SNS COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Kurumbapalayam (PO), Coimbatore – 641 107

AN AUTONOMOUS INSTITUTION

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AICTE, New Delhi & Affiliated to Anna University, Chennai

DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONICS ENGINEERING

UNIT-I ALTERNATOR (or) SYNCHRONOUS GENERATOR

1. **Why a 3-phase synchronous motor will always run at synchronous speed?**

    Because of the magnetic coupling between the stator poles and rotor poles the motor runs exactly at synchronous speed.

2. **What are the two classification synchronous machines?**

    The classification synchronous machines are:
    - i.   Cylindrical rotor type
    - ii.   Salient pole rotor type

3. **What are the essential features of synchronous machine?**
    - i.   The rotor speed is synchronous with stator rotating field.
    - ii.   Varying its field current can easily vary the speed.
    - iii.   It is used for constant speed operation.

4. **What are the principal advantages of rotating field system type of construction of synchronous machines?**

    - Form Stationary connection between external circuit and system of conditions enable the machine to handle large amount of volt-ampere as high as 500 MVA.
    - The relatively small amount of power required for field system can be easily supplied to the rotating field system via slip rings and brushes.
    - More space is available in the stator part of the machine for providing more insulation to the system of conductors.
    - Insulation to stationary system of conductors is not subjected to mechanical stresses due to centrifugal action.
    - Stationary system of conductors can easily be braced to prevent deformation.
    - It is easy to provide cooling arrangement.

5. **Write down the equation for frequency of emf induced in an   alternator.**

    $$f = \frac{PN}{120} \text{ Hertz}$$

    Where P= No. of poles

       N= Speed in rpm.

6. **What are the advantages of salient pole type of construction used for synchronous machines?**

    - They allow better ventilation.
    - The pole faces are so shaped radial air gap length increases from the pole center to the

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pole tips so that flux distribution in the air gap is sinusoidal in shape which will help to generate sinusoidal emf.

- Due the variable reluctance, the machine develops additional reluctancepower, which is independent of excitation.

7. Why do cylindrical rotor alternators operate with steam turbines?

Steam turbines are found to operate at fairly good efficiency only at high speeds. The high-speed operation of rotor tends to increase mechanical losses, so the rotors should have smooth external surface. Hence smooth cylindrical type rotors with less diameter and large axial length are used for synchronous generators driven by steam turbines with either 2 or 4 poles.

8. Which type of synchronous generators are used in Hydroelectric plants and why?

As the speed of operation is low, for hydro turbines used in hydroelectric plants, salient pole type synchronous generators are used. These allow better ventilation and also have other advantages over smooth cylindrical type rotor.

9. What is the relation between electrical degree and mechanical degree?

Electrical degree θ_e and mechanical degree are related to one another by the number of poles P, the electrical machine has, as given by the following equation.

$$\theta_e = \left(\frac{P}{2}\right)\theta_m$$

10. What is the meaning of electrical degree?

Electrical degree is used to account the angle between two points in rotating electrical machines. Since all electrical machines operate with the help of magnetic fields, the electrical degree is accounted with reference to the polarity of magnetic fields. 180 electrical degrees is accounted as the angle between adjacent North and South poles.

11. Why short-pitch winding is preferred over full pitch winding?

- Waveform of the emf can be approximately made to a sine wave and distortingharmonics can be reduced or totally eliminated.
- Conductor material, copper is saved in the back and front-end connections due to less coil span.
- Fractional slot winding with fractional number of slots/phase can be used which in turn reduces the tooth ripples.
- Mechanical strength of the coil is increased.

12. Write down the formula for distribution factor.

$$K_d = \frac{\sin\left(\frac{mn\beta}{2}\right)}{m\sin\left(\frac{n\beta}{2}\right)}$$

Where

m- number of slots/pole/phase

β - angle between adjacent slots in electrical degree

n - order of harmonics.

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13. Define winding factor.

The winding factor K_w is defined as the ratio of phasor addition of emf induced in all the coilsbelonging to each phase winding of their arithmetic addition.

14.Why are alternators rated in kVA and not in kW?

The continuous power rating of any machine is generally defined as the power the machine or apparatus can deliver for a continuous period so that the losses incurred in the machine gives rise to a steady temperature rise not exceeding the limit prescribed by theinsulation class. Apart from the constant loss the variable loss incurred in alternators is the copper loss, occurring in the 3-phase winding, which depends on I^2R, the square of the current delivered by the generator. is directly related to apparent power delivered by the generator. Thus the alternators have only their apparent power in VA/kVA/MVA as their power rating.

15. What are the causes of changes in voltage of alternators when loaded?
- Voltage variation due to the resistance of the winding R.
- Voltage variation due to the leakage reactance of the winding X_1.
- Voltage variation due to the armature reaction.

16. What is meant by armature reaction in alternators?

The interaction between flux set up by the current carrying armature conductors and the main field flux is defined as the armature reaction.

17. What do you mean by synchronous reactance?

It is the sum of the leakage reactance X_1 and armature reactance X_a

$X_s = X_1 + X_a$

18. What is effective resistant [R_{eff}]?

The apparent increase in resistance of the conductor when an alternating current is flowing through it is known as effective resistance.

19. What is synchronous impedance?

The complex addition of resistance R and synchronous reactance jX_s is synchronous impedance Z_s.

$Z_s = (R+jX_s) = Z_s\angle\theta$

Where $\theta = \tan^{-1}(X_s/R)$

$|Z_s| = \sqrt{(R^2+jX_s^2)}$

20. What is meant by load angle of an alternator?

The phase angle introduced between the induced emf phasor E and terminal voltage phasor V during the load condition of an alternator is called load angle. The load angle increases with

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increase in load. It is positive during generator operation and negative during motor operation.

21. Define the term voltage regulation of alternator.

It is defined as the change in terminal voltage from no load-to-load condition expressedas a function or terminal voltage at load condition, the speed and excitation conditions remaining same.

% Regulation = (E-V)/V x 100

22. What is the necessity for predetermination of voltage regulation?

Most of the alternators are manufactured with large power rating and large voltage ratings. Conduction load test is not possible for such alternators. Hence other indirect methods oftesting are used and the performance can be predetermined at any desired load currents and power factors.

23. Why is the synchronous impedance method of estimating voltage regulation is considered as pessimistic method?

Compared to other methods, the value of voltage regulation obtained by this method is always higher than the actual value and therefore is called pessimistic method.

24. Why is the MMF method of estimating the voltage regulation is considered as the optimization method?

Compared to EMF method, MMF method involves more number of complex calculation steps. Further the OCC is referred twice and SCC is referred once while predetermining the voltage regulation for each load condition. Reference of OCC takes core saturation effect. As this method requires more effort, the final result is very close to the actual value. Hence this methodis called the optimistic method.