

An Incidence Matrix based Analytical Method of $N-1$ Contingency Parallel Analysis of Main Transformers in Distribution Networks

Qiubo Zou, Fengzhang Luo, Tianyu Zhang

Abstract— $N-1$ security criterion is an important criterion for the development and planning of distribution networks. The existing $N-1$ contingency analysis methods of distribution network are mostly based on the unit of components, and the faults of each component are analyzed and verified one by one. The calculation process of these methods is complicated, and the positioning effect of the weak links needed for distribution network planning is insufficient. For this reason, this paper proposes a method of $N-1$ contingency parallel analysis of main transformer based on incidence matrix. Firstly, the main transformer incidence matrix is established, and the load transfer process is classified into three types according to different transfer ways, and the contact matrices are established respectively. Secondly, considering the capacity constraint of main transformers and tie-lines, the corresponding capacity matrices are established. The maximum transfer capability (MTC) of the distribution network in the case of each main transformer fault is calculated by contact matrices and capacity matrices, and the $N-1$ contingency analysis result is obtained by comparing MTC with the load that needs transferring. Meanwhile, the transfer margin of main transformers and tie-lines after transferring can be obtained in the process of $N-1$ contingency analysis, so as to find weak links. An example is given to verify the correctness and effectiveness of the proposed method. In this paper, the $N-1$ contingency analysis result of all main transformers in the distribution network is expressed analytically through matrices operation, and the weak links can be identified intuitively. The cumbersome operation of checking each component is avoided, and the computational efficiency is improved.

Index Terms—Distribution network; $N-1$ contingency analysis; Analytical expression; Weak link.

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I. INTRODUCTION

In the planning, operation and dispatching of distribution networks, security verification and evaluation are needed [1][2]. At present, the most commonly used verification method is distribution network $N-1$ contingency analysis, which verifies whether the continuous power supply of the system can be guaranteed by switching operation after a single component fault occurs in the distribution network. $N-1$ contingency analysis of distribution network is an important means to analyze the safety and reliability of distribution network operation, and it is also an important part that can't be ignored in the process of distribution network planning. It is of great significance to the planning and operation of distribution network.

The most conventional $N-1$ contingency analysis method is to search transfer path and analyze whether the load affected by fault can be transferred when a single component exits, and then reprocess the verification result to obtain some security indicators, so as to evaluate the security of the distribution network at a certain load level [3][4]. This method of fault enumeration needs to analyze and verify each component's fault, it is a multi-cycle process and very time consuming. With the attention paid to the planning and operation of distribution network in recent years, some models and methods considering the $N-1$ security criterion and practical constraints of distribution network have been gradually proposed. The path search method[5] and $N-1$ scanning method[6] can be used to scan the whole network to find a restore power supply path, but these methods need to repeat the search process and they are time consuming. The heuristic method[7] and capacity calculation method[8][9] can be used to find $N-1$ contingency analysis result, these methods are fast but they are inaccurate. The preprocessing network -method [10] [11] can simplify the problem and get the accurate result, but weak links can't be identified. In recent years, $N-1$ contingency analysis has been widely used in the calculation of maximum power supply capacity and safety region of distribution network [12]-[16]. However, all these methods should calculate many times to get the $N-1$ contingency analysis result of the whole network. They are unable to give the information of the load which can't be transferred and find weak links of $N-1$ contingency analysis directly. The problem of how to obtain the main transformer $N-1$ contingency analysis result of the whole network and

type-B and type-C transfer. For example, in Fig. 1, when T_i fails, T_j can carry the load of T_i in type-B or type-C transfer. So there may be part of double counting between BTM_{ij} and CTM_{ij} , and TC_{ij} may be greater than R'_j , the margin of the main transformer T_j . So TC should be modified:

$$TC' = \begin{bmatrix} TC'_{1,1} & L & TC'_{1,j} & L & TC'_{1,n} \\ M & 0 & M & 0 & M \\ TC'_{i,1} & L & TC'_{i,j} & L & TC'_{i,n} \\ M & 0 & M & 0 & M \\ TC'_{n,1} & L & TC'_{n,j} & L & TC'_{n,n} \end{bmatrix} \quad (16)$$

In (16), the i -th row j -th column element of TC' is TC'_{ij} , $TC'_{ij} = \min\{TC_{ij}, R'_j\}$. The sum of the elements in i -th row of TC' represents the load amount that other main transformers can carry when T_i fails, that is MTC. Add each row of TC' , the maximum transfer capability matrix can be calculated:

$$TM = TC' [1 \quad L \quad 1 \quad L \quad 1]^T = \left[\sum_{k=1}^N TC'_{1,k} \quad L \quad \sum_{k=1}^N TC'_{i,k} \quad L \quad \sum_{k=1}^N TC'_{N,k} \right]^T \quad (17)$$

In (17), the i -th element of TM represents the MTC of the distribution network when T_i fails.

According to the relationship between TM and LM described in Section III-A, $N-1$ contingency analysis result of all main transformers can be obtained.

IV. IDENTIFICATION OF WEAK LINKS

The weak link is the part of the distribution network that has a great influence on the $N-1$ contingency analysis result, such as the capacity of main transformers and the capacity of tie-lines. It is an important work in distribution system management to accurately locate the weak links and then take targeted improvement measures. In this paper, the influence of the capacity of main transformers and tie-lines on $N-1$ contingency analysis result are mainly considered.

A. Capacity of main transformers

When there is no fault on the main transformer, main transformer margin matrix is $R' = R \cdot R \circ$ $T = [R'_1 \cdots R'_i \cdots R'_N]^T$. When main transformer T_i fails, the difference between R' and i -th row of TC' represents main transformer transfer margin, which means the left capacity of other main transformers after transferring load. Considering all cases of main transformer failure, main transformer transfer margin matrix is:

$$MRCM = \begin{bmatrix} R' \\ M \\ R' \\ M \\ R' \end{bmatrix} - TC' \circ \begin{bmatrix} -1 & L & MRCM_{1,j} & L & MRCM_{1,N} \\ M & 0 & M & 0 & M \\ MRCM_{i,1} & L & -1 & L & MRCM_{i,N} \\ M & 0 & M & 0 & M \\ MRCM_{N,1} & L & MRCM_{N,j} & L & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (18)$$

In (18), the i -th row j -th column non-main diagonal element of $MRCM$ is $MRCM_{ij}$, $MRCM_{ij}$ represents the left capacity of T_j after carrying the load of malfunctioning main transformer T_i . Considering the malfunctioning main transformer doesn't have the ability to transfer load, the main diagonal elements of $MRCM$ are all '-1'.

When T_i fails, if $MRCM_{ij} \neq 0$, then T_j has residual capacity after transferring the load, so the capacity of the main transformer T_j is not the weak link in the $N-1$ contingency analysis of the main transformer T_i . If $MRCM_{ij} = 0$, then the

capacity of the main transformer T_j is the dominant factor limiting the increment of the MTC and the weak link of the $N-1$ contingency analysis of the main transformer T_i .

B. Capacity of tie-lines

When main transformer T_i fails, the tie-line capacity for inter-station transfer (including type-B and type-C transfer) between T_i and T_j is:

$$TCM'_{i,j} = TCM_{i,j} + \sum_{k=N(m-1)\Sigma+1, k \neq i}^{N_m \Sigma} a_{i,k} \cdot b_{k,j} \cdot TCM_{k,j} \quad (19)$$

In (19), m is the serial number of the substation where T_i is located. The difference between TCM_{ij} and TC'_{ij} is tie-line transfer margin, which means the left tie-line capacity for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j after transferring when T_i fails. Considering all cases of main transformer failure, tie-line transfer margin matrix is:

$$TRCM = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & L & TRCM_{1,N1} & TRCM_{1,N1+1} & L & TRCM_{1,N1+N2} & L & L & TRCM_{1,N} \\ M & 0 & M & M & 0 & M & L & M & 0 & M \\ TRCM_{N1,1} & L & -1 & TRCM_{N1,N1+1} & L & TRCM_{N1,N1+N2} & L & L & TRCM_{N1,N} \\ TRCM_{N1+1,1} & L & TRCM_{N1+1,N1} & -1 & L & TRCM_{N1+1,N1+N2} & L & L & TRCM_{N1+1,N} \\ M & 0 & M & M & 0 & M & L & M & 0 & M \\ TRCM_{N1+N2,1} & L & TRCM_{N1+N2,N1} & TRCM_{N1+N2,N1+1} & L & -1 & L & L & TRCM_{N1+N2,N} \\ M & & & M & & & 0 & & M \\ L & L & L & L & L & L & L & L & L & L \\ M & 0 & M & M & 0 & M & L & M & 0 & M \\ TRCM_{N,j} & L & TRCM_{N,N1} & TRCM_{N,N1+1} & L & TRCM_{N,N1+N2} & L & L & L & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (20)$$

In (20), the i -th row j -th column element of $TRCM$ is $TRCM_{ij}$, $TRCM_{ij} = TCM'_{ij} - TC'_{ij}$, and $TRCM_{ij}$ represents the residual capacity of tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j after transferring when T_i fails.

When T_i fails, if $TRCM_{ij} \neq 0$, then tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j has residual capacity after transferring load, so the capacity of the tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j is not the weak link in the $N-1$ contingency analysis of the main transformer T_i . If $TRCM_{ij} = TC'_{ij} = 0$, then there is no tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j . If $TRCM_{ij} = 0$, $TC'_{ij} \neq 0$, then the capacity of tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_i and T_j is the dominant factor limiting the improvement of the MTC and the weak link of the $N-1$ contingency analysis of the main transformer T_i .

V. ALGORITHM FLOW CHART

The flow chart of the $N-1$ contingency parallel analysis method proposed in this paper is shown in Fig. 2:

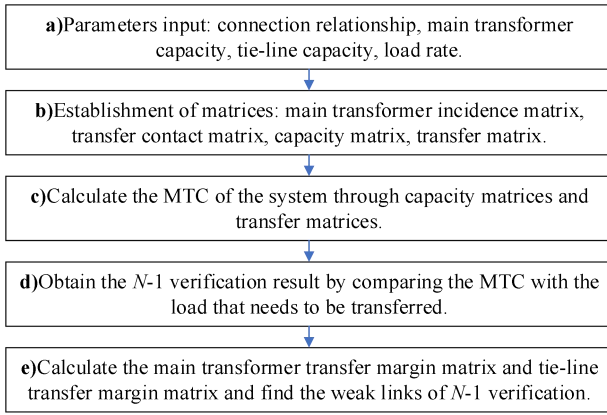


Fig. 2. Flow chart of $N-1$ contingency parallel analysis

The specific execution process of each step of the algorithm is as follows:

a) Parameters input: the parameters include connection relationship, main transformer capacity, tie-line capacity and load rate.

b) Establishment of matrices: establish main transformer incidence matrix L , three types transfer contact matrix A , B , C , main transformer capacity matrix R and tie-line capacity matrix TCM according to the actual distribution network structure, and then calculate three types transfer matrix ATM , BTM , CTM .

c) Calculate the MTC of the system: use the method proposed in this paper to calculate the MTC through the transfer matrices and the capacity matrices.

d) Obtain result: $N-1$ contingency analysis result can be obtained by comparing the MTC and the load that needs to be transferred.

e) Find weak links: the weak links of $N-1$ contingency analysis can be found according to the calculation of the main transformer transfer margin matrix $MRCM$ and tie-line transfer margin matrix $TRCM$.

In terms of the complexity of $N-1$ contingency analysis method, the method in this paper needs to carry out algebra operations and Boolean operations of matrices several times, and every element in RM needs to be judged, so the complexity is $O[n]$. While the method in [12] needs to carry out double cycle calculation of intra-station transfer and inter-station transfer, so the complexity is $O[n^2]$. Therefore, the algorithm in this paper has a relatively prominent efficiency advantage, which not only guarantees the correctness, but also improves the calculation speed.

VI. CASE STUDY

A. Case verification

In order to facilitate the comparison of $N-1$ contingency analysis result, the distribution network in [12] with 3 substations and 6 main transformers is adopted as an example, as shown in Fig. 3. In this example, the information of main transformers and tie-lines of the distribution network are shown in Table I and Table II respectively. The load rate of the main transformer corresponding to the maximum power supply capacity of the distribution network in [12] is taken for $N-1$ contingency analysis, and result is shown in Table III.

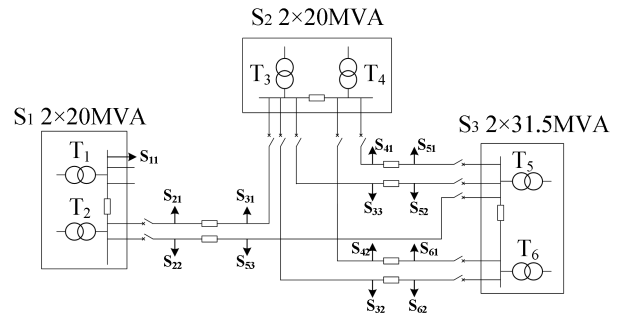


Fig. 3. Distribution network with 6 main transformers

TABLE I
DATA OF MAIN TRANSFORMERS

Substation	Main transformer	Voltage class	Capacity/MVA
S ₁	T ₁	35kV/10kV	20.0
	T ₂	35kV/10kV	20.0
S ₂	T ₃	35kV/10kV	20.0
	T ₄	35kV/10kV	20.0
S ₃	T ₅	110kV/10kV	31.5
	T ₆	110kV/10kV	31.5

TABLE II
DATA OF TIE-LINES

Tie-line	Tie-line capacity/MVA	Tie-line	Tie-line capacity/MVA
l_{1-2}	20.0	l_{3-6}	3.0
l_{2-3}	8.0	l_{4-5}	5.0
l_{2-5}	3.0	l_{4-6}	5.0
l_{3-4}	20.0	l_{5-6}	31.5
l_{3-5}	5.0		

TABLE III
COMPARISON OF RESULTS

Load rate $T=[T_1, T_2, T_3, T_4, T_5, T_6]/\%$	method	Pass the $N-1$ verification?	Calculation time
$T=[50, 50, 75, 75, 62.7, 62.7]$	This paper	Yes	6ms
	Ref. [12]	Yes	12ms

Comparing the method in this paper with the method in [12], the $N-1$ verification results of the two methods are consistent, indicating the correctness of the proposed method. In [12], the enumeration method is applied and it requires to calculate the $N-1$ contingency analysis result one by one. In this paper, by establishing the contact matrices and the capacity matrices and carrying out the matrix operation, the $N-1$ contingency analysis result of all main transformers can be obtained at one time, so as to avoid the repeatability verification process in the process of enumerating each fault.

If the number of main transformers is expanded to 60, that is 10 times of the original, according to the analysis of complexity in the previous paper, calculation time of the method in this paper and in [12] will be 60ms and 1200ms respectively. We can see clearly the calculation efficiency and speed of the method in this paper.

B. Analysis of weak links

Based on the IEEE distribution network example in [21], the

following distribution network is formed, as shown in Fig. 4, and data are given in Tables IV and V according to [22].

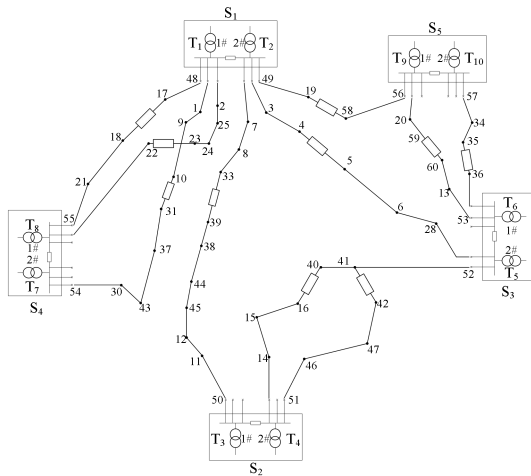


Fig. 4. Distribution network with 10 main transformers

TABLE IV
DATA OF MAIN TRANSFORMERS

Substation	Main transformer	Voltage class	Capacity/M VA	Load/M VA
S ₁	T ₁	110kV/10kV	31.5	19.7
	T ₂	110kV/10kV	31.5	24.2
S ₂	T ₃	35kV/10kV	31.5	19.5
	T ₄	35kV/10kV	31.5	20.1
S ₃	T ₅	35kV/10kV	40	26.2
	T ₆	35kV/10kV	40	24.3
S ₄	T ₇	110kV/10kV	31.5	16.3
	T ₈	110kV/10kV	31.5	16.3
S ₅	T ₉	110kV/10kV	31.5	21.3
	T ₁₀	110kV/10kV	31.5	19.7

TABLE V
DATA OF TIE-LINES

Tie-line	Tie-line capacity/MVA	Tie-line	Tie-line capacity/MVA
(16,40)	2.06	(35,36)	8.83
(33,39)	2.06	(59,60)	7.64
(41,42)	2.06	(4,5)	8.83
(10,31)	4.43	(19,58)	8.83
(22,23)	7.64	(17,18)	11.3

TABLE VI
COMPARISON OF RESULTS

method	Pass the <i>N</i> -1 verification?	Calculation time
This paper	Yes	8ms
Ref. [12]	Yes	15ms

The MTC of each main transformer calculated by the method in this paper and the *N*-1 contingency analysis result is shown in Table VII. It can be seen from Table VII that the main transformers T₁~T₂ and T₅~T₁₀ can pass the *N*-1 verification, while the main transformer T₃ and T₄ can't pass the *N*-1 verification, and the transfer gap of T₃ and T₄ are both 1.92MW.

TABLE VII
N-1 CONTINGENCY ANALYSIS RESULT

Substation	MTC/MVA	Load/MVA	Transfer gap/MVA	Pass the <i>N</i> -1 verification?
T ₁	46.65	19.7	/	Yes
T ₂	51.15	24.2	/	Yes
T ₃	17.58	19.5	1.92	No
T ₄	18.18	20.1	1.92	No
T ₅	43.59	26.2	/	Yes
T ₆	41.69	24.3	/	Yes
T ₇	27	16.3	/	Yes
T ₈	27	16.3	/	Yes
T ₉	34.8	21.3	/	Yes
T ₁₀	33.2	19.7	/	Yes

By calculating the main transformer transfer margin matrix and the tie-line transfer margin matrix, the weak links that may restrict the main transformer from passing the *N*-1 verification can be identified. The main transformer T₅ and T₃ are taken as examples to find the weak links. Among them, T₅ pass the *N*-1 verification while T₃ doesn't pass.

$$MRCM = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 9.94 & 11.4 & 4.97 & 15.7 & 10.77 & 0 & 1.37 & 11.8 \\ 0 & -1 & 9.94 & 11.4 & 4.97 & 15.7 & 10.77 & 0 & 1.37 & 11.8 \\ 11.8 & 5.24 & -1 & 0 & 9.68 & 15.7 & 15.2 & 15.2 & 10.2 & 11.8 \\ 11.8 & 5.24 & 0 & -1 & 9.68 & 15.7 & 15.2 & 15.2 & 10.2 & 11.8 \\ 11.8 & 0 & 12 & 7.28 & -1 & 0 & 15.2 & 15.2 & 2.56 & 2.97 \\ 11.8 & 0 & 12 & 7.28 & 0 & -1 & 15.2 & 15.2 & 2.56 & 2.97 \\ 0 & 7.3 & 12 & 11.4 & 13.8 & 15.7 & -1 & 0 & 10.2 & 11.8 \\ 0 & 7.3 & 12 & 11.4 & 13.8 & 15.7 & 0 & -1 & 10.2 & 11.8 \\ 11.8 & 0 & 12 & 11.4 & 13.8 & 0 & 15.2 & 15.2 & -1 & 0 \\ 11.8 & 0 & 12 & 11.4 & 13.8 & 0 & 15.2 & 15.2 & 0 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (21)$$

As can be seen from (21), when the main transformer T₅ fails, the transfer margin of the main transformer T₂ and T₆ are 0 after transmission. Therefore, the capacity of T₂ and T₆ are weak links in the *N*-1 contingency analysis of T₅. Reference [22] points out that the capacity of T₂ is the weak link when T₅ fails, but it didn't consider inner-station main transformer. So the result in this paper is correct and more accurate.

Similarly, when the main transformer T₃ fails, the transfer margin of the main transformer T₄ is 0 after transmission. Therefore, the capacity of T₄ is weak link in the *N*-1 contingency analysis of T₃.

$$TRCM = \begin{bmatrix} -1 & 24.2 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3.74 & 0 & 0 \\ 19.7 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 3.74 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & -1 & 20.1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 19.5 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.53 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 24.3 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.53 & 0 & 0 & 26.2 & -1 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 11.57 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 15.8 & 0 & 0 \\ 11.57 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 15.8 & -1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1.53 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.77 & 0 & 0 & -1 & 9.5 \\ 0 & 1.53 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 1.77 & 0 & 0 & 21.3 & -1 \end{bmatrix} \quad (22)$$

As can be seen from (22), when the main transformer T₅ fails, the residual capacity of tie-lines for inter-station transmission between T₅ and T₄, T₉, T₁₀ are 0 after transmission. Therefore, the capacity of these tie-lines are the weak links in the *N*-1 contingency analysis of the main transformer T₅. Although

$TRCM_{5,1}=TRCM_{5,3}=TRCM_{5,7}=TRCM_{5,8}=0$, there is no tie-line for inter-station transfer between T_5 and T_1, T_3, T_7, T_8 , let alone weak links. Reference [22] points out that the capacity of tie-line between T_5 and T_4 is the weak link when T_5 fails, but it didn't take type-C transfer into consideration. So the result in this paper is correct and more accurate.

Similarly, when the main transformer T_3 fails, the residual capacity of tie-lines for inter-station transmission between T_3 and T_2, T_5 are 0 after transmission. Therefore, the capacity of these tie-lines are the weak links in the $N-1$ contingency analysis of the main transformer T_3 .

VII. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the analytical expression of main transformer $N-1$ contingency analysis of distribution network based on incidence matrix is realized. The main transformer incidence matrix is established, and according to the different transfer ways, the transfer process is divided into three types, and the contact matrices are established respectively. Considering main transformer capacity and tie-line capacity constraints, capacity matrices of main transformers and tie-lines are established, and the MTC is obtained by calculating the correlation matrices. By comparing the MTC with the load to transferring, the $N-1$ contingency analysis result of the main transformer is obtained, and the analytical expression of $N-1$ contingency analysis is realized. Through the analysis of the transfer process, the transfer margin matrices are calculated and the weak links of the $N-1$ contingency analysis are identified. The result of an example shows the correctness of the method presented in this paper.

The method proposed in this paper avoids the cumbersome operation, improves the efficiency of $N-1$ contingency analysis, and expresses the result explicitly. In the process of analysis, the transfer gap and the transfer margin are obtained, and the weak links are identified, which provide necessary information for the planning and design of distribution network. In the future, the analytical expression method of feeder $N-1$ contingency analysis and line section $N-1$ contingency analysis can be further explored according to the method proposed in this paper.

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