms	< 1			
Total operating time	ms	< 10			
Peak current limiting ratio	%	15 ~ 50			
Rated auxiliary voltages	V	DC 110, 220; AC 110, 220, 230			



UFCL-limiter switchgear

Customization is available

The UFCL-limiters are also available as fixed mounted equipment in a metal enclosed switchgear panel.

The power parts of UFCL-limiter and the three tripping units are fixed mounted in HV compartment of the panel. The monitoring and indication unit is installed in the LV compartment of the panel.

For all fixed mounted UFCL-limiters the electrical data are the same as for loose equipment supply. Dimensions and weights on request.

Technical Data

Rated voltage	kV	12	17.5	24	36	40.5
Rated current	kA	1250 ~ 6300	1250 ~ 4000		1250 ~ 3150	
Rated power-frequency withstand voltage	kV	28	38	50	70	80
Rated lightning impulse withstand voltage	kV	75	95	125	170	185
Rated frequency	Hz	50/60				
Rated auxiliary voltages	V	AC 220, 230				
Dimensions (W*D*H) ¹⁾	mm	1200*1500*2300	1200*1500*2300	1500*2000*2400		

¹⁾ Dimensions above are default, which might be customized according to customer's requirements.

Applications

Flexible solutions ensure an interruption-free power supply

UFCL-limiters in system interconnections

UFCL-limiters are frequently used in interconnections between systems or in bus sections which would not be adequately short-circuit proof when connected by a circuit-breaker. Each partial system should have at least one incoming feeder, so that power supply to each partial system can be maintained on tripping of the UFCL-limiter. There is a large number of advantages for the operation under normal conditions of bus sections connected by UFCL-limiters:

- Reduction of the series network impedance. The voltage drops caused by load
- Improvement of the current distribution at the feeder transformers.
- The load dependent losses of the feeder transformers are reduced.
- Increased reliability of the power supply.

On failure of one feeder transformer, the load is taken over by the other feeder transformers without current interruption. The cost for an otherwise required new switchboard with higher short-circuit capacity will be saved. If a short-circuit occurs within a system or in an outgoing feeder, the UFCL-limiter trips at the first rise of the short-circuit current and divides the busbar system into two sections before the instantaneous current reaches an inadmissible high level.

After tripping of the UFCL-limiter, the short-circuit is only fed by the transformer in the part of the system affected by the short-circuit. The short-circuit current is now selectively interrupted by the circuit-breaker. A remarkable advantage of the use of an UFCL-limiter is that the voltage in the part of the system not affected by the short-circuit only drops for a fraction of a millisecond so that even sensitive loads (e.g. computers) remain protected from drops in the system voltage.

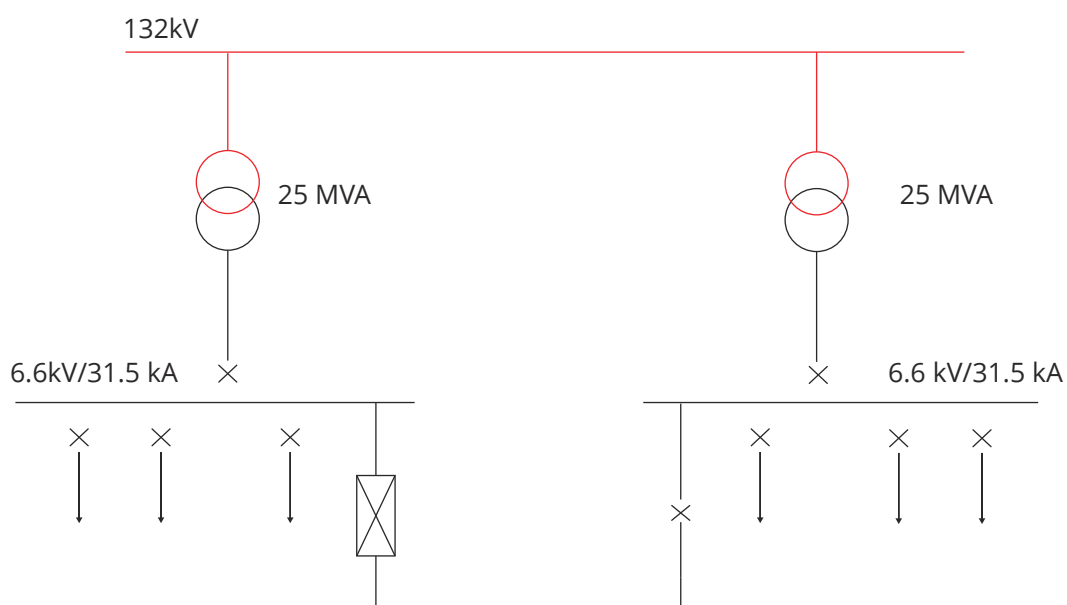


Figure-6

Applications

Flexible solutions ensure an interruption-free power supply

UFCL-limiter installed in generator feeders

When new generator connected to the grid, The additional short-circuit current from generators leads to the permissible short-circuit current in the utility network being exceeded. The most appropriate technical solution – and mostly the only one – is the installation of an UFCL-limiter in the interconnection with the public utility network, this application's advantages are:

- Generator can be connected independent on the short-circuit capability of the system
- Existing busbar and cable systems have not to be changed
- No need of expensive generator breaker

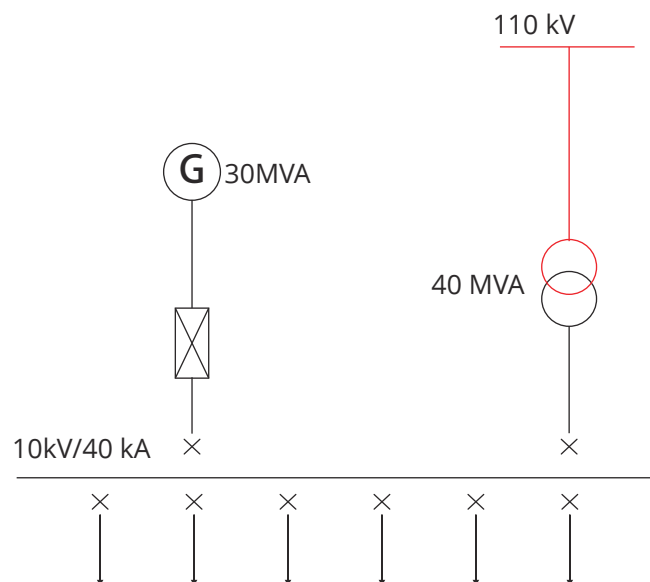


Figure-7

UFCL-limiter in parallel with reactors

UFCL-limiter is connected in parallel with a reactor (Figure 8). If a short-circuit occurs behind the reactor, the IS-limiter trips and the current commutates at the first current rise to the parallel reactor, which then limits the short-circuit current to the permissible level. For normal operation, the UFCL-limiter bridges the reactor coil, this application's benefits are:

- Avoids current dependent copper losses and the associated operating costs of the reactor
- Avoids current dependent voltage drop at the reactor, which frequently causes major difficulties on start-up of big motors
- Control problems with the generator

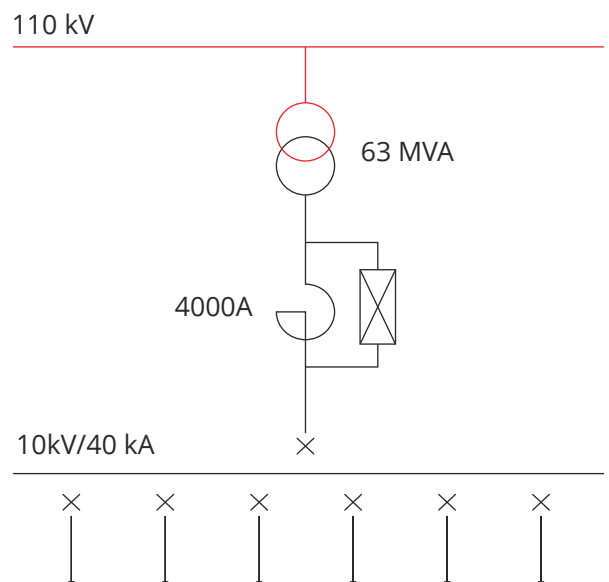


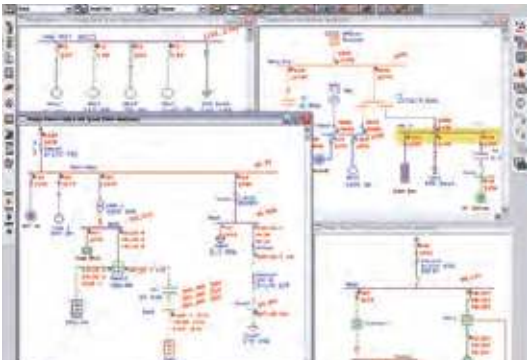
Figure-8

Technical Services and Support

High-quality products need perfect service, UFCL-limiter can be life-long technical supported

Technical consulting

Our specialists have long-term experience and knowledge in the system, according to your needs we can provide customers with system assessment and help design company to achieve the design of high-quality short-circuit protection. If you want to make your system more efficient and safe operation, INNOVIT will always be your trusted adviser.



Spare parts

We provide our customers with the fastest and most reliable spare parts service. We use common spare parts inventory and optimized logistics chain to provide high-quality original spare parts to help you improve the reliability of equipment and system operation, to minimize downtime caused by the loss of production operation



Installation and commissioning

For optimum performance, the UFCL-limiters as critical system equipments must be installed and commissioned by experienced service engineer. Our service engineers provide you with professional installation commissioning services to ensure the safe and stable operation of systems and equipment. Our services can meet your installation requirements for the system or equipment, including: installation inspection, functional and system testing of the equipment, commissioning, acceptance testing, etc.

Regular testing and maintenance

We provide manufacturer-level preventive maintenance and advanced predictive diagnostics for the supply to ensure your equipment meets all standards and guarantees safe operation. During the contract period, customers can also get a variety of service commitments, such as 24-hour hotline, emergency spare parts supply and rapid on-site repair. In addition, flexible expert support is available for you to choose from, such as periodic inspections, system security assessments, and more.



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