Sparse Voltage Measurement-Based Fault Location Using Intelligent Electronic Devices

Ke Jia, Bin Yang, Xiongying Dong, Tao Feng, Tianshu Bi, and David Thomas

Abstract—This paper proposes a fault-section location method based on sparse measurements, aimed at asymmetrical faults. A virtual current vector is defined to indicate the faulted section, which is sufficiently sparse except that the fault position corresponding entries are nonzero. To simplify the algorithm, the virtual vector is fixed by amplitudes of voltages and impedances and the feasibility is demonstrated. The Bayesian Compressive Sensing theory is introduced to reduce the number of required intelligent electronic devices (IEDs). In addition, the minimal number of IEDs and their allocation are discussed. The performance of the proposed method is validated in a 69-bus, 12.66 kV distribution system with six distributed generations (DGs) in response to various fault scenarios. The simulation results show that the method is robust for single-phase, double-phase, and double-phase to ground faults with high resistance under noisy condition. Furthermore, the method is applicable for networks with inverter interfaced DGs.

Index Terms—Fault-section location; sparse measurement; IEDs; BCS theory; DGs.

I. INTRODUCTION

WITH the development of both distribution automation (DA) and distribution management system (DMS), intelligent electronic devices (IEDs) begin to gather the operation and fault information of networks in real time [1], which promotes the further development of fault location methodology.

To date, fault location methods can be classified into the following categories: impedance estimation methods [2]-[6], travelling wave methods [8]-[13], and wide area measurement-based methods [14]-[32]. Impedance estimation methods calculate the impedance using the post-fault measurement to estimate the distance between fault and observation point. These are sensitive to unpredictable laterals and load taps of the distribution networks [7]. Travelling wave methods utilize the time of propagation and reflection of high frequency wave to evaluate the position of the fault [28]. Wide area measurement-based methods utilize wide area measurement to locate the fault with assistance of intelligent devices and algorithms. The influence of load change is crippled and injection of high frequency signals is avoided in wide area measurement-based methods; therefore, these have been promoted in recent years.

Wide area measurement-based methods determine the faulted area using the synchronous fault information gathered from several measurements. In [14]-[18], the fault location is obtained by monitoring voltage sags at different nodes. It is

necessary to simulate different fault scenarios and then compare the simulation results with the measured voltages to select the optimal match. Reference [19] combines voltage sag methods with impedance estimation methods, effectively decreases "pseudo" impedance estimations, and proposes a systematic method to induce low voltage areas. Currently, fault indicator (FI)-based methods have received a new focus [20]-[22]. The faulted area determined by these methods [14]-[22] relies on the position of the monitoring device. Insufficient investment would definitely increase the range of the determined faulted area, thus increasing troubleshooting time.

IEC 61850, published in 2003, specifies the communication system for power utility automation [23]. Since then, efforts to improve the fault location function of DMS have been made [24]-[26]. However, over investment of IED definitely leads to costly deployment and high bandwidth communication networks.

Several researches improved the location performance using synchronous phasors, measured by phasor measurement units (PMUs) [27]-[31]. However, the upgrading of facilities can only promote the accuracy of methods without solving the problem of the large determined range.

To solve this problem, a series of methods based on an automatic algorithm have been proposed. The introduction of the intelligent algorithm [32]-[35] decreased the operation time, but the algorithm's pre-training and modification to various conditions requires considerable unavailable data. The methods based on iterative state estimation [36]-[39] are universal but cause high computational burden. Reference [40]-[42] mentioned fault location methods based on probability theory, which inspires research on automatic fault location methods.

This study proposes a sparse measurement-based faults section location method aimed at asymmetrical faults in distribution networks (three-phase faults rarely happen in a distribution system), which is able to narrow the location range down to two adjacent nodes by few IEDs. A defined sparse vector, whose items are a virtual nodal current injection of negative sequence, is proposed as substitute of the true fault current to indicate the faulted section. The virtual current vector is obtained via multiplying the negative sequence node voltage vector with the negative sequence admittance matrix. Given that the purpose of the operation is to obtain an index vector instead of a real current phasor, the operation was simplified by using the amplitudes of voltage and admittance to reconstruct the target vector, and the feasibility analysis is presented. The equations are underdetermined due to the sparsity of measured

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voltages. To restructure the fault injection current vector, Bayesian Compressive Sensing (BCS) theory was introduced. The proposed method is tested in a 69-bus, 12.66 kV distribution system with six distributed generations (DGs) built in PSCAD/EMTDC according to actual distribution networks. Simulation results show that the proposed method offers good accuracy, adaptation to noise, and large fault resistance. Furthermore, the method is available to distribution networks with inverter interfaced DGs. Via both experiments and analysis, the minimal amount of IEDs was determined by gross nodes quantity and non-zero entries of the index vector. The allocation of IEDs is also discussed.

Compared to existing wide area measurement-based methods, the main contributions of this study are as follows:

- The proposed method is capable to point out the faulted line section from a large scale high- or middle-voltage (above 10 kV) distribution network, using measurements gathered from very few measuring devices. The requirement of the method for IEDs is far less than that of the existing methods [14]-[22],[24]-[26]. Moreover, allocation of IEDs has been analyzed in this study.
- Negative voltage amplitudes extracted from the original sampling are processed to locate the fault section, instead of the voltage phasors. Furthermore, the post-fault voltage data and network parameters required in the method are obtainable. Therefore, the proposed method avoids the polling of unavailable data [32]-[35] and the investment of PMU [27]-[31].
- Compared to the methods mentioned in references [40]-[42], an efficient algorithm BCS is adopted to help obtained the position of the fault, which demonstrates improved applicability and anti-noise performance.
- The operation time of the algorithm in this method only scores ms in RTDS. Compared to computationally burdensome methods [36]-[39], the fault location time is reduced.
- The negative sequence component is used in the proposed method, which makes the fault location result less affected by DG, which normally uses eliminating negative sequence control to maintain a smooth fault ride.

II. NEW FAULT-SECTION LOCATION METHODOLOGY

When a permanent asymmetrical shunt fault has occurred in a distribution network, the negative sequence component of the fault current cannot be directly used to indicate the fault position because the post-fault structure is unknown. Therefore, a virtual current vector for indication is proposed in this section.

A. Virtual negative sequence injection current

Given an N-nodes distribution network, an asymmetric fault occurred on line l-m, away from the node l by c/1 length of the line $(0 \le c \le 1)$. Assume that the parameter of lines distributes evenly. The actual negative sequence current is as shown in Fig. 1, presented as a solid arrow.

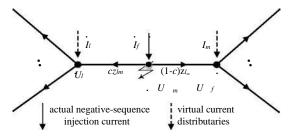


Fig. 1. Negative sequence current equivalent injection.

According to Kirchhoff's Current Law (KCL), the sums of the actual negative sequence current on the nodes l and m are zero. This relationship of currents can be represented via nodal negative sequence voltages as:

$$\begin{cases}
U & \sum_{i=1}^{n} y_{i} - U \neq y \quad (U = 0) + y \quad (U = 0) \\
V & U = 0
\end{cases}$$

$$\begin{cases}
V - U \neq y \quad (U = 0) + y \quad (U = 0) \\
V - U \neq y \quad (U = 0) \\
V - U = 0
\end{cases}$$

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V - U = 0
\end{cases}$$

where y_{li} (y_{mi}) represents the admittance between node l and each node connected to l, represented by letter i (m and i), y_{lm} represents the admittance of line l-m, y_l (y_m) the admittance of the load connected to the ground at node l (m), and Ut the negative sequence voltage of node i in phasor form. As mentioned above, the exact position of the fault is unknown; therefore, it is difficult to obtain the actual i f. Equivalently, it can be substituted by two virtual components i f and i f. the dashed arrows in Fig. 1, separately injected into nodes l and m.

The transformation cannot change the rest of the distribution network; therefore, the negative sequence current injections of other nodes remain zero. On this basis, the post-fault topology of the system can be seen as identical to the pre-fault; consequently, virtual negative sequence currents can reasonably be fixed by pre-fault system parameters and post-fault nodal negative sequence voltages:

$$\begin{vmatrix}
I^{\uparrow}_{1} \parallel Y_{11} - \bullet Y_{1} t Y_{1} m - \bullet Y_{1N} \mid & U_{1} \\
U_{1} \mid Y_{11} = Y_{1} Y_{1m} = Y_{1N} & U_{1} \mid & U_{1} \mid$$

where I represents the virtual nodal negative sequence currents vector in phasor, U represents the nodal negative sequence voltages vector in phasor, and **Y** represents the negative-sequence admittance matrix of pre-fault networks.

[In reference to [43], the relation of entries in **Y** with the admittance in (1) is:

where y_{kk} represents the diagonal elements in Y, y_{kk} the diagonal

$$Y_{kk} = y + \sum_{i \neq k} y$$

$$Y_{jk} = -y + \sum_{i \neq k} y$$

$$Y_{jk} = Y$$

elements in Y, v_f the sum of admittances connected to node k, and y_k the admittance of the load connected to ground at node k. With regard to both virtual currents (negative sequence), i.e. the dashed arrows in Fig. 1, these can be seen as two independent current-sources with unknown amplitudes. Based on (2-b) and (3), the virtual current *h*can be represented as:

In the same way, 1_m can be represented as:

Integrating (1) with (4) and (5),
$$h$$
 and f can be deduced as:

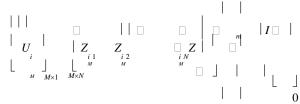
 $I = -Y_{lm}$
 $I = -X_{lm}$
 $I = -X_{lm}$

The coefficient c varies with changing fault position. If the value of c ranges between 0 and 1, the fault position is between nodes land m; however, if y is equal to 0 or 1, the fault occurred on the nodes l or m. This can be summarized as:

$$0, I \neq 0, I = 0 \ (0 < c < 1, j \neq l \ and m)$$

Note that the vector consisting of h, \dot{l} : is a fictitious current vector, named 1F.

IEDs cannot be allocated on every bus in the networks; therefore, the measurement If is sufficiently sparse. Extract the voltages of measurable buses from if to form a new vector Um. Accordingly, extract the corresponding rows of the impedance matrix (the inverse of Y) to form a new matrix Zm. Consequently, the virtual (8-b)vector I_F can then be obtained by: $U_M Z_M I_F$



where N represents the gross number of nodes within the network and *M* represents the number of IEDs.

Only if elements of the vectors are phasors, the equation holds. However, PMU is too expensive to be promoted in

distribution networks. Therefore, the feasibility of using amplitudes is demonstrated in the next subsection.

B. Negative sequence equation with amplitude elements

To avoid phasor calculation and rigorous synchronization of the gathered data, this subsection analyzes the feasibility of substituting phasors with their magnitudes based on the property of the bus impedance matrix.

The branches in the network model are classified into two types: 1) tree branches, all distribution lines can be regarded as tree branches due to the radial topology of the distribution networks; 2) link branches, the loads and DGs can be seen as link branches. In the case presented in subsection II-A, assuming that node l is closer to the external grid, the region among them is defined as upstream, and the region behind node m is defined as downstream as shown in Fig. 2.

Fig. 2. Region partition by line 1-m.

According to the fundamental of the modifying impedance matrix by adding the branch, the modifications of tree and link branches are different.

nches are different.

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 \begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z & \begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z & \begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z & \begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z \\
 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z & \begin{bmatrix}
 \end{bmatrix}_{11} Z & \begin{bmatrix}$$

After addition of a tree branch l-m at node l, the impedance matrix \mathbf{Z}^l is modified into \mathbf{Z}^m . The relationships among the elements in \mathbf{Z}^m are: $Z_{mi} = Z_{li}$, $Z_{im} = Z_{il}$, $Z_{mm} = Z_{ll} + Z_{lm}$, where Z_{lm} represents the impedance of line l-m and the letter i represents the upstream nodes.

Similarly, after adding a tree branch downstream, the relationships of the elements in the new matrix are: $Z_{jl} = Z_{ml}$, $Z_{jm} = Z_{mm}$, $Z_{ij} = Z_{il}$, where the letter j represents the downstream nodes. The property can be summarized as:

$$\frac{Zll}{Z lm} = \frac{Zil}{Zim} \frac{Zml}{Zmm} = \frac{Zjl}{zl} \frac{Zll}{zl} = Zil$$

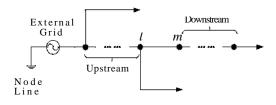
$$Z^{jm} \frac{lj}{z} \frac{ij}{z}$$
(10)

where $i\ l$, the letter represents upstream nodes, $j\ m$, the letter represents downstream nodes.

While adding a link branch does not change the dimension of \mathbf{Z} , it can only lead to changes on the values of the entries relevant for downstream [44]. For example, with regard to a load connected at node x, this link branch can be considered as a branch link between node x and ground defined as the node zero. Therefore, the modification of relevant downstream entries Z_{ij} is:

$$(Z - Z)(Z - Z)$$
 $Z_{x x} + Z_{0 0} - 2Z_{x 0} + Z_{x 0}$
 $Z_{x x} + Z_{0 0} - 2Z_{x 0} + Z_{0 0}$

where Z_{ii} represents the modified element z_{ij} , i, j, number 0 represent the node represents ground, and z_{x0} represents the



$$\bar{Z}_{ij} = Z_{ij} \qquad (11)$$

equivalent impedance of the load. According to the definition of self-impedance and mutual-impedance [43], $Z_{i0} = Z_{0j} = Z_{00} = Z_{x0} = 0$. Therefore, (11) can be simplified as:

$$Z_{ij} = Z_{ij}^{-} = Z_{-}^{Z} Z_{ix xj} \qquad Z_{i}Z_{xj}$$

$$Z_{ij} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_{-}^{-} Z_{xxj}$$

$$Z_{ij} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_{-}^{-} Z_{xxj}$$

$$Z_{ij} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_{-}^{-} Z_{xxj}$$

$$Z_{ij} = Z_{-}^{-} = Z_$$

where $K = Z_{xx} + z_{x0}$.

The following investigates whether the first equation of (10) still holds after addition of a link branch. Suppose this proposition holds, which means:

$$Z_{ll} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{ll} & Z_{il} \\ -Z_{lm} & Z_{im} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z_{ll} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_{lx} \times Z_{xl} & Z_{l} \\ Z_{lx} \times Z_{xm} & Z_{l} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z_{lm} = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{K}{x} \times Z_{xm} & K \\ -Z_{lm} & Z_{lx} \times Z_{xm} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$Z_{lm} = \begin{bmatrix} K & K \\ -Z_{lm} & K \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(13-a)$$

$$Z_{lm} = \begin{bmatrix} K & K \\ -Z_{lm} & K \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(13-b)$$

Which is: $Z Z_{lm \ ix \ xl} Z_{lm \ i$

where $Z_{ll}Z_{lm}$ - $Z_{lm}Z_{il}$ = 0 obviously known from the first equation in (10). Therefore, if the second item of (14) was zero, the proposition would hold. If node x was in upstream:

$$Z_{ix}(Z_{il}Z_{xm} - Z_{lm}Z_{xl}) + Z_{lx}(Z_{xl}Z_{im} - Z_{xm}Z_{il}) = 0$$
(15)

If node x was in downstream:

$$Z_{xm}(Z_{ll}Z_{ix}-Z_{lx}Z_{il})+Z_{xl}(Z_{lx}Z_{im}-Z_{lm}Z_{ix})=0$$
 (16)

Integrated with (10), the items in brackets of (15) and (16) are equal to zero. Therefore, this demonstrate the proposition stands, which is the first equation of (10), still holds after addition of a link branch. The other two equations of (10) can also be verified in the same way.

$$k = \frac{Z_{l}}{Z_{lm}} \frac{iZ_{l}}{Z_{lm}} \frac{Z_{l}}{Z_{lm}} = \frac{Z_{l}}{Z_{lm}} = k_{2}$$

In conclusion, the relationships among entries of matrix ${\bf Z}$ can be drawn as:

(17)

where k_1 and k_2 are dimensionless ratios of impedance.

Therefore, the post-fault node equations implied by (8-b) can be reasonably classified as two types by the different ratios of Z_l Z_m :

(18) +

where U^{\square_i} represents the voltage of upstream node, U^{\square_j} the voltage of downstream node, $I^{\square}v_i=U^{\square_i}Z_{im}$ and $I^{\square}v_j=U^{\square_j}Z_{jm}$. It's a very legible binary linear equation group of U-I, in which the

two equations are both required for solvability of (18). Namely, for a fault in the network, at least one IED respectively allocated in both up- and down-stream nodes could provide the solvability of (18). One fundamental of the sparse allocation of IEDs for the proposed method is then inferred that the tail ends

of all feeders should be allocated with IEDs to make sure fault location realized on all lines in network.

Based on (18), a hypothesis is made that there are two scalar quantities I^* and I_m^* which make the following equations stand:

Deduction of (19) seems illogical for vector calculations. However, it makes sense if the two currents are in- or out-phase. They are essentially in-phase which can be inferred from their definition, i.e. two virtual components of actual fault current. Therefore, the hypothesis is founded. Hereto, the mathematical model for fault location has been built as:

$$U_{M} = Z_{M} \cdot I_{F}^{*}$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} U_{0} & \vdots \\ U_{n} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} Z_{i_{1}} & A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ \vdots \\ U_{M} & Z_{i_{1}} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} Z_{i_{1}} & A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ \vdots \\ U_{M} & Z_{i_{1}} \end{bmatrix} \qquad \begin{bmatrix} A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots \\ \vdots \\ A_{i_{2}} & \vdots$$

Defining the vector $1 \cdot = [\mathbf{0} \cdot ... r_t \cdot r_t \cdot r_n \cdot ... \mathbf{0}]^T$ as the fault position indicator, is able to be fixed by processing RMS of the measured negative sequence voltages and amplitudes of impedances. The two nonzero entries in $1 \cdot intuitively$ indicate the faulted section.

Solving the binary linear equation group (19) wouldn't be straightforward as it looks like. Since the positions of l and m are inconclusive, the I^{\square}_{Ui} and I^{\square}_{Uj} cannot be certain (e.g. $U^{\square}_{i}Z_{im}$ the denominator Z_{lm} is related to the position of node m). Finding the positions of l and m is an optimization problem, so BCS has been introduced into the proposed method.

C. Solving process based on BCS Theory

The Bayesian compressive sensing theory based on Sparse Bayesian Learning (SBL) is more suitable than traditional theories based on l_1 -norm regularization formulation. The reason is that these deal with the perceptual matrix, which has a strong correlation between columns. Furthermore, the SBL algorithm is more inclined to obtain a sparse solution. Moreover, SBL also possesses a stronger anti-noise ability.

The fundamental of compressive sensing theory [45] is:

$$\mathbf{y} = \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{\theta} + \mathbf{e} \tag{21}$$

$$\theta$$
 = arg min { $y - \Phi \theta_2 + \rho \theta$ } (22)

where **y** represents the *M*-dimensional measurement vector, Φ represents a $M \times N$ matrix defined as sensing matrix ($\Phi = [\theta_1, \theta_2, ..., \theta_N]$), θ represents the *N*-dimensional sparse vector to be solved, \mathbf{e} represents the *M*-dimensional vector composed of Gaussian white noises, M << N [46], $\| \cdot \|_p$ denotes the operation of computing l_p -norm. The first item in the braces represents the constraint that the deviation between \mathbf{y} and $\Phi \theta$ should be



minimized, the second item represents the sparsity constraint (i.e. the number of nonzero elements in the vector $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ should be minimized), and p represents a coefficient with which to regulate the relationship of both items, p > 0.

In this study, the objective function (18) can be described as:

$$U_{M} = Z_{M}I^{*}_{F} + \mathbf{e} \tag{23}$$

where **e** represents the *M*-dimensional vector composed of Gaussian white noises of voltages measurements.

For the initialization of the SBL algorithm, every entry θ_i in θ is assumed to obey a Gauss distribution, thus \mathbf{y} 's Gauss likelihood (GL) model with unknown variance θ^2 can be obtained:

$$(\mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{\theta}, \sigma^2) (2\pi\sigma_2)_{-\kappa^2} \operatorname{ex} \frac{}{p(-2^{\frac{1}{2}} \mathbf{y} - \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{\theta}^2)}$$
(24)

where 6^2 represents the variance of y's GL model.

Equation (24) is a multiple linear regression in which \mathbf{y} is given to estimate $\mathbf{\theta}$ and 6^2 .

Unlike Laplace Sparseness Prior (LSP), the hierarchical prior based on Relevance Vector Machine (RVM) used in SBL is conjugated to the GL model. The conjugation property greatly reduces the complexity of the algorithm. Hierarchical prior based on RVM is introduced in the following.

Assuming that every element in sparse vector $\boldsymbol{\theta}$ is independent, obeying Gauss distribution with zero mean:

$$p (\mathbf{\theta} \mid \mathbf{\alpha}) = \prod N(\theta)$$

$$0, \alpha_i^{-1})$$
(25)

where α_i is defined as the precision of =Gaussian (26)

density function, i.e. the

reciprocal of variance. Hyper-parameter α is assumed to obey a

$${}^{x}p(\boldsymbol{\theta}|a,b)=\prod_{i}0$$
(27)

gamma prior distribution:

$$p(\mathbf{\alpha}|a,b) = \prod_{i=1}^{N} \Gamma(\alpha|a,b)$$

where a and b represent the hyper-parameters of the parameter model of α . Marginalizing α obtains the prior distribution of θ :

Considering θ_i as measurement data and $N(\theta_i|0,\alpha_i^{-1})$ as the likelihood function of θ_i , $\Gamma(\alpha_i|a,b)$ is conjugate with α_i in the Gauss distribution. Equation (27) satisfies a student-t distribution. The student-t distribution can be very sharp at $\theta_i=0$ if the values of a and b are given reasonably. Therefore, the prior distribution given by (27) ensures that most entries of θ are 0; namely, the sparsity of the reconstructed signal is ensured. Assuming that the reciprocal of the noise variance $ft=6^{-2}$, obeys the Gamma prior distribution, i.e. $p(\beta|c,d)=\Gamma(\beta|a,b)$, where c and d are hyper-parameters.

Integrated with the discussion of the measurement data **y** and the above-mentioned prior distribution, the posterior distribution can be derived from the Bayes formula as follows:

distribution can be derived from the Bayes formula as follows:

$$p(\mathbf{\theta}, \mathbf{\alpha}, \sigma | \mathbf{y}) = p(\mathbf{\theta} | \mathbf{y}, \mathbf{\alpha}, \sigma) p(\mathbf{\alpha}, \sigma | \mathbf{y})$$
(28)

$$(3 \quad 0 \quad \overset{\Sigma}{)} = (\sigma^{-2} \mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}} \mathbf{\Phi} + \mathbf{A})^{-1}$$

where $\mathbf{A} = diag (\alpha_1, \alpha_2...\alpha_N)$.

The second term $p(\mathbf{\alpha}, 6^2|\mathbf{y})$ is a posterior distribution of $\mathbf{\alpha}$ and 6^{-2} . By maximizing the marginal likelihood function $p(\mathbf{\alpha}, 6^2|\mathbf{y})$, the hyper-parameters $\mathbf{\alpha}$ and 6^{-2} can be estimated. Consequently, both $\mathbf{\alpha}$ and 6^{-2} obey the same distribution. The logarithm edge likelihood function $L(\mathbf{\alpha}, 6^{-2})$ of $\mathbf{\alpha}$ and 6^{-2} can be described as:

$$L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \sigma^{-2}) = \log p(\mathbf{y}|\boldsymbol{\alpha}, \sigma^{-2})$$

$$= -1 \left[M \log_{+} 2\pi + \log_{-} \mathbf{C} \right]$$

$$+ \mathbf{y}^{T} \mathbf{C}^{-1} \mathbf{y} \right] 2$$
()

where $\mathbf{C} = 6^2 \mathbf{E} + \mathbf{\Phi} \mathbf{A}^{-1} \mathbf{\Phi}^{\mathrm{T}}$, and M represents the length of the measurement data.

In reference [47], a fast RVM algorithm was proposed to greatly reduce the burden of computation and storage. It uses the independent correlations among elements of hyperparameter α to decompose $\mathfrak C$ into:

$$= \mathcal{C} \qquad \phi \qquad \alpha_{-}^{1} \qquad \phi_{T} \qquad \phi_{1}^{1} \qquad \tilde{\alpha}$$

$$= \mathbf{C} \qquad + \alpha_{i}^{j \neq i} \qquad (3)$$

where C_{-i} represents the matrix after removing the *i*th basis vector O_i . Solving (32)

$$C_{-1} = C_{-1-i}$$
 through Woodbury's (33 formula [48]:

$$\begin{array}{ccc}
\mathbf{C} & \phi_i \mathbf{C} \phi & \mathbf{T} & \overline{\phi} \\
\alpha & \phi_i \mathbf{C}^{-1} & \overline{\phi} & & & & & & & & & \\
i & + & \mathbf{C}^{-1} & \overline{\phi} & & & & & & & & \\
i & + & \mathbf{C}^{-1} & i & & & & & & & & & \\
\end{array}$$
(34)

Furthermore, the determinant of C is:

The posterior density function consists of two parts in which the first term $p(\theta|\mathbf{y},\mathbf{a},6^2)$ is a multi-dimensional Gaussian distribution whose mean and variance are:

Gaussian distribution whose mean and variance are:

$$\mu = \sum_{\sigma} \Phi y$$

$$\sigma^{-2} \qquad T$$
(35)
(29)

$$\alpha^{-1} \phi^{T} C^{-1} \phi_{i}$$

Substituting (34) into (31) treats
$$L$$
 as a function of $\boldsymbol{\alpha}$:
$$L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) = -\lceil M \log(2 \pi) + \log 2 \pi \rceil + \log 2 \pi$$

$$2 \lfloor d \log + \log(\mathcal{Q}) + \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} = L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) + \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} = L(\boldsymbol{\alpha}) + \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} = \log \frac{1}{i} = \log \frac{1}{i} = \log \frac{1}{i} + \log \frac{1}{i} = \log$$

$$q_{i} = {}^{\mathrm{T}} \phi^{-} \mathbf{C}_{-i} \mathbf{y}$$

where s_i represents the sparsity factor and q_i represents the mass factor. Therefore, the objective function $L(\mathbf{a})$ is translated into the sum of $L(\mathbf{a}_i)$ and $l(a_i)$, both of which are independent.

The analysis of $l(\alpha i)$ in [47] shows that $L(\alpha)$ has a unique maximum with regard to αi : $\alpha i = si^2 / (qi^2 - si)$ when $qi^2 > si$, and $\alpha i = \infty$ when $qi^2 \le si$. According to (29) and (30), μ and Σ can be obtained, and the mean μ of the posterior estimation can be regarded as estimation of the sparse vector θ . A few αi converge to the finite value, and the corresponding θi is not 0; the remaining αi will tend to infinity, and the corresponding θi is approximately 0.

In summary, the BCS algorithm can reconstruct a sufficiently sparse signal θ , which almost matches reality. For the undetermined equations (20), the BCS algorithm can fix the

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{C}_{-i} \mathbf{1} +$$

$$l \quad \phi \prod_{i=1}^{n} \mathbf{C}^{-i} \phi$$

target 1; and the reduction of the false judgment can easily happen in traditional impedance estimation methods.

D. Fault location steps

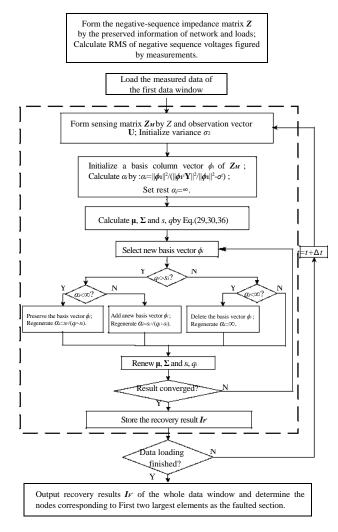


Fig. 3. Flowchart of the proposed fault-section location method.

The steps of the proposed fault-section location method are as follows.

- Step 1: Formation of the negative sequence impedance matrix \mathbf{Z} based on the network and load parameters of the distribution system. Extraction of the corresponding matrix \mathbf{Z}_{M} from \mathbf{Z} according to the allocation of IEDs.
- Step 2: After a fault is detected, the vector U_M can be obtained based on the amplitudes of the negative sequence voltages, calculated from the measured post-fault voltages obtained from IEDs.
- Step 3: Restructure of vector 1; by processing \mathbf{Z}_{M} and \mathbf{U}_{M} through BCS algorithm.
- Step 4: Loading of the voltage amplitude data for the next sampling period and repeating steps 2-3 until all samplings within the data window have been processed.
- Step 5: Comprehensively consider the location results in multiple periods to reduce misjudgment. The fault is regarded to have occurred between the two adjacent nodes whose corresponding elements in the vector 1; are the first two largest.

The flowchart of the proposed fault-section location method is shown in Fig. 3.

III. SIMULATION AND EXPERIMENTAL TESTS

To validate the proposed method, both simulation and experimental tests have been conducted on the US PG&E 69-nodes distribution system, as shown in Fig. 4. The network is connected to the external grid at node 1, with a reference voltage of 12.66 kV. The detail parameters of the system, such as line impedances and loads are given in Table VII in the Appendix.

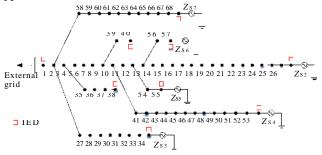


Fig. 4. US PG&E 69-nodes distribution system diagram.

Distributed generations are added arbitrarily at nodes 26, 34, 53, 55, 57, and 68 to simulate a multi-DGs condition. Based on the analysis in part B of section II, voltage measurements are obtained from IEDs installed at nodes 1, 26, 34, 38, 40, 53, 55, 57, and 68. The sampling frequency is 4 kHz.

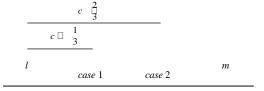


Fig. 5. Positions of fault points in different cases.

Positions of fault points are shown in Fig. 5, where c represents the length percentage of distance between the fault point and node. On each line, there are set two points, with 134 points in total.

The experimental test system is shown in Fig. 6, and is composed of the main controller, PWM generator, monitor, and real time digital simulator (RTDS). The role of these components can be found in [49]. In this study, parameters of the test model are stored in various RTDS cards which constitute the RTDS processor. A DSP/FPGA combined structure is adopted in the main controller to implement the fault location algorithm based on the modular programming method.

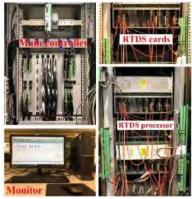


Fig. 6. Experimental test system based on RTDS.

A. Influence offault type and resistance

In this part, the proposed method is tested under various fault types and grounding resistances. Experimental explorations indicated that two types of location results exist: Type I, faulted line section is correctly identified; Type II, location is judged as the section adjacent to the faulted section. Location results are shown in Table I. Simulation results are shown in Table IV, which differs slightly from the experimental results.

TABLE I FAULT LOCATION RESULTS

Fault types ground fault	Sing	le-phase	e to	Doubl	e-phase	fault	Double-phase to ground fault			
Fault resista	nce	0 10	2 5	0 1	10 2	5 0	1 0	2 5		
(Ω)										
Type I	121	119	117	118	118	116	123	117	117	
Type II	13	15	17	16	16	18	11	17	17	

The numeric results shown in Table I indicate the amounts of different location results. The correct location percentages range from 90.30% to 93.28%. The erroneous location is deemed to be affected by the parameters of lines. This implies that if the impedance of the faulted line is much smaller (about 1/30) than the adjacent line impedance, location tends to be identified incorrectly. Furthermore, the failing can be avoided by adding IEDs, according to the statistical results.

One of the location cases is that a double-phase to ground fault with fault resistance of 25 Ω happened between nodes 43 and 44, and the location result is drawn in Fig. 7. The node number is plotted on the X-axis, the time is plotted on the Y-axis, and the elements value of \square * is plotted on the vertical Z-axis against the XY plane (5 ms with a 4 kHz sampling frequency). Fig. 7 shows that there are only two nonzero values at number 43 and 44 during the sampling time, indicating that the location result is correct.

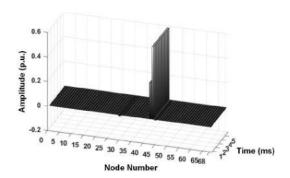


Fig. 7. Location result of the double-phase to ground fault occurred on line 4344 fault with a fault resistance of 25 Ω .

The vertical axis in Fig. 7 shows the computing values of virtual currents, the ordinate shows the time where the starting point refers to the starting of sampling (0.75 ms after fault occurrence), and the axis of abscissae shows the nodes numbers. Figs. 8-13 have been depicted in the same way.

B. Influence of noise

Measurement accuracy is typically affected by noises generated by environmental factors [50]. In this section, the performance of the method is studied under noise. The location results of experimental tests with 30 dB Gaussian white noise added in measured voltages are shown in Table II. The corresponding simulation results are shown in Table V of the Appendix.

TABLE II FAULT LOCATION RESULTS UNDER NOISE CONDITION

Fault types	Single-phase to ground fault				ole-pha	se fault	Double-phase to ground fault		
Fault resista (Ω)	псе	0 1	0 2 5	5 0	1 0	2 5 0	1 0	2 5	
Type I	112	111	109	110	114	110	118	109	105
Type II	22	23	25	24	20	24	16	25	29

The numeric results in Table II match those presented in Table I. Table II shows that, in response to 30 dB noise, the proposed method still manages to obtain the fault location. At present, the error of voltage measurement devices is mostly below 0.1-0.5%. Therefore, the anti-noise ability of the method can meet the requirement of practical application. The BCS algorithm provides the main contribution to decrease the effect of noise. As its sole superiority, BCS algorithm considers noise; therefore, not only the negative sequence current but also the noise can be estimated simultaneously with the iteration of the algorithm [51]. This ability equips the BCS algorithm with very strong robustness, which is also why this study chose the BCS algorithm instead of other CS algorithms.

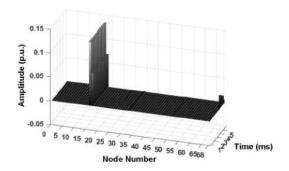


Fig. 8. Location result of single-phase to ground fault occurred on line 17-18 fault under 30 dB noise.

One of the location cases is that a single-phase to ground fault with a fault resistance of 10 Ω occurred between nodes 17 and 18 in response to 30 dB noise, the recovered result ${\it I} \square *$ was drawn in Fig. 8. The fault can be determined to have occurred between nodes 17 and 18.

C. Influence of load and line parameter alteration

The load and line parameters are relevant to the impedance matrix; therefore, it is necessary to measure their impact on the method. Loads may fluctuate between 80% and 120% of the original value. In this section, the proposed method was tested under the different load conditions. Experimental results of double-phase to ground under the load changed condition is shown in Table III; changes of load slightly abate the correct-location rate. The corresponding simulation results are shown in Table VI of the Appendix.

TABLE III
FAULT LOCATION RESULTS OF DOUBLE PHSE TO GROUND
FAULT WITH LOAD CHANGE

Total load / Original load	80%	90%	100%	120%
Type I	105	115	123	117
Type II	29	29	11	17

The numeric results shown in Table III have been obtained identically to Table I. The factor of line parameters has been studied in the same way. With the parameter of each line arbitrarily adjusted from 0.9 to 1.1 times of the original value, most cases were not affected except for few cases that have been identified as Type II, which could be overwhelmed if extra IEDs were to be added near the faulted section.

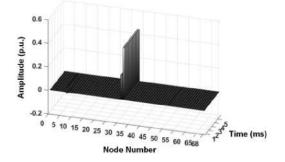


Fig. 9. Location result of double-phase fault occurred on line 32-33 fault with line parameters changing.

One of the location cases is that a double-phase fault occurred between nodes 32 and 33, at a fault resistance of 10 Ω , with the line parameters modified by the above procedure. The recovered result $\mathcal{I}\square$ * is shown in Fig. 9, from which the faulted section was correctly identified.

D. Influence of unbalanced condition

Distribution networks are normally unbalanced among three phases. In this section, the performance of the proposed method under the unbalanced condition is discussed. It should be noted in advance, that the unbalanced condition in the high- and middle-voltage (above 10 kV) distribution networks, studied in this paper, is normally caused by the connected unsymmetrical loads instead of the grid itself.

To imitate the unbalanced condition, the largest loads connected at nodes 49, 38, 37, 52, 10, 11, 20, 15, 59, and 36 have been adjusted by increasing the load of the arbitrary phase by 20%. The allocation of IEDs, fault positions, and other settings remain. The results of the simulation and experimental tests validate that the proposed method performs effectively and achieves high-accuracy. The following shows the location result of a case where double-phase to ground fault occurred on the line 15-16 under the unbalanced condition.

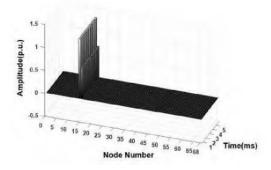


Fig. 10. Location result of a fault that occurred on line 15-16 under unbalanced-phases condition.

The tests indicate that the proposed method works normally in networks where the tri-phase unbalance percent is below 20%. Additional work shows that in extremity, such as if one phase of the load is lost, the method might be affected.

E. Influence of the IED allocation

According to the analysis in part B of section II, it is essential that at least one IED is allocated respectively upstream and downstream of the faulted area to guarantee validity of the proposed method. If this allocation cannot be satisfied, the location method may have decreased correctness. In this section, the influence of IED allocation is investigated.

For the case mentioned in part A of section III, the location result is correct as shown in Fig. 4 with original IED allocation (installed at nodes 1, 26, 34, 38, 40, 53, 55, 57, and 68). Then, the IED is installed at node 53 to node 41 and the result is shown as Fig. 11, which is a false location. Therefore, it is recommended that IEDs must be allocated at the end of the network branches, closest to the power supplies.

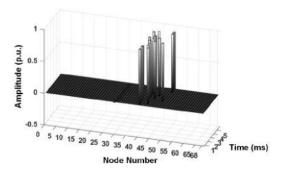


Fig. 11. Location result of double-phase to ground fault that occurred on line 43-44 with altered IEDs allocation.

In addition to the IED allocation problem, the minimum prerequisite number of IEDs also needs to be discussed. According to the theory of BCS, the minimum number of IEDs should satisfy condition (37) to guarantee the feasibility of sparse reconfiguration [52]:

$$M \square K 1 \stackrel{N}{\text{ln}(K)}$$
 (37)

Where K represents the possible number of non-zero elements of $\mathbf{1} \square *$, N represents the number of nodes, and M represents the number of IEDs in the network. In the PG&E 69-nodes system, dimension of $\mathbf{1} \square *$ is 68 (excluding the reference node), and the number of non-zero elements is generally 2. It can be obtained from (37) that at least seven IEDs are needed for the proposed method. However, there are nine distributaries in the system; therefore, at least nine IEDs are needed in total. In summary, the IED allocation installed at nodes 1, 26, 34, 38, 40, 53, 55, 57, and 68 can fulfil the location requirement.

F. Influence of harmonics

In theory, the proposed method uses the negative-sequence impedance matrix and voltages to estimate the fault location which are derived from the fundamental frequency component. Therefore, harmonics will likely not affect fault location. To verify this assertion, a harmonics condition has been emulated in the modified PG&E 69-nodes distribution system in PSCAD/EMTDC. One harmonic source is connected at node 49 and the current magnitude of the 5th harmonic order (250 Hz) is set as 1A.

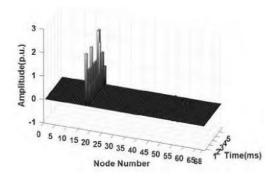


Fig. 12. Location result of double-phase to ground fault that occurred on line 18-19 under harmonics condition.

Fig. 12 shows that the simulation results indicate that the harmonics do not affect the proposed method. The location results of other cases retain the condition as depicted in Table I.

G. Influence ofphotovoltaic (PV) power plant

In this section, the effect of inverter interfaced DGs is studied. For convenience, only a PV power plant is involved in this thesis.

The control strategy of PV is generally to suppress the negative-sequence injected current for smooth FRT [53]. Therefore, it seems to be that access of PV would not make any difference to the proposed method. In fact, negative-sequence currents are outputted from PV inverters. However, the currents are rather small compared to the fault negative current; therefore, this suggests that PV will not impact the location method. To verify this, three 1MW-PV power stations are connected to nodes 29, 31, and 45, respectively.

For the case that a double-phase fault with a fault resistance of 25 Ω occurred between nodes 32 and 33, $\mathbf{1}\Box$ * is as shown in Fig. 13. Although the access of the PV dose influences the reconstruction result, the faulted section can still be correctly identified.

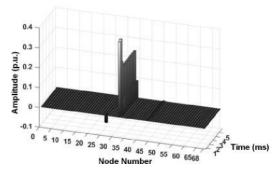


Fig. 13. Location result of double-phase to ground fault that occurred on line 32-33 with PV access.

H. Discussion of threshold of recovered virtual currents

Additional discussion upon the threshold of the recovered virtual currents, i.e. the amplitudes in Fig. 7-13 is presented in this section

With regard to the recovered result $\mathbf{1}\square *$, two nonzero items of the vector should be relative to both nodes of the identified faulted line section. Supposing that there are more items in the nonzero vector, it is significant to decide which two should be taken as nodes corresponding to the faulted section. To distinguish the two items from others, the differential degree between these and the others is used as threshold in this study. The differential degree is defined as ratio of the lower value of the biggest items and the highest value of others. For a specific case, if the differential degree is obtained above a certain threshold, the location result can be identified from $\mathbf{1}\square *$

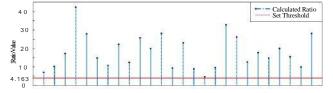


Fig. 14. Calculated ratio of currents and set threshold.

In Fig. 14, the ordinate shows ratios of the lower value of the biggest items and the highest value of others, and the abscissae shows the different conditions. As shown in the statistical chart, the minimum differential degree is 4.626. In consideration of error, the threshold can be defined as 4.163, which equals the minimum ratio multiplied by a coefficient 0.9 to distinguish all valid results from the invalid. Therefore, the set threshold indicates that only if the differential degree of values in a location result is above 4.163 the result could be seen as discernible and valid.

IV. CONCLUSION

In this study, a sparse measurements-based fault-section location method aimed at asymmetrical faults is proposed. This method is applicable for distribution networks with DGs. Utilizing the amplitudes simplifies the algorithm, and the feasibility of the simplification has been demonstrated. To recover $\square\square$ * through sparse measurements, the theory of BCS was introduced to solve the underdetermined function. The traits of the proposed method verified by experimental tests and simulation results can be summarized as follows:

- The proposed method provides robust location results under a variety of asymmetrical fault scenarios.
- Big fault resistance (100 Q) and high noisy (30 dB) do not invalidate the method.
- Subacute changes of line and load parameters do not invalidate the method.
- Few IEDs allocated in the terminal buses are needed for the fault location; therefore, the implementation cost is low. The meter location was optimized in the methodology, which is verified in the simulation.
- This also proved that the proposed method is applicable with the introduction of inverter interfaced DGs, which shows the engineering value of this method.

APPENDIX

Fault location results of simulation verification under various conditions are shown below. Please note that each tabulation is corresponding to the result of experimental tests, i.e., Table IV shows the simulation corresponding to the various fault types and resistances shown in Table I, Table V and VI are respectively corresponding to Tables II and III.

TABLE IV
FAULT LOCATION RESULTS
OF THE SIMULATION

Fault types	Single-phase to ground fault			Dou	ble-pha	ise fault	Double-phase to ground fault		
Fault resistance (Q)	0	1 0	2 5	0	1 0	2 5	0 1	0	2 5
Type I	121	121	123	125 12:	3	123	123	;	124 123
Type II	13	13	11	9	11	10	11	10) 11

TABLE V FAULT LOCATION RESULTS UNDER NOISE CONDITION OF SIMULATION

Fault types	Single-phase to ground fault			Double-phase fault				Double-phase to ground fault		
Fault resistar (Q)	псе	0 1	0 2	5 0	1 0	2 5	0 10	2 5		
Type I	110	112	110	110	116	112	114	114 116		
Type II	24	22	24	24	18	22	20 2	20 18		

TABLE VI FAULT LOCATION RESULTS OF DOUBLE PHSE TO GROUND FAULT WITH LOAD CHANGE IN THE SIMULATION

Total load/ Original load	80% 90% 100% 120%				
Type I	118	117	123	118	
Type II	16	17	11	16	

The distribution system used in this study is the US PG&E 69-nodes. The detail parameters of lines and loads are shown in Table VII. The impedances are per-unit values, the voltage reference is 12.66 kV, and the power reference is 10 MVA. The column "Load on j" indicates the complex power of the load connected at end bus j. Among the lines, 69-73 are loop switch branches. The gross overall load of the system is $3802.19 + j2694.60 \,\mathrm{kVA}$.

TABLE VII

PARAMETERS OF THE FORMULATION SYSTEM

Line	Head	End	Impedance of the line	Load atj	Line	Head	End	Impedance of the line	Load atj
Line	bus i	bus j	(p.u.)	(kVA)	Line	bus i	bus j	(p.u.)	(kVA)
1	1	2	0.0050+j0.0012	0	38	61	62	0.0304+j0.0355	24+j17
2	2	3	0.0050+j0.0012	0	39	62	63	0.0018+j0.0021	24+j17
3	3	4	0.0015+j0.0036	0	40	63	64	0.7283+j0.8509	1.2+j1
4	4	5	0.0251+j0.0294	0	41	64	65	0.3100+j0.3623	0
5	5	6	0.3660+j0.1864	2.6+j2.2	42	65	66	0.0410+j0.0478	6+j4.3
6	6	7	0.3811+j0.1941	40.4+j30	43	66	67	0.0092+j0.0116	0
7	7	8	0.0922+j0.0470	75+j54	44	67	68	0.1089+j0.1373	39.22+j26.3
8	8	9	0.0493+j0.0251	30+j22	45	68	69	0.0009+j0.0012	39.22+j26.3
9	9	10	0.8190+j0.2707	28+j19	46	4	36	0.0034+j0.0084	0
10	10	11	0.1872+j0.0691	145+j104	47	36	37	0.0851+j0.2083	79+j56.4

11	11	12	0.7114+j0.2351	145+j104	48	37	38	0.2898+j0.7091	384.70+j274.5
12	12	13	1.0300+j0.3400	8+j5.5	49	38	39	0.0822+j0.2011	384.70+j274.5
13	13	14	1.0440+j0.3450	8+j5.5	50	8	40	0.0928+j0.0473	40.5+j28.3
14	14	15	1.0580+j0.3496	0	51	40	41	0.3319+j0.1114	3.6+j2.7
15	15	16	0.1966+j0.0650	45.5+j30	52	9	42	0.1740+j0.0886	4.35+j3.5
16	16	17	0.3744+j0.1238	60+j35	53	42	43	0.2030+j0.1034	26.4+j19
17	17	18	0.0047+j0.0016	60+j35	54	43	44	0.2842+j0.1447	24+j17.2
18	18	19	0.3276+j0.1083	0	55	44	45	0.2813+j0.1433	0
19	19	20	0.2106+j0.0696	1+j0.6	56	45	46	1.5900+j0.5337	0
20	20	21	0.3416+j0.1129	114+j81	57	46	47	0.7837+j0.2630	0
21	21	22	0.0140+j0.0046	5.3+j3.5	58	47	48	0.3042+j0.1006	100+j72
22	22	23	0.1591+j0.0526	0	59	48	49	0.3861+j0.1172	0
23	23	24	0.3463+j0.1145	28+j20	60	49	50	0.5075+j0.2585	1244+j888
24	24	25	0.7488+j0.2457	0	61	50	51	0.0974+j0.0496	32+j23
25	25	26	0.3089+j0.1021	14+j10	62	51	52	0.1450+j0.0738	0
26	26	27	0.1732+j0.0572	14+j10	63	52	53	0.7105+j0.3619	227+j162
27	3	28	0.0044+j0.0108	26+j18.6	64	53	54	1.041+j0.5302	59+j42
28	28	29	0.0640+j0.1565	26+j18.6	65	11	55	0.2012+j0.0611	18+j13
29	29	30	0.3978+j0.1315	0	66	55	56	0.0047+j0.0014	18+j13
30	30	31	0.0702+j0.0232	0	67	12	57	0.7394+j0.2444	28+j20
31	31	32	0.3510+j0.1160	0	68	57	58	0.0047+j0.0016	28+j20
32	32	33	0.8390+j0.2816	14+j10	69	11	66	0.5000+j0.5000	
33	33	34	1.7080+j0.5646	19.5+j14	70	13	20	0.5000+j0.5000	
34	34	35	1.4740+j0.4873	6+j4	71	15	69	1.0000+j1.0000	
35	3	59	0.0044+j0.0108	26+j18.55	72	27	54	1.0000+j1.0000	
36	59	60	0.0640+j0.1565	26+j18.55	73	39	48	2.0000+j2.0000	
37	60	61	0.1053+j0.1230	0					

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