

ANALYTIC CRITERIA FOR FUSES FOR EXPLOSIVE FLUX COMPRESSION GENERATORS

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An approach to optimizing the fuse opening switch geometry for explosive magnetic flux compression generators (EMG's or MCG's) is analagous to that developed by Maisonnier, Linhart, and Gourlan¹ for inductive store/opening switch pulse sharpening of capacitor discharges. That is, the cross section of the fuses, should be related to the fuse material properties and the discharge current by the relation

$$s^2 = A/(\gamma \int \rho de) \quad (1)$$

where A = current action = $\int I^2 dt$

γ = fuse material density

ρ = fuse resistivity = $\rho(e)$

e = specific energy of fuse

The integration limits are from the start of the discharge to onset of vaporization ($e=2.8$ megajoules/kilogram for aluminum). For aluminum, $\gamma \int (1/\rho) de = 4.9 \times 10^{16}$ (MKS). Maisonnier modifies this criterion (equation 1) with a non-adiabatic parameter $K_1=2$.

$$s^2 = A/(K_1 \gamma \int \rho de) \quad (2)$$

Empirically, he found that $K_1 \approx 2$ fits fuse optimization data for capacitor discharges in the tens of kilojoule, several microsecond rise time range. The optimum length is chosen so that the energy to be dissipated in the fuse is just equal to the vaporization energy of the fuse (10.6 megajoules/kilogram for aluminum). We have found that such criteria are approximately correct for capacitor discharges up to the 20 megamp, several megajoule, few microsecond rise time range^{2,3}.

Report Documentation Page				Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188	
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1. REPORT DATE JUL 1995		2. REPORT TYPE N/A		3. DATES COVERED -	
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE Analytic Criteria For Fuses For Explosive Flux Compression Generators				5a. CONTRACT NUMBER	
				5b. GRANT NUMBER	
				5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER	
6. AUTHOR(S)				5d. PROJECT NUMBER	
				5e. TASK NUMBER	
				5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER	
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) High Energy Plasma Division Phillips Laboratory Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico				8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER	
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)				10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S)	
				11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)	
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release, distribution unlimited					
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES See also ADM002371. 2013 IEEE Pulsed Power Conference, Digest of Technical Papers 1976-2013, and Abstracts of the 2013 IEEE International Conference on Plasma Science. Held in San Francisco, CA on 16-21 June 2013. U.S. Government or Federal Purpose Rights License.					
14. ABSTRACT					
15. SUBJECT TERMS					
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF:			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT SAR	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 5	19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON
a. REPORT unclassified	b. ABSTRACT unclassified	c. THIS PAGE unclassified			

The current action integral for a current waveform rising exponentially in time is conveniently simple:

$$A = \int_0^{t_m} (I_0 e^{t/\tau})^2 dt = I_0^2 \int e^{2t/\tau} dt \quad (3)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} I_0^2 \tau (e^{2t/\tau} - 1)$$

$$= \frac{1}{2} I_0^2 \tau \left(\left(\frac{I_m}{I_0} \right)^2 - 1 \right)$$

$$\approx \frac{1}{2} I_m^2 \tau \text{ for } I_m \gg I_0$$

EMG's of the helical or spiral type (helical stator outer conductors, central armatures, end-initiated) with varying pitch (continuously decreasing number of helical turns per unit length in the explosive propagation direction) can have such exponential current waveforms. Numerical modeling of such EMG's with realistic resistances, such that the current growth parameter α in

$$I = I_0 (L_0/L)^\alpha \quad (4)$$

is approximately 0.85 to 0.9 (where $L_0/L = 55$) indicates that the numerically calculated action is in the range 0.4 to 0.6 times the non-resistive analytic action, and the effective current growth time τ is approximately 1.2 to 1.3 times the non-resistive analytic τ .

Examples of numerical modeling of the performance of a fuse sharpened exponential EMG are shown below. The circuit is two loops, with the first loop including an EMG inductance $L_g = L_{g0} e^{-t/\tau}$, a series resistance R_s , a series inductance L_s , a fuse resistance R_f , a fuse inductance L_f . The fuse effective resistivity is a piecewise continuous fit to $\rho(e)$, where $e = (\int I_f R_f dt)/m_f$, I_f is the fuse current, and m_f is the fuse mass. The second loop includes a closure switch (initially open, triggered by the fuse voltage exceeding a threshold), a load resistance R_L , and load inductance L_L . The second loop is in parallel with the fuse. The loop currents are I_1 , (EMG loop) and I_2 (the load loop). The fuse current is $I_f = I_1 - I_2 = I_1$ before the closure switch is triggered.

Before closure switch triggering

$$\frac{d}{dt} (I_1(L_g + L_s + L_f)) + I_1(R_s + R_f) = 0 \quad (5)$$

$$\frac{dI_1}{dt} = -I_1 \left(\frac{dL_g}{dt} + R_s + R_f \right) / (L_g + L_s + L_f) \quad (6)$$

where $dL_g/dt = -L_g/\tau$, $R_f = \rho_f(x/s)$, ρ_f = fuse resistivity = function of $e = (\int I_f R_f dt)/m_f$, and the other elements are fixed.

After closure switch triggering

$$\frac{dI_1}{dt} (L_g + L_s + L_f) + I_1 \left(\frac{dL_g}{dt} + R_s + R_f \right) - I_2 R_f - \frac{dI_2}{dt} L_f = 0 \quad (7)$$

$$I_2 R_L + \frac{dI_2}{dt} L_L + I_2 R_f + \frac{dI_2}{dt} L_f - I_1 R_f - \frac{dI_1}{dt} L_f = 0 \quad (8)$$

From (7) and (8) one readily obtains the iteration equations

$$\frac{dI_2}{dt} = [-I_2 R_L - \frac{dI_1}{dt} (L_g + L_s) - \frac{dI_1}{dt} (L_g + R_s)] / L_L$$

$$\frac{dI_1}{dt} = [-\frac{dI_1}{dt} \left(\frac{dL_g}{dt} + R_s + R_f \right) + I_2 R_f + \frac{dI_2}{dt} L_f] / (L_g + L_s + L_f)$$

Representative parameters, such as those used to obtain the plots below, are

- $L_{go} = 10$ microhenry
- $\tau = 10$ microseconds
- $R_s = 4$ milliohms
- $L_s = 0.0$ ($L_{gf} = L_{go} e^{-4} = 0.182$ microhenry)
- $I_o = 250$ kiloamps
- $R_L = 1$ milliohm
- $L_L = 0.182$ microhenry

s = fuse area = 0.5 to 1.0 times simple analytic optimum
= 0.5 to 1.0 times 1.39 cm²
x = fuse length = 1.19 to 1.7 meters

The fuse length is chosen so that the fuse mass has a vaporization energy of approximately half the peak predicted EMG magnetic energy.

The best performance predicted numerically is for fuse cross section 0.8 to 1 times the analytic optimum using non-adiabatic parameter $K_1=2$.

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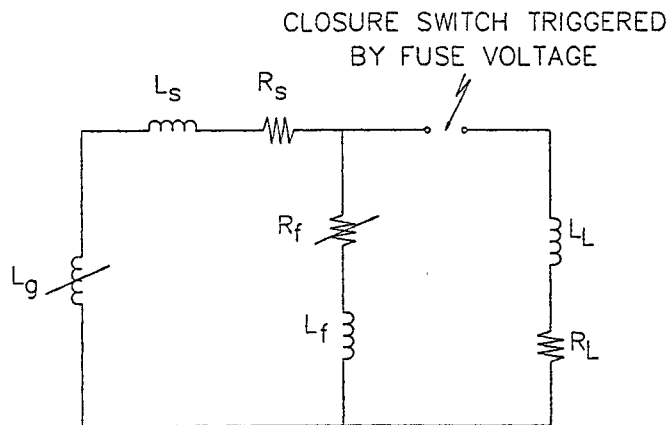


Figure 1. Explosive magnetic flux compression generator-fuse circuit. Elements are defined in text.

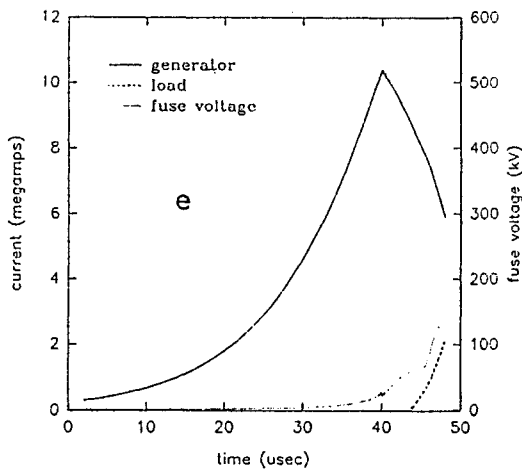
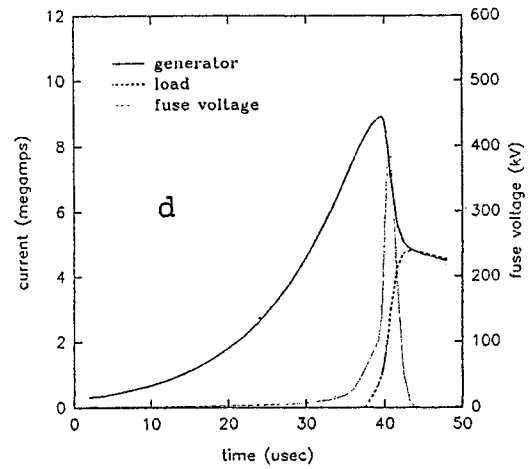
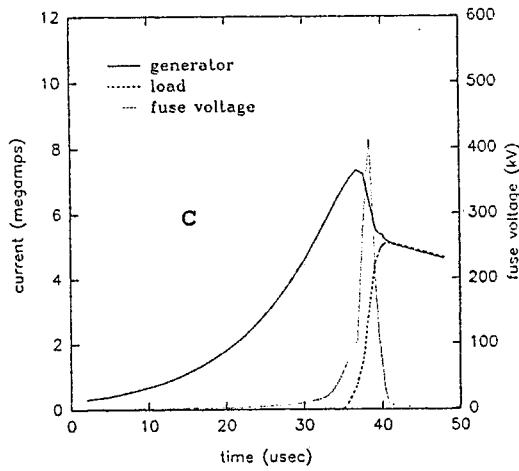
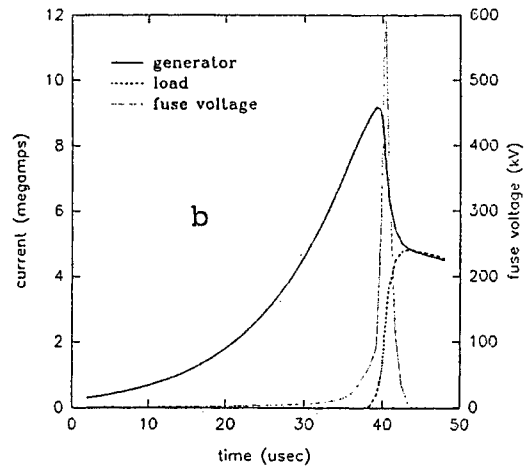
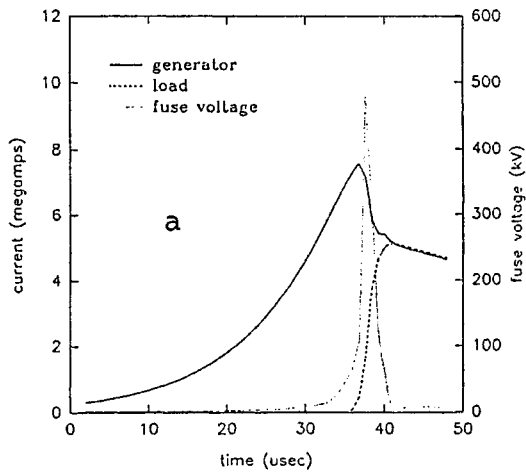


Figure 2.

Generator current, load current, and fuse voltage vs time predicted by numerical modeling with circuit in Figure 1. Aluminum fuse length x (meters) and cross section s (cm squared) are (a) 1.19, 0.79, (b) 1.19, 0.98, (c) 1.705, 0.79, (d) 1.705, 0.98, (e) 1.705, 1.39