

ECOC 2024 Th1F.2

Remote Sensing for Power Grid Fuse Tripping Using AI-Based Fiber Sensing with Aerial Telecom Cables

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Outline

- 1. Motivation
- 2. Testbed and experimental setup
- 3. Experimental results
- 4. Summary



Distributed Acoustic Sensing has enabled many applications





Weather event monitoring



Biological activity monitoring

Facility security monitoring



Road and traffic monitoring

Can Field Fibers Generate Additional Values Beyond Data Transmission?



Basic equipment on a typical utility pole

- Sense power equipment anomaly by aerial fiber cables on the same poles.
- Remote, real-time sensing pinpoints malfunction equipment without a truck roll.
- Keep sensing during a power outage with no requirement for local power supply.
- This work focuses on fuss cut-out tripping detection, which may enable faster power outage sensing and restoration.

Aerial fiber cables owned by telecom carriers





Experimental Setup on a Real-Scale Pole Testbed



Pulse repetition rate: 20 kHz

Gauge length: 4.08 m

Sound Emulation and Data Collection Scheme



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Frequency Response of the Exciter-Pole-Cable Structure

Frequency sweep test: play sweep signal at exciter and record DAS signal from the cable



- Complex exciter-pole-cable system exhibits:
 - Strong attenuation at higher frequencies (>500 Hz)
 - Strong resonance (broadband/nonlinear response) at multiple frequencies from 0 to 150 Hz
 - Attenuation/Filtering effect at around 250 Hz

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Fuse Cutout Blowing Detection from DAS signals

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- Collect DAS data of four events
 - Fuse cutout blowing (exciter)
 - Transformer explosion (exciter)
 - Gunshot (exciter)
 - Pole knocking (hammer)

Fourier transform of time series DAS data







Summary

- We demonstrated a remote fiber sensing solution for detecting fuse cut-out blowing events using existing telecom cables.
- Experimental investigation was done on a real-scale utility pole testbed with audio exciters to emulate various acoustic/vibration events.
- A DAS system connected to the aerial cable was used to collect vibration signals of the poles, which was processed and fed into a frequency-based learning model.
- The model achieved an accuracy of over 98% in identifying fuse cut-out blowing and other similar events.

This work showcases the potential to utilize large-scale telecom fiber networks for power outage sensing and fast restoration, benefiting both carriers and utility companies.

Acknowledgement

Special thanks to our collaborators at NREL.



This work was supported by the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office Agreement Number 40385.

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Thank you!

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NREL/PR-5D00-91455

This work was authored [in part] by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory, operated by Alliance for Sustainable Energy, LLC, for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under Contract No. DE-AC36-08GO28308. Funding provided by U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Solar Energy Technologies Office. The views expressed in the article do not necessarily represent the views of the DOE or the U.S. Government retains and the publisher, by accepting the article for publication, acknowledges that the U.S. Government retains a nonexclusive, paid-up, irrevocable, worldwide license to publish or reproduce the published form of this work, or allow others to do so, for U.S. Government purposes.