

TECHNICAL REPORT

IEC
TR 62066

First edition
2002-06

Surge overvoltages and surge protection in low-voltage a.c. power systems – General basic information

*Surteusions de choc et protection contre la foudre
dans les réseaux à basse tension –
Informations générales fondamentales*

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CONTENTS

FOREWORD.....	7
1 Scope.....	9
2 Reference documents.....	9
3 Definitions	10
4 Overvoltages in low-voltage systems	12
5 Lightning overvoltages.....	13
5.1 General	13
5.2 Origin of lightning surge overvoltages.....	18
5.3 Lightning surges transferred from MV systems	21
5.4 Surges caused by direct flash to LV lines	23
5.5 Lightning surges induced into LV systems	23
5.6 Examples of induced overvoltages	25
5.7 Overvoltages caused by flashes to the structures or in close vicinity	27
5.8 Recapitulation on lightning overvoltages.....	30
6 Switching overvoltages	31
6.1 General	31
6.2 Operation of circuit-breakers and switches	35
6.3 Operation of fuses.....	37
6.4 Frequency of occurrence.....	38
6.5 Interactions with surge-protective devices	38
6.6 Recapitulation on switching overvoltages	39
7 Temporary overvoltages	40
7.1 General	40
7.2 Magnitude of temporary overvoltages due to MV and LV faults.....	40
7.3 Temporary overvoltages due to defects in the LV electrical installation.....	42
7.4 Probability of occurrence and severity of harm	42
7.5 Recapitulation on temporary overvoltage	44
8 System interaction overvoltages	44
8.1 General	44
8.2 Interaction between power system and communications system	45
8.3 Other interactions.....	46
8.4 Recapitulation on system interactions.....	46
9 Observations on surge overvoltages and failure rates.....	46
9.1 General	46
9.2 Using field failure data.....	47
9.3 Recapitulation of observations on failure rates	48
10 Considerations on system outage/equipment failure/fires	48
10.1 General	48
10.2 Avoiding interference in system operation	49
10.3 Preventing permanent damage	49
10.4 Costs of surge-related interruptions and failures.....	50
10.5 Recapitulation on outages and failures	52

11	Considerations on the use of surge protection	52
11.1	General	52
11.2	Power system configuration	52
11.3	Types of installation	53
11.4	Occurrence of surges	53
11.5	SPD disconnectors	54
11.6	Risk assessment	55
11.7	Recapitulation on the need for surge protection	57
12	Surge protection application	57
12.1	General	57
12.2	Surge protective devices in power distribution systems	58
12.3	Basic system characteristics for SPD selection	59
12.4	Considerations for installation of SPDs	64
12.5	Coordination among SPDs and with equipment to be protected	66
12.6	Recapitulation on surge protection application	67
Annex A (informative)	Complementary information on lightning-related overvoltages	68
Annex B (informative)	Switching overvoltages	79
Annex C (informative)	Complementary information on temporary overvoltages	94
Annex D (informative)	Complementary information on system interaction overvoltages (see clause 8)	97
Annex E (informative)	Complementary information on SPD application	102
Annex F (informative)	Avoiding overvoltages through good practice for earthing and cabling	124
Bibliography	128
Figure 1	– Examples of lightning flash coupling mechanisms	13
Figure 2	– Examples of lightning flashes to a complex electrical system	15
Figure 3	– Possible waveforms of lightning current striking ground-based objects	16
Figure 4	– Frequency distribution of peak currents for three types of lightning events	16
Figure 5	– Map of annual thunderstorm days [7]	18
Figure 6	– Direct flash to an overhead line	19
Figure 7	– Example of resistive coupling from lightning protection system	21
Figure 8	– Typical earth coupling mechanisms	22
Figure 9	– Typical overvoltages induced on an LV line by a near lightning flash	24
Figure 10	– Example of estimated frequency of occurrence of prospective induced lightning overvoltages on LV overhead lines	25
Figure 11	– Model of distribution system used in the simulation	26
Figure 12	– Model for computing dispersion of lightning current among parallel buildings in an example of TN-C system	28
Figure 13	– Generation of overvoltage by switching an RLC circuit	31
Figure 14	– Typical switching overvoltages	33
Figure 15	– Example of a high-frequency switching surge	33
Figure 16	– Distribution of the rate of rise of switching surges at different locations	34
Figure 17	– Distribution of the rise time of switching surges	34
Figure 18	– Rate of rise of the switching surges and their crest values	35
Figure 19	– Distribution of the duration of the switching surges	35

Figure 20 – Example of distribution of switching surge amplitudes measured in industrial distribution systems rated 230/400 V	36
Figure 21 – Switching surge during interruption by a miniature fuse [48]	38
Figure 22 – Distribution of the relative frequency of occurrence of switching surges at different installations	39
Figure 23 – PC/modem connections to the power system and to the communications system	46
Figure 24 – Example of diversion of lightning current into the external services (TT system)	61
Figure 25 – Considerations required for the selection of an SPD	63
Figure 26 – Effect of additional connecting lead on the limiting voltage of a varistor	65
Figure 27 – Basic model for energy coordination of SPDs	66
Figure A.1 – Frequency distribution of the lightning peak current I_{\max}	68
Figure A.2 – Frequency distribution of the total lightning charge Q_{total}	69
Figure A.3 – Frequency distribution of the transient lightning charge Q_{trans}	69
Figure A.4 – Frequency distribution of the specific lightning energy W/R	70
Figure A.5 – Frequency distribution of the maximum slope of transient current $(di/dt)_{\max}$	70
Figure A.6 – Frequency distribution of the slope of current $(di/dt)_{30/90}$ % of negative subsequent strokes	71
Figure A.7 – Simplified example with lightning flash to overhead LV line	71
Figure A.8 – Prospective voltages between line and true earth at point of strike (node 1), at the transformer (node 2) and at the neutral conductor in the consumer installation (node 3)	72
Figure A.9 – Prospective voltages relative to true earth at node 3 and at node 4	72
Figure A.10 – Current to earth at the point of strike (node 1), at the transformer (node 2), and at the consumer installation (node 3)	72
Figure A.11 – Distribution of overvoltage peak magnitudes recorded at the primary of an MV/LV transformer	73
Figure A.12 – Circuit used for the statistical computation	74
Figure A.13 – Comparison of measured overvoltages [51] and computed overvoltages (Anastasia)	74
Figure A.14 – Model for computing dispersion of lightning current among parallel buildings (TN-C system) [24]	75
Figure A.15 – Dispersion of lightning current among the paths defined in figure A.14	76
Figure A.16 – Model for computing dispersion of lightning current among parallel buildings (TN-C system, Building 2 with no LPS and no SPDs at the service entrance) [24]	77
Figure A.17 – Currents and voltage for the example of figure A.16	77
Figure B.1 – Example illustrating transient resonance caused by switching	80
Figure B.2 – Calculated overvoltages at the circuit nodes of figure B.1	80
Figure B.3 – Typical overvoltage occurring during capacitor bank energizing	81
Figure B.4a – Magnification condition	82
Figure B.4b – Voltage magnification effect	82
Figure B.4 – Magnification of capacitor switching overvoltage at remote bank	82
Figure B.5 – Principle of overvoltage generated by clearing a short-circuit	83
Figure B.6 – Example of survey of switching overvoltages in three types of installations	85
Figure B.7 – Switching surges in an industrial plant measured near the collecting bar	86
Figure B.8 – Frequency of occurrence at selected sites and overall results	88
Figure B.9 – Test circuit and surge during trip of a miniature breaker due to inrush overload	90
Figure B.10 – Example of overvoltage at the secondary collecting bar of a 230/400 V transformer substation when blowing 100 A fuses of a feeder	92

Figure B.11 – Overvoltage factor versus time duration of switching surges in a distribution system – Short circuit near a feeder fuse	93
Figure B.12 – Overvoltage in a distribution system depending on the cable length for different fuse ratings – Short circuit at the end of the cable.....	93
Figure C.1 – Temporary overvoltage resulting from a fault in the primary of the distribution transformer in a TN system according to North American practice.....	96
Figure D.1 – PC/modem connections to the power system and communications system	98
Figure D.2 – Voltage difference appearing across PC/modem during surge current flow	98
Figure D.3 – Voltage recorded across reference points for the PC/modem during a surge.....	99
Figure D.4 – Insertion of a surge reference equalizer at the PC/modem ports	100
Figure D.5 – Reduction of voltage difference between ports by a surge reference equalizer.....	101
Figure E.1 – Example of coordination for two voltage-limiting SPDs (MOV1 and MOV2)	103
Figure E.2 – Comparison of the I/V characteristics of the two MOVs	103
Figure E.3 – Current and voltage versus time characteristics for the two voltage-limiting SPDs	103
Figure E.4 – Energy distribution among two voltage-limiting SPDs versus impinging current.....	104
Figure E.5 – Idealized example for illustrating SPD coordination aspects.....	104
Figure E.6 – Calculated SPD voltages and current for a 2/20 μ s impulse injected in node 1.....	105
Figure E.7 – Calculated SPD voltages and current for a 10/350 μ s impulse injected in node 2	106
Figure E.8 – Calculated SPD voltages and current for a 10/350 μ s impulse injected in node 1	107
Figure E.9 – Example of coordination between a voltage-switching SPD and a voltage-limiting SPD.....	107
Figure E.10 – Current and voltage characteristics in the scheme of figure E.9 for no sparkover.....	108
Figure E.11 – Current and voltage characteristics in the scheme of figure E.9 with sparkover	109
Figure E.12 – Voltage U_{SG} at spark gap depending on different loads.....	109
Figure E.13 – Coordination of two SPDs (voltage-switching type)	110
Figure E.14 – Two ZnO varistors with the same nominal discharge current	111
Figure E.15 – Two ZnO varistors with different nominal discharge currents.....	113
Figure E.16 – Coordination principle for variant I	115
Figure E.17 – Coordination principle for variant II	116
Figure E.18 – Coordination principle for variant III	116
Figure E.19 – Coordination principle for variant IV	117
Figure E.20 – Let-through energy method with standard pulse parameters	117
Figure E.21 – Steepness factor for a surge-current waveform	120
Figure F.1 – EMC cabinet protects electronic equipment against common-mode currents through cables	125
Figure F.2 – Coupling of common-mode overvoltage caused by switching surges	126
Figure F.3 – Voltages measured in the control room on a cable shorted at the other end, at the top of the transformer. The common-mode currents are indicated for the various parallel earth conductors between A and C.	127
Table 1 – Attributes and effects of lightning flashes	14
Table 2 – Statistics of the significant parameters of lightning events.....	17
Table 3 – Line-to-earth prospective overvoltage levels in the LV installation, occurrences per year	26

Table 4 – Current dispersion in available paths in the example of figure 12 (10/350 μ s, 100 kA).....	29
Table 5 – Time to half-value of the switching surges versus rated current of miniature fuses	37
Table 6 – Maximum values of overvoltages allowed to occur during MV faults to earth	41
Table 7 – Possible protection modes	64
Table B.1 – Minimum, maximum and mean values of the amplitude and rate of rise of the recorded switching surges at different locations [48].....	85
Table B.2 – Distribution of recorded transients.....	86
Table B.3 – Measurement points and results of the long range measurement (second part) [1]	88
Table B.4 – Amplitude and rate of rise of switching surges versus rated current of miniature circuit breakers [48]	90
Table C.1 – Maximum values of overvoltages allowed to occur during MV-faults to earth	94
Table C.2 – Maximum possible values for TOVs in LV-installations due to LV-faults	95
Table E.1 – Inductance necessary to ensure gap sparkover.....	110
Table E.2 – Normalized values	118
Table E.3 – Reference table	118
Table E.4 – Equivalent values.....	118
Table E.5 – Example of coordination between two SPDs tested according to Class II	122
Table E.6 – Example of coordination between an SPD tested according to Class I and an SPD tested according to Class II.....	122
Table E.7 – Parameters for Class I tests (IEC 61643-1).....	123

INTERNATIONAL ELECTROTECHNICAL COMMISSION

SURGE OVERVOLTAGES AND SURGE PROTECTION IN LOW-VOLTAGE AC POWER SYSTEMS – GENERAL BASIC INFORMATION

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IEC 62066, which is a technical report, has been prepared by Technical Committee 64: Electrical installations and protection against electric shock.

The text of this technical report is based on the following documents:

Enquiry draft	Report on voting
64/1125/CDV	64/1163/RVC

Full information on the voting for the approval of this technical report can be found in the report on voting indicated in the above table.

This publication has been drafted in accordance with the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 3.

The committee has decided that the contents of this publication will remain unchanged until 2006. At this date, the publication will be

- reconfirmed;
- withdrawn;
- replaced by a revised edition, or
- amended.

This document, which is purely informative, is not to be regarded as an International Standard.

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SURGE OVERVOLTAGES AND SURGE PROTECTION IN LOW-VOLTAGE AC POWER SYSTEMS – GENERAL BASIC INFORMATION

1 Scope

IEC 62066 is a technical report that presents a general overview on the different kinds of surge overvoltages that can occur on low-voltage installations. Typical surge magnitude and duration as well as frequency of occurrence are described. Information on overvoltages resulting from interactions between power system and communications system is also provided.

Additionally, general guidelines are given concerning surge protection means and systems on the basis of availability and risk considerations, including interactions and the need for coordination and consideration of temporary overvoltages in the selection of surge-protective devices.

2 Reference documents

IEC 60364-4-44:2001, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 4-44: Protection for safety – Protection against voltage disturbances and electromagnetic disturbances*

IEC 60364-5-53:2001, *Electrical installations of buildings – Part 5-53: Selection and erection of electrical equipment – Isolation, switching and control*

IEC 60664-1:1992, *Insulation coordination for equipment within low-voltage systems – Part 1: Principles, requirements and tests*
Amendment 1 (2000)

IEC/TR 61000-2-5:1995, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 2: Environment – Section 5: Classification of electromagnetic environments*. Basic EMC publication

IEC 61000-4-1:2000, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques – Overview of IEC 61000-4 series*

IEC 61000-4-4:1995, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques – Section 4: Electrical fast transient/burst immunity test*. Basic EMC publication

IEC 61000-4-5:1995, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 4: Testing and measurement techniques – Section 5: Surge immunity test*
Amendment 1 (2000)

IEC/TR 61000-5-2:1997, *Electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) – Part 5: Installation and mitigation guidelines – Section 2: Earthing and cabling*

IEC 61024-1:1990, *Protection of structures against lightning – Part 1: General principles*

IEC 61024-1-1:1993, *Protection of structures against lightning – Part 1: General principles – Section 1: Guide A – Selection of protection levels for lightning protection systems*

IEC 61312-1:1995, *Protection against lightning electromagnetic impulse – Part 1: General principles*

IEC/TS 61312-3:2000, *Protection against lightning electromagnetic impulse – Part 3: Requirements of surge protective devices (SPDs)*

IEC 61643-1:1998, *Surge protective devices connected to low-voltage power distribution systems – Part 1: Performance requirements and testing methods*

IEC 61643-12:2002, *Low-voltage surge protective devices – Part 12: Surge protective devices connected to low-voltage power distribution systems – Selection and application principles*

IEC 61662:1995, *Assessment of the risk of damage due to lightning*
Amendment 1 (1996)

IEC 61663-2:2001, *Lightning protection – Telecommunications lines – Part 2: Lines using metallic conductors*

ITU-T K.20, *Resistibility of telecommunication equipment installed in a telecommunications centre to overvoltages and overcurrents*

ITU-T K.21, *Resistibility of telecommunication equipment installed in customers' premises to overvoltages and overcurrents*

IEEE 1036:1992, *Guide for application of shunt power capacitors*

NOTE Other documents are listed in the bibliography, which includes documents that were used in developing the present report, documents cited in support of a recommendation, and documents suggested as further reading for information.

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3 Definitions

For the purposes of this technical report, the terms and definitions given in other relevant IEC publications (see clause 2) apply, as well as the definitions listed below.

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3.1

combination wave

waveform delivered by a generator that applies a 1,2/50 voltage impulse across an open circuit and an 8/20 current impulse into a short circuit. The voltage, current amplitude and waveforms that are delivered to the SPD are determined by the generator and the impedance of the SPD to which the surge is applied. The ratio of peak open-circuit voltage to peak short-circuit current is $2\ \Omega$; this is defined as the fictive impedance Z_f . The short-circuit current is symbolized by I_{sc} . The open-circuit voltage is symbolized by U_{oc}

NOTE For the purposes of this technical report, the combination wave delivered by a surge generator in accordance with definition 3.24 of IEC 61643-1 may be applied to equipment other than an SPD.

3.2

combined multi-port SPD

surge-protective device integrating in a single package the means for providing surge protection at two or more ports of an equipment connected to different systems, such as a power system and a communications system

NOTE In addition to providing surge protection for each port, the device may also provide means to avoid shifting of the reference potentials between the equipment ports.

3.3

coordination of SPDs (cascade)

selection of characteristics for two or more SPDs to be connected across the same conductors of a system but separated by some decoupling impedance such that, given the parameters of the impedance and of the impinging surge, this selection will ensure that the energy deposited in each of the SPDs is commensurate with its rating

3.4**direct stroke**

stroke impacting the structure of interest

3.5**equipotential bonding**

provision of electric connections between conductive parts, intended to achieve equipotentiality

NOTE In typical installations, the equipotential bonding is provided for safety at the power frequency. At surge current frequencies, the length of the bonding conductors inescapably introduces some difference in potentials.

3.6**facility**

physical entity (for example, a hospital, factory, machinery, etc.) that is built, constructed, installed or established to perform some particular function or to serve or facilitate some particular end

3.7**lightning flash to earth**

electrical discharge of atmospheric origin between cloud and earth consisting of one or more strokes

NOTE For the purpose of this technical report, flash to earth can be understood not only as the earth (soil) but also as a flash to a structure, a power system, etc., as opposed to a cloud-to-cloud event.

3.8**lightning protection system (LPS)**

complete system used to protect a space against the effects of lightning. It consists of both external and internal lightning protection systems

NOTE In particular cases, an LPS may consist of an external LPS or an internal LPS only.

3.9**near flash**

flash striking in the vicinity of the structure of interest

3.10**point of strike**

point where a lightning stroke contacts the earth, a structure, or an LPS

3.11**prospective overvoltage**

theoretical overvoltage that would appear on the conductors of a power supply system or user installation before flashover of basic insulation or operation of voltage-limiting devices

3.12**SPD disconnecter**

internal or external device required for disconnecting an SPD from the system in the event of SPD failure. It is intended to prevent a persistent fault on the system and may give visible indication of the SPD failure

3.13**steepness factor**

ratio for a current impulse, of the front-of wave slope defined for the interval between 10 % and 90 % of the crest value, to the slope defined for the interval between 10 % and 30 % of the crest value

3.14

stroke (lightning)

single electrical discharge in a lightning flash to earth

3.15

surge overvoltage

temporary or transient voltage occurring in the system, resulting from a surge current due to an atmospheric discharge, an induction phenomenon, switching, or a fault in the system itself

3.16

surge protective device (SPD)

device that is intended to limit transient overvoltages and divert surge currents. It contains at least one non-linear component

3.17

surge reference equalizer

device used for connecting equipment to external systems whereby all conductors connected to the protected load are routed, physically and electrically, through a single enclosure with a shared reference point between the input and output ports of each system

NOTE Sharing the reference point may be accomplished within the device either by a direct bond or through a suitable device, such as an SPD which maintains isolation during normal conditions but provides an effective bond during the occurrence of a surge in one or both systems.

3.18

temporary overvoltage (TOV)

oscillatory overvoltage at power frequency at a given location, of relatively long duration and which is undamped or weakly damped

NOTE Temporary overvoltages usually originate from switching operations or faults (for example, sudden load rejection, single-phase faults) and/or from non-linearities (ferro-resonance effects, harmonics).

3.19

thermal runaway

operational condition when the sustained power loss of an SPD exceeds the thermal dissipation of the housing and connections, leading to a cumulative increase in the temperature of the internal elements culminating in failure

4 Overvoltages in low-voltage systems

Overvoltages in low-voltage systems result from several types of events or mechanisms and may be classified in four categories. The scope of this technical report is limited to low-voltage a.c. power systems, focussing on the first two categories but also giving guidelines for the third category shown below. A significant fourth category of overvoltages can occur from interactions of the a.c. power system with other systems, such as communications system, so that this fourth category is also relevant to the subject of this technical report.

a) Lightning overvoltages

Lightning overvoltages are the result of a direct flash to or near the power system, structures (with or without lightning protection system) or to the soil. Distant lightning flashes can also induce overvoltages in the circuits of an installation. These overvoltages are the subject of clause 5, where the various coupling mechanisms are described.

b) Switching overvoltages

Switching overvoltages are the result of intentional actions on the power system, such as load, inductor or capacitor switching in the transmission or distribution systems by the utility, or in the low-voltage system by end-user operations. They can also be the result of unintentional events such as power system faults and their elimination. Both are the subject of clause 6.

c) Temporary overvoltages

Temporary overvoltages occur in power systems, as the result of a wide range of system conditions, both normal operation and abnormal conditions. Both are the subject of clause 7. Their occurrence is relevant to the selection of suitable surge-protective devices.

d) System interaction overvoltages

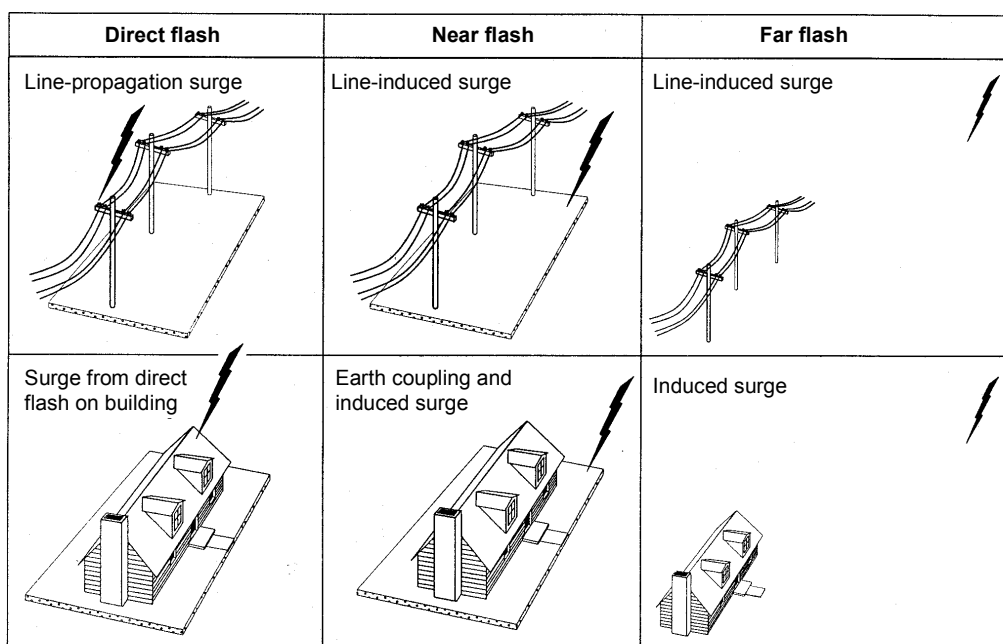
Overvoltages can occur between different systems, such as power and communications, during the flow of surge currents in one of the systems. These are briefly described in clause 8.

Clauses 5, 6, 7, and 8 referenced above present an overview of these overvoltages and causes, without discussion of consequences, need for mitigation, or risk analysis. These related topics are discussed in subsequent clauses.

5 Lightning overvoltages

5.1 General

Lightning is a natural and unavoidable event which affects low-voltage systems (power systems as well as signal/communication systems) through several mechanisms. The obvious interaction is a flash to the power system, but other coupling mechanisms can also produce overvoltages (see figure 1). To better understand the diversity of mechanisms, this subclause first presents a summary of the basic parameters of a lightning stroke between a cloud and any object at the ground level. Figure 2 gives examples of lightning flashes to a typical complex electrical system.



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Figure 1 – Examples of lightning flash coupling mechanisms