

# The Design of Electrode of Coal Roadway Advanced Detector

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**Abstract**—In order to realize ahead forecast of geological structure of coal roadway and reduce coal mine accidents, an advanced detector based on Dynamic and Directional Electric Field Excitation Method was designed by my research group. As an important part of the detector, the electrode has a great influence on the formation of the electric field and detection accuracy. According to the requirements of the instrument, this paper presents the requirements and original parameters of the electrode, the main consideration is to reduce electrode grounding resistance. And by using of Matlab software simulation to get the change law of the grounding resistance with the depth into the rock, we got the basic size of electrode.

**Keywords**—advanced detector; electrode; grounding resistance; simulation study

## I. INTRODUCTION

"There must be a search before digging and excavation after probing" is the principle of the coal mine production process which has to be adhering to. According to statistics, there are about 65% of water inrush accident and more than 80% of coal and gas outburst occurred in heading stage [1]. Therefore, the effective prediction of the concealed geological structure in front of the mine heading face is of great significance for the safe production of coal mine.

Based on the research status of coal mine roadway excavation and advanced detection methods, to solve the existing forecast problems of poor real-time, poor operability, poor anti-interference ability, my research group proposed Dynamic and Directional Electric Field Excitation Method [2]. The advanced detection method is based on dual frequency induced polarization method and focus deflection effect of electric field. We have got a principled sample machine of coal

roadway advanced detector which mainly comprises of a transmitting device and a receiving device.

As an important part of the detector, the electrode has a great influence on the formation of the electric field and detection accuracy. Common electrode currently used underground can't satisfy the requirements of our instrument. Therefore, a kind of electrode is designed in this paper. The electrode is consistent with the principle of Dynamic and Directional Electric Field Excitation Method. It can also meet the special environment of coal mine and form good electric field.

## II. ELECTRODE REQUIREMENTS TO THE GROUNDING RESISTANCE

Analyzing the instrument requirements to electrode and the special environment of the coal mine, we got the original parameters of the electrode design and established an original parameters table as design reference.

According to the transmitting device requirements to electrode, the maximum voltage value through the emitter electrode, constraint electrode and grounding electrode is 100V, the maximum voltage value through the receiving electrode is 10V. According to the receiving device requirements to electrode, the maximum current value through the emitter electrode, constraint electrode and grounding electrode is 100mA, the maximum current value through the receiving electrode is very weak and its magnitude is between 10<sup>-3</sup>~10<sup>-4</sup>mA.

In order to form a good electric field of emission current, the partial pressure of electrode must be small. The electrode is good conductor, its resistivity is at a level of 10<sup>-8</sup>Ω·m. For the electrode dimensions are in cm level, we can get the magnitude

of electrode resistance should be between  $10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4} \Omega$ , the magnitude of electrode pressure drop is between  $10^{-5} \sim 10^{-4} V$  at the maximum current value of 100mA. So the influence on the measurement results could be neglectful. According to the requirements of transmitting device, the magnitude of grounding resistance is at a level of 10K through the theoretical

calculation, so the real value of grounding resistance is less than it.

Based on the above analysis, establish the original parameter table of the electrode design in the following Table 1.

TABLE I. THE ORIGINAL PARAMETER TABLE OF THE ELECTRODE DESIGN.

	Emitter electrode	Constraint electrode	Grounding electrode	Receiving electrode
Maximum voltage (V)	100	100	100	10
Maximum current (mA)	100	100	100	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$
Electrode resistance ( $\Omega$ )	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$	$10^{-3} \sim 10^{-4}$
Grounding resistance (K $\Omega$ )	<10	<10	<10	<10

### III. ELECTRODE DESIGN

In the measurements of electrical prospecting, leakage detection, lightning detection, soil resistivity test, all need grounding the electrode, electrode grounding will inevitably produce grounding resistance [3, 4, 5]. The value of grounding resistance will have effects on the measurement results which can't be ignored [6, 7]. If the grounding resistance is small, it can save power, improve the accuracy, enhance anti-interference ability of the system, work effectively and ensure the security of system. Therefore, reducing electrode grounding resistance is a major consideration in design of electrode. Electrodes used at present are usually of cylindrical stick shape and made of steel, it's the basis of the design.

Access to information, calculate the grounding resistance according to the definition of conductor resistance. In the practical application, in order to operate conveniently and guarantee the electrode have a good contact with the surrounding rock, cylindrical stick electrodes are always used, as shown in Figure I. In the figure,  $\rho$  represents the resistivity of rock and assume the rock is a kind of infinite homogeneous isotropic medium here, the stick electrode has a radius of  $r_0$  and  $l$  represents the depth into rock.

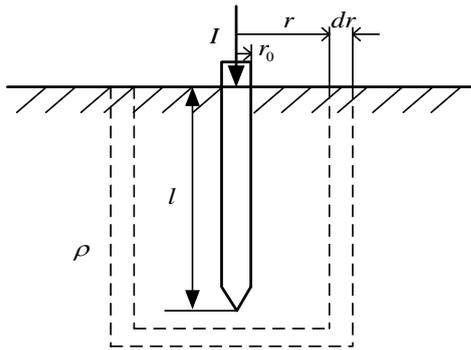


FIGURE I. THE PRACTICAL APPLICATION MODEL OF ELECTRODE.

$R_1$  represents the resistance from superficial layer  $r_0$  of the electrode to a cylindrical layer with a radius of  $r$ , calculated as following:

$$R_1 = \int_{r_0}^r \frac{\rho dr}{2\pi r(l+r-r_0) + \pi r^2} dR = \frac{\rho}{2\pi(l-r_0)} \ln \frac{r(r_0+2l)}{r_0(3r+2l-2r_0)} \quad (1)$$

When  $r \rightarrow \infty$ , the theory value of grounding resistance as following:

$$R = \frac{\rho}{2\pi(l-r_0)} \ln \frac{r_0+2l}{3r_0} \quad (2)$$

#### (1) Determination of the electrode radius

Analyze the function relationship, the relationship between the grounding resistance  $R$  and the radius  $r_0$  of stick electrode is as following: the grounding resistance  $R$  markedly decreases with the increase of stick electrode radius  $r_0$ . Therefore, in the actual measurement, the radius  $r_0$  of electrode should be large as far as possible if condition permission. After full consideration of the factors such as handling, installation and demolition, choose the length of 0.5cm as the radius of electrode.

#### (2) Determination the length of the electrode and the depth into rock

The surrounding rocks of coal mine are complex and majority of them are shale, argillaceous shale and sandstone shale. Assume the main component is shale, according to the information provided, the resistivity of shale is  $5 \times 10^3 \Omega \cdot m$ .

By the resistivity of shale is  $5 \times 10^3 \Omega \cdot m$ , the radius of electrode is 0.5cm, according to the formula (2), the relationship between grounding resistance  $R$  with the depth into rock is shown in Figure II. From the figure we can see the grounding resistance increases with the decrease of the depth into rock, when the depth is more than 50cm, the curve flats gradually. Considering the larger the depth into rock, the more difficult wedging and pulling out the electrode, so the electrode length ranges of 50~70cm and the depth into rock 35~50cm, select the depth into rock 35cm here.

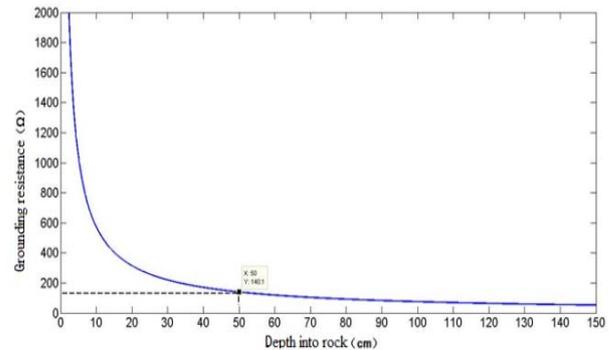


FIGURE II. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GROUNDING RESISTANCE WITH THE DEPTH INTO ROCK.

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Put determined parameter values into the formula (2), calculate the value of grounding resistance  $R=8.881 \times 103 \Omega$ . Compared to the original parameter table, this value can satisfy the requirements of instrument, namely both the length of electrode and the depth into rock can meet the design requirements.

According to the depth into rock, combined with the length of exposed external electrode, the total length can be designed as 50cm, namely the length of depth into rock is 35cm and the exposed part 15cm.

We test whether the resistance value can meet the requirements of the original parameter table after determining the basic sizes of electrode. Steel resistivity is variable due to the internal components, but all are good conductors. In approximate computation, the value can be replaced by the resistivity of iron which is the main component of it, namely  $9.78 \times 10^{-8} \Omega \cdot m$ . The electrode resistance equals  $1.56 \times 10^{-4} \Omega$  according to the property of resistance, which meets the resistance requirements of electrode in original parameter table. So the radius and total length of the electrode are designed reasonable.

### (3) Determination the taper of electrode head

In order to install easily, we designed a taper of 1:3 on the electrode head. Because 3cm is relatively small compared to total size, there is no significant impact to physical and chemical properties of electrode. Therefore, we assume the electrode is of ideal cylindrical in the above calculation.

### (4) Integral structure of the electrode

Through the above design, schematic diagram of the integral electrode structure is shown in Figure III:



FIGURE III. SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF THE INTEGRAL ELECTRODE STRUCTURE.

## IV. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, through the analysis of concrete requirements of the advanced detector, we design the electrode mainly take account of reducing the grounding resistance. With the help of simulation analysis by Matlab software, we get better theoretical value of basic parameters of electrode size and meet the requirements of the instrument.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This work was supported by the National High Technology Research and Development Program of China (863 Program) (No. 2012AA06A405) and the Fundamental Research Funds for the Central Universities (No.2010YJ01).