

Cable fault location

Fault event-oriented maintenance of low-voltage and medium-voltage cables



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- What are the causes of cable faults?
- What are the different cable types?
- Sequence cable fault location
- What solutions does BAUR offer?



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From the annals of cable lore

The term "cable" originates directly from the Arabic and refers to a ship's rope.

The cables that were originally manufactured in the early days of electrification looked quite similar to a tarred ship's rope, as they were wrapped and insulated with gutta-percha stranding. Paper was later used for insulation.

کابل





Cable structure and faults



What are the causes of cable faults?



What causes damage to cables?

Corrosion/ageing of the sheath

Mechanical influences

Moisture due to sheath faults

Screen corrosion

Material defects

Ageing of contact surfaces and the semiconductor, delamination

Structural changes

Formation of trees

Electrochemical change to the internal semiconductor

Mechanical stress and contact corrosion on the phase



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Causes of problems in XLPE cables





Other causes of cable faults

- Electrical changes, excessively high current, voltage, or load change
- Poor workmanship of joints and terminations
- Delamination, especially on PILC cables and joints
- Strong mechanical forces in the event of short-circuits
- Environmental influences on exposed cables
- Landslides and earth movement
- External damage (e.g. during excavation)
- Temperature fluctuations and overheating
- Severe bending
- Ageing effects



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What are the different cable types?



Cable types





Paper-insulated mass-impregnated cables (PILC)

- Paper-insulated cables
- First technology for the mass production of cables
- A lot of experience required for assembly
- Still used for high-voltage cables
- Environmental problems due to the impregnating oil
- Lower sensitivity to problems



Lead sheath corrosion on a PILC cable



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600 kilovolt HVDC mass-impregnated submarine cable



Material

PILC disadvantages

- Environmental problems (oil, lead)
- Installation is more difficult
- Servicing required (oil)
- Higher production costs
- Temporary self-healing

PILC problems

- Corrosion of the lead sheath
- Water/moisture
- Drying of the oil impregnation
- Oil migration on inclines
- Problems with joints
- Polymerisation hardening of the oil





PD traces in a dry paper cable



Partial discharge (PD) in paper-insulated cables Damp insulation

Water ingress Water ingress reduces the effective insulation thickness, the field strength and load in the residual insulation increase, and the dielectric strength

decreases. Gradual damage until failure

Voiding due to loss of oil



Due to the "disappearance" of the oil in certain places, the cable dries out, the insulation quality deteriorates, PD starts, and breakdowns are caused. The "melted" oil that subsequently flows in leads to temporary self-healing.



Partial discharge (PD) in paper-insulated cables

Dried out insulation





i

Spread of carbonised PD traces through the paper layers, radially as well as longitudinally over several metres.

As in the case of water ingress, the carbonised layers reduce the insulation quality.

With paper, this can take place over a long period of time until failure occurs.



XLPE/PE material

Cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE/PE)

- Very high dielectric strength
- Low transmission losses
- Outstanding dielectric properties
- Theoretical life expectancy > 50 years
- Allows a reduction in cable thickness
- Greater mechanical strength
- Higher operating temperature
- Easy and inexpensive to produce
- Easy processing and installation







Material

XLPE disadvantages

- Moisture encourages trees
- Sensitivity to HF/HV transients
- Requires correct handling
- First generation PE has just reached 20 years
- Testing with DC is pointless and harmful

XLPE problems

- Sheath faults/water ingress
- Ageing/water trees
- Impurities during production
- Mechanical damage
- Problems with joints

Tan
$$\delta$$

Tan δ
PD
PD
PD
PD
PD

Approach





Growth even at low field strength

н,

(< 1 kV/mm)

(15 - 20 years)

Very slow growth

No partial discharge

No directly visible effects

Water trees

Water tree growth in XLPE insulation





Water tree \rightarrow electrical tree



Water trees

Electrical tree

Breakdown



PVC material

PVC cable

- Predominantly used in LV installations
- Inexpensive
- Flexible
- Tolerates high temperatures
- High life expectancy
- Electrical trees are not critical
- Sometimes also used in MV systems
- High dielectric losses





Why do faults occur in the first place?





Type of cable fault

Insulation resistance measurement

- Low-resistive (R < 100 Ω) ISO
 Short-circuit (R < 10 Ω)
- High-resistive (R > 10 Ω) ISO
 Resistance faults
 Breaks
- High-resistive (R > ∞ Ω) DC breakdown detection

Voltage-dependent faults (breakdown faults)

• Earth faults – Leakage current due to sheath testing

Sheath faults Earth faults Faults between phase-phase or phase-screen

Defects in the outer sheath (PVC, PE) Screen or phase has contact with earth



Type of cable fault

Breakdown detection



Determination of the breakdown voltage between the phase and screen

- Phase 1 Neutral
- Phase 2 Neutral
- Phase 3 Neutral
- Phase 1 Phase 2
- Phase 2 Phase 3
- Phase 3 Phase 1

Breakdown testing is only performed between the core and screen! Exception: belted cables





Sheath testing

Voltage test on the sheath			
Test voltage	Test level	Test duration	
DC for cables according to VDE 0276 Part 620 HD 620 S2:2010, parts 0, 1, 10-C Extruded cables 10 - 30 kV	PVC sheath 3 kV PE sheath 5 kV	1 min	
DC for cables according to VDE 0276 Part 632 HD 632 S1 parts 1, 3D, 4D, 5D Extruded cables 36 - 150 kV	5 kV	1 min	



Cable fault location

titron® video



Sequence – cable fault location



Cable fault location sequence



= Subprocess

Safety procedure (in accordance with local standards and safety regulations)

= Cable fault location process



Fault analysis and insulation test





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Fault analysis Measurement of insulation resistance

Fault analysis

- Measurement of phase screen
- Measurement of phase phase
- Phase ground







Determination

- Which phase is affected?
- What type of fault?
- Which pre-location method?



Cable fault pre-location





Methods

Method	Fault characteristics
Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR)	Low-resistive faults, breaks
Secondary/multiple impulse method (SIM/MIM)	High-resistive faults, breakdown faults
Conditioning SIM/MIM	High-resistive faults, breakdown faults, "moist" faults
Burn	High-resistive faults, "moist" faults
Current coupling method (ICM)	High-resistive faults, breakdown faults (predominantly for long cable routes)
Travelling wave method/ decay method	Voltage-ignited faults – if high voltage is required
3-phase current coupling	For branched cable systems
Bridge measurement	Low- and high-resistive faults, cable sheath faults



The electrical equivalent circuit diagram

The cable is made up of an infinite number of small cable elements R – series resistance L – series inductance G – parallel resistance

C – parallel capacitance





- C = capacitance per unit length in nF per km
- **G** = conductance per unit length in ohms per km
- L = inductance per unit length in mH per km
- R = resistance per unit length in ohms per km (loop resistance)



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Functional principle of TDR

The transmitted TDR pulse runs along the cable route.

Each impedance change reflects parts of the pulse back to the starting point,

where the pulses are recorded.

The time intervals of these reflections are converted into a distance.

The form of the reflection provides information about the type of impedance change and therefore the fault.





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Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR)





Time Domain Reflectometry (TDR)

Joint reflection





Influence of faulty resistors on the reflection image




Cable fault pre-location methods

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SIM/MIM – multiple impulse method

Combination of TDR and surge generator



 $I = t \times v/2$



SIM/MIM – multiple impulse method

Combination of TDR and surge generator





SIM/MIM – multiple impulse method

Combination of TDR and surge generator



First measurement: Positive reflection at cable end Second measurement: 20x negative reflection during breakdown at the fault location



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Conditioning SIM/MIM – application in the case of wet faults

Combination of surge conditioning and SIM/MIM

1. SIM/MIM result in wet joint state





5. SIM/MIM result after drying the fault





Cable fault pre-location methods

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Current coupling method (ICM)



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Current coupling method (ICM)





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"Travelling wave method/decay method"



 $D = \frac{L}{2}$ - test lead



Decay method





Comparison SIM/MIM

ICM current coupling

- Most widely used HV fault location method
- Many details are visible (joints, cable end, etc.)
- Max. SSG voltage (typically 32 kV)
- Set measurement range to single cable length
- Connection cable length is automatically subtracted

- For long cables and faults in wet joints
- Max. SSG voltage (typically 32 kV)
- Measurement range is set to 5 to 10 times the cable length
- Increase gain
- Measure the length of a period
- First period is not used for the measurement ("ignition lag")
- Measured length is 7 to 15% too far due to varying v/2
- Connection cable length must be subtracted

Decay

- For cable faults where a high HV voltage is required
- It must be possible to load the faulty cable, and then produce a breakdown. Faults with leakage currents cannot be located.
- Measurement range is set to 5 to 10 times the cable length
- Reduce gain
- Measure the length of a period and divide by 2
- Connection cable length must be subtracted

What solutions does BAUR offer?



BAUR – solutions





Cable fault location systems – solutions

Low- and medium-voltage cables

- Cable fault pre-location
- Cable fault pin-pointing
- Sheath fault/earth fault pre-location
- Sheath fault/earth fault pin-pointing
- Sheath testing
- Syscompact 400/4000 systems
- shirla
- protrac[®]



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Cable fault location systems – solutions

Portable system solutions

Syscompact 400 portable

Standard Solution

 10 m connection cable permanently mounted



Syscompact 400 portable

Customer-specific solution

 Incl. surge capacitor, 4 kV for LV application



Syscompact 400 portable

Customer-specific solution

- Coaxial HV connection socket
- 25 m/50 m cables on portable drums





Cable test vans

 \rightarrow Combination of fault location/VLF testing and diagnostics

titron[®], transcable 4000

- Various control systems available
- transcable 4000
 - Semi-automatic system, 1-phase/3-phase
 - Automatic system, 3-phase









Fault location systems and solutions

Low-, medium-, and high-voltage network cable fault location vans





Reference: TNB Malaysia

Syscompact series fault location systems

- Mounted in local vehicles
 ✓ 54 systems delivered in 1994
 ✓ 17 systems delivered in 2005
 ✓ 15 systems delivered in 2010
- Portable fault location systems
 ✓ 26 systems delivered in 2012
 ✓ 7 systems delivered in 2013
 ✓ 5 systems delivered in 2022









Reference: SESB Sabah/East Malaysia

Fault location systems mounted in local vehicles

- ✓24 systems delivered in 2011
- ✓1 portable system delivered in 2013
- ✓25 systems delivered in 2015



Reference: SEC Saudi Arabia

Syscompact 3000 fault location systems

✓ 30 systems delivered in 2016

Fault location systems incl. VLF test systems

✓ 5 systems delivered in 2017









//3FUR

Riyadh City Administration Saudi Arabia

Syscompact 3000 fault location systems

✓10 systems delivered in 2017



Reference: Shangdong Power Grid China

Syscompact 2000 fault location systems

✓17 systems delivered in 2020



Reference: Zimbabwe Electricity Distribution Co.

Syscompact 2000 fault location systems

✓9 systems delivered in 2022





Reference: KEPCO Korea

Syscompact 4000 fault location + VLF system

- ✓15 systems delivered in 2009 and 2015
- ✓ 8 systems upgraded in 2022





Reference: Shenzhen Power Grid

Cable fault location system – fully automatic single phase system

✓9 systems delivered in 2022 - 2023

Reference: Enel SpA

Cable fault location system – fully automatic 3 phases system + VLF

✓6 systems delivered in 2022







Reference: Adani Mumbai

Cable fault location system – fully automatic single phase system + VLF + TD PD

✓ 5 systems delivered in 2018-2022

Reference: Enel SpA





Cable fault location system – fully automatic 3 phases system + VLF

✓6 systems delivered in 2022





Reference: Terna Italy

Fault location systems

Mounted in local vehicles
 ✓ 8 systems delivered in 2021



XL fault location systems

Mounted in container
 ✓ 6 systems delivered in 2020







Cable test van

- Combination of fault location/VLF testing and diagnostics
- titron[®] fully automatic system
 - ✓ Compact version
 - ✓1-phase
 - ✓3-phase











The new titron®

Ergonomic, practical and comfortable – the unit

- Heavy on features, light on its feet the 3.5 tonner that punches above its weight
- Simpler operation at the tap of a key or click of a mouse the software
- Rectify network faults more quickly the Smart Cable Fault Location Guide
- Create a high level of transparency at a low cost the diagnostics philosophy
- A single data chain from collection through to analysis home of diagnostics



The new titron®

Ergonomic, practical and comfortable – the unit

Advantages

- Enlarged work area
- Office-like feeling workspace optimised for measurement use



Features

Larger LED monitors

- 1 x 24"
- 1 x 19" or 2 x 19"





The new titron[®] in detail

Ergonomic, practical and comfortable – the unit

Advantages

- Comfortable and functional working environment
- Optimised workspace even when the test van is on site for extended periods



Features

- Adjustable seat with storage space
- With optional backrest





The new IRG 400 19"

Different versions to operate the system

Operation with a 15.6" notebook and the BAUR Software 4



NEW: Operation with a 10.1" tablet and our brand-new touch operated BAUR App BUI-F





The new IRG 400 19"

- Measuring unit built in a 19" system mounted blade
- Software controlled either via the approved BAUR IRG and system software 4 or completely new touch optimized BAUR App BUI-F
- The front end with a 10.1" industrial rugged tablet or standard 15.6" BAUR notebook
- Communications via Wi-Fi, allowing measurement from a convenient and safe position



The new IRG 400 19"

Key specifications



400 MHz

max. 60 V

89 dB

30 ns -10 µs

10 m - 1000 km

- Touch operation
- **Operation via Wi-Fi** by detachable notebook or tablet
- Large, bright 15.6" or 10.1" display
- Support of all Fault pre-location methods
- Range de-attenuation
- Data
- Sampling rate:
- Pulse width:
- Distance:
- Pulse amplitude:
- Dynamic range
- Integrated Voltage Filter

CAT IV/600 V in combination with fused CAT IV/600 V test leads





The new BUI-F

Special features:

- Length related gain
- Touch operation
- Step TDR
- 3-phased TDR
- Win-10 tablet







IRG 4000 integrated fault location software

Software functions

Open Street Map

Import/export of GIS cable data



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IRG 4000 integrated fault location software

Interactive help menu

F1 help menu

Electronics

- Tool tip information menu
- Information for assistance at the current position

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Cable fault location app

Map or fault location mode

- Leads the operator to the fault location
- Control of the titron[®] test van









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BAUR solution – XL cable fault location



Cable fault location expertise for land and submarine cables Reliable fault location for maximum cost effectiveness



Seabed



XL fault location system integrated in a container



- System mounted in a container
- High-performance DC voltage source, **110 KV** test voltage,
 300 500 km discharge capacitance
- Surge current generator 3000 J, burn down transformer 5.7 kVA, max. 90 A
- High-performance TDR, multi-method approach, differential decay method
- Extra-long connection cable for HV DC link





Cable fault pre-location methods

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Bridge measurement	Low- and high-resistive faults, cable sheath faults				



Bridge measurement – application

Fault location of:

- Sheath faults in MV and HV cables, cause of water trees
- All types of resistance faults in MV cables, backup for TDR measurement
- Fault location in LV and control cables





Sheath and cable fault location by means of bridge measurement





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Bridge measurement – older forms of representation

Wheatstone circuit





Example

115 kV, cable characteristics

Plate, 175 mm² ~ 0.1 ohm/km series resistance



Residual current defines accuracy!

- \rightarrow 2 3 mA required
- \rightarrow at 10 kV = ~ 5 MOhm RF



Measuring bridge principle

The measuring bridges used in shirla are based on the basic principle of the Wheatstone bridge.

The bridge consists of two voltage dividers whose ratio in the balanced state corresponds to $\frac{R1}{R2} = \frac{R3}{Rx}$.

To achieve the balanced state, R2 is adjusted until measuring device G displays zero. When R1 - R3 are known, the value of RX is determined by the resistance ratios $RX = \frac{R2}{R1} * R3$

For the measuring bridges described below, RX represents the faulty cable and R3 represents another "auxiliary" cable.





Murray measuring bridge





Murray



Bridge measurement

Sheath fault pre-location, earth faults

Features

- Automated balancing of the measuring bridge
- Option of entering various cable sectors
- Fault distance result in [m] and [%] for the total cable length
- Automatic adjustment of measurement voltage and current









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Sheath test and fault location system shirla

- 1. Cable sheath testing up to 10 kV
- 2. Cable fault and sheath fault location up to 10 kV
- 3. Cable sheath fault pin-pointing up to 10 kV

Application

Location of...

- **Sheath faults** in medium- and high-voltage cables
- All resistive faults in medium- and high-voltage cables → Backup instrument
- Fault location in low-voltage and control cables





Cable tracing





Cable tracing

Determination of the cable route

Signal source: Audio frequency transmitter











3. Depth measurement









Cable tracing Protrac tracing set - AFP

- 1. Reduced downtime
- 2. Reduced risk of unnecessary excavations
- 3. Very simple and convenient operation
- 4. Precise depth measurement





Benefits...

- No need of manual alignment
- Deviation Alert eliminates misdirection
- **3D History track** for more accurate measurement seq.
- Tracing Compass keeps the user on track



Measure the depth reliably

Depth at the touch of a button

Direct display of the depth





45° depth measurement

Identify field distortions

Determine the depth easily via 45° measurement





The 3D space coil



- The 3D coil arrangement allows a immediate evaluation and comparison of all the coil data.
- Angular deviations can be used to determine the direction of the cable and thus to provide the Compass Tracing Guidance function
- X = Maximum coil (2x for direct depth measurement)
- Y = Minimum coil
- **Z** = Parallel coil (parallel to the cable path)





Detect changes quickly and easily

3D History Track provides simple visualisation

Selectable display of the historical data of 3D Space coils over a defined period of time or distance

Important data are visible for longer for comparison purposes

Simplified operation, especially for the complex short-circuit fault location



Differences and changes are more evident

Adjustable duration of display time, and storable by the Hold key

Each coil can be selected separately



3D Magnetic field response during Audio Frequency twist method on twisted cables.

In the twist mode, the 3D History Track shows the lay lengths and the deviation or interrupt of the regular 3 coil lay length based regular oscillation in the case of a joint or fault.





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Samples of single coils.

Depending on the situation, the view of one single coil may be easier to evaluate As too many lines in one display can be confusing.





3D Magnetic field response during minimum distortion method for MV coaxial Cables.

During the tracing procedure the yellow (Minimum) and green (zero) lines must be a narrow as possible, thus guiding the user exactly on top of the cable. In opposition the magenta lines (Maximum) which will be spread wide apart.

Approaching a joint or the fault, the response of the lines will reverse their appearance simultaneously, thus indicating a disturbance in the electromagnetic field.





video









Identify changes in direction immediately Tracing Compass

Displays changes in the direction of the cable





Eliminates misdirection

Deviation Alert

Issues an alarm when the relationship between the upper or lower magnetic field lines changes





Assessment of the signal quality

Current indicator

The current indicator displays the quality of the signal in the cable





All advantages combined

C-Max

A combination of the maximum and inverted minimum signal provides a much clearer result.





Manual or automatic frequency setting





Precise cable fault pin-pointing





Cable fault pin-pointing

Precise location

Acoustic fault pin-pointing

Determination of the exact fault position Signal source: Surge generator

- For phase/sheath faults, phase/phase faults

Step voltage method

Determination of the exact fault position Signal source: High-voltage pulse pattern

- For sheath faults, earth faults









The thunder and lightning principle (coincidence method)

The distance between lightning and a thunderstorm can be estimated by counting the seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder. Sounds travels approx. 1 km in the air in around three seconds, the flash of light covers this distance in just 3 microseconds. If you divide the number of counted seconds by three, this gives you the approximate distance of the lightning in kilometres.

protrac® does the same in principle.



Coincidence method

The shortest time defines the correct position – not the volume!





Magnetic pick-up

- + acoustic signal
- ➔ Duration measurement
- ➔ Meter display



Protrac[®]

BAUR system for fast and precise cable fault pin-pointing





Protrac[®] Connections via Bluetooth

- 1. SVP step voltage probes
- 2. CU control unit
- 3. Bluetooth headphones
- 4. AFP audio frequency probe
- 5. AGP acoustic ground probe






Protrac[®]

Evaluation of the acoustic and electromagnetic signals



14.06.2022 7:28 am AGP + I A Ö 2,8 m 59 2,6 m 39 85 dB(A) 口》 ANS

You are to the left of the cable route and the cable fault is located approx. 2.6 m in front of you.

You are directly above the cable route and the cable

fault is located approx. 2.6 m in front of you.

You are directly above the cable route and the cable fault is located approx. 1.3 m behind you.



7:20 am

0,6 m

1,3 m

7:28 am

2,6 m

ANS

ANS

口》

A

39

14.06.2022

A

39

85 dB(A)

ACP A

AGP +

Ö

Ö

You are to the right of the cable route and the cable fault is located approx. 1.3 m behind you.

You are directly above the cable route and approx. 2.6 m from the cable fault.

A second measurement must be performed to determine the direction in which the fault is located.

You are directly above the cable route, but no acoustic signal has been detected.

Due to the lack of an acoustic signal, it is not possible to determine the distance from the fault and this is shown as







Cable pinpointing Protrac control unit - CU

- 1. Simple navigation with 3D presentation
- 2. Convenient operation without cable
- 3. Operator safety by integrated loudspeaker
- 4. Intuitive operation with touch display or encoder



- 1. Long-lasting operation whatever the environment
- 2. Convenient operation and flexibility
- 3. Noise suppression and mute function





"Acoustics" set



DC step voltage method

Detection of:

- Sheath faults
- All other earth-referenced cable faults





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step voltage method with AC

Fault location with AC signal

No direction display unlike the DC method

- The receiver only indicates a minimum above the fault location
- CL 20 staff A-frame





Cable pinpointing Protrac step voltage probe - SVP

- 1. Automatic or manual adjustment to the step voltage
- 2. Wide measurement range from $1\mu V 220V$
- 3. AC or DC measurement
- 4. Automatic zero point adjustment of DC offset

Location of sheath and earth faults...

- History display of all changes in the step voltage measurements in the last 12 seconds
- Automatic offset compensation in DC mode
- Automatic filter
 - DC direct measurement
 - AC capacitive decoupling especially with distorted signals

ensuring the flow



"Step voltage" set

P





Sheath fault location in DC mode Protrac step voltage probe - SVP





Cable sheath fault to the left of the operator

Negative DC pulses (deflection to the left)

The increasing signal strength at the bottom of the touchscreen shows that you are moving closer to the cable sheath fault.

Cable sheath fault to the right of the operator

Positive DC pulses (deflection to the right)

The decreasing signal strength at the bottom of the touchscreen shows that you are moving away from the cable sheath fault.



"Step voltage" set





Sheath fault location in AC mode **Protrac step voltage probe - SVP**



Cable sheath fault to the left of the operator

The first half-wave of the signal has negative polarity.

The decreasing signal strength at the bottom of the touchscreen shows that you are moving away from the cable sheath fault.



Cable sheath fault to the right of the operator

The first half-wave of the signal has positive polarity.

The increasing signal strength at the bottom of the touchscreen shows that you are moving closer to the cable sheath fault.



"Step voltage" set



Cable identification





Aim of cable identification

Clear identification of the faulty cable, e.g. if lots of cables run parallel in the excavation area

Many possible applications

- With flexible Rogowski coil
- For 1- and 3-phase cables

Reliable signal detection through digital analysis of:

- Amplitude
- Phase synchronisation (time)
- Direction (polarity)





ATP to ensure safest signal recognition

Amplitude Phase synchronisation (time) Direction (polarity)







Connections possibility

Connection to live LV cable up to 400V



Signal injection through clamp





Fault marking and repair





Cable repair





Cable testing and diagnostics



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