



IEE Power & Energy Series 34



The Lightning Flash

Edited by Vernon Cooray

Contents

Preface	xxi
Acknowledgements	xxiii
1 Charge structure and geographical variation of thunderclouds	1
<i>Earle Williams</i>	
1.1 The formation of clouds	1
1.2 Local conditions necessary for thunderclouds	1
1.3 The gross charge structure of thunderclouds	3
1.4 Sprite-producing thunderclouds: mesoscale convective systems	5
1.5 Geographical variability of thunderclouds	6
1.5.1 Environmental controls	6
1.5.2 Tropical thunderstorms	10
1.5.3 Midlatitude thunderstorms	11
1.5.4 Winter thunderstorms	12
1.6 References	12
2 Thunderstorm electrification mechanisms	17
<i>Rohan Jayaratne</i>	
2.1 Introduction	17
2.2 The suggested mechanisms	19
2.2.1 The inductive mechanism	19
2.2.2 The convective mechanism	21
2.2.3 The selective ion capture theory	23
2.2.4 Drop breakup theory	23
2.2.5 Melting of ice	24
2.2.6 The Workman–Reynolds effect	24
2.2.7 The thermoelectric effect	25
2.2.8 Surface potential theories	25
2.2.9 The quasiliquid layer theory	27
2.2.10 Charging due to the fragmentation of ice	30
2.3 Riming experiments	31
2.4 Droplet size effect	32
2.5 Effect of chemical impurities	38
2.6 References	40

3	Mechanism of electrical discharges	45
	<i>Vernon Cooray</i>	
3.1	Introduction	45
3.2	Basic definitions	45
3.2.1	Mean free path and cross section	45
3.2.2	Drift velocity and mobility	46
3.2.3	Thermal equilibrium and local thermal equilibrium	48
3.3	Ionisation processes	49
3.3.1	Ionisation due to electron impact	49
3.3.2	Photoionisation	52
3.3.3	Thermal ionisation	53
3.3.4	Ionisation caused by meta-stable excited atoms	55
3.3.5	Ionisation due to positive ions	55
3.4	Deionisation processes	56
3.4.1	Electron-ion recombination	56
3.4.1.1	Radiative recombination	57
3.4.1.2	Dissociative recombination	57
3.4.1.3	Three-body recombination	57
3.5	Other processes that can influence the process of ionisation	57
3.5.1	Electron attachment and detachment	57
3.5.2	Excitation of molecular vibrations	60
3.5.3	Diffusion	60
3.6	Cathode processes	62
3.6.1	Photoelectric emission	62
3.6.2	Thermionic emission	62
3.6.3	Schottky effect	64
3.6.4	Field emission	65
3.6.5	Incidence of positive ions	65
3.7	Electrical breakdown	66
3.7.1	Electron avalanche	68
3.7.2	The space charge electric field due to an avalanche	69
3.7.3	Formation of a streamer	70
3.7.4	Characteristics of the streamers	73
3.7.4.1	The physical processes taking place at the streamer head and its propagation	73
3.7.4.2	Propagation of the streamer discharges	77
3.7.4.3	Physical properties of the positive streamer channel	78
3.7.4.4	Critical background electric field necessary for streamer propagation	79
3.7.4.5	Streamer speed	79
3.7.4.6	Current in the streamer	79
3.7.4.7	Potential gradient of the streamer channel	80
3.7.4.8	Charge distribution along the streamer channel	80

3.7.5	Streamer-to-spark transition and thermalisation	82
3.7.6	Electrical breakdown criterion in the presence of streamer discharges	84
3.7.6.1	Plane uniform gap	84
3.7.6.2	<i>Nonuniform gap</i>	85
3.8	Electrical breakdown in very small gaps – Townsend's breakdown mechanism	86
3.8.1	Townsend's experiment	86
3.8.2	Townsend's theory of electrical breakdown	87
3.8.2.1	Primary ionisation stage	88
3.8.2.2	Secondary ionisation stage	88
3.8.2.3	Townsend's electrical breakdown criterion	91
3.8.2.4	Townsend's mechanism in the presence of electron attachment	92
3.9	Paschen's law	93
3.9.1	Physical interpretation of the shape of the Paschen curve	95
3.9.2	Validity of Paschen's law	96
3.10	Voltage and current (V-I) characteristics and the post breakdown stage (low pressures)	96
3.10.1	The glow discharge	97
3.10.1.1	Physical explanation	98
3.10.1.2	The effect of changing the pressure	99
3.10.2	Abnormal glow	100
3.10.3	The glow to arc transition	100
3.11	Resistance of spark channels	103
3.12	Corona discharges	104
3.12.1	Negative corona modes	105
3.12.1.1	Trichel streamers	106
3.12.1.2	Negative pulseless glow	107
3.12.1.3	Negative streamers	107
3.12.2	Positive corona modes	107
3.12.2.1	Burst corona	107
3.12.2.2	Onset streamer	108
3.12.2.3	Positive glow	109
3.12.2.4	Breakdown streamers	110
3.12.3	Electrical breakdown and corona	110
3.13	Dependence of electrical breakdown conditions on atmospheric conditions	110
3.14	Statistical nature of electrical breakdown	112
3.14.1	Electrical breakdown under the application of impulse voltages	113
3.14.2	Statistical nature of the electrical breakdown	114
3.15	The long spark	114

3.15.1	Streamer-to-leader transition and the initiation of the leader	114
3.15.2	General characteristics of impulse breakdown in rod-plane gaps	115
3.15.2.1	Positive breakdown	115
3.15.2.2	Negative breakdown	117
3.15.2.3	Inception and characteristics of first corona	119
3.15.2.4	Leader velocity	120
3.15.2.5	The potential gradient of the leader channel	121
3.15.2.6	The final jump	121
3.15.2.7	The critical radius	122
3.16	Humidity effects	123
3.16.1	Critical electric field necessary for streamer propagation	123
3.16.2	Influence on the corona development at the initiation of long sparks	123
3.16.3	Influence on leader propagation	124
3.17	References	124
4	The mechanism of the lightning flash	127
	<i>Vernon Cooray</i>	
4.1	Introduction	127
4.2	The ground flash	127
4.3	The cloud flash	130
4.4	Frequency of lightning discharges	131
4.4.1	Cloud to ground flash ratio	132
4.4.2	Ground flash density	132
4.4.3	Total lightning activity	133
4.5	Inception of lightning discharges in clouds	133
4.5.1	Initiation of streamer discharges from a single water drop	133
4.5.2	Initiation of streamer discharges by a chain of water drops	135
4.5.3	Conditions necessary for the streamer propagation and streamer to leader transition	138
4.5.4	Conditions necessary for the propagation of the leader	139
4.5.5	Conditions necessary for lightning initiation – a summary	139
4.5.6	The runaway electron hypothesis	139
4.6	Physical processes and the electromagnetic fields of ground flashes	140

4.6.1	Preliminary breakdown process	140
4.6.1.1	Electromagnetic fields at ground level generated by the preliminary breakdown process	140
4.6.1.2	Duration of the preliminary breakdown process	142
4.6.1.3	Location of the preliminary breakdown stage in the cloud	142
4.6.1.4	Physical nature of the preliminary breakdown process	143
4.6.2	Stepped leader	144
4.6.2.1	Structure of the stepped leader	144
4.6.2.2	Optically determined properties of the stepped leader	145
4.6.2.3	The electric field generated by the stepped leader	146
4.6.2.4	Linear charge density and the total charge of the leader channel	148
4.6.2.5	Charge distribution along the leader channel	150
4.6.2.6	Leader current	151
4.6.2.7	Bidirectional and unidirectional leader concept	152
4.6.2.8	Energy dissipation during the leader stage	154
4.6.2.9	Stepped leader as a source of disturbance	154
4.6.2.10	Interception of the stepped leader and grounded structures	155
4.6.3	Return stroke	159
4.6.3.1	The origin of the return stroke	159
4.6.3.2	Optically determined properties	159
4.6.3.3	Characteristics of the optical radiation generated by the return stroke	161
4.6.3.4	The properties of return stroke currents measured at the base of the channel	165
4.6.3.5	Electromagnetic fields generated by return strokes	170
4.6.4	Continuing current	186
4.6.5	M components	186
4.6.5.1	Origin inside the cloud	189
4.6.6	K changes	189
4.6.6.1	Origin	191
4.6.7	Subsequent strokes	191
4.6.7.1	General properties	191
4.6.8	Dart leaders	192
4.6.8.1	Optically determined properties	193

4.6.8.2	Origin of the dart leader in the cloud	195
4.6.8.3	Current and charge of dart leaders	196
4.6.8.4	Static fields generated by dart leaders	196
4.6.8.5	RF radiation from dart leaders	196
4.6.8.6	The parameters that control the dart leader speed	197
4.6.8.7	Correlation between parameters of dart leaders and return strokes	198
4.6.8.8	Dart stepped leaders	199
4.6.8.9	Chaotic leaders	200
4.7	Electromagnetic fields generated by cloud flashes	201
4.7.1	General features	201
4.7.2	Radiation field pulse characteristics	202
4.7.2.1	Large bipolar pulses	203
4.7.2.2	Bursts of pulses similar to the dart stepped leader pulses	203
4.7.2.3	Narrow isolated pulses	206
4.7.2.4	Microsecond scale pulses with a smooth rise to peak	207
4.8	The difference between the ground flashes and cloud flashes	208
4.9	Energy dissipation in return strokes and lightning flashes	208
4.10	Measuring lightning-generated electric and magnetic fields	212
4.10.1	Electric field mill or generating voltmeter	212
4.10.2	Plate or whip antenna	213
4.10.3	Crossed loop antennas to measure the magnetic field	217
4.11	Detection of lightning flashes	219
4.11.1	Lightning flash counters	220
4.11.2	Magnetic direction finding	221
4.11.3	Time of arrival technique: VLF range	222
4.11.4	Time of arrival technique: VHF range	222
4.11.5	VHF radio interferometry	223
4.12	References	225
5	Computation of electromagnetic fields from lightning discharge	241
	<i>Rajeev Thottappillil</i>	
5.1	Electrostatics and magnetostatics	241
5.1.1	Electrostatic field from a dipole	241
5.1.2	Magnetostatic field from a line current	243
5.2	Time-varying fields from lightning	244
5.2.1	Introduction	244
5.2.1.1	Three approaches for calculating the electric fields	245
5.3	Treatment of retardation effects	246
5.4	Fields in terms of current (the Lorentz condition approach)	248

5.5	Fields in terms of current and charge (the continuity equation approach)	252
5.6	Nonuniqueness of electrostatic, induction and radiation field components	255
5.7	The continuity equation	258
5.8	Fields in terms of apparent charge distribution	261
5.8.1	Theory	262
5.8.1.1	General	262
5.8.1.2	Relation between apparent charge density and retarded current	263
5.8.1.3	General expressions for differential electric and magnetic fields	264
5.8.2	Return stroke electric and magnetic fields	266
5.8.2.1	Exact expressions	266
5.8.2.2	Numerical illustration	268
5.8.2.3	Expression for electric field at an elevation	268
5.8.2.4	The moment approximation	270
5.8.3	Leader electric fields	271
5.8.3.1	Exact expressions	271
5.8.3.2	Electrostatic approximation	272
5.9	Calculation of fields from lightning return stroke	273
5.9.1	Bruce–Golde model (BG)	274
5.9.2	Travelling current source model (TCS)	274
5.9.3	Diendorfer–Uman model (DU)	274
5.9.4	Transmission line model (TL)	275
5.9.5	Modified transmission line model, linear (MTLL)	275
5.9.6	Modified transmission line model, exponential (MTLE)	276
5.10	Transmission line model of the return stroke	276
5.11	References	277

6 Mathematical modelling of return strokes 281

Vernon Cooray

6.1	Introduction	281
6.2	Electrothermodynamic models	283
6.3	Transmission line or LCR models	287
6.4	Engineering and semiphsical models	295
6.4.1	Current propagation models (CP models)	295
6.4.1.1	Norinder	296
6.4.1.2	Bruce and Golde	297
6.4.1.3	Dennis and Pierce	298
6.4.1.4	Uman and McLain – the transmission line model (TLM)	300

6.4.1.5	Nucci <i>et al.</i> [36] and Rakov and Dulzon [37] – modified transmission line models (MTL)	302
6.4.2	Current generation models (CG models)	307
6.4.2.1	The relationship between the transmission lines and current generation models	307
6.4.2.2	Mathematical derivation of return stroke current using the principles of current generation models	308
6.4.2.3	Wagner	311
6.4.2.4	Lin <i>et al.</i>	312
6.4.2.5	Heidler – travelling current source model	312
6.4.2.6	Cooray and collaborators	315
6.4.2.7	Diendorfer and Uman	350
6.5	Return stroke speed	351
6.5.1	Lundholm and Wagner	353
6.5.2	Rai	355
6.5.3	Cooray	356
6.6	Current propagation versus current generation models	361
6.6.1	The corona current	361
6.6.2	Mathematical expressions for the equivalent corona currents for CG representation of three commonly applied CP models	362
6.6.2.1	Transmission line model	362
6.6.2.2	MTLE model	363
6.6.2.3	MTLL model	363
6.7	Remote sensing and return stroke models	363
6.8	The future of return stroke models	364
6.9	Appendix: analytical expression for the velocity profile as predicted by the subsequent return stroke model I	365
6.10	References	366
7	The effects of propagation on electric radiation fields	369
	<i>Vernon Cooray</i>	
7.1	Introduction	369
7.2	Theory	370
7.2.1	Basic equations	370
7.2.2	Homogeneous ground	372
7.2.2.1	A simplified equation to calculate propagation effects	372
7.2.2.2	Experimental validation of the simplified equation	373
7.2.3	Stratified ground	374
7.2.4	Propagation along a mixed path of two sections	378

7.2.5	Propagation across a finitely conducting rough ocean surface	379
7.3	Results	380
7.3.1	Mathematical procedure	380
7.3.2	Homogeneous ground	381
7.3.2.1	Propagation effects on radiation fields of the first return strokes of negative and positive lightning flashes	381
7.3.2.2	The effect of propagation on the time derivative of the radiation fields of negative return strokes	385
7.3.3	The effect of propagation on triggered return strokes	390
7.3.4	The effect of propagation on electromagnetic fields generated by cloud flashes	394
7.3.5	The effect of a sea-land boundary on propagation	398
7.3.6	The effect of a rough ocean on propagation	402
7.3.7	Propagation over stratified ground	405
7.4	Obtaining the lightning-generated electromagnetic fields required for the evaluation of induced voltages in power distribution systems	408
7.4.1	The Cooray-Rubinstein approximation	415
7.4.2	Electromagnetic fields underground	416
7.5	Future research work	420
7.6	References	420

8 Interaction of electromagnetic fields generated by lightning with overhead electrical networks **425**

Carlo Alberto Nucci and Farhad Rachidi

8.1	Introduction	425
8.2	Field-to-transmission line coupling models	426
8.2.1	Use of the transmission line theory	426
8.2.2	Case of single wire line above a perfectly conducting ground	427
8.2.3	Agrawal, Price, and Gurbaxani model	428
8.2.4	Taylor Satterwhite, and Harrison model	429
8.2.5	Rachidi model	429
8.2.6	Contribution of the different components of the electromagnetic field in the coupling mechanism	430
8.2.7	Other models	433
8.2.8	Inclusion of losses	434
8.2.9	Discussion on the relative importance of different transmission line parameters when calculating lightning-induced voltages	436
8.2.10	Case of multiconductor lines	438

8.2.11	Time-domain representation of coupling equations	440
8.2.12	Experimental validation of the field-to-transmission line coupling models	441
8.2.12.1	Natural and triggered lightning experiments	442
8.2.12.2	EMP simulators	443
8.2.12.3	Reduced scale modelling	443
8.3	Lightning-induced voltages on overhead power lines	444
8.3.1	Return stroke current model, computation of the incident electromagnetic field, and coupling model	444
8.3.2	Mechanism of voltage induction by a nearby lightning return stroke on an overhead line	446
8.3.3	Preliminary remarks on the influence of the ground resistivity on the induced voltages	449
8.3.4	Sensitivity analysis and discussion	451
8.3.4.1	Channel base current and return stroke speed	452
8.3.4.2	Ground electrical parameters	453
8.3.4.3	Line configuration and stroke location	453
8.3.4.4	Influence of channel base current: stroke location A	453
8.3.4.5	Influence of channel base current: stroke location B	456
8.3.4.6	Influence of line height	459
8.3.4.7	Multiconductor lines	459
8.3.4.8	Influence of line length	460
8.3.4.9	Influence of the position of the stroke location with respect to the line and observation point	461
8.3.4.10	Influence of return stroke speed	462
8.3.4.11	Influence of distance of the stroke location to the line	462
8.3.4.12	Comparison with the results obtained using the simplified Rusck formula	462
8.3.5	Influence of additional factors (downward leader, corona, channel inclination and tortuosity)	465
8.3.5.1	Downward leader electromagnetic field change	465
8.3.5.2	Effect of corona	466
8.3.5.3	Channel inclination and tortuosity	468
8.3.6	Application to realistic cases: use of the LIOV-EMTP	469
8.4	References	471

9	Lightning and EMC	479
	<i>Michel Ianoz</i>	
9.1	Introduction	479
9.2	Short overview of EMC history	480
9.3	Lightning as a disturbance source	481
9.4	Types of coupling between lightning and circuits or installations	482
9.4.1	Coupling modes	482
9.4.2	Effects due to conductive coupling	483
9.4.3	Calculation of the average number of lightning strokes per year on a overhead line	484
9.4.4	Effects due to electromagnetic field coupling	485
9.4.4.1	Direct strokes on a building	485
9.4.4.2	Lightning stroke near a building	487
9.5	Typical EMC problems due to lightning	488
9.5.1	Lightning effects in power networks	488
9.5.2	Lightning effects on power network substation equipment	490
9.5.3	Lightning effects on telecommunication networks	492
9.5.4	Lightning effects on low-voltage power networks	492
9.5.5	Lightning effects on aircrafts	493
9.6	Specific EMC lightning protection parameters	495
9.6.1	General	495
9.6.2	Peak current	497
9.6.3	Peak current derivative	497
9.6.4	Peak rate of change of voltage	497
9.6.5	Total charge	498
9.6.6	The action integral: $\int i^2 \times dt$	498
9.6.7	Time to half value of the current	498
9.6.8	Conclusions on LEMP and fast transients protection comparison	498
9.7	Specific EMC lightning protection concepts	499
9.7.1	General EMC protection concepts	499
9.7.2	Suppressors	500
9.7.3	Shielded cages	501
9.8	References	501
10	Principles of protection of structures against lightning	503
	<i>Carlo Mazzetti</i>	
10.1	Parameters of lightning current	504
10.2	Classification of structures	504
10.3	Damage due to lightning	505
10.3.1	Effects of lightning	505
10.3.2	Causes and types of damage	506
10.3.3	Types of loss	507

10.4	Risk	507
10.4.1	Number of flashes	508
10.4.2	Probability of damage	509
10.4.3	Amount of loss	509
10.4.4	Risk components	510
10.4.5	Tolerable value of risk	511
	10.4.5.1 Procedure for selection of protection measures	511
	10.4.5.2 Protection measures	512
10.5	Basic criteria of protection	512
10.5.1	Protection of structures against physical damages and life hazard	512
10.5.2	Protection of electrical and electronic systems within the structure against lightning electromagnetic impulse (LEMP)	513
10.5.3	Protection of services entering the structure	515
10.6	Protection by means of SPD	516
10.7	Main features of lightning protection system (LPS)	517
10.7.1	External lightning protection system	517
10.7.2	Positioning of the air termination system	518
	10.7.2.1 Principles of positioning	518
	10.7.2.2 Types of air termination system	519
10.7.3	Down conductor systems	521
10.7.4	Protection measures against touch and step voltages	522
10.7.5	Earth termination system	523
	10.7.5.1 Principles of design	523
	10.7.5.2 Earthing arrangement in general conditions	526
10.7.6	Materials and dimensions	529
10.8	Internal lightning protection system	530
10.8.1	General	530
10.8.2	Lightning equipotential bonding	530
10.8.3	Electrical insulation of the external LPS	531
10.9	Shielding	532
10.10	Maintenance and inspection of LPS	532
10.11	Annex A: parameters of lightning current	532
10.11.1	Lightning flashes to earth	532
10.11.2	Lightning current parameters	534
10.11.3	Maximum lightning current parameters used for dimensioning lightning protection systems	539
	10.11.3.1 First short stroke and long stroke	540
	10.11.3.2 Subsequent short stroke	543
10.11.4	Minimum lightning current parameters used for interception efficiency of air terminals	543

10.12	Annex B: models for the evaluation of lightning exposure of structures and interception probability of air terminals	543
10.12.1	Electrogeometric model	543
10.12.2	Improved electrogeometric model	544
10.12.3	Generalised leader inception model	545
10.12.4	Leader progression model	545
10.13	References	545
11	Electrical aspects of lightning strike to humans	549
	<i>Chris Andrews</i>	
11.1	Introduction	549
11.2	Strike mechanisms	549
11.3	Experimental parallels	551
11.4	Important factors	552
11.5	Proposed shock mechanism	552
11.6	Results	553
11.6.1	In the field strike	553
11.6.1.1	Body model	553
11.6.1.2	Earth resistance component	553
11.6.1.3	Direct strike – no flashover	553
11.6.1.4	Direct strike with flashover	556
11.6.1.5	Heating considerations	557
11.6.2	EPR mediated shock	557
11.6.3	Telephone-mediated strike	559
11.7	Experimental support	561
11.8	Conclusion	563
11.9	References	563
	Index	565