

PQube[®] 3 App Note

Railway and MetroRail – Finding and solving AC and DC power problems



From Jerusalem Light Rail to the Hong Kong Subway, from Silicon Valley California to Belgium, rugged little PQube[®]3 monitors have become the first choice for recording power disturbances.

PQube 3 – the first power monitor specifically configured for railway use!

Every PQube 3 automatically adapts to 16.667 Hz, 50 Hz, 60 Hz, and 400 Hz – and DC too, up to 1200 volts! And every PQube 3 automatically sends you email, with detailed graphs and reports in your own language: no software required! Just look in your in-box!

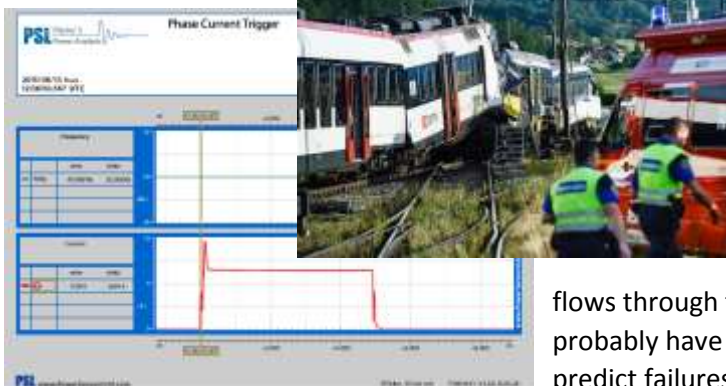


Electromechanical point switching – predicting failures with your PQube 3's AC current signatures!

What could you do with the signatures of the current flowing into the motors that drive your electromechanical

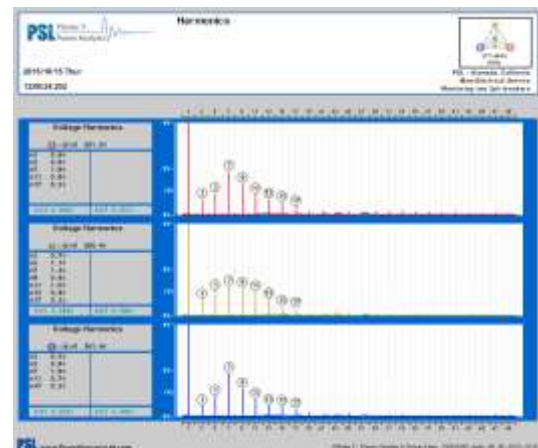
(or electro-pneumatic) switches? Well, your PQube 3 has 8 standard current channels, and each one can trigger on the current inrush caused by the motor start. You'll get a graph (and an Excel[®] file) with the detailed before-and-after current signature. A large inrush current indicates trouble starting the motor – check the bearings for wear. And if the signature shows that current

flows through the motor for a few seconds longer than usual, you probably have a mechanical failure developing. You can actually predict failures before they happen!



AC-DC rectifiers, transformer overheating, unbalance, and harmonic currents

Every PQube 3 includes the full IEC suite of harmonic measurements, and both IEEE and IEC unbalance measurements – it's perfect for transformer/rectifier monitoring. When utility power transformers overheat, it can be difficult to determine if you have a temporary overload problem, or a harmonics current problem, or perhaps an intermittent current unbalance problem. You'll diagnose all of these problems, easily, with your PQube 3, from the comfort of your office, even if the problems come and go.



Detects every kind of power disturbance – AC and DC

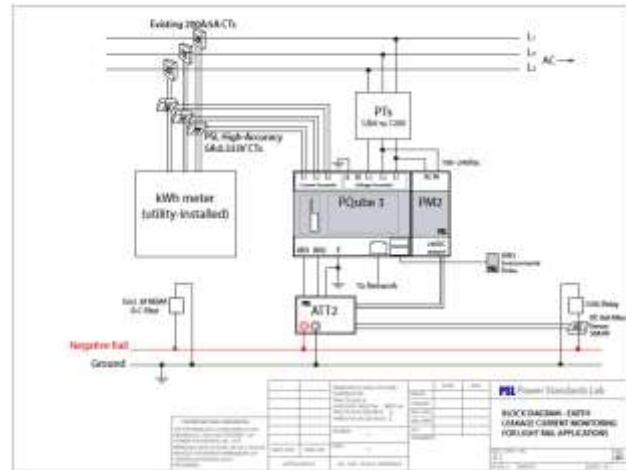


You can easily set your PQube 3 to trigger on sags/dips and swells, of course, but you can also trigger on current inrush, and a current threshold, and Rapid Voltage Change, and frequency, and even High Frequency Impulses as fast as one microsecond! Your PQube comes with a detailed NIST-Trace Certificate, guaranteeing that there will be no questions about its better-than-0.1% accuracy. Fully UL-listed, CE-marked, and Certified – and made in the USA.

Sometimes you need to monitor a 600-volt or 1kV DC bus – no problem, the PQube 3 is designed for this. You'll get cross-triggered disturbance recordings showing you oscilloscope waveforms, simultaneously, on your AC supply and your DC bus. And you'll get power readings on both sides, too, so you can quickly see rectifier efficiency, and predict rectifier failures.

Earth current monitoring – why does it trip?

Sometimes a powerful AC monitoring instrument isn't enough. Fortunately, your standard PQube 3 can also monitor four DC channels, too! It can even monitor DC current, including difficult-to-solve transient DC earth currents when trains enter or leave the station. Place a PQube 3 monitor at troublesome stations, and wait for your emails to arrive. You'll figure out what's happening in no time.



Intermittent control & communication failures – could it be power disturbances?



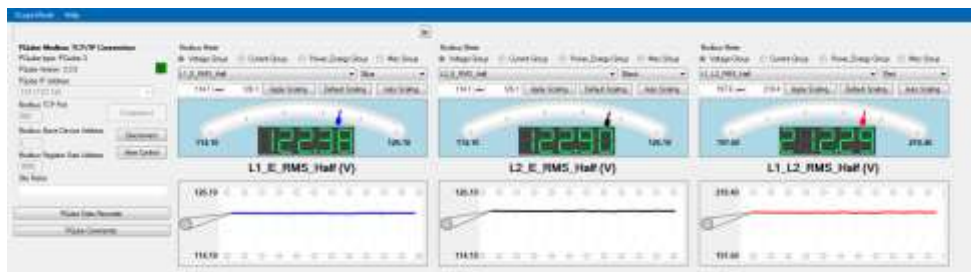
Nothing is more frustrating than trying to diagnose intermittent control failures – if you can't reproduce them, how can you fix them? Well, you can simplify the problem by using PQube 3's to monitor the AC voltage, and DC supplies, inside your controls. You'll find out if you have power disturbances, you'll learn exactly what they are so you can choose the correct solution, and – if you don't have power disturbances – your PQube 3 will document how clean your power is, with its daily trends-and-statistics reports – no software required.

Escalators – dangerous sudden stops, caused by voltage sags?

When escalators (moving stairs) stop abruptly, passengers can be hurt. One fairly common cause is that the Variable Frequency Drive that operates the escalator shut off, due to a voltage sag. To defend yourself, you need PQube 3 documentation: exactly when did the sag happen, how deep was it, and how long did it last? You can even use this information to budget for increasing escalator immunity to voltage sags.



Remote graphing and more than 1,000 meters – all free!



Every PQube 3 instrument is fully equipped with more than 1,000 different ModBus meters – everything from simple voltage, current, and frequency, to temperature and humidity and barometric pressure (use it to detect air

flow failure in underground tunnels!), and even X-Y-Z mechanical acceleration. PSL provides a free, easy-to-use Modbus program for your Windows PC... or you can use the built-in web site inside every PQube 3.

Easy to install – train cabin, control panel, rectifier



Your PQube 3 mounts on any standard 35mm DIN-rail, or you can purchase an indoor or outdoor enclosure. And your PQube 3 is fully Certified almost everywhere



in the world, making installation completely worry free. Check out <http://PQube3.com/install> for ideas.