Reliability Components of the WAMS Information Network

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Abstract: Power system modes can be controlled by use of a wide-area monitoring and control system (WAMS). It is based on the phasor measurement units (PMUs), connected by an information network covering a significant territory. The functioning reliability of such a network determines a big extend the correct operation of the entire monitoring system. To assess its reliability, the one can be decomposed conveniently into four components: hardware or technical reliability, traffic reliability, software reliability, resistance to external negative impact on the transmitted information, and to consider each m independently. In this paper, the main attention is paid to assessment of the reliability and availability of the first three components in the information network.

The need for a correct assessment of the power system state has led to the creation of the Wide Area Measurement Systems (WAMS). It is based on the measuring technology of phasors (phase vectors), on the Phasor Measurement Unit (PMU) by the signal of global navigation systems, which ensures the simultaneous measurement of phasors [1]. WAMS includes measuring transformers, PMU, Phasor Data Concentrators (PDCs) and equipment of the local information network. They allow to control the power system behavior by continuous observation over systemic events.

The WAMS operation reliability is determined by the element reliability of the monitoring system.

The paper considers the WAMS network structure, and proposes the assessment of their reliability based on the network links. A network failure is determined by the loss of terminal communication, and this concept includes not only the absence of such a connection, but also the distortion of the transmitted information. Then the network reliability includes four components, as fellows:

1) Hardware or technical reliability associated with the failure (destruction) of transmission channel elements or the integrity of communication lines;
2) Traffic reliability, determined by the temporary data loss or distortion without failure of the transmission channel element;
3) Software reliability due to errors in the development of exchange execution programs; and
4) The opposition to the external targeted influence on the transmitted information. This paper considers first three reliability components of the WAMS information network.

The paper includes the example of an application for assessing the availability of a 10-bus system network [2] from the positions under consideration. Optical fiber or the high frequency channels through power lines are adopted as the carriers in the example.

The WAMS network hardware is network communications, the PMU and PDC electronics. Since the operation of the central processor units and the PDC communication interface during duplication is similar to the operation of these elements in the PMU, we use the reliability estimate of these units in [3], obtained from the Markov system of probability equations for state, taking into account different lengths of the main and backup communication channels. Then the network link availability from the duplicated information source (PMU, PDC or, if necessary, an intermediate amplifier) and the lines of the communication channel can be defined as

\[ A_{ch} = A_{PDC} \cdot A_{com} , \]  

where

\[ A_{PDC} = \frac{\mu_{PDC}^2}{(\lambda_{PDC} + \mu_{PDC})^2} , \]

\[ A_{com} = \frac{\mu_{com} \cdot \mu_{com}}{(\lambda_{com} + \lambda_{com})(\mu_{com} + \lambda_{com})} . \]

Here \( A_{PDC} \) is the availability of the duplicated information source, \( \lambda_{PDC} \) and \( \mu_{PDC} \) are the failure and recovery rates of the source, respectively. The physical availability of information carriers (twisted pair, optical fiber, high-frequency channel), each element of which is characterized by the length \( l \), specific failure rate the main – \( \lambda_{lm} \) and backup – \( \lambda_{lb} \) lines, average recovery time of the main – \( \tau_{lm} \) and backup – \( \tau_{lb} \) lines per km, should also be included here. Since the reliability indicators of communication lines \( \lambda_{lb} \) and \( \tau_{ln} \) approximately linearly depend on the link length, and \( \mu_{ln} = 1/\tau_{ln} \), then the working state probability of the information carrier element (communication availability for line \( i \)) is easy to evaluate as

\[ A_{ln,i} = \frac{\mu_{ln,i}}{\mu_{ln,i} + \lambda_{ln,i}} = \frac{1}{1/(\tau_{ln,i}) + \lambda_{ln,i}} = \frac{1}{1 + \lambda_{ln,i} \tau_{ln,i}} . \]

It should be noted that \( r_{ln} \) includes two components: the variable in the search for violations, depending on the distance; and the constant associated with the restoration. Since the second component has small values, we neglect it. Therefore, the communication line availability is inversely proportional to the square of line length. Unlike duplication in electronics, where the backup device usually repeats the main one, duplication of information carrier is provided most often by elements of various reliability in-

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The information frame from the generation unit or power line, formed by each PMU, combines 9 vector measurements: 3 currents and 3 voltages (magnitude and phase), 3 powers (active and reactive components); 2 analog values: generator excitation current and voltage; the PMU state and the state of the switching elements. In addition, the transmission package includes the frequency and speed of its change, the time stamp and the binding for interaction with the information network in standard C.37.118-2011.

The structure of the data frame is given in Table 2.

### Table 2

| Field                  | Size |
|------------------------|------|
| Sync byte (SYNC)       | 2 bytes |
| Byte number of frame (FRAMESIZE) | 2 bytes |
| Identifier PMU (IDCODE) | 2 bytes |
| Second counting (SOC)  | 4 bytes |
| Fraction of a second/quality flag (FRACSEC) | 4 bytes |
| Status flag (STAT)     | 2 bytes |
| Vectors (PHASORS)      | 8 * n bytes (floating point) |
| Frequency (FREQ)       | 4 bytes (floating point) |
| Frequency change rate (DFREQ) | 4 bytes (floating point) |
| Analog data (ANALOG)   | 8 * m bytes (floating point) |
| Digital data (DIGITAL) | 2 * f bytes (discrete values) |
| Cyclic Redundancy Check (CHK) | 2 bytes |

1 – number of discrete information sources; m – number of analog information sources; n – synchronized vectors (magnitude and phase). The delay in information is related both with the type of the exchange channel and with the time of unloading its receive buffer. Packet delivery to a

Traffic reliability lies in the information transmission in due time without losses and distortions associated with the loading of the exchange channel. Losses due to traffic are caused by an unacceptable delay or loss of some information due to an overload of the information channel, but are not associated with the element device failure of this channel, which is taken into account in hardware reliability. Therefore, the traffic reliability is determined by the choice of bandwidth, taking into account the delay of transmitted information.

Then the amount of information from one PMU takes

\[ b_{\text{pmu}} = 8 \times 9 + 2 + 8 + 2 + 2 = 92 \text{ bytes}. \]

The amount of additional information per frame of one bus is

\[ b_{\text{pmu}} = 6 + 8 + 8 + 2 = 24 \text{ bytes}. \]

Depending on the PMU number - sources of measurement information and transmitted measurements per second, the packet volume often lies in the range of 100 - 400 bytes. The approximate channel bandwidth in Kbit/s is given in Table 3, depending on the number of source devices and the sampling rate taking into account a margin of 10%, [6]. In this case, 1 Kbit = 1024 bits.

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receiver requires time consuming, $T_d$, which is determined by the signal propagation time, $T_{ps}$, the packet transmission time over the communication line $T_{vp}$, and the time of waiting for the packet in the queue in the communication unit $T_{up}$.

$$T_d = T_{ps} + T_{vp} + T_{up}. \tag{5}$$

The signal propagation time, $T_{ps}$, in most communication systems is determined by the propagation time of the optical or electric signal (electromagnetic field). The pulse delay in the optical fiber is $(3.5-5) \cdot 1 \text{ ns}$ [7], and in copper wire $5 \cdot l \text{ (μs)}$ [8], where $l$ is the channel length in km.

The packet transmission time $T_{vp}$ depends on the data transfer rate on the communication line $v_r$ (Kbit/s) and the volume or length of the packet $L_p$ (Kbit)

$$T_{vp} = L_p/v_r. \tag{6}$$

Obviously, the propagation speed depends only on the channel material; therefore, the propagation time on the channel is constant. Transmission time depends only on the packet length.

The main task in designing a data transmission network is to ensure the balance between traffic (request flow $\lambda$, in our case, measurement frequency), the amount of network resources (bandwidth) and the quality of service (service flow $\mu$, request processing parameter). In solving this problem, two model levels of interaction for the open systems (OSI) are considered: network and channel layers.

Network layer. At the network layer traffic transit routes in the network are considered. For this, it is convenient to describe the communication network as the graph model [9] (in this case, non-oriented), in which the network nodes (routers) correspond to the graph vertices, and the communication lines to the network arcs. The transmission time to the receiving node is the time that the packet spends on the network line. This time is random to a certain extent.

The intensity of the load on the network graph arcs $\rho_{ij}$, determined by the ratio $\lambda_{ij}/\mu_{ij}$ of the flow request intensity from the node-information source $i$ to the flow service intensity by the receiver node $j$, depends on the number of devices and the amount of information from each device. In our case, the flow request intensity is determined by the measurement frequency in the power system bases: $\lambda = f_{max} = \frac{1}{t_{max}}$. The flow service intensity is the back volume of the packet delivery time: $\mu = \frac{1}{t_d} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{t_p} + \frac{1}{t_{ps}} + \frac{1}{t_r}}$, and since this time is less than the application period, then $T_{up} = 0$. Otherwise, information will be lost. On the other hand, the receiver electronics creates an additional delay $T_{re}$ on average of about 5 μs.

$$\rho_{ij} = \frac{L_p/v_r + \frac{1}{t_{ps}}}{t_{max}}. \tag{7}$$

Channel level. At this level, it is required to evaluate the necessary bandwidth of communication lines between network nodes. In the general case, an approximate formula can be used to estimate the probability of losses [10]

$$q_{ij} = \frac{1 - \rho_{ij}}{N_f}, \tag{8}$$

where $N_f$ is the number of sections in the receiver accumulator $f$; $\rho_{ij}$ is the load intensity of line $ij$. The absence of losses is defined as

$$p_{ij} = 1 - q_{ij}. \tag{9}$$

It is clear that such an assessment corresponds to one information line connecting two nodes. Taking into account the serial connection of channel links for two nodes passing through intermediate nodes, the overall assessment of the probability of information loss is defined as

$$P_{ij} = \prod_{i} \rho_{ij}. \tag{10}$$

Let us evaluate the WAMS information channels for a 10-bus test power system, which is given in detail in [2]. A map of information links with a distance scale is presented in [4], and a diagram of information links is presented above in Fig. 1. All information communications are made by fiber with a propagation delay of $T_{ps} = 5 \text{ ns/km}$. Electronics Delay $T_{re} = 5 \text{ ms}$. Baud rate $v_r = 1 \text{ Mbps} = 1048576 \text{ bps}$ [11]. The measurement transmission frequency is 10 Hz or $T_{max} = 0.1 \text{ s}$. Since the power system manager is defined in the system bus 4, the information routes in the normal and failure mode of one information transmission line are given in Table 1, and the last column shows the connection of the node-source to node # 4 in the failure event of one component link along the route. Note that a communication failure of 10-2 leads to a complete loss of the information exchange with node 10. The initial data for the calculations are summarized in Table 4. Here in the third and fourth columns $b_{om}$ and $b_{om}$, the number is associated directly with the corresponding line, and $\Sigma b_{om}$ and $\Sigma b_{om}$ are groups of bytes, including intermediate packets for the communication in question, both normal and emergency, associated with the failure of one of lines. $N$ is determined by the maximum frames in normal mode and equals 5.

The simulation results are given in Tables 5 and 6, from which it is seen that with the calculated loads the probability of information loss is very low.

We consider the dependence of the load loss probability on the load intensity $\rho$ using the example of a 7-4 connection under the remaining conditions. Using the same example, we consider the effect of the number of drive sections $N$, Table 8. It is clear that with $N = 0$, the probability of information loss equals 1, since there is simply nowhere to take it. As $N$ increases, $q$ drops abruptly, turning almost to zero already at $N = 10$. It is also obvious that the greater is the load intensity $\rho$, the greater is the probability of information loss $q$, and the increase is quite fast, requiring an increase in the number of sections of the receiver's drive $N$.

| Table 4 | Input data on the information network |
|---------|--------------------------------------|
| Link    | $l$ | $km$ | $bw_n$ | $hr$ | $b_{om}$ | $b_{om}$ | $b_{om}$ | $b_{om}$ |
| 1-7     | 150 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 3 |
| 2-9     | 75  | 2 | 1 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 3 |
| 10-2    | 70  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 3-4     | 70  | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 6 | 2 |
| 3-5     | 50  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 2 |
| 9-7     | 130 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 4 |
| 9-8     | 40  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 4 |
| 8-6     | 145 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 7-5     | 50  | 1 | 1 | 7 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 6-5     | 50  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 5 |
| 6-4     | 30  | 6 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 13 | 7 |
| 5-4     | 40  | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 4 |
| 7-6     | 50  | 6 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 7 | 5 |
| 2-7     | 150 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
| 1-9     | 75  | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 3 |
The frequency of error occurrence from the statistical data, reduced to 100% errors, is given in Table 8 with the position “Incomplete or erroneous task” disclosed in more detail.

Software is not the subject to wear and tear; its reliability is determined only by development errors. Thus, this indicator should increase over time if the correction of the revealed errors does not introduce new errors.

For critical applications, which should include the WAMS software, the system delivered to the customer may contain from 4 to 15 errors per 100,000 lines of program code [13]. For clarity, we note that the number of lines of WINDOWS XP code is more than 45 million, NASA programs are 40 million, Linux 4.11 kernel is more than 18 million. When evaluating the WAMS program with $V = 10$ million lines of code, the number of errors at the beginning of the program operation $E = \frac{V}{100000} \cdot 4 = 400$ errors. Then, using the formula for the mean time between failures of the software, we get $E = \frac{1}{\lambda_{soft}} \frac{1}{V} = 0.01 \frac{10^{7}}{4 \cdot 8760} \approx 285$ years.

Table 5 Loads and Probabilities of information loss for separate link

| Link | $p_{ij}$ | $q_{ij}$ | $p_{ij}$ | $q_{ij}$ |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 1-7  | 0.01593  | 1.0083E-09 | 0.04065  | 1.0643E-07 |
| 2-9  | 0.02477  | 9.0969E-09 | 0.04064  | 1.0638E-07 |
| 10-2 | 0.00890  | 5.545E-11  | 0.00890  | 5.5455E-11 |
| 3-4  | 0.04583  | 1.929E-07  | 0.04580  | 1.9296E-07 |
| 5-6  | 0.03637  | 1.514E-08  | 0.04949  | 2.8233E-07 |
| 8-6  | 0.00891  | 5.571E-11  | 0.05835  | 6.3647E-07 |
| 7-4  | 0.05834  | 6.364E-07  | 0.05834  | 6.3645E-07 |
| 6-5  | 0.05460  | 4.619E-07  | 0.04680  | 4.6204E-07 |
| 5-4  | 0.00890  | 5.514E-11  | 0.06359  | 9.6904E-07 |
| 7-6  | 0.03637  | 1.514E-08  | 0.05834  | 6.3644E-07 |
| 2-7  | 0.04645  | 1.0649E-07 | 0.04645  | 1.0668E-07 |
| 1-9  | 0.04645  | 1.0668E-07 | 0.04645  | 1.0638E-07 |

Failure of software is associated with its inconsistency with the tasks. There are many definitions of software error. The definition [12] seems to be the most acceptable:

Software reliability is the probability that the program will run for a certain period without failures, taking into account the degree of their influence on the output results. The frequency of error occurrence from the statistical data, reduced to 100% errors, is given in Table 8 with the position “Incomplete or erroneous task” disclosed in more detail.

Table 6 Probabilities of no loss for route information

| Route | $Q_{int}^{p}$ | Route | $Q_{int}^{m}$ |
|-------|----------------|-------|---------------|
| 1-7-4 | 6.37E-07       | 2-7-4 | 6.87E-07      |
| 2-9-4 | 6.87E-07       | 3-4  | 7.429E-07     |
| 3-4  | 1.93E-07       | 5-4  | 5.54E-07      |
| 5-4  | 4.62E-07       | 6-4  | 1.431E-06     |
| 6-4  | 4.62E-07       | 7-4  | 1.16E05       |
| 7-4  | 6.36E-07       | 8-4  | 1.20E06       |
| 8-4  | 6.78E-07       | 9-7-4| 9.8-6-4       |
| 10-2-7-4 | 6.37E-07 | 10-2-7-4 | 6.37E-07 |

Table 7 Influence of load intensity and number of sections of the probability of information loss $q$ and error-free operation $p$ for communication 7-4

| #   | $\rho$ | $\eta$ | $\chi$ | $\eta$ | $\chi$ |
|-----|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 0.01| 0.5    | 0.01   | 0.5    | 0.01   | 0.5    |
| 0.01593 | 0.009009901 | 0.009009909 | 0.99E-07 | 7 |
| 0.04645 | 1.0649E-07 | 0.04645 | 1.0668E-07 | 0.04645 | 1.0638E-07 |

With a value 1, an error per 1000 lines of code is the program volume in lines of code, $\beta$ is the program complexity coefficient, usually in the range 0.001 ... 0.01, $\lambda_{soft}$ is the failure rate and $t_{soft}$ is the mean time between failures of the software, 8760 is the number of hours in a year. With a value 1, an error per 1000 lines of code accepted for application software after testing with

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| 6-4  | 4.62E-07       | 7-4  | 1.16E05       |
| 7-4  | 6.36E-07       | 8-4  | 1.20E06       |
| 8-4  | 6.78E-07       | 9-7-4| 9.8-6-4       |
| 10-2-7-4 | 6.37E-07 | 10-2-7-4 | 6.37E-07 |

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Table 8. Frequency occurrence of errors for certain types

| Cause of error                              | Frequency, % |
|---------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Deviation from the task                     | 12           |
| Neglecting programming rules               | 10           |
| Incorrect data sampling                     | 10           |
| Erroneous logic or sequence of operations   | 12           |
| Erroneous arithmetic operations             | 9            |
| Lack of time to resolve                     | 4            |
| Incorrect interrupt handling                | 4            |
| Invalid constants or source data            | 3            |
| Inaccurate recording                        | 8            |
| Incomplete or erroneous task                | 28           |

\[
\lambda_{soft} = \frac{E}{\gamma} = \frac{0.01 \times 10^6}{10^7} = 10^{-5}
\]

or

\[
t_{soft} = \frac{1}{\lambda_{soft}} = \frac{10^7}{8760} \approx 11.4 \text{ years}
\]

or about one failure in 12 years.

### Conclusion

The correct functioning of the WAMS local information network is ensured by four components of reliability.

Hardware reliability of the network is largely determined by the reliability of information carriers (optical fiber, radio waves, etc.) and by the devices providing their work - phasors meters, data concentrators. With the right organization of redundancy, the network hardware availability meets the requirements for the reliability of control systems.

Traffic reliability component is determined by the load intensity of each connection and the capabilities of receiving information, determined by the volume of the receiver's drive. The availability of the test network for traffic exceeds three nines after the decimal point.

In terms of software, the influence of code lines on the value of the reliability parameter is considered and its estimate is shown depending on the number of commands. For the example of a 10 million code lines WAMS program, the mean time between failures should be 285 years.

Many works have been devoted to opposing the external negative impact on the transmitted information, for example, [15, 16], and they are not considered by this paper.

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