

Instrument Transformer Theory and Testing



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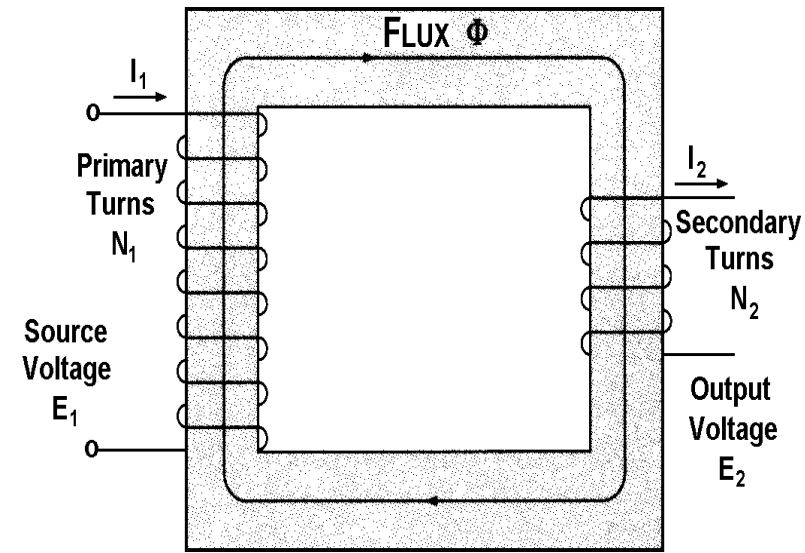
www.powermetrix.com



What is a Transformer?

- A TRANSFORMER is a device used to change the voltage levels of electricity to facilitate the transfer of electricity from generating stations to customers. A step-up transformer increases the voltage while a step-down transformer decreases it.

www.duquesnelight.com/understandingelectricityupdate/electricterms.html



Basic Transformer Theory

- V_p = primary voltage
- I_p = primary current
- N_p = primary turns
- P_p = primary power
- V_s = secondary voltage
- I_s = secondary current
- N_s = secondary turns
- P_s = secondary power

$$V_s = \frac{N_s}{N_p} V_p$$

$$I_s = \frac{N_p}{N_s} I_p$$

$$P_p = V_p \bullet I_p = P_s = V_s \bullet I_s$$

This is true for an IDEAL transformer!

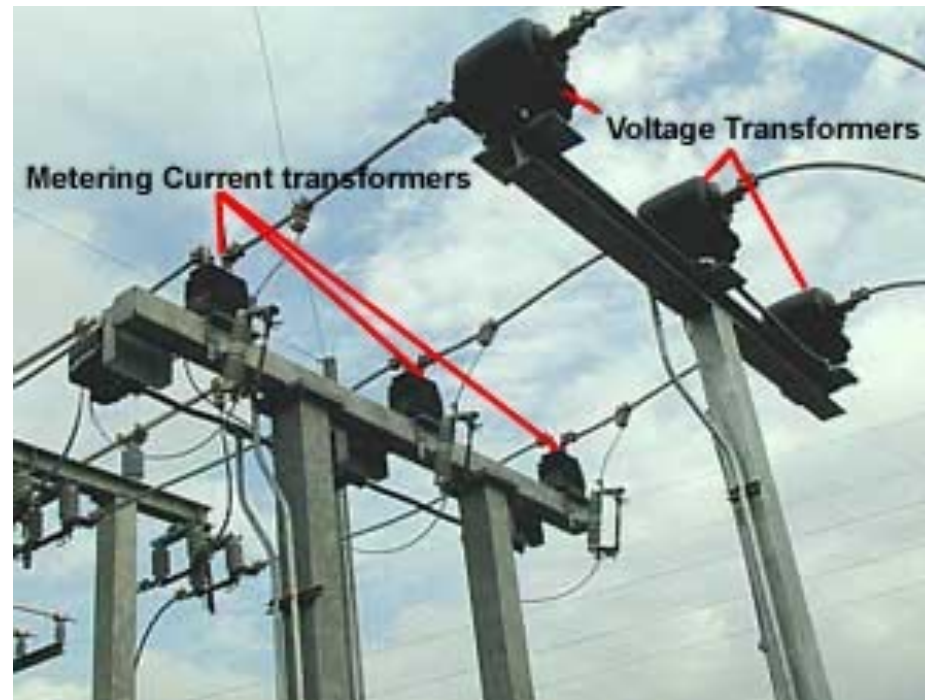
What is an Instrument Transformer?

Instrument Transformers convert signal levels from dangerous (high voltage) or inconvenient (high current, or current at high voltage) to levels appropriate for metering.

There are two fundamental types:

CTs (Current Transformers)

PTs (Potential Transformers)



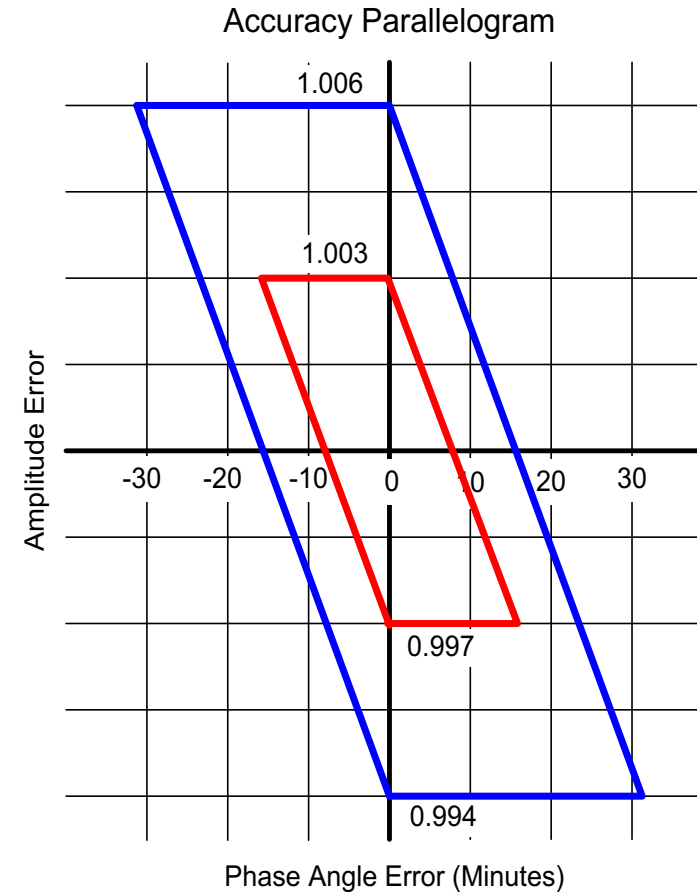
Potential Transformers (PT's)

- PTs step down high voltages to the voltage needed by the meter (usually 120V occasionally 67V).
- They come in many shapes and sizes for different applications
- They work exactly as you would expect them to: $V_o = V_i \cdot (N_s / N_p)$.
- They come in various power ratings expressed in VA.
- They come in various accuracy classes, however the 0.3% accuracy class is generally used in North America.



Potential Transformers (PT's)

- PTs are available in Accuracy Classes
 - 1.2 Percent
 - 0.6 Percent
 - 0.3 Percent
- Burdens are expressed in VA
 - W 12.5 VA
 - X 25.0 VA
 - M 35.0 VA
 - Y 75.0 VA
 - Z 200.0 VA
 - ZZ 400.0 VA



Potential Transformers (PT's)

- 600V Type
 - 240/416 2:1
 - 288/500 2.4:1
 - 300/520 2.5:1
 - 480/480 4:1
 - 600/600 5:1
- 5K Type
 - 2400/4160 20:1
 - 4200/7280 35:1
 - 4800/8320 40:1
- Medium Voltage
 - 7200/12470 60:1
 - 8400/14560 70:1
 - 12000/20800 100:1
 - 14400/24940 120:1
 - 18000/18000 150:1
 - 24000/24000 200:1
 - 27600/27600 240:1
 - 34500/34500 300:1
- High Voltage
 - Operate quite differently
 - May have no direct connection to transformer

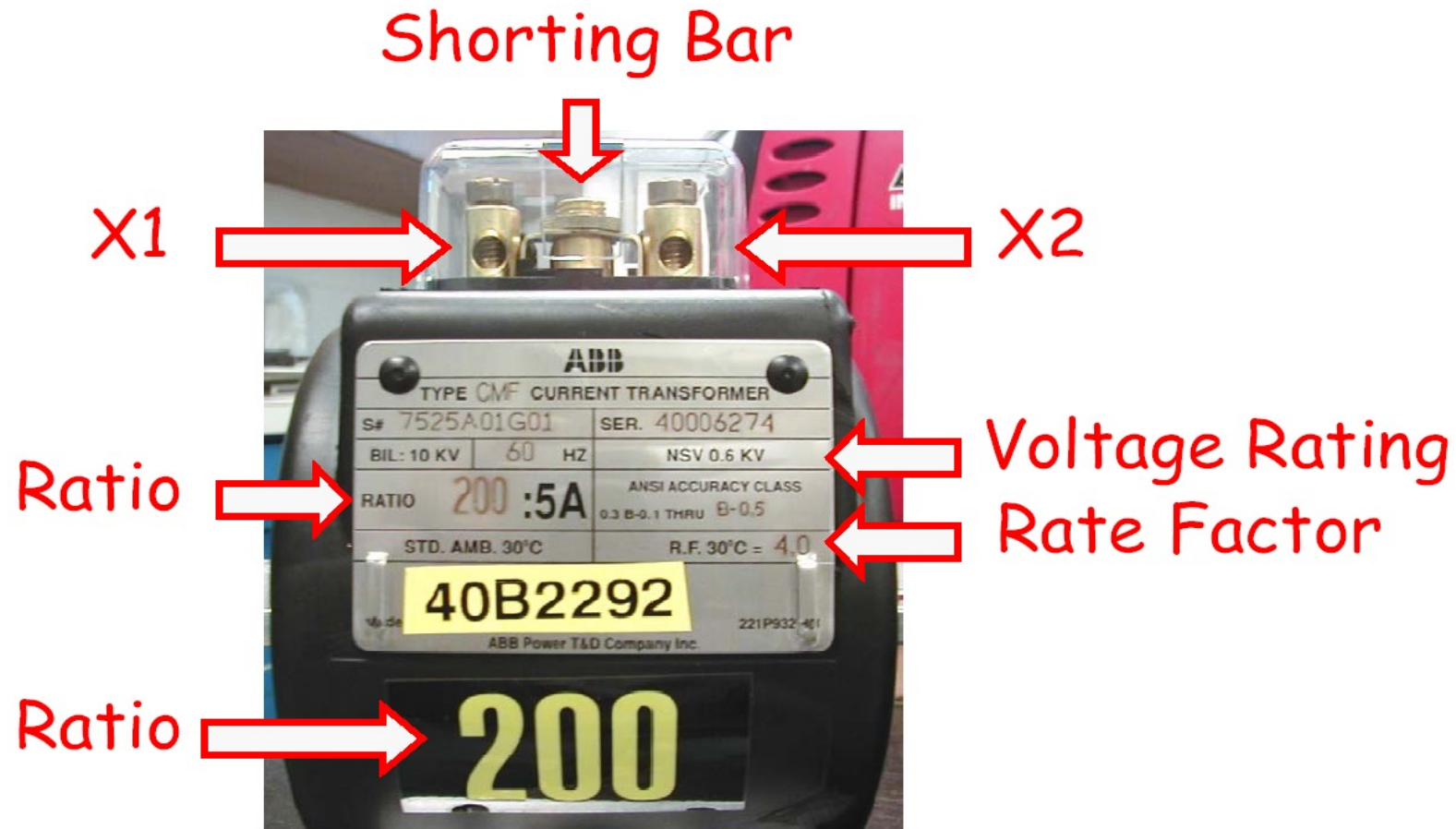
Current Transformers (CTs)

- CTs allow the measurement of high currents at potentially high voltages.
- They come in many shapes and sizes for different applications
- They are potentially extremely dangerous.



They can kill you!

Current Transformers (CT's)



Current Transformers (CT's)

Basic Theory

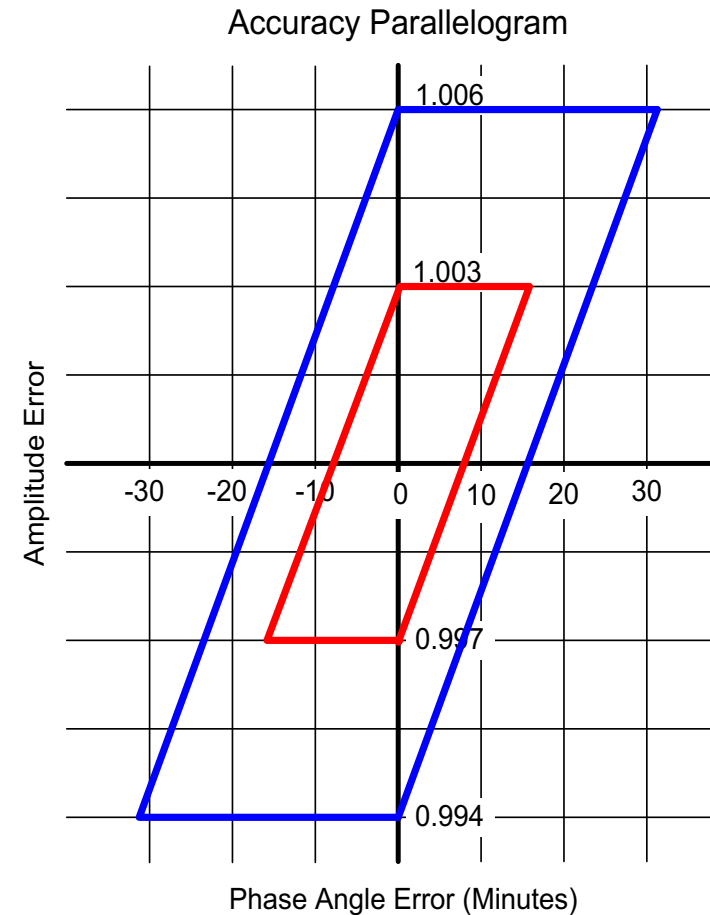
- Basic formula: $I_s = I_p \cdot (N_p / N_s) = I_p / N_s$
- Open Circuit Voltage: $V = \sqrt{3.5 \cdot Z_b \cdot I_p / N_s}$
- Where:
 - Z_b = Burden Impedance
 - I_p = Primary Current
 - N_s = Number of Secondary Turns (Ratio to 1)

$$V = \sqrt{3.5 \cdot 10^5 \cdot 1000 / 200} = 1320V$$

Tests have shown values ranging from 500 to 11,000 volts.

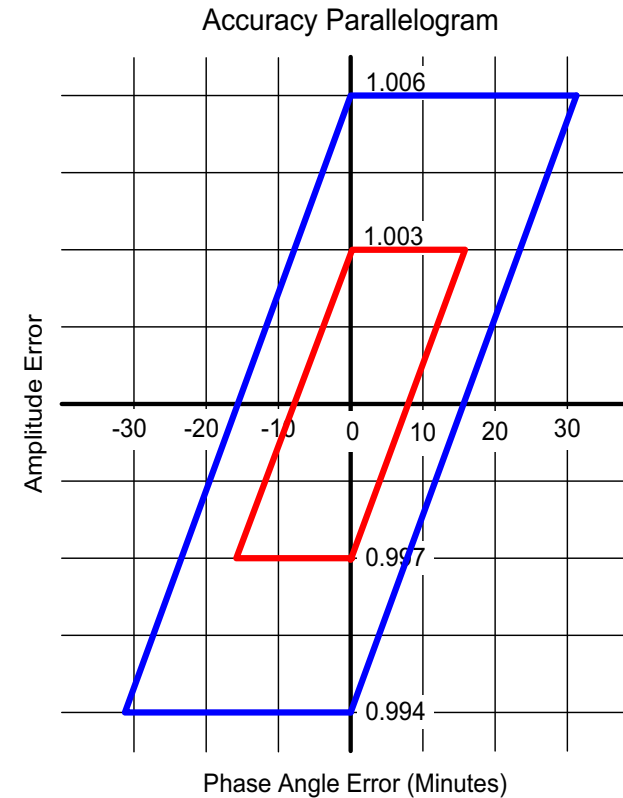
CT – Accuracy Class/Burden

- Most CTs used in North America are 0.3 (0.3 percent) Class devices.
- When an accuracy class is specified the maximum burden for which the device meets the class accuracy is also specified.

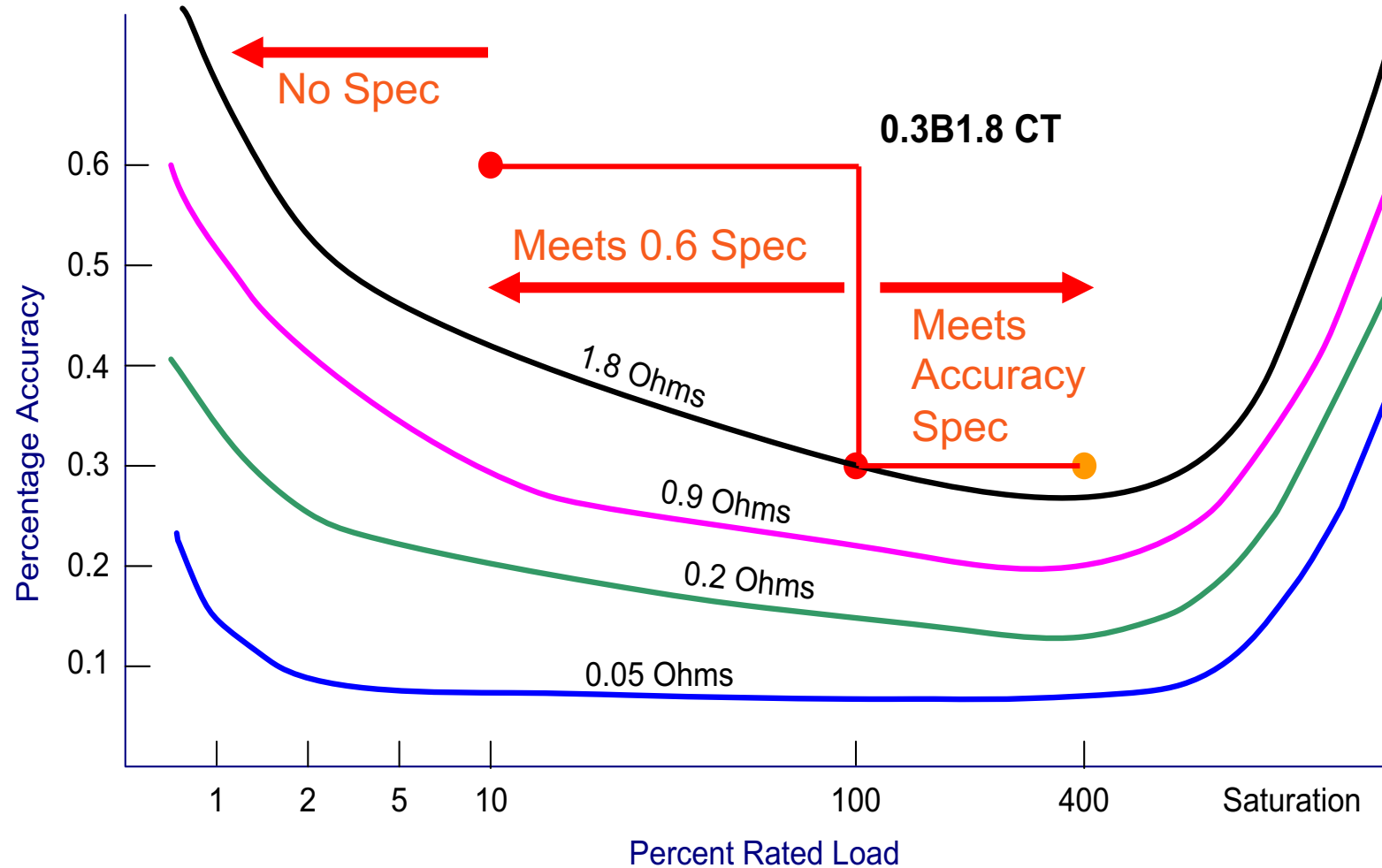


CT – Class 0.3

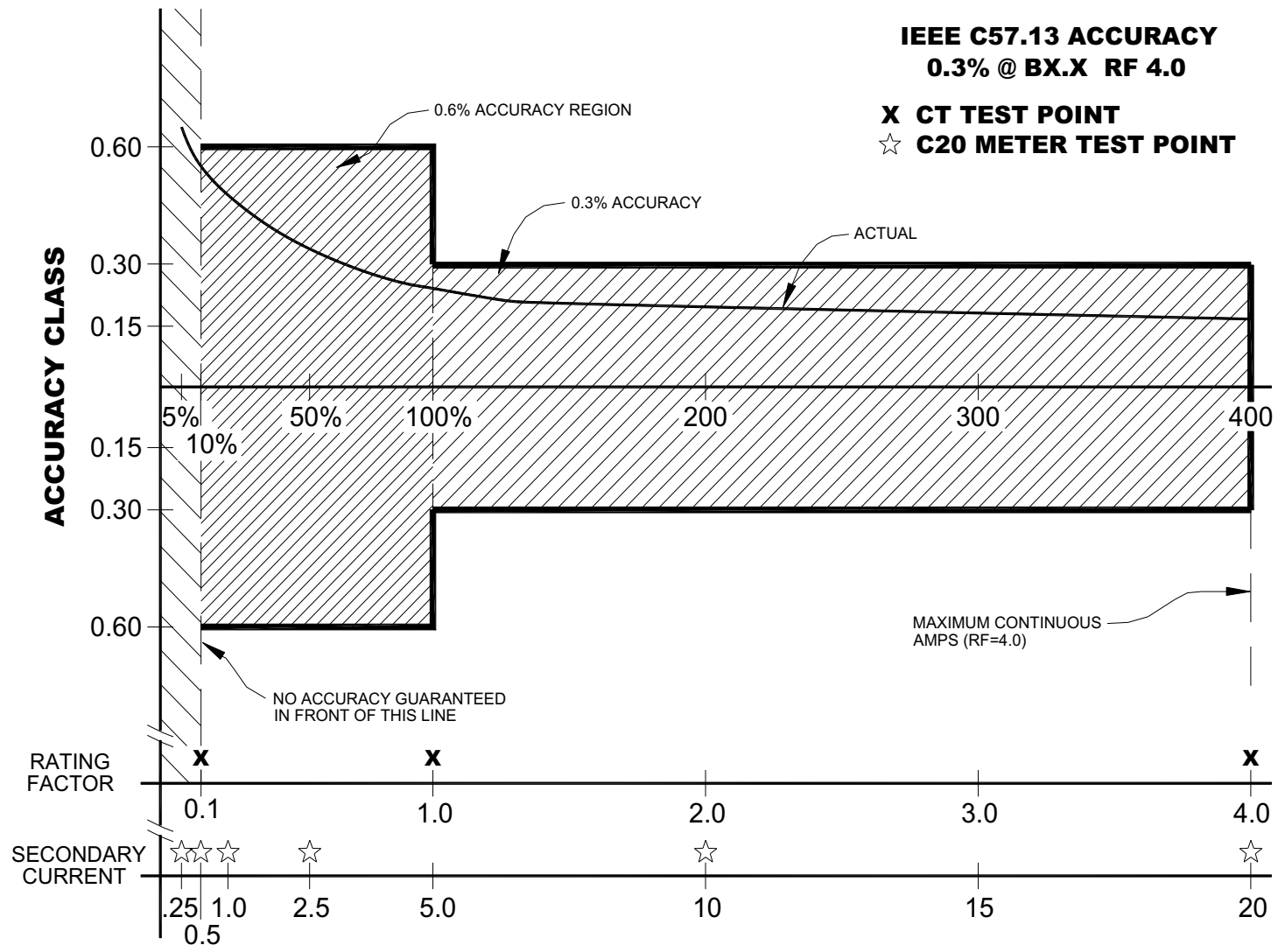
- Metering error shall be less than 0.3% when the CT is used at FULL RATED LOAD and with rated burden.
- Metering error shall be less than 0.6% when the CT is used between 10% and 100% of full rated load.
- Error is a combination of amplitude and phase error.



CT – Accuracy – Burden - Load



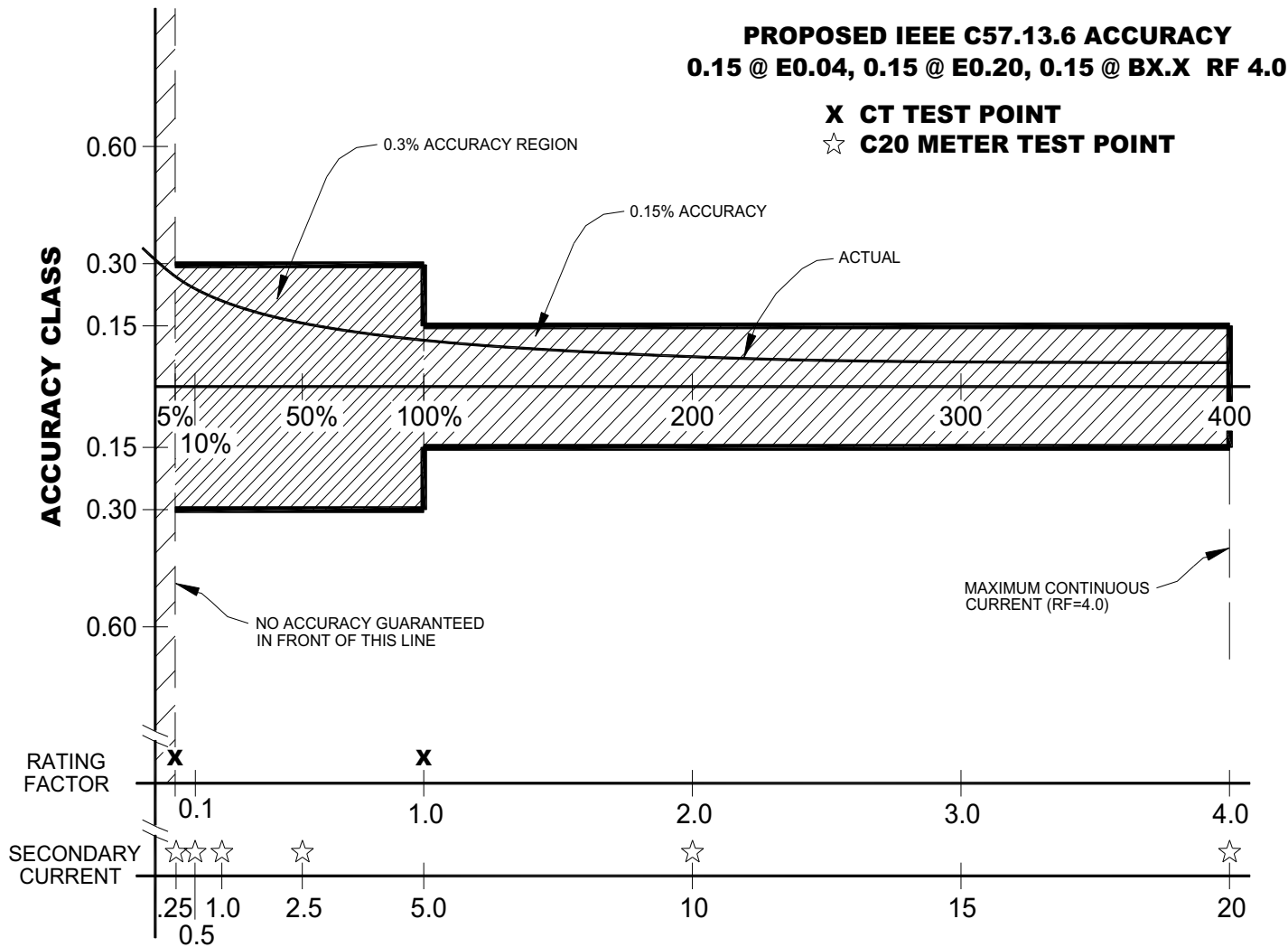
Accuracy Class 0.3



Slide Courtesy Kent Jones, GE

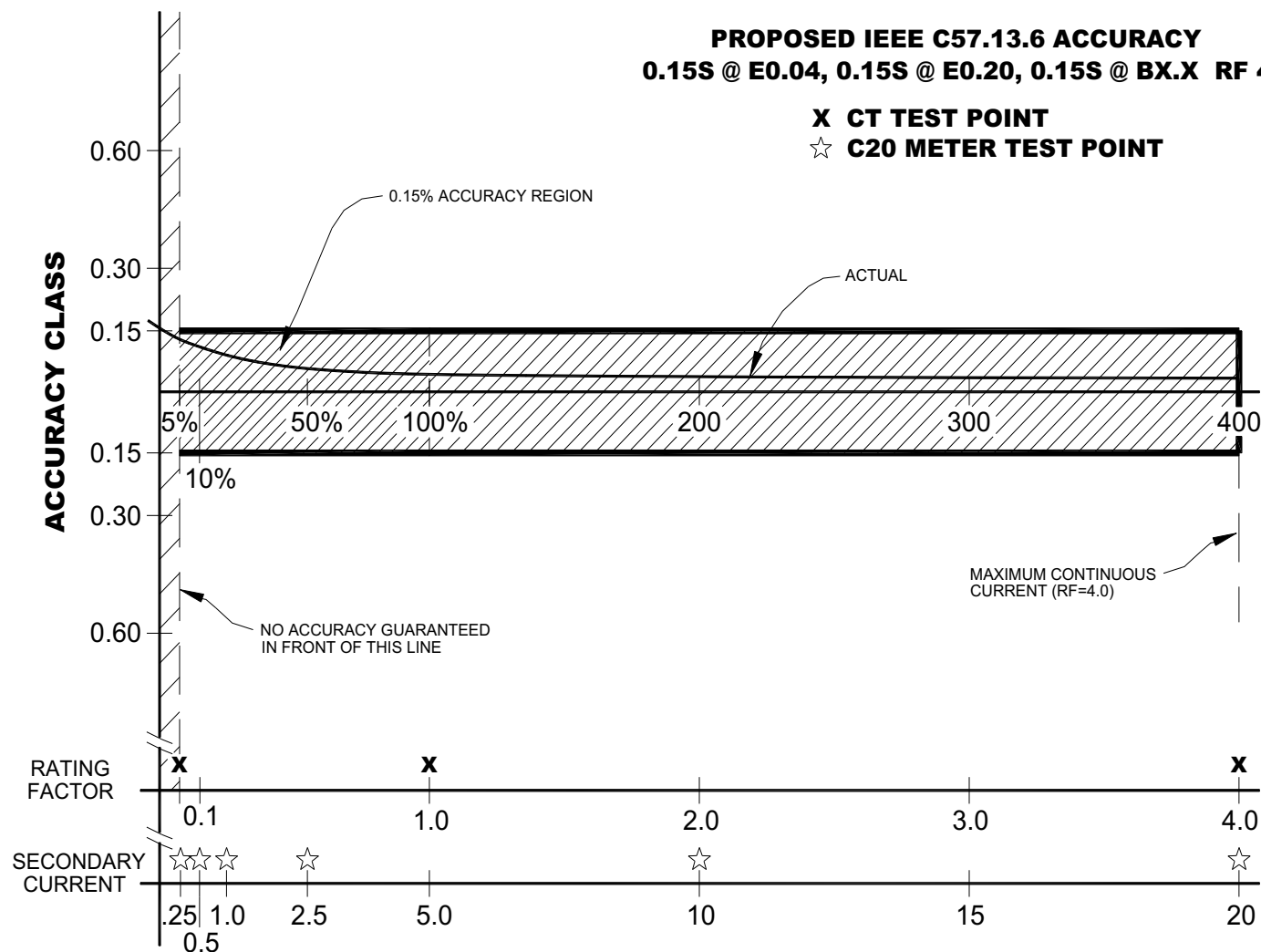


Accuracy Class 0.15



Slide Courtesy Kent Jones, GE

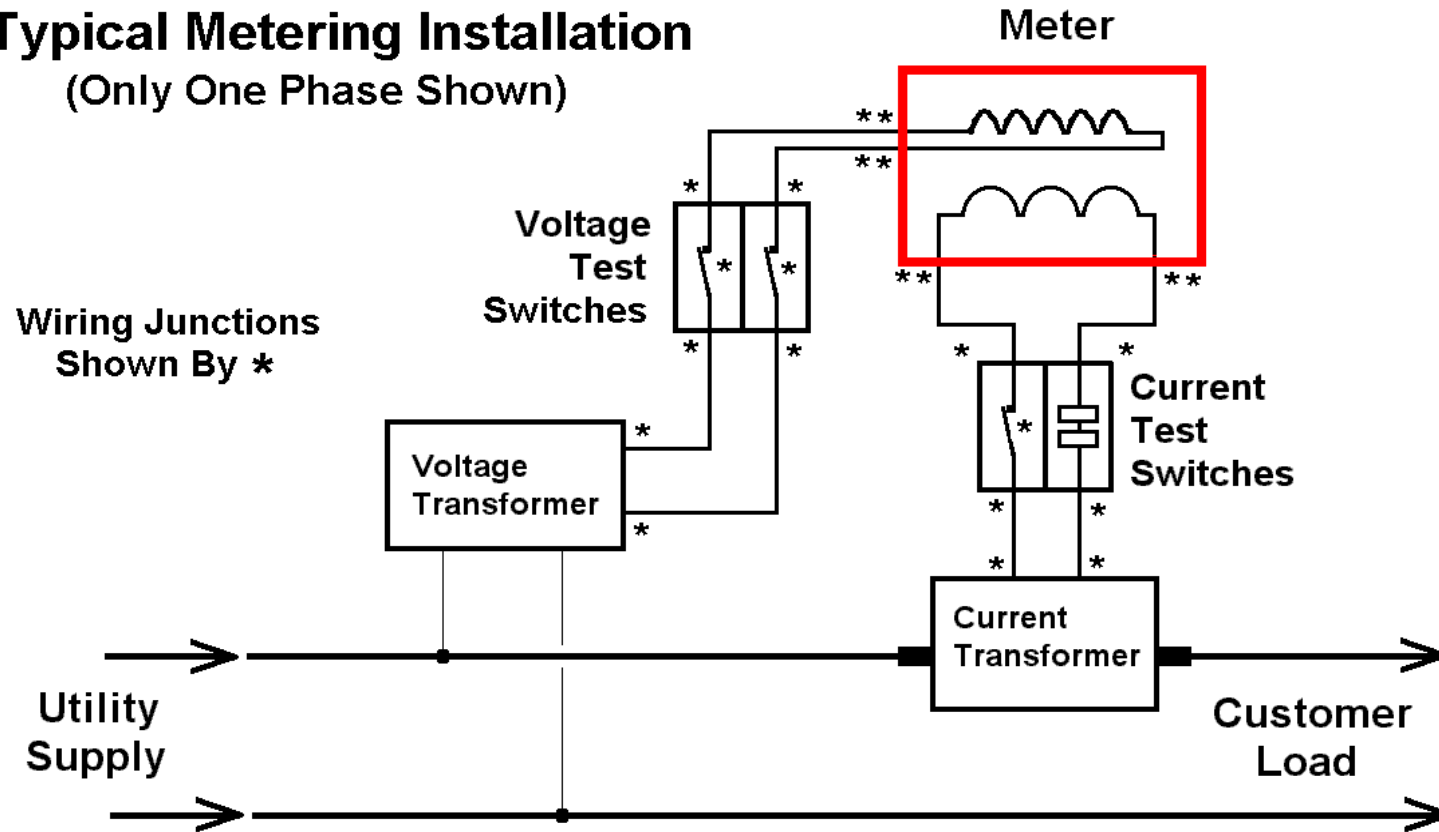
Accuracy Class 0.15S



Slide Courtesy Kent Jones, GE

Errors with Current Transformers

Typical Metering Installation (Only One Phase Shown)



Errors with Current Transformers

- CTs require a lot of care to insure accurate metering.
 - Burden – Over burden reduces CT accuracy.
 - Wiring – Faulty or improper wiring reduces accuracy by increasing burden.
 - Shunt – Failure to remove the safety shunt will not keep the CT from operating but it will reduce the readings by 50-80%

Errors with Current Transformers

- When you see a CT spec sheet it will give you the burden at which the CT meets a specific accuracy Class

Primary Amps	Style Number	IEEE Meter Accuracy		
		B0.1	B0.2	B0.5
50	7524A98G11	2.4		
100	7524A98G01	1.2		
150	7524A98G02	1.2	1.2	
200	7524A98G03	0.6	1.2	2.4
250	7524A98G04	0.6	1.2	2.4
300	7524A98G05	0.6	0.6	0.6
400	7524A98G06	0.6	0.6	0.6
500	7524A98G07	0.3	0.3	0.6
600	7524A98G08	0.3	0.3	0.6
800	7524A98G09	0.3	0.3	0.3
1000	7524A98G10	0.3	0.3	0.3

Errors with Current Transformers

- Many CTs are only rated at B0.1 and B0.2
- #16 wire is 4.5 mΩ/ft
- #14 wire is 2.8 mΩ/ft
- #12 wire is 1.8 mΩ/ft
- #10 wire is 1.1 mΩ/ft
- #8 wire is 0.7 mΩ/ft
- 50 ft of #12 wire is nearly 100 mΩ

Primary Amps	Style Number	IEEE Meter Accuracy		
		B0.1	B0.2	B0.5
200	7524A85G01	0.3	0.3	
300	7524A85G02	0.3	0.3	
400	7524A83G02	0.3	0.3	
600	7524A83G03	0.3	0.3	
200	7524A85G03	0.3	0.3	
300	7524A85G04	0.3	0.3	
400	7524A83G05	0.3	0.3	
600	7524A83G06	0.3	0.3	

Errors with Instrument Transformers

CT - Shunt

- Leaving the shunt in the wrong position produces wrong readings not no readings.



SHUNT CLOSED



SHUNT OPEN

Errors with Instrument Transformers

CT - Polarity

- Polarity of the connection matters.
- Wrong polarity means totally wrong metering.
- When $PF \neq 0$, reversed polarities may not be obvious.



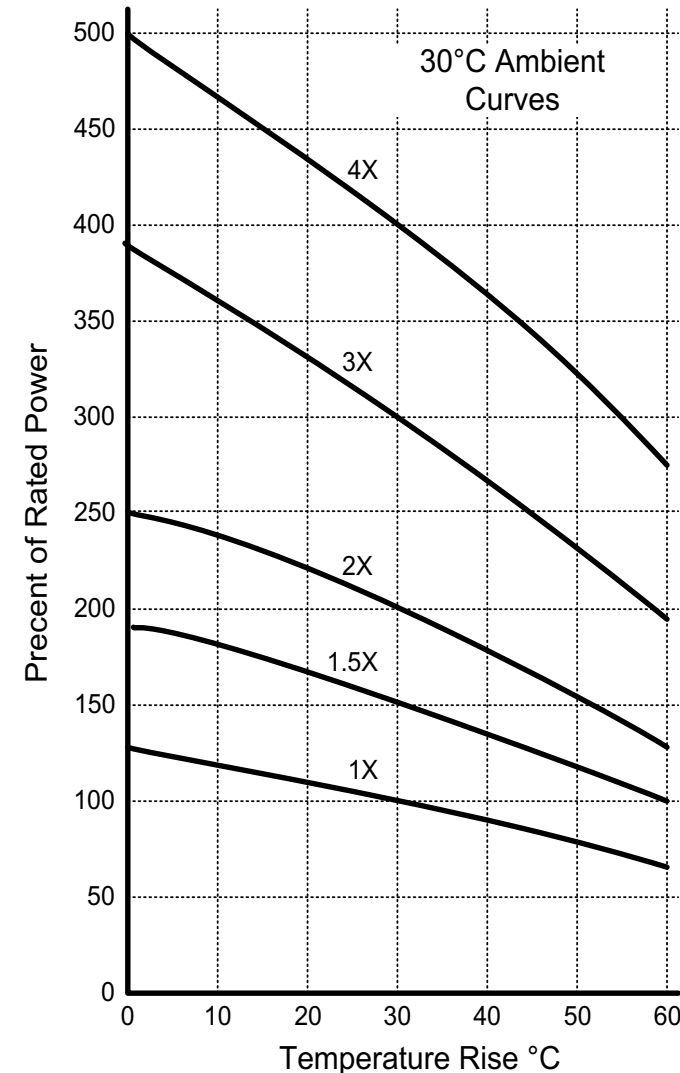
CT Rating Factor

The MOST Misunderstood Spec

- Rating Factor has absolutely nothing to do with burden.
- If a CT has a rating factor of 4 it means that at 30°C it can be used up to 4X its label current and maintain its accuracy Class.

CT Rating Factor

- Rating Factor is a strong function of temperature.
- If a CT has a rating factor of 4 it means that at 30°C it can be used up to 4X its label current and maintain its accuracy Class.
- Operating temperature affects Rating Factor significantly.
 - A CT with RF=4 at 30°C is only RF=3 at 55°C



CT Testing

- Four Approaches in use today
 - Direct Burden Measurement
 - ♦ Measures voltage and current on CT secondary
 - ♦ Most accurate method to determine burden as it is a direct measurement

$$V_s = I_s * R \rightarrow R = V_s / I_s$$

CT Testing

- Direct Burden Measurement

 Capture Burden Measurement Selected Site: 9

CT Burden Measurement

	Volts	Amps	Burden (Ohms)
Phase A:	1.506	2.57	0.5856
Phase B:	0.864	2.48	0.3483
Phase C:	0.410	2.43	0.1689

Test Failed

Retest

Save

CT Testing

- Direct ratio measurement with applied burden
 - ◆ An accurate approach tells us relative burden within a range
 - ◆ Measures directly the quantity we care about CT Ratio
 - ◆ Is more complicated to perform.

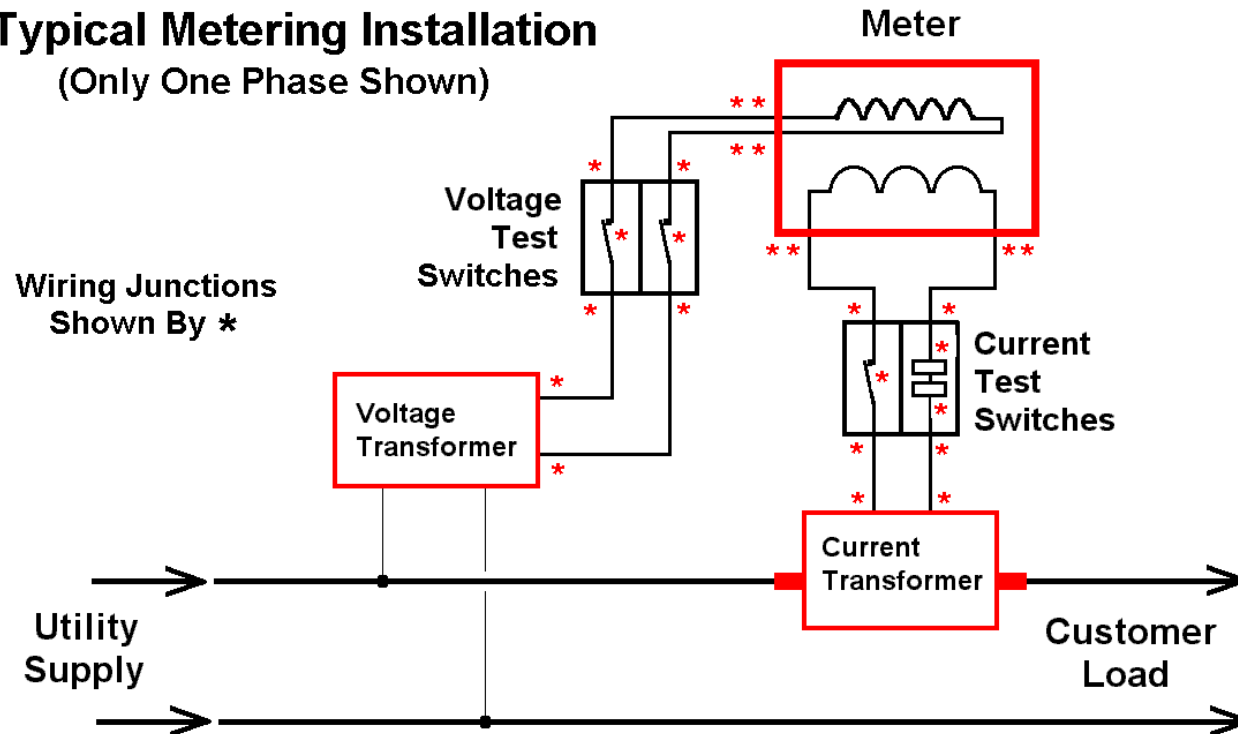
CT Testing

- Alternate Approaches
 - Burden only
 - ♦ A compromise: tells us if circuit is stable under excess burden
 - ♦ Can't give us the ratio which is what we really care about.
 - Admittance Testing
 - ♦ Allows us to look for changes from previous measurements.
 - ♦ Doesn't directly give ratio
 - ♦ Accuracy typically $\pm 5\%$

On Site CT Testing

- The meter measures ONLY the voltage and current reaching the meter terminals.
- To verify that the CT is working at the site we have to test the entire circuit.

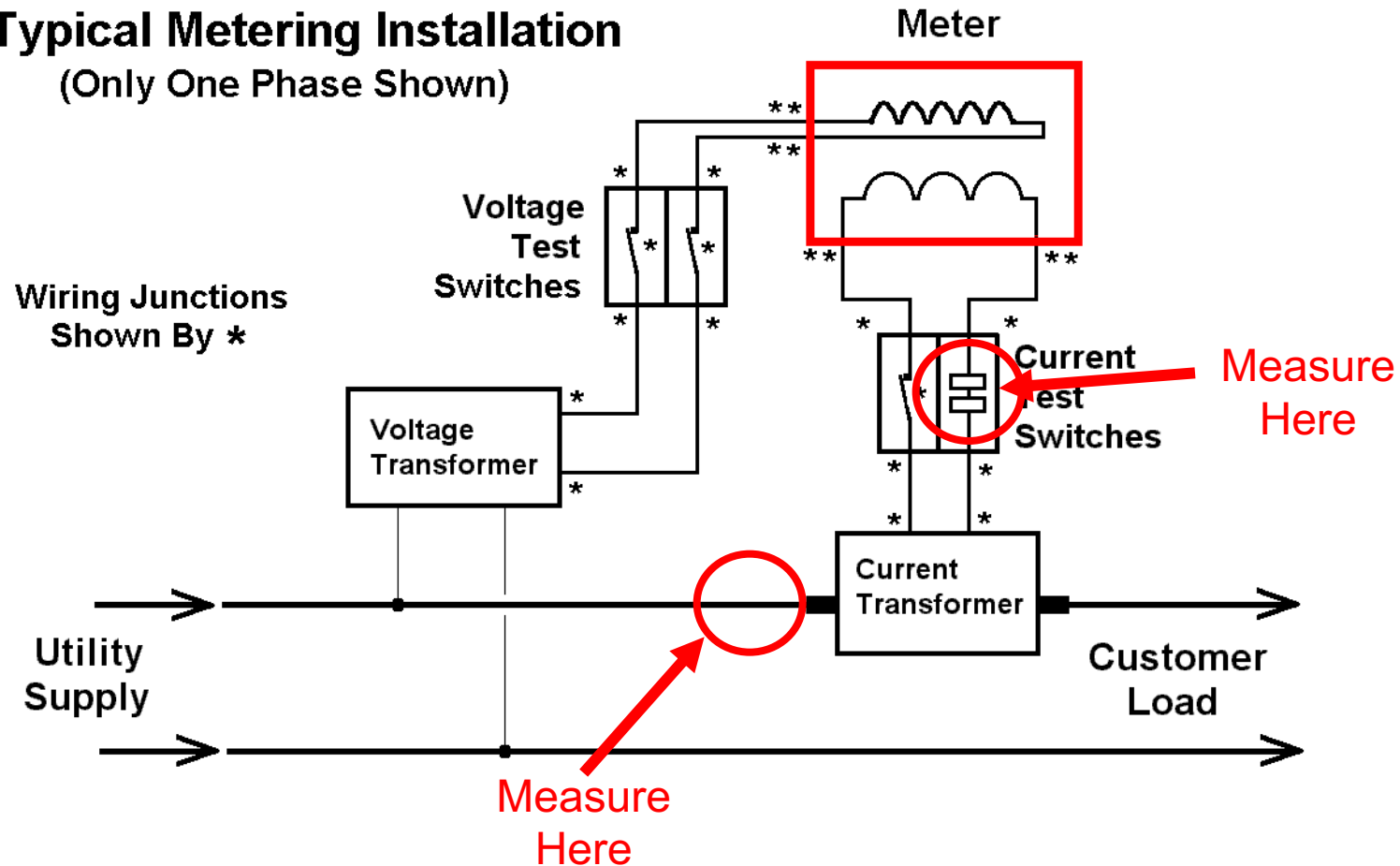
Typical Metering Installation
(Only One Phase Shown)



CT Transformers

Field Verification – Full Ratio Measurement

Typical Metering Installation (Only One Phase Shown)



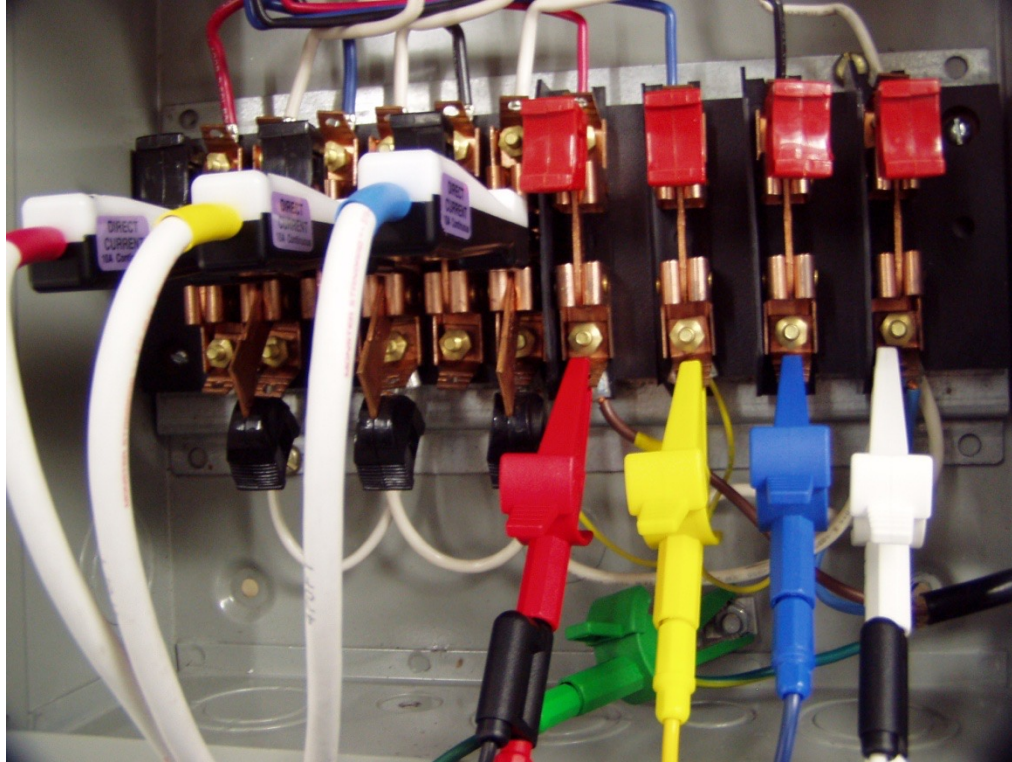
CT Ratio with Burden Testing



- Ratio Testing is the preferred approach when we can gain access to the CT primary.
- Various types of probes can be used for primary side.
 - Flex
 - HV



CT Ratio with Burden Testing



- Secondary connection is made through the test switch
- Same connection that is used for the rest of the site testing.

Ratio Testing with applied burden is the most accurate and complete approach for testing at CT in service.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CT testing can be done with very high accuracy

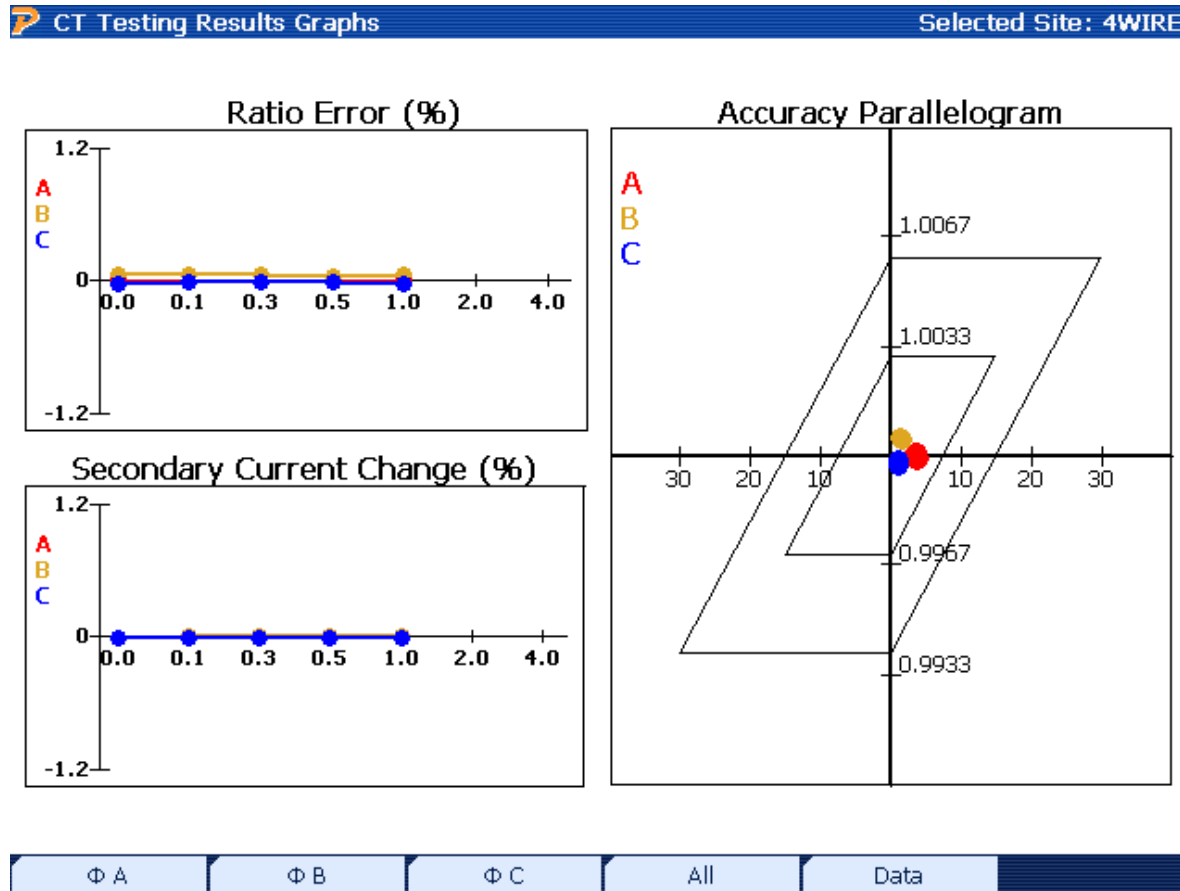
CT Testing Results		Selected Site: 4WIRE			
Measured Ratio: 250.02		PASS	A		
Nameplate Ratio: 250 : 5	Primary Amps: 249.99				
Ratio Error (%): 0.01%	Secondary Amps: 4.999				
Phase Error (degrees): 0.059°	Phase Error (minutes): 3' 33"				
Measured Ratio: 250.13		PASS	B		
Nameplate Ratio: 250 : 5	Primary Amps: 250.10				
Ratio Error (%): 0.05%	Secondary Amps: 4.999				
Phase Error (degrees): 0.026°	Phase Error (minutes): 1' 32"				
Measured Ratio: 249.92		PASS	C		
Nameplate Ratio: 250 : 5	Primary Amps: 249.88				
Ratio Error (%): -0.03%	Secondary Amps: 4.999				
Phase Error (degrees): 0.018°	Phase Error (minutes): 1' 6"				
Test Complete					
Retest	Retest All	Demagnetize	Graphs	Data	Done

Reference CT measured using PowerMaster with 752 clamp-on probes. Essentially NO ratio error, phase shift, or change in secondary current versus applied burden.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CT testing can be done with very high accuracy



Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CT testing can be done with very high accuracy

CT Testing Results

Selected Site: 4WIRE

% Change in Secondary Amps

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000	N/A	N/A
B		0.000	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	N/A	N/A
C		0.000	-0.001	-0.001	0.000	0.000	N/A	N/A

Ratio Data

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A	250:5	250.02	249.98	249.96	249.98	250.02	N/A	N/A
B	250:5	250.13	250.13	250.13	250.12	250.13	N/A	N/A
C	250:5	249.92	249.97	249.96	249.96	249.96	N/A	N/A

Ratio Error (%)

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		0.01	-0.01	-0.02	-0.01	0.01	N/A	N/A
B		0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	N/A	N/A
C		-0.03	-0.01	-0.02	-0.02	-0.02	N/A	N/A

Relative Phase Data (degrees)

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		0.06	0.07	0.06	0.07	0.06	N/A	N/A
B		0.03	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.02	N/A	N/A
C		0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	N/A	N/A

Reference CT measured using PowerMaster with 752 clamp-on probes.

Essentially NO ratio error, phase shift, or change in secondary current versus applied burden.

Graphs

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CTs installations can be fully verified in the field

CT Testing Results Selected Site: 4WIRE WYE

Measured Ratio: 4.98	PASS	A
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 3.27	
Ratio Error (%): -0.36%	Secondary Amps: 3.281	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.489°	Phase Error (minutes): 29' 20"	

Measured Ratio: 5.08	FAIL	B
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 2.33	
Ratio Error (%): 1.56%	Secondary Amps: 2.295	
Phase Error (degrees): -0.230°	Phase Error (minutes): -13' 48"	

Measured Ratio: 5.17	FAIL	C
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 1.29	
Ratio Error (%): 3.31%	Secondary Amps: 1.252	
Phase Error (degrees): -1.305°	Phase Error (minutes): -1° 18' 16"	

Test Complete

Retest Retest All Demagnetize Graphs Data Done

Burden Class 0.1
CTs various
issues: too small
gauge wire, bad
connections, high
harmonic content.

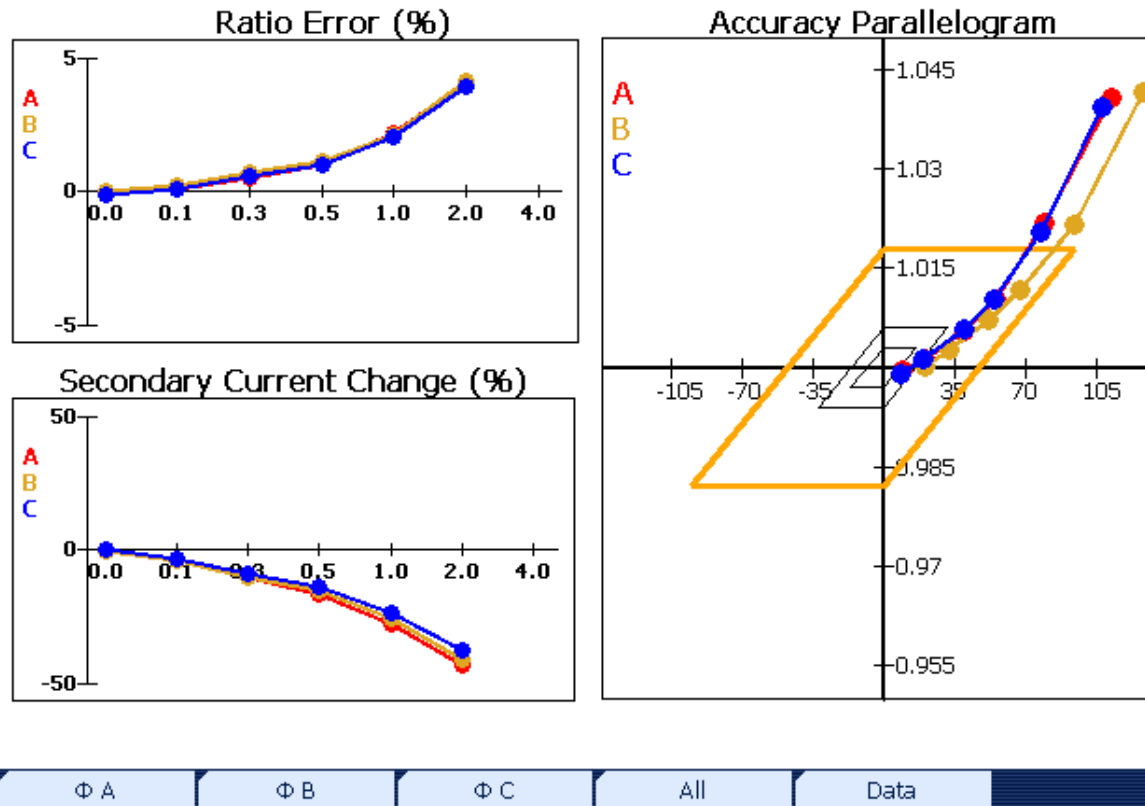
We can verify that the ratio is correct and constant as burden changes.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CTs installations can be fully verified in the field

CT Testing Results Graphs BETA TEST - p16.23M/v16.38M/c#340.61K - Selected Site: TEST



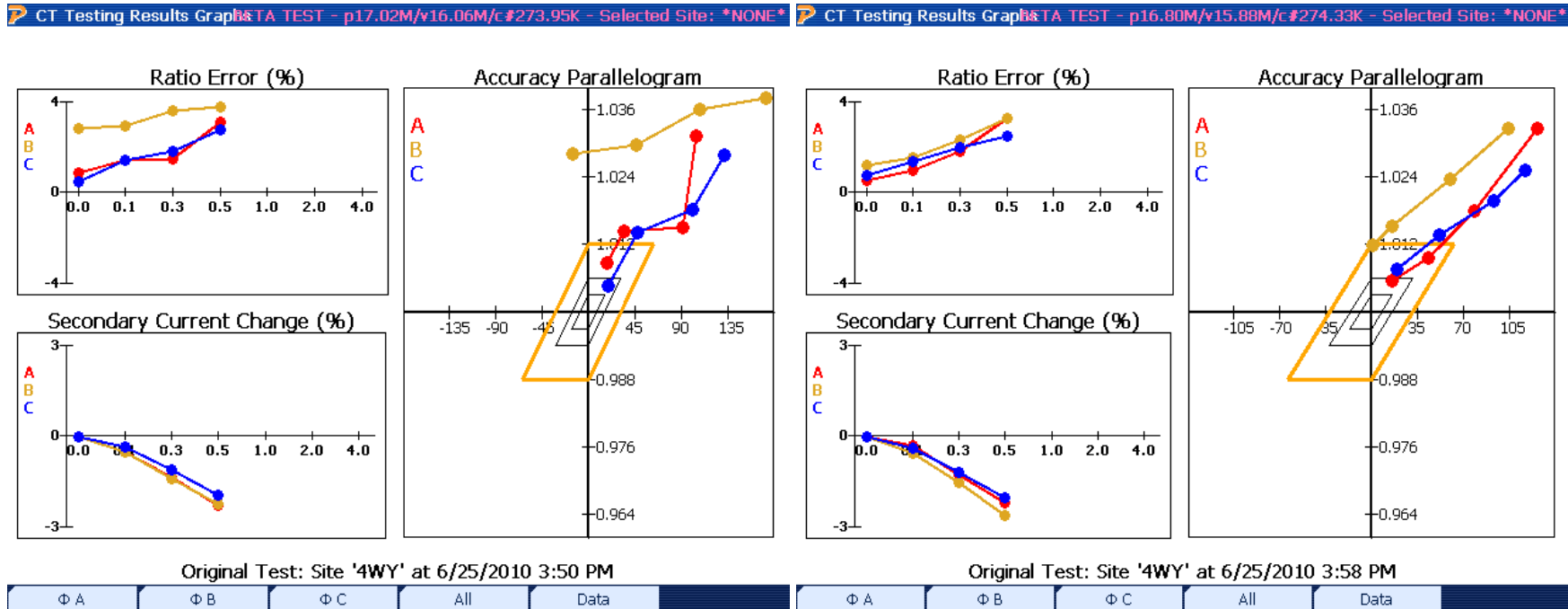
Burden
Class 0.1
CTs

We can verify that the ratio is correct and constant as burden changes.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CTs installations can be fully verified in the field



CT Phase B highly harmonic load.

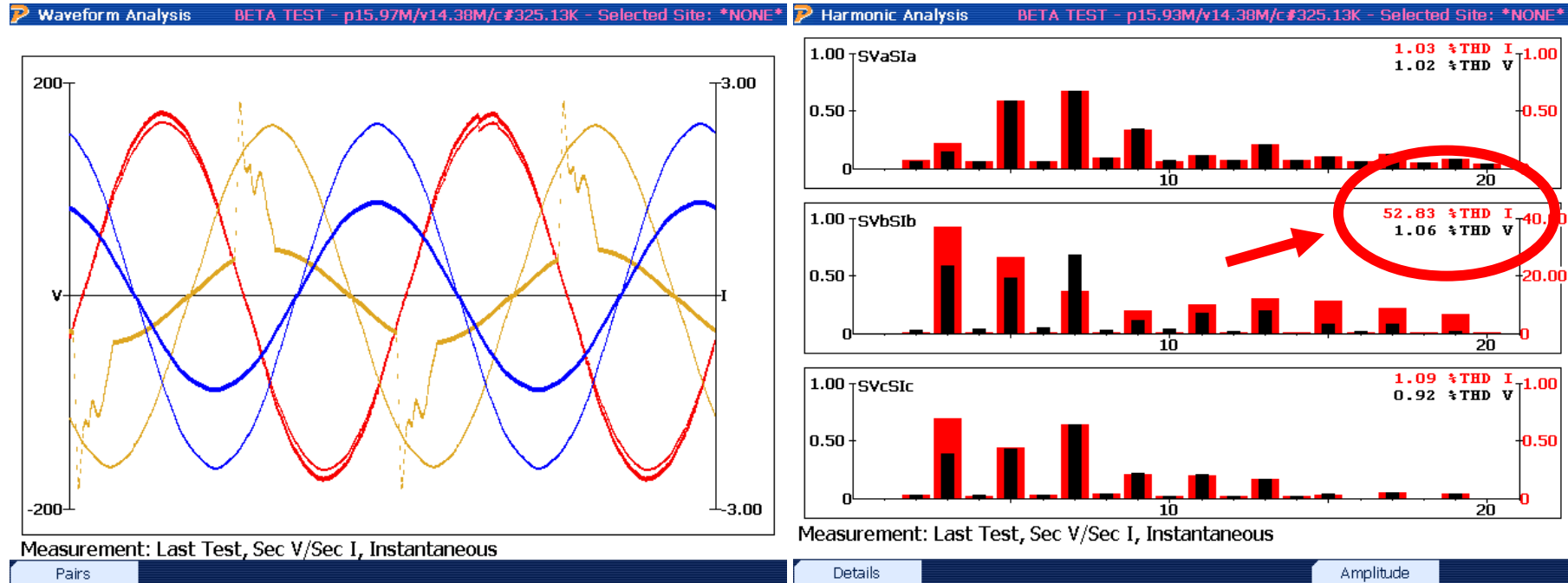
CT Phase B harmonic load removed.

Same CT in BOTH cases.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CTs installations can be fully verified in the field



These are the waveforms and harmonics when the CT failed.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio vs Applied Burden

- CTs installations can be fully verified in the field

CT Testing Results BETA TEST - p17.26M/v15.88M/c#268.88K - Selected Site: *NONE*

Measured Ratio: 5.03	PASS	A
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 1.83	
Ratio Error (%): 0.54%	Secondary Amps: 1.822	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.273°	Phase Error (minutes): 16' 23"	

Measured Ratio: 5.06	PASS	B
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 2.09	
Ratio Error (%): 1.19%	Secondary Amps: 2.061	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.025°	Phase Error (minutes): 1' 31"	

Measured Ratio: 5.04	PASS	C
Nameplate Ratio: 5 : 5	Primary Amps: 1.64	
Ratio Error (%): 0.76%	Secondary Amps: 1.631	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.334°	Phase Error (minutes): 20' 2"	

Original Test: Site '4WY' at 6/25/2010 3:58 PM


	Graphs	Data	Exit
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Without the harmonic load this CT passed it's test.

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio Error – In Whose Favor?

I did at CT ratio test. What does it mean when I measure a ratio of 99.68:5 on a 100:5 CT?

CT Testing Results		Selected Site: CT TEST			
Measured Ratio: 99.93		PASS	A		
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 39.72				
Ratio Error (%): -0.07%	Secondary Amps: 1.987				
Phase Error (degrees): -0.190°	Phase Error (minutes): -11' 25"				
					
Measured Ratio: 99.68		PASS	B		
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 35.86				
Ratio Error (%): -0.32%	Secondary Amps: 1.799				
Phase Error (degrees): -0.097°	Phase Error (minutes): -5' 49"				
Measured Ratio: 99.96		PASS	C		
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 31.25				
Ratio Error (%): -0.04%	Secondary Amps: 1.563				
Phase Error (degrees): -0.138°	Phase Error (minutes): -8' 18"				
Test Complete					
Retest	Retest All	Demagnetize	Graphs	Data	Done

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio Error – In Whose Favor?

In the phase B test we measured 35.86 amps on the primary and 1.799 secondary amps.

$$\text{Ratio} = 5.0 * (\text{Primary} / \text{Secondary}) = 99.68$$

If the ratio had been 100:5 and the primary was 35.86 amps we should have measured 1.793 amps on the secondary.

We measured 1.799 – **MORE** than we should have.

Therefore a tested ratio of 99.68 means that we are measuring more current than we should. **This error is in our favor.**

Testing Current Transformers

Ratio Error – In Whose Favor?

Suppose we add burden to the metering circuit.

CT Testing Results

Selected Site: CT TEST

% Change in Secondary Amps

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		0.000	-4.468	-10.751	-16.377	N/A	N/A	N/A
B		0.000	-4.072	-9.727	-14.820	N/A	N/A	N/A
C		0.000	-3.490	-8.405	-12.873	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ratio Data

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A	100:5	99.93	100.20	100.85	101.42	N/A	N/A	N/A
B	100:5	99.68	99.96	100.54	101.01	N/A	N/A	N/A
C	100:5	99.96	100.17	100.71	101.23	N/A	N/A	N/A

Ratio Error (%)

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		-0.07	0.20	0.85	1.42	N/A	N/A	N/A
B		-0.32	-0.04	0.54	1.01	N/A	N/A	N/A
C		-0.04	0.17	0.71	1.23	N/A	N/A	N/A

Relative Phase Data (degrees)

Phase	Ref	0.0Ω	0.1Ω	0.3Ω	0.5Ω	1.0Ω	2.0Ω	4.0Ω
A		-0.19	-0.51	-0.89	-1.17	N/A	N/A	N/A
B		-0.10	-0.38	-0.79	-1.11	N/A	N/A	N/A
C		-0.14	-0.42	-0.81	-1.07	N/A	N/A	N/A

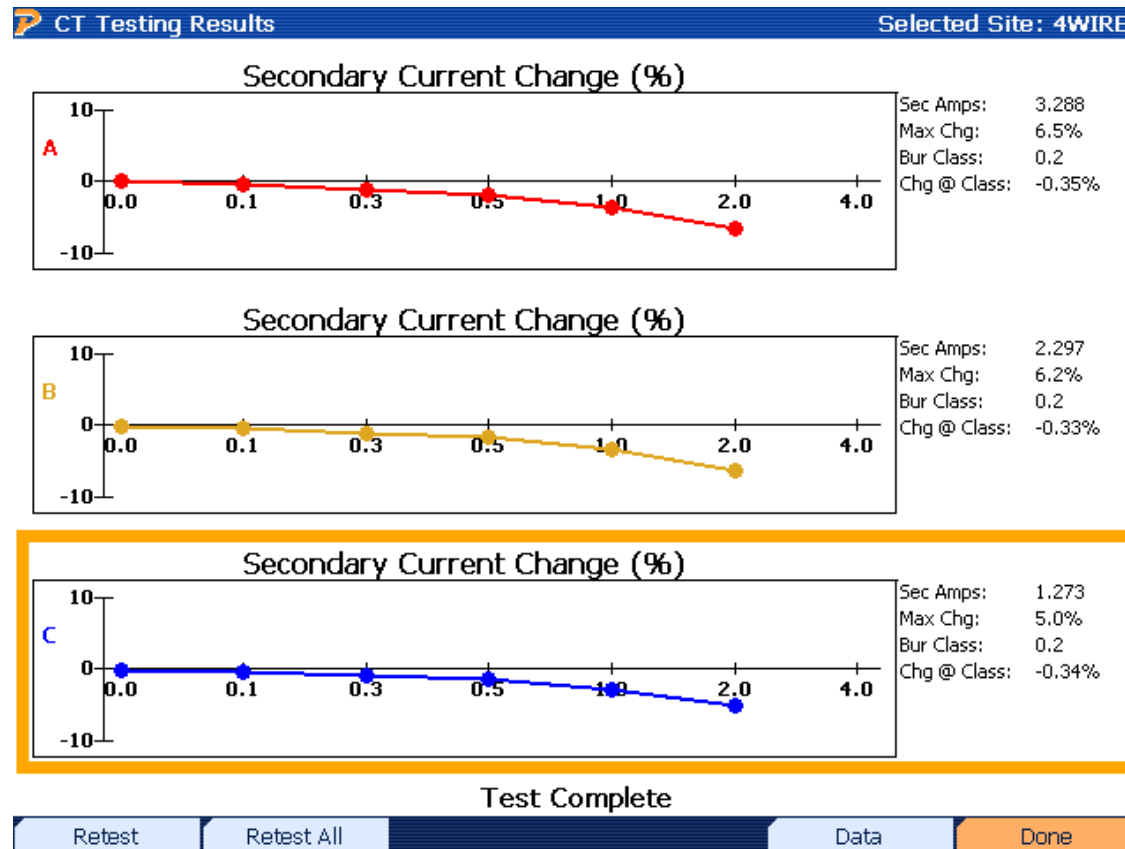
Graphs

Notice that the ratio increases as we apply burden. With 0.3 Ohms of burden the ratio switches from less than 100:5 to greater than 100:5. This is the point where things swing to being in favor of the customer.

Testing Current Transformers

Burden Test Only

- If we cannot get to the primary side of the CT we can check that the output is constant as burden changes.

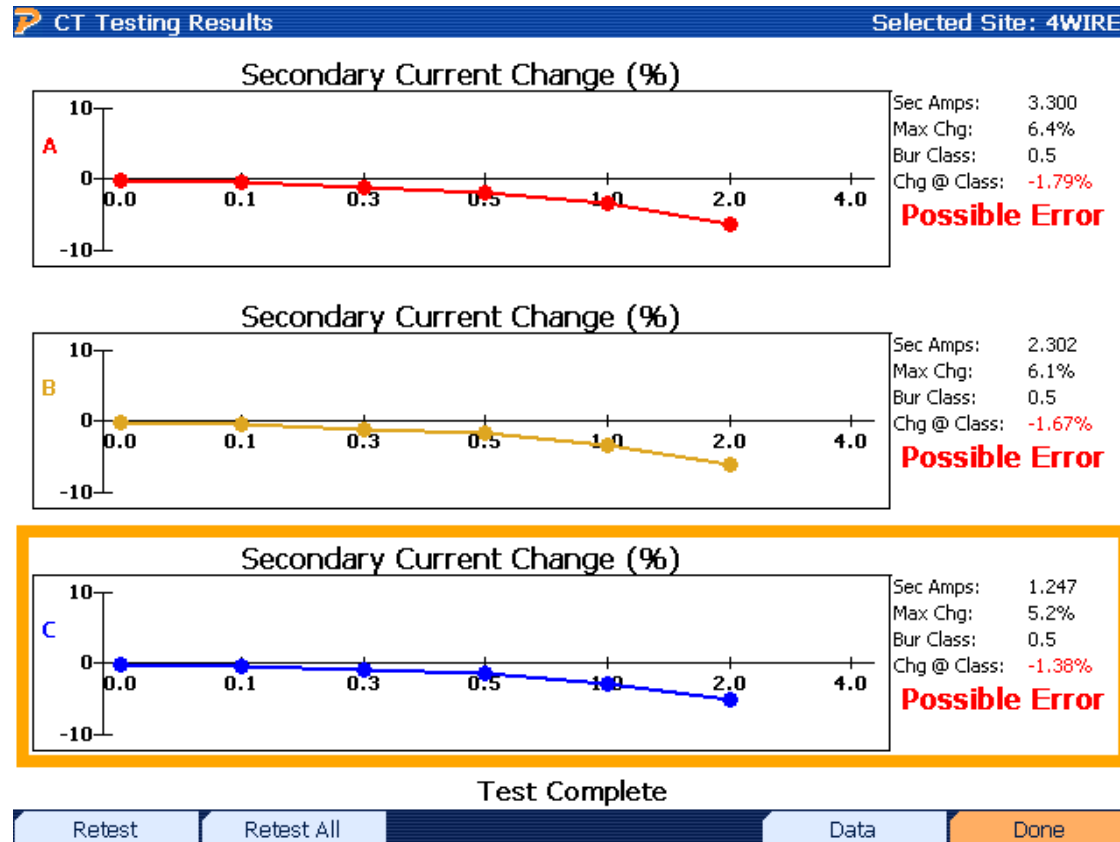


Burden Class 0.2
CTs can look
quite bad but
actually be within
specs.

Testing Current Transformers

Burden Test Only

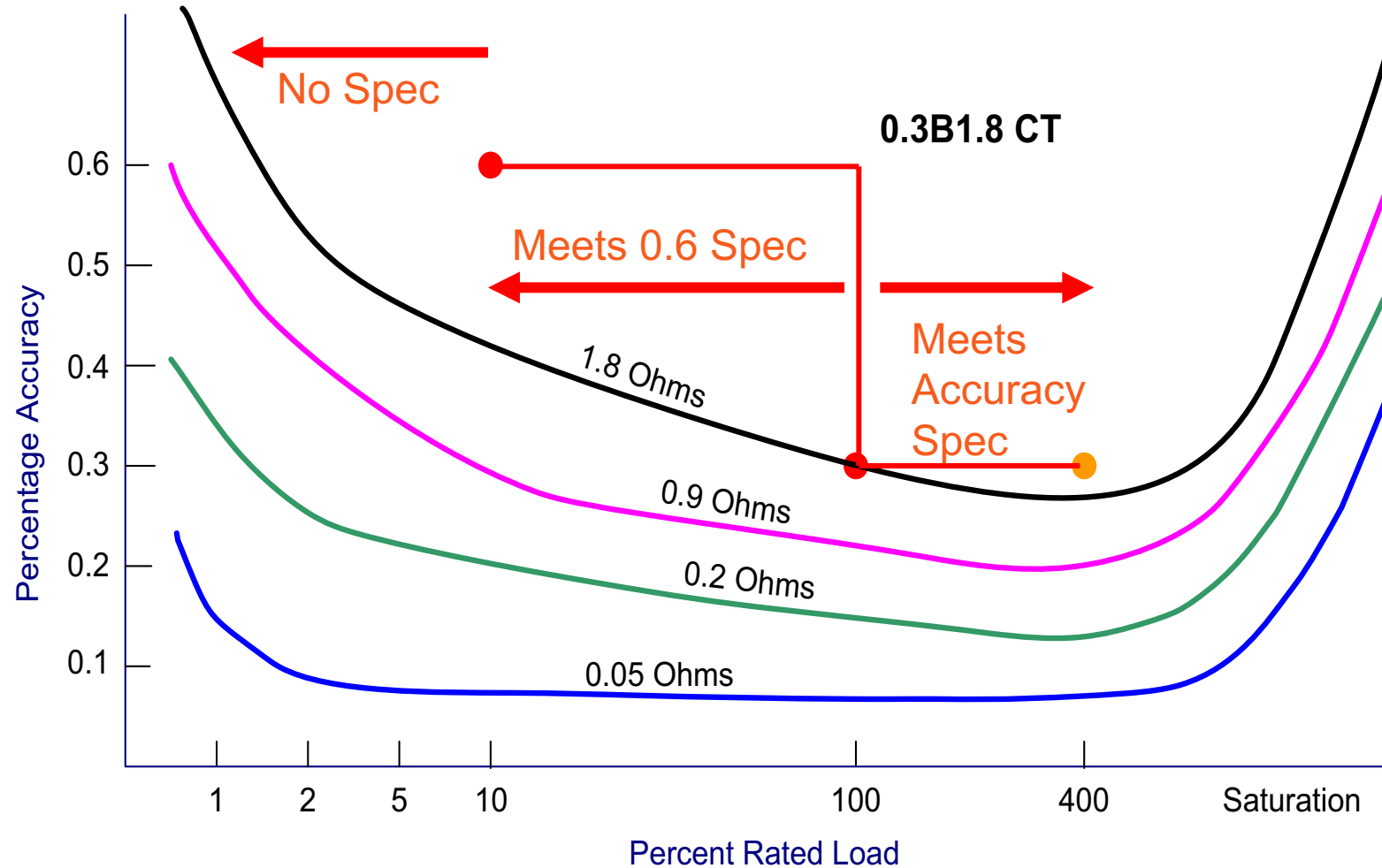
- If we cannot get to the primary side of the CT we can check that the output is constant as burden changes.



Same performance from Burden Class 0.5 CTs is well out of specification.

A burden only test that is GOOD probably means the CT is GOOD. A test that is bad may mean nothing.

CT – Accuracy – Burden - Load



Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong?

- Same site as above: What went wrong???

CT Testing Results BETA TEST - p17.70M/v16.81M/c#298.79K - Selected Site: ZCOIL

Measured Ratio: 112.39	FAIL	A
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 51.69	
Ratio Error (%): 12.38%	Secondary Amps: 2.300	
Phase Error (degrees): -0.041°	Phase Error (minutes): -2' 28"	

Measured Ratio: 99.61	PASS	B
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 49.73	
Ratio Error (%): -0.39%	Secondary Amps: 2.496	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.172°	Phase Error (minutes): 10' 17"	

Measured Ratio: 99.73	PASS	C
Nameplate Ratio: 100 : 5	Primary Amps: 51.12	
Ratio Error (%): -0.27%	Secondary Amps: 2.563	
Phase Error (degrees): 0.115°	Phase Error (minutes): 6' 54"	

Test Complete

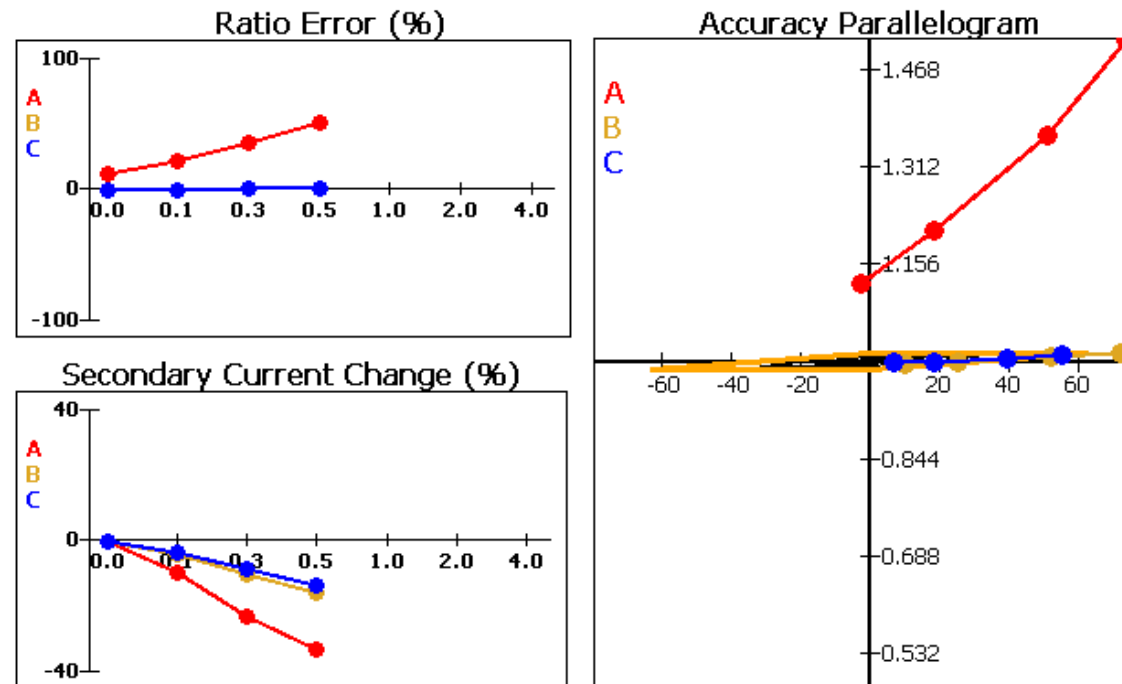
Retest	Retest All	Demagnetize	Graphs	Data	Done
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Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong?

- Same site as above: What went wrong???

CT Testing Results Graphs BETA TEST - p17.27M/v16.81M/c#303.89K - Selected Site: ZCOIL

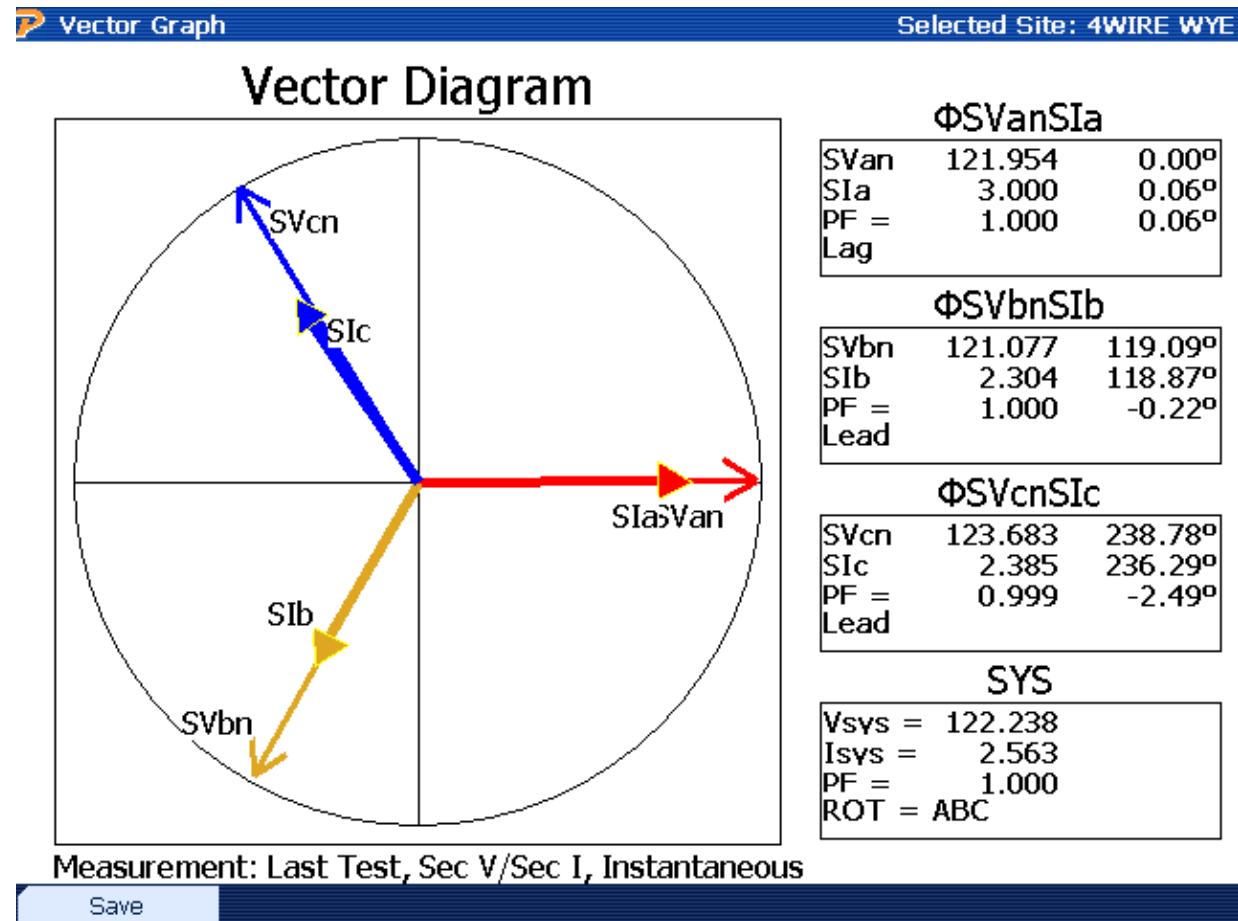


Φ A Φ B Φ C All Data

Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong?

- Same site as above: What went wrong???



Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong? → Power Theft



A simple piece of wire wrapped around the CT.

Power thefts surge in bad times

It's dangerous, and other consumers pick up the tab

By Paul Davidson
USA TODAY

As the dismal economy spawns desperate measures, some Americans are resorting to a hazardous practice: stealing electricity.

Many utilities say energy theft has risen sharply during the economic downturn. Culprits include

vice was turned off in early 2008, 30% were illegally using electricity late last year, utility PECO says.

Customers have stolen power for decades, costing utilities 1% to 3% of revenue — or about \$6 billion industrywide — each year, according to *Electric Light & Power* magazine. Losses are borne by other customers. Many thieves operate home-based marijuana farms that use lots of lights.

But the problem is mushrooming. In Pennsylvania, utility PPL says thefts rose 16% last year, with fewer drug-related incidents and more tied to service terminations.

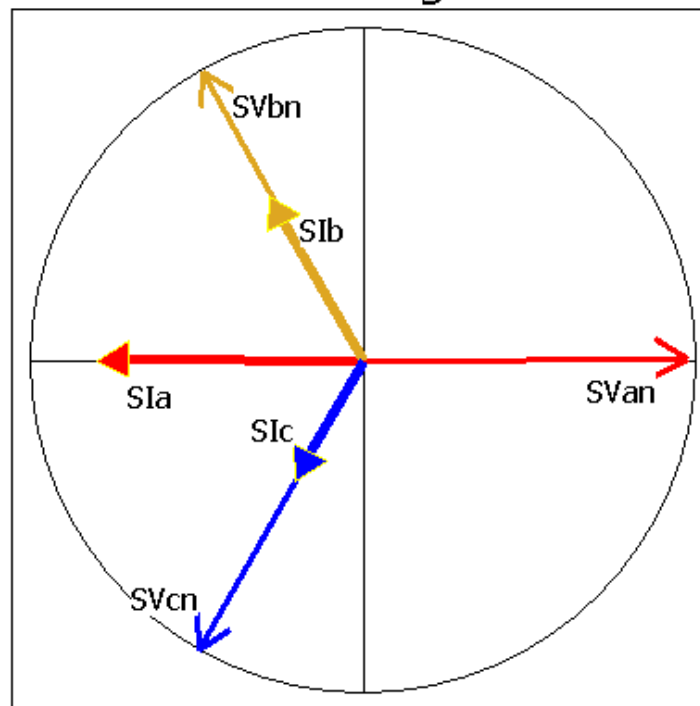
Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong?

Vector Graph

Selected Site: DELETE ME

Vector Diagram



Φ SVanSIa

SVan	117.914	0.00°
SIa	3.243	179.78°
PF =	1.000	179.78°
Lag		

Φ SVbnSIb

SVbn	119.674	240.87°
SIb	2.288	240.42°
PF =	1.000	-0.45°
Lead		

Φ SVcnSIc

SVcn	121.251	119.46°
SIc	1.679	119.21°
PF =	1.000	-0.25°
Lead		

SYS

Vsys =	119.613
Isys =	2.403
PF =	1.000
ROT =	CBA

Measurement: Live Test, Sec V/Sec I, Instantaneous

Reference

Show Wiring

Interval

Sec V/Pri I

Stop

Phase A CT reversed.

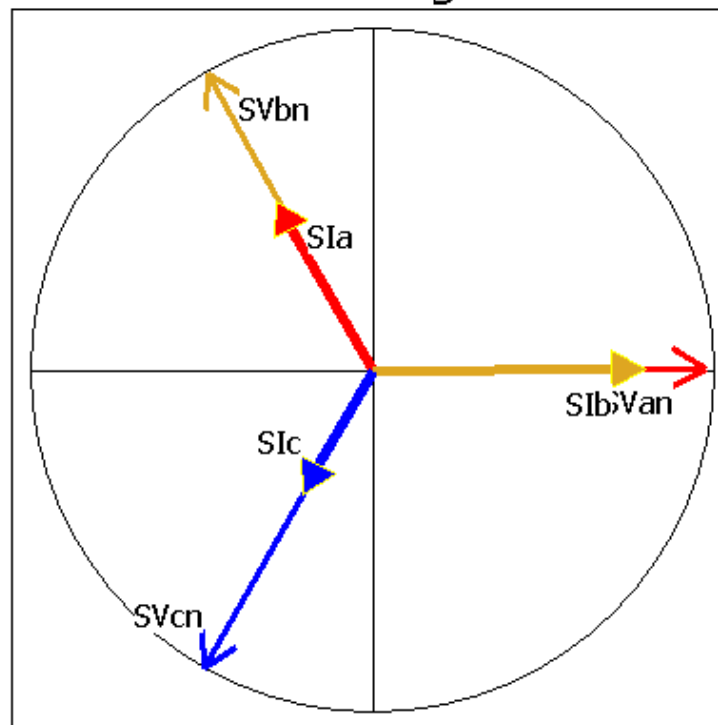
Testing Current Transformers

What's Wrong?

Vector Graph

Selected Site: DELETE ME

Vector Diagram



Φ SVanSIa

SVan	118.017	0.00°
SIa	2.289	240.46°
PF =	0.493	-119.54°
Lead		

Φ SVbnSIb

SVbn	119.774	240.91°
SIb	3.245	359.77°
PF =	0.482	118.86°
Lag		

Φ SVcnSIc

SVcn	121.387	119.50°
SIc	1.680	119.24°
PF =	1.000	-0.26°
Lead		

SYS

Vsys =	119.726
Isys =	2.405
PF =	0.658
ROT =	CBA

Measurement: Live Test, Sec V/Sec I, Instantaneous

Reference

Show Wiring

Interval

Sec V/Pri I

Stop

Phase A & B CTs swapped.

Questions? Comments?
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