

DSP-Based Sensor Fault-Tolerant Control of Electric Vehicle Powertrains

Bekheïra Tabbache, Mohamed Benbouzid, Abdelaziz Kheloui and Jean-Matthieu Bourgeot

Abstract—This paper describes a sensor fault-tolerant control for a high performance induction motor drive that propels an electrical vehicle. The proposed strategy deals with instrument failure detection and isolation within a reconfigurable induction motor direct torque control scheme.

To increase the vehicle powertrain reliability regarding speed sensor failures, a maximum likelihood voting algorithm is implemented. It uses two virtual sensors (extended Kalman filter and an adaptive observer) and the encoder.

Experiments on an induction motor drive and simulations on an electric vehicle are carried-out using a European urban and extra urban driving cycle to show that the proposed sensor fault-tolerant control approach is effective and provides a simple configuration with high performance in term of speed and torque responses.

Index Terms—Electric vehicle (EV), induction motor, sensor failure, fault-tolerant control (FTC), extended Kalman filter (EKF), maximum likelihood voting (MLV), DSP.

I. INTRODUCTION

The motor drive including the electric motor, the power converter, and the electronic controller is the core of the electric propulsion system in an EV. As high reliability and maintenance-free operation are prime considerations in EVs powertrain, adjustable speed ac motor drives are increasingly adopted in automotive applications to improve overall system efficiency and performance. This is the particular case of induction motor drives that are attractive and considered as the most viable for modern EVs [1].

Fault tolerance is gaining growing interest to increase the reliability and the continuous operation of electromechanical systems among them automotive ones [2-3]. One possible cause for faults is sensor failures. The control of EVs electric propulsion requires sensors that measure current, voltage, and speed. These components are usually subjected to errors such noise, offset, drift, and disconnections [2]. These failures obviously lead to the overall EV performance deterioration. To improve the reliability of the electric drive, it is therefore compulsory to have a sensor failure detection and isolation system. Thereafter, reconfiguration should be achieved with predefined scheme. This will allow fault-tolerant operation.

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The need for fault-tolerant systems has inspired much research for the particular case of standard three-phase induction motors [4-6]. The majority of these contributions have been focused on failures in the drive-motor system. Where previous industrial attempts were focused on the actual drive, the current trend is to include sensors and application failure modes [7-10]. Indeed, the overall performance of induction motor drives with a feedback structure depends not only on the health of the motor itself but also on the performance of the driving circuits and sensors.

Therefore, this paper proposes a fault-tolerant direct torque control strategy in case of speed sensor failure intended for EVs using induction motor based powertrain. For that purpose, specific encoder failures detection is achieved and an MLV algorithm is implemented for speed information acquisition [11-12]. This algorithm uses two virtual sensors (EKF and AO) and the encoder. Experiments on an induction motor drive and simulations on an electric vehicle are carried-out using a European urban and extra urban driving cycle to show that the proposed sensor fault-tolerant control approach is effective and provides a simple configuration with high performance in term of speed and torque responses.

II. ELECTRIC VEHICLE MODELING AND DYNAMICS

The proposed sensor FTC strategy takes into account the EV aerodynamics, and is not applied to the sole induction motor. The vehicle model is based on mechanics and aerodynamics principles [13]. The road load is then given by

$$F_w = F_{ro} + F_{sf} + F_{ad} + F_{cr} \quad (1)$$

where F_{ro} is the rolling resistance force, F_{sf} is the Stokes or viscous friction force, F_{ad} is the aerodynamic drag force, and F_{cr} is the climbing and downgrade resistance force.

The power required to drive the EV at a speed v has to compensate the road load F_w .

$$P_v = vF_w \quad (2)$$

The mechanical equation (in the motor referential) used to describe each wheel drive is expressed by

$$J \frac{d\omega_m}{dt} + T_B + T_L = T_m \quad (3)$$

where ω_m is the motor mechanical speed, T_B is the load torque accounting for friction and windage, T_L is the load torque, T_m is the motor torque.

supposed that the random signals $v(k)$ and $w(k)$ are Gaussian noises not correlated and with null average value. They are characterized by covariance matrixes, Q and R respectively, which are symmetrical and positive definite. The initial state vector x_0 is also a random variable with covariance matrix P_0 and average value \bar{x}_0 .

The Kalman filter recursive algorithm is illustrated by Fig. 2. For an induction motor, the Kalman filter must be used in its extended version. Therefore, a nonlinear stochastic system discrete state equation is given by

$$\begin{cases} x_{k+1} = f(x_k, u_k) + w_k \\ y_k = h(x_k) + v_k \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where f and h are vector functions.

$$\begin{cases} f = \begin{bmatrix} \left(1 - T \frac{K_R}{K_L}\right) i_{s\alpha} + T \frac{L_m R_r}{L_r K_1} \lambda_{r\alpha} + T \frac{L_m \omega_r}{L_r K_L} \lambda_{r\beta} + T \frac{1}{K_L} V_{s\alpha} \\ \left(1 - T \frac{K_R}{K_L}\right) i_{s\beta} - T \frac{L_m R_r}{L_r K_1} \lambda_{r\alpha} + T \frac{L_m \omega_r}{L_r K_L} \lambda_{r\beta} + T \frac{1}{K_L} V_{s\beta} \\ T \frac{L_m}{T_r} i_{s\alpha} + \left(1 - T \frac{1}{T_r}\right) \lambda_{r\alpha} - T \omega_r \lambda_{r\beta} \\ T \frac{L_m}{T_r} i_{s\beta} + T \omega_r \lambda_{r\alpha} + \left(1 - T \frac{1}{T_r}\right) \lambda_{r\beta} \\ \omega_r \end{bmatrix} \\ h = C_d x_{k|k+1} = \begin{bmatrix} i_{s\alpha} \\ i_{s\beta} \end{bmatrix} \end{cases}$$

The notation $k+1$ is related to predicted values at $(k+1)^{\text{th}}$ instant and is based on measurements up to k^{th} instant. T is the sampling period.

The EKF equations are similar to those of the linear Kalman filter with the difference that A and C matrices should be replaced by the Jacobians of the vector functions f and h at every sampling time as follows.

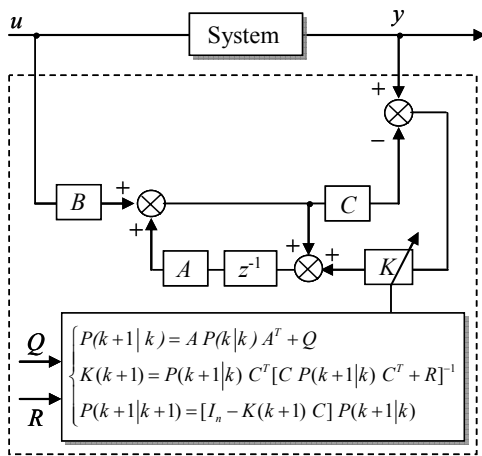


Fig. 2. The Kalman filter recursive algorithm.

$$\begin{cases} A_k[i, j] = \frac{\partial f_i}{\partial x_j} \Big|_{x = \hat{x}(k|k)} \\ C_k[i, j] = \frac{\partial h_i}{\partial x_j} \Big|_{x = \hat{x}(k|k-1)} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

The covariance matrices R_k and Q_k are also defined at every sampling time.

For the induction motor control, the EKF is used for the speed real-time estimation. It can also be used to estimate states and parameters using the motor voltages and currents measurements.

B. The Adaptive Observer

The adopted flux and speed observer uses the observed system model. It calculates the stator flux and rotational speed estimated values using the motor drive measurements (stator currents and DC voltage) [20].

The induction motor state model developed in the stationary reference frame is given as follows

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dx}{dt} = Ax + Bu \\ y = Cx \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

where $x = [i_{s\alpha} \ i_{s\beta} \ \lambda_{r\alpha} \ \lambda_{r\beta}]^T$ is the state vector, $u = [V_{s\alpha} \ V_{s\beta}]^T$ is the input vector and $y = [i_{s\alpha} \ i_{s\beta}]^T$ is the output vector; with

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sigma} \left(\frac{1-\sigma}{T_r} + \frac{1}{T_s} \right) & 0 & \frac{L_m}{\sigma L_s L_r T_r} & \frac{L_m}{\sigma L_s L_r} \omega_r \\ 0 & -\frac{1}{\sigma} \left(\frac{1-\sigma}{T_r} + \frac{1}{T_s} \right) & -\frac{L_m}{\sigma L_s L_r} \omega_r & \frac{L_m}{\sigma L_s L_r T_r} \\ \frac{L_m}{T_r} & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_r} & -\omega_r \\ 0 & \frac{L_m}{T_r} & \omega_r & -\frac{1}{T_r} \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma L_s} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sigma L_s} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \quad C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

The estimated speed ω_r is considered as a variable parameter. Using (10), a global observer structure can be written as

$$\frac{d\hat{x}}{dt} = \hat{A}\hat{x} + Bu + G(y - \hat{y}) \quad (11)$$

where G is the observer gain matrix which is selected to insure the error stability. The global adaptive flux and speed observer structure is illustrated by Fig. 3.

The stability analysis (Lyapunov stability theorem) in term of observation error allows having an asymptotic observer. The speed adaptive mechanism is then given by

$$\hat{\omega}_r = K_{pe} (e_{s\alpha} \hat{\lambda}_{r\beta} - e_{s\beta} \hat{\lambda}_{r\alpha}) + K_{ie} \int (e_{s\alpha} \hat{\lambda}_{r\beta} - e_{s\beta} \hat{\lambda}_{r\alpha}) dt \quad (12)$$

where K_{pe} , K_{ie} are positive gains; $e_{s\alpha} = i_{s\alpha} - \hat{i}_{s\alpha}$ and $e_{s\beta} = i_{s\beta} - \hat{i}_{s\beta}$.

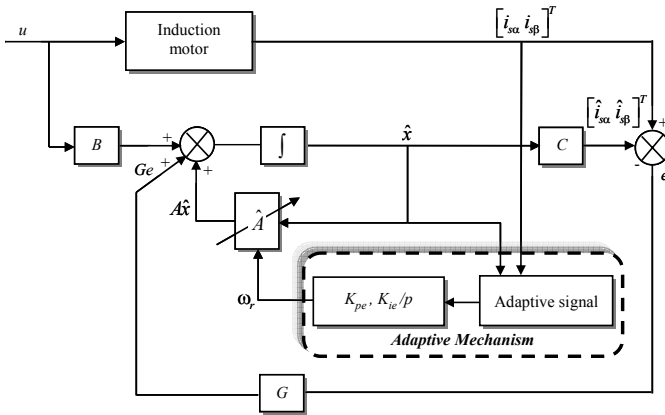


Fig. 3. The adaptive observer global structure.

V. SENSOR FAULT-TOLERANT CONTROL

The overall performance of induction motor drives with a feedback structure depends on the performance of the driving circuits and sensors: encoder, voltage and current sensors. The loss of a sensor leads to unsatisfactory or dangerous behaviors if no remedial actions have been forecast [2].

Figure 4 describes the proposed sensor fault-tolerant control. In event of encoder failures, the proposed strategy reorganizes itself using the estimated speed given by the maximum likelihood voting algorithm in the entire speed range. In this paper focus is on speed sensor failures but the proposed sensor FTC is able to handle current and voltage sensor failures.

A. Speed Sensor Failure

In general 12-bit absolute encoder can exhibit the following failure conditions: 1) intermittent sensor connection, 2) complete sensor outage, 3) DC bias in sensor measurement, and 4) sensor gain drop. The most severe failures are the two first ones as they lead to momentary or complete lack of information. This will obviously lead to instabilities in closed-loop control if no remedial actions are undertaken [2], [11].

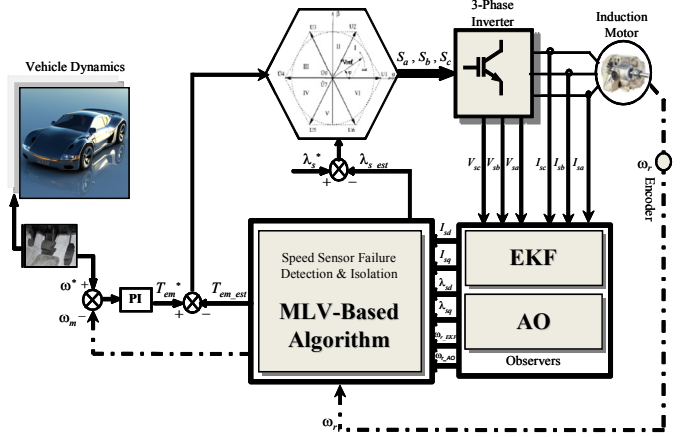


Fig. 4. The proposed sensor fault-tolerant control scheme.

B. Maximum Likelihood Voting Algorithm

In order to increase the drive reliability, the proposed sensor FTC strategy uses a voting algorithm in the control decision block that computes the most accurate speed information from the sensor and the observers outputs.

Several voting techniques have been described in the literature regarding control and safety-critical applications [21]. The adopted method is the maximum likelihood voting (MLV) algorithm [12].

In the MLV algorithm, a probability χ_j for each input j is computed based on reliability coefficients. Probability coefficient computations are slightly modified to introduce a threshold. Indeed, in healthy conditions, the speed sensor is chosen as the emerging output [12].

$$\chi_j = \prod_{i=1}^N \Delta_j(i) / \sum_{k=1}^N \prod_{i=1}^N \Delta_k(i) \quad (13)$$

$$\text{with } \Delta_k(i) = \begin{cases} f_k & \text{if } |x_i - x_k| \leq D_{\max ik} \\ \frac{1-f_k}{N-1} & \text{else} \end{cases} \quad (14)$$

VI. SIMULATION TESTS

In order to evaluate the proposed fault-tolerant direct torque control strategy performance, simulations have been carried-out for an electric vehicle using a 37-kW induction motor based powertrain. The EV and the used cage induction motors rated data and parameters are given in the Appendix.

In this case, a speed sensor failure (power failure) and recovery is introduced between 5 → 8.5-sec, 17 → 23-sec, and 26.5 → 38-sec (Fig. 5).

The MLV algorithm has been first parameterized. Indeed, simulations have been carried-out to compute the threshold D_{\max} and the EKF and AO reliability coefficients. Therefore:

- D_{\max} has been set to 0.2-rad at low speed and to 0.25 at high speed.
- The EKF reliability coefficients have been set to 0.98 at low speed and to 0.93 at high speed.

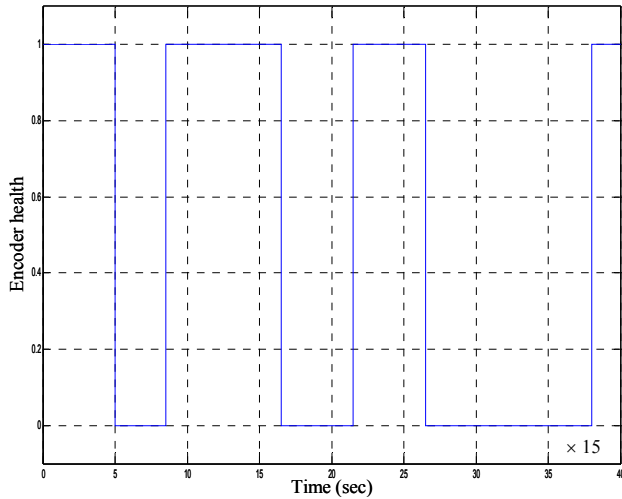


Fig. 5. Speed sensor simulated failures and recovery.

- The AO reliability coefficients have been set to 0.93 at low speed and to 0.96 at high speed.
- The encoder has a constant reliability of 0.99.

Adopting Fig. 5 sensor speed failures and recovery scheme, Fig. 6 shows how the above parameterized MLV algorithm selects the appropriate speed.

To evaluate the EV dynamic performances under speed sensor failure and recovery, a series of tests in different load conditions were performed to emulate different type of traction behavior of an EV. For that purpose, a European urban and extra urban driving cycle is used as the speed reference (Fig. 7). The EV speed performances are illustrated by Fig. 8. The EKF output is selected in case of encoder failure at low and medium speed. At high speed, the adaptive speed observer output is adopted in case of encoder failure in order to maintain the EV dynamic performances.

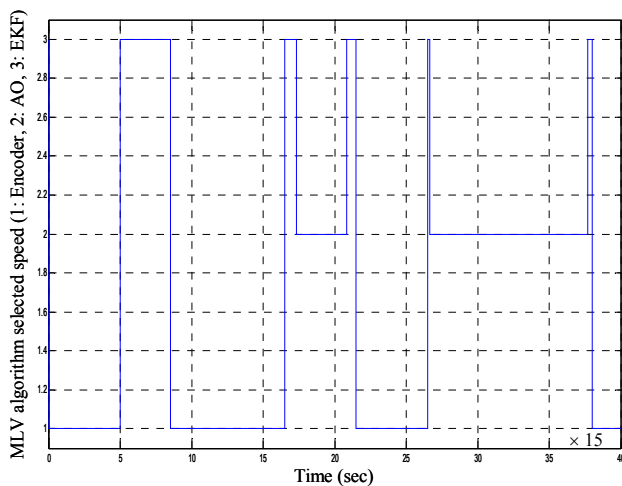


Fig. 6. MLV algorithm speed selection.

VII. EXPERIMENTAL TESTS

Experimental tests have been first carried-out to check the sensor fault-tolerant control performances on a 1-kW induction motor drive.

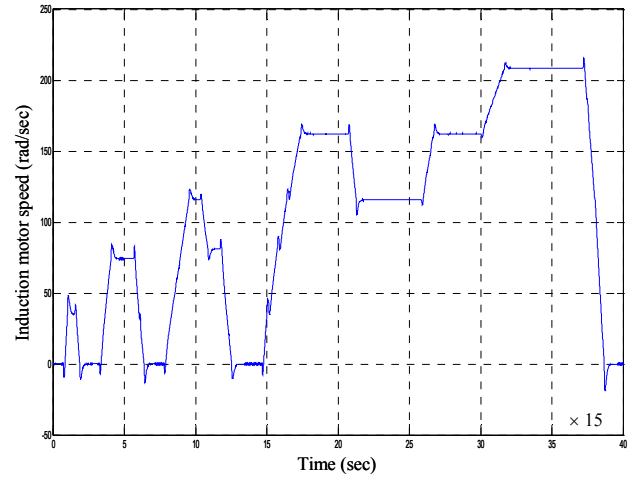


Fig. 7. The EV induction motor speed (European urban and extra urban driving cycle).

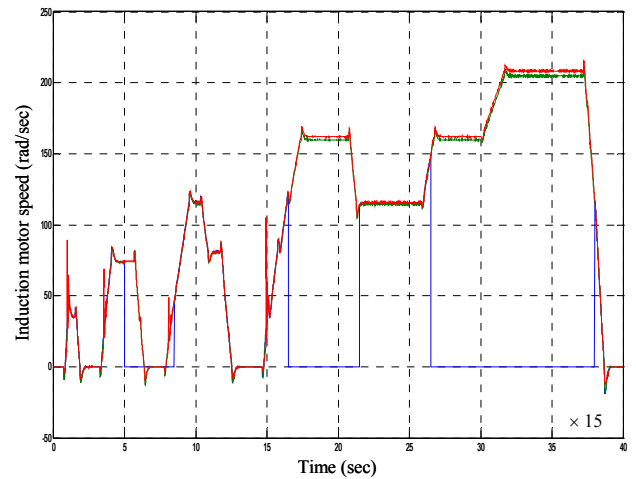


Fig. 8. EV fault-tolerant control performances with maximum likelihood voting: Encoder (blue), EKF (green), AO (red).

A European urban driving cycle has been also adopted.

A. The Experimental Setup

The experimental setup picture is illustrated by Fig. 9. The used cage induction motor rated data are given in the Appendix. This motor is supplied by a 2-levels voltage inverter. The setup main components are: a DSP system (single fixed-point TMS320LF2407), a speed sensor attached to the motor shaft, current and voltage sensors. The DSP system is interfaced to a standard PC.

B. Experimental Results

Adopting a normal European urban driving cycle, Fig. 10 shows the MLV-based FTC dynamic performances. In this case, the MLV algorithm adopts the encoder output; at low speed it adopts the EKF estimates (in case of failure); and at high speed it adopts the AO estimates (in case of failure).

The obtained experimental results clearly confirm the effectiveness of the proposed fault-tolerant control strategy using a specific voting algorithm.

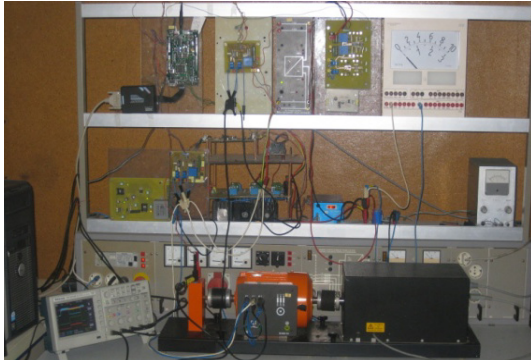
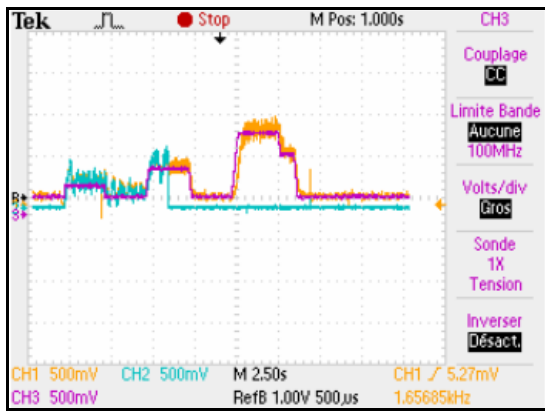


Fig. 9. The experimental setup.



(Motor speed (orange), Encoder (blue), Reference speed (Purple))

Fig. 10. Induction motor drive MLV-based FTC performances under encoder failures and recovery.

VIII. CONCLUSION

This paper has proposed a fault-tolerant direct torque control strategy in case of speed sensor failure intended for EVs using induction motor based powertrain. For that purpose, it has been used the maximum likelihood voting algorithm in the control decision block that computes the most accurate speed information from the encoder and two virtual sensors (extended Kalman filter and an adaptive observer).

The carried-out simulations and experiments on a European urban and extra urban driving cycle have shown that the proposed sensor fault-tolerant control approach is effective and provides a simple configuration with high dynamic performances.

APPENDIX

EV MECHANICAL AND AERODYNAMIC PARAMETERS

$$\begin{aligned}
 m &= 1540 \text{ kg (two 70 kg passengers)}, A = 1.8 \text{ m}^2, r = 0.3 \text{ m} \\
 \mu_{rr1} &= 0.0055, \mu_{rr2} = 0.056, C_{ad} = 0.19, G = 3.29, \eta_g = 0.95 \\
 v_0 &= 4.155 \text{ m/sec}, g = 9.81 \text{ m/sec}^2, \rho = 0.23 \text{ kg/m}^3
 \end{aligned}$$

RATED DATA OF THE SIMULATED INDUCTION MOTOR

$$\begin{aligned}
 &37 \text{ kW}, 1480 \text{ rpm}, p = 2 \\
 &R_s = 0.0851 \Omega, R_r = 0.0658 \Omega \\
 &L_s = 0.0314 \text{ H}, L_r = 0.0291 \text{ H}, L_m = 0.0291 \text{ H}, \\
 &J = 0.37 \text{ kg.m}^2, k_f = 0.02791 \text{ Nmsec}
 \end{aligned}$$

RATED DATA OF THE TESTED INDUCTION MOTOR

$$\begin{aligned}
 &1 \text{ kW}, 2.5 \text{ Nm}, 2830 \text{ rpm}, p = 1 \\
 &R_s = 4.750 \Omega, R_r = 8.000 \Omega, L_s = 0.375 \text{ H}, L_r = 0.375 \text{ H}, L_m = 0.364 \text{ H} \\
 &J = 0.003 \text{ kg.m}^2, k_f = 0.0024 \text{ Nmsec}
 \end{aligned}$$

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