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A High-Performance Sensorless Indirect Stator Flux Orientation Control of Induction Motor Drive

Mohamed Boussak, Member, IEEE, and Kamel Jarray

Abstract—A new method for the implementation of a sensorless indirect stator-flux-oriented control (ISFOC) of induction motor drives with stator resistance tuning is proposed in this paper. The proposed method for the estimation of speed and stator resistance is based only on measurement of stator currents. The error of the measured q-axis current from its reference value feeds the proportional plus integral (PI) controller, the output of which is the estimated slip frequency. It is subtracted from the synchronous angular frequency, which is obtained from the output integral plus proportional (IP) rotor speed controller, to have the estimated rotor speed. For current regulation, this paper proposes a conventional PI controller with feedforward compensation terms in the synchronous frame. Owing to its advantages, an IP controller is used for rotor speed regulation. Stator resistance updating is based on the measured and reference d-axis stator current of an induction motor on d–q frame synchronously rotating with the stator flux vector. Experimental results for a 3-kW induction motor are presented and analyzed by using a dSpace system with DS1102 controller board based on the digital signal processor (DSP) TMS320C31. Digital simulation and experimental results are presented to show the improvement in performance of the proposed method.

Index Terms—Feedforward decoupling, induction motor, sensorless vector control, stator-flux-oriented control, stator resistance estimation.

NOMENCLATURE

\( v_{ds}, v_{qs} \) \ d, \ q\text{-axis stator voltage components.}
\( i_{ds}, i_{qs} \) \ d, \ q\text{-axis stator current components.}
\( \Phi_{ds}, \Phi_{qs} \) \ d, \ q\text{-axis stator flux components.}
\( R_s, R_r \) \ Stator and rotor winding resistance.
\( L_s, L_r \) \ Stator and rotor self-inductance.
\( M \) \ Mutual inductance.
\( N_p \) \ Number of pole pairs.
\( p \triangleq d/dt \) \ Differential operator.
\( \omega_s, \omega_r \) \ Synchronous and rotor angular speed.
\( \omega_{sl} \) \ Slip angular speed \((\omega_s - \omega_r)\).
\( T_e, T_l \) \ Electromagnetic and load torque.
\( J \) \ Moment of inertia.
\( f \) \ Friction constant.
\( \tau_s, \tau_r \) \ Stator and rotor time constant.
\( K_p \) \ Proportional gain of the integral plus proportional (IP) speed controller.
\( K_i \) \ Integral gain of the IP speed controller.
\( K_{ip} \) \ Proportional gain of the proportional plus integral (PI) current controller.
\( K_{ii} \) \ Integral gain of the PI current controller.
\( K_{\omega p} \) \ Proportional gain of the PI slip speed estimation controller.
\( K_{ri} \) \ Integral gain of the estimated stator resistance variation controller.
\( \sigma \) \ Total leakage constant.
\( \hat{\omega}, * \) \ Estimated and reference value.

I. INTRODUCTION

Vector control has been widely used for the high-performance drive of the induction motor. As in dc motor, torque control of the induction motor is achieved by controlling torque and flux components independently. Vector control techniques can be separated into two categories: direct and indirect flux vector orientation control schemes. For direct control methods, the flux vector is obtained by using stator terminal quantities, while indirect methods use the machine slip frequency to achieve field orientation.

The overall performance of field-oriented-controlled induction motor drive systems is directly related to the performance of current control. Therefore, decoupling the control scheme is required by compensation of the coupling effect between \( q\text{-axis} \) and \( d\text{-axis} \) current dynamics [1]–[3].

All high-performance vector-controlled induction motor drives require accurate rotational speed or rotational position information for feedback control. This information is provided by an incremental encoder, which is the most common positioning transducer used today in industrial applications. The use of this sensor implies more electronics, higher cost, lower reliability, difficulty in mounting in some cases such as motor drives in harsh environment and high speed drives, increase in weight, increase in size, and increase electrical susceptibility.

To overcome these problems, in recent years, the elimination of those transducers has been considered as an attractive prospect. Numerous approaches have been proposed to estimate rotor velocity and/or position from machine terminal properties, such as stator current or voltage.


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In the existing literature, many approaches have been suggested for speed sensorless vector control induction motor drives. These methods are based on the following schemes:

- harmonic caused by machine saliency [4], [5];
- Model Reference Adaptive System (MRAS) [6], [7];
- extended Kalman filter (EKF) [8], [9];
- artificial neural network (ANN) [10], [11];
- extended Luenberger observers [12], [13];
- instantaneous reactive power [14], [15].

Some of these methods require specially modified machines and the injection of disturbance signals or the use of a machine model. Otherwise, all other methods for speed estimation using a machine model fed by stator quantities are parameter dependent; therefore, parameter errors can degrade speed control performance. Thus, some kind of parameter adaptation is required in order to obtain high-performance sensorless vector control drive.

At very low speed, indirect stator-flux-oriented control (ISFOC) of induction motor drive is particularly sensitive to an accurate stator resistance value in the stator flux. To overcome this problem, online tuning stator resistance variation of the induction motor is essential in order to maintain the dynamic performance of a sensorless ISFOC drive. Recently, many works dealing with drives without shaft transducers have been developed using different approaches to estimate rotor speed and stator resistance [16]–[22]. Most of these approaches require additional sensors that were not strictly used in standard ISFOC drive, thus increasing cost and complexity that may rule out practical use.

In this paper, we propose a novel method of sensorless ISFOC induction motor drive with stator resistance tuning and dynamic feedforward decoupling scheme able to operate down to zero speed, which require only current and dc bus voltage sensors. The dynamic feedforward decoupling scheme is based on the conventional PI controller with compensation terms in the synchronous frame. The estimated speed is obtained starting from the measurement of stator currents and those of references generated by the control algorithm. To ensure the dynamic performance of the induction motor drive, this new structure must be robust with respect to stator resistance variation. Online estimation of stator resistance variation is obtained by means of the error between d-axis stator current and that generated by the algorithm command. By using a pure integral controller, we can estimate stator resistance variation. The new method for sensorless ISFOC of induction motor drive is implemented with stator resistance tuning at rated, low, and zero speed operations.

The performance of the drive was found to be excellent in both simulation and experiment.

II. STATOR-FLUX-ORIENTATION MODEL

For ISFOC, the stator flux vector is aligned with d-axis and setting the stator flux to be constant equal to the rated flux, which means \( \Phi_{ds} = \Phi_s \) and \( \Phi_{qs} = 0 \).

The dynamic model of an induction motor can be represented according to the usual d-axis and q-axis components in a synchronous rotating frame as

\[
v_{ds} = \frac{R_s (\tau_s + \tau_r)}{\tau_r} \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma \tau_s \tau_r}{\tau_s + \tau_r} \right) i_{ds} - \sigma L_s \omega_s i_{qs} - \frac{\Phi_s}{\tau_r} + E_d \tag{1}
\]

\[
v_{qs} = \frac{R_s (\tau_s + \tau_r)}{\tau_r} \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma \tau_s \tau_r}{\tau_s + \tau_r} \right) i_{qs} + \sigma L_s \omega_s i_{ds} + \omega_s \Phi_s \tag{2}
\]

\[
\Phi_s = L_s \frac{1 + \sigma \tau_s p}{1 + \tau_r p} i_{ds} - \sigma L_s \omega_s i_{qs} \tag{3}
\]

\[
\omega_s = \frac{L_s}{\tau_r} \frac{1 + \sigma \tau_s p}{\Phi_s} i_{qs} \tag{4}
\]

\[
T_e = N_p \Phi_s i_{qs} \tag{5}
\]

where \( \sigma = 1 - (M^2 / L_s L_r) \), \( \tau_s = L_s / R_s \), and \( \tau_r = L_r / R_r \).

It can be seen that if the stator flux is kept constant, the torque can be controlled by controlling the q-axis current.

The electromagnetic torque equation and the electrical angular speed motor are related by

\[
j \frac{d \omega_r}{dt} + f \omega_r = N_p (T_e - T_i). \tag{6}
\]

III. FEEDFORWARD DECOUPLING CONTROLLER

It can be seen that the d-axis and q-axis voltage equations are coupled by the terms \(-\sigma L_s \omega_s i_{qs} - (\Phi_s / \tau_r)\) and \(\sigma L_s \omega_s i_{ds} + \omega_s \Phi_s\). These terms are considered as disturbances and are cancelled by using a decoupling method that utilizes nonlinear feedback of the coupling voltages. If the decoupling method is implemented the voltage equations become

\[
v_d = v_{ds} + E_d = \frac{R_s (\tau_s + \tau_r)}{\tau_r} \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma \tau_s \tau_r}{\tau_s + \tau_r} \right) i_{ds} \tag{7}
\]

\[
v_q = v_{qs} + E_q = \frac{R_s (\tau_s + \tau_r)}{\tau_r} \left( 1 + \frac{\sigma \tau_s \tau_r}{\tau_s + \tau_r} \right) i_{qs} \tag{8}
\]

where \( E_d = \sigma L_s \omega_s i_{qs} + (\Phi_s / \tau_r) \) and \( E_q = -\sigma L_s \omega_s i_{ds} - \omega_s \Phi_s \); \( E_d \) and \( E_q \) are, respectively, the d- and q-back electro motive force (EMF).

Thus, the dynamics of the d-axis and q-axis currents are now represented by simple linear first-order differential equations. Therefore, it is possible to effectively control the currents with a PI controller.

In Fig. 1, \( K_{iq} \) and \( K_{ij} \) denote proportional and integral gains of the PI d, q axis current controller, respectively. \( G_d(p) \), \( G_q(p) \) are the nondecoupling electrical d, q axis transfer functions of the induction machine. It should be noted that the estimated values, denoted by ‘\(^\wedge\)’, are introduced to cancel out the coupling terms in the induction motor model.

If we assume that the back EMFs are canceled by the feedforward compensation term, we obtain

\[
G_d(p) = G_q(p) = \frac{K_e}{1 + \tau_r p} \tag{9}
\]
Fig. 1. Block diagram of the conventional PI controller with feedforward decoupling method.

where \( K_c = \frac{\tau_r}{R_s} (\tau_s + \tau_r) \) is a gain and \( \tau_c = \sigma \tau_s \tau_r / (\tau_s + \tau_r) \) is a time constant.

The closed-loop current transfer function is

\[
\frac{i_{ds}(p)}{i^*_d(p)} = \frac{\omega_{ni}^2 \left( 1 + \frac{K_{ip}}{K_{ii}} p \right)}{p^2 + 2 \xi \omega_{ni} p + \omega_{ni}^2} \tag{10}
\]

where

\[
\omega_{ni} = \sqrt{\frac{K_c K_{ii}}{\tau_c}} \quad \text{and} \quad \xi = \frac{1 + K_c + K_{ip}}{2 \omega_{ni} \tau_c}.
\]

\( \omega_{ni} \) and \( \xi \) denote natural frequency and damping ratio, respectively.

When the dynamics of the \( d \)- and \( q \)-axes currents are equivalent, the PI gains can be copied to the \( q \)-axis controller.

IV. SENSORLESS SPEED CONTROL ALGORITHM

A. Slip Speed Estimation

From (3) and (4), and by neglecting the term \( (\tau_s \sigma \omega_{sl})^2 \), we obtain the following relation between slip speed \( \omega_{sl} \) and \( q \)-axis stator current \( i_{qs}^* \):

\[
\omega_{sl} \approx \frac{L_s (1 + \sigma \tau_r p)^2}{(1 - \sigma) \tau_r \Phi_s} i_{qs}^* \tag{11}
\]

It can be seen that the slip speed is represented by second-order differential equation \( q \)-axis current. Therefore, it is possible to estimate the slip speed using the regulation in closed-loop \( q \)-axis current. We propose a new slip speed estimation based on measurement of stator currents.

From (3) and (4), we obtain the following reference currents with stator flux reference and slip angular frequency estimation:

\[
\begin{align*}
pi_{ds}^* &= - \frac{1}{\sigma \tau_r} i^*_ds + \frac{1 + \tau_r p}{\sigma L_s \tau_r} \Phi_s^* + \dot{\omega}_{sl} i_{qs}^* \tag{12} \\
pi_{qs}^* &= - \frac{1}{\sigma \tau_r} i^*_qs + \frac{\Phi_s^*}{\sigma L_s} \dot{\omega}_{sl} - i_{ds}^* \dot{\omega}_{sl}. \tag{13}
\end{align*}
\]

We define two error components between reference and measurement \( d \)-axis and \( q \)-axis currents through

\[
\begin{align*}
\varepsilon_d &= i^*_d - i_{ds} \tag{14} \\
\varepsilon_q &= i^*_q - i_{qs} \tag{15}
\end{align*}
\]

The slip speed error is defined by

\[
\varepsilon_{\omega_{sl}} = \omega_{sl} - \dot{\omega}_{sl}. \tag{16}
\]

We express the measured and reference variables according to these errors, then we replace them in (12) and (13) and we obtain

\[
p \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_d \\ \varepsilon_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{1}{\sigma \tau_r} & -\omega_{sl} \\ -\omega_{sl} & -\frac{1}{\sigma \tau_r} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \varepsilon_d \\ \varepsilon_q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{i_{qs}^*}{\Phi_s^*} \\ -\frac{i_{ds}^*}{\sigma L_s} \end{bmatrix} \varepsilon_{\omega_{sl}}. \tag{17}
\]

We graphically studied the variation of stator current error according to slip speed error. Fig. 2 shows that the \( q \)-axis current error varies almost linearly with the variation of the slip speed error and that the \( d \)-axis current error is weak and negligible in relation to \( \varepsilon_q \) [23]–[25].

This result is justified by (11). Thus, it is possible to use only the \( q \)-axis error \( \varepsilon_q \) for the estimation of slip speed by using the second row of (17), which is reduced to

\[
(1 + \sigma \tau_r p) \varepsilon_q = \sigma \tau_r \left( i_{ds} - \frac{\Phi_s^*}{\sigma L_s} \right) \varepsilon_{\omega_{sl}}. \tag{18}
\]
The simulation results studied in [24] and [25] show that the \( d \)-axis stator current does not vary in a significant manner according to slip speed, which enables us to assume that \( d \)-axis stator current is equal to the steady state current \( i_{ds0} \).

From (18), we establish the transfer function connecting the slip speed error to the \( q \)-axis current, i.e.,

\[
\frac{\varepsilon_q(p)}{\varepsilon_{\omega,ri}(p)} = \frac{K_0}{\sigma \tau_r p + 1} \tag{19}
\]

where

\[
K_0 = \sigma \tau_r \left( i_{ds} - \frac{\Phi^*}{\sigma L_s} \right) \tag{20}
\]

To estimate slip speed, we used a PI controller. The sign of the gain \( K_0 \) is negative; thus, to obtain positive gains of the regulator, the inversion of sign will be carried out on the \( q \)-axis current. Therefore, it is possible to effectively control slip speed error with a PI controller.

Thus, we obtain the estimated slip speed

\[
\hat{\omega}_{sl} = \frac{K_{\omega p} p + K_{\omega i}}{p} (\Phi^* - i_{qs}) \tag{21}
\]

We obtain the block diagram in Fig. 3.

From Fig. 3, the closed-loop transfer function can be expressed with

\[
\frac{\hat{\omega}_{sl}(p)}{\omega^*_q(p)} = \frac{\omega_n^2 \left( 1 + \frac{K_{\omega p}}{\tau_r p} \right)}{p^2 + 2 \xi \omega_n p + \omega_n^2} \tag{22}
\]

where

\[
\omega_n = \sqrt{\frac{K_0 K_{\omega i}}{\sigma \tau_r}} \quad \text{and} \quad \xi = \frac{K_0 K_{\omega p} + 1}{2 \omega_n \sigma \tau_r}.
\]

\( \omega_n \) and \( \xi \) denote natural frequency and damping ratio, respectively.

By setting the damping ratio \( \xi = 1 \), the characteristic equation of the closed-loop system admits a double pole. For a given damping ratio, the second-order systems give a constant value for \( \omega_n t_r = k \). For example, if we have a damping ratio \( \xi = 1 \), we obtain \( \omega_n t_r = 4.75 \).

The proportional and integral gains of the PI controller are given as

\[
K_{\omega p} = \frac{2 \sigma \tau_r \xi \left( \frac{k}{t_r} \right) - 1}{K_0} \tag{23}
\]

\[
K_{\omega i} = \frac{\sigma \tau_r \left( \frac{k}{t_r} \right)^2}{K_0} \tag{24}
\]

where \( t_r \) is the response time that is defined as the time required for the step response to rise from 0% to 95% of its final value.

B. Variation Stator Resistance Estimation

So as to choose correctly the variable that allows us to identify stator resistance variation, we graphically studied the variation of the \( d \)-axis and \( q \)-axis current error according to the stator resistance variation [24], [25].

Fig. 4 shows that the \( d \)-axis current error strongly varies almost linearly with stator resistance variation \( \Delta R_s \). The \( q \)-axis current error remains weak and can be neglected in relation to the \( d \)-axis current error. Thus, we use only \( d \)-axis current error for the estimation of stator resistance variation.

The \( d \)-axis reference stator voltage is given by

\[
v_{ds}^* = R_s \Phi^*_{ds} + \frac{d \Phi^*_{ds}}{dt} \tag{25}
\]

where \( R_{s0} \) is the initial stator resistance.

Stator resistance variation generates a \( d \)-axis current and \( q \)-axis flux variations that are considered null for the control level. Thus, for stator resistance variation, the reference \( d \)-axis voltage fixed by \( d \)-axis flux and the \( d \)-axis reference current will be expressed according to stator flux and real current by

\[
v_{ds}^* = (R_{s0} + \Delta R_s) i_{ds} + \frac{d \Phi^*_{ds}}{dt} - \omega_s \Phi^*_{qs} \tag{26}
\]

Then, if we establish the equality between the two expressions (25) and (26), we obtain

\[
\varepsilon_d = \frac{i_{ds}}{R_{s0}} \Delta R_s - \frac{1}{R_{s0}} \frac{d \Phi^*_{ds}}{dt} - \frac{1}{R_{s0}} \omega_s \Phi^*_{qs} \tag{27}
\]
In steady state, (27) can be put in the form

\[ \varepsilon_d = \varepsilon_{d1} - \varepsilon_{d2} \]  

(28)

where

\[ \varepsilon_{d1} = \frac{i_{ds}}{R_{s0}} \Delta R_s \]  

(29)

\[ \varepsilon_{d2} = \frac{1}{R_{s0}} \omega_s \Phi_{qs} \]  

(30)

The simulation results studied in [24] and [25] show that the two terms \( \varepsilon_{d1} \) and \( \varepsilon_{d2} \) vary linearly with stator resistance variation \( \Delta R_s \). So a first approximation can be used as

\[ \varepsilon_{d2} = k_1 \Delta R_s. \]  

(31)

For a small stator resistance variation, the \( d \)-axis current can be regarded as constant. Thus, we can establish the transfer function connecting the stator resistance variation \( \Delta R_s \) to the \( d \)-axis current error by

\[ \frac{\varepsilon_d(p)}{\Delta R_s(p)} = \frac{i_{ds}}{R_{s0}} - k_1 \]  

(32)

where

\[ k_1 \leq \frac{i_{ds}}{R_{s0}}. \]  

(33)

In steady state, to cancel stator resistance variation error estimation, we chose an integral regulator type so that

\[ \Delta \hat{R}_s = \frac{k_{ri}}{p} (i_{ds} - i_{ds}^*) \]  

(34)

where \( k_{ri} \) is the integral controller gain of the stator resistance variation estimation.

This enables us to obtain a first-order transfer function in closed loop. Block diagram estimation of stator resistance variation \( \Delta R_s \) is presented in Fig. 5.

This method allows us to tune stator resistance by comparison of the \( d \)-axis reference stator current generated by the control with real \( d \)-axis current of the induction motor.

The integral of the difference will be injected into the control algorithm to compensate the stator resistance variation \( \Delta R_s \). Fig. 6 shows the block diagram of the proposed sensorless SFOC of induction motor drive system with stator resistance tuning.

V. SIMULATION AND EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

We have tested the robust controller at nominal and zero speed command with load torque applied for sensorless speed controlled induction motor drive with stator resistance tuning.
It is shown [Fig. 8(b)] that the estimated rotor speed has a small steady-state error of about 2% when the step load torque is applied. This is due to the inaccuracy of the motor parameters, which were calculated from motor rated data.

In Fig. 8(c), it is seen that at steady state the estimated \(d\), \(q\) components of the stator flux error appear only during the load torque condition. The error for \(d\)-axis and \(q\)-axis stator flux does not exceed 10% and 5%, respectively. This difference is due to the fact that the ISFOC method operates in open loop, without any feedback from the stator flux error. In order to avoid such a situation, it is necessary to provide the ISFOC drive system with accurate stator resistance value.

Some experimental results for sensorless speed control are presented here for 1000 r/min and zero speed reference command. In particular, very satisfactory performances have been obtained for sensorless zero-speed conditions at no-load torque. Both simulation and experimental results of speed, torque, stator flux, and stator current are shown and show close agreement.

For sensorless zero-speed control, it can be noted that the estimated rotor speed, the stator phase current, and the \(q\)-axis stator current accurately follow its reference. Here, the estimated speed signal coming from the microcontroller is reported, and it can be noted how it accurately tracks the measured speed signal.

Fig. 9 shows zero sensorless speed control when there is an error of 65% on the stator resistance. As shown in Fig. 9, the sensorless zero-speed control response is not significantly affected by stator resistance variation. To achieve stator resistance variation, we have used in series with each phase of the machine motor a resistance of value 1.5 \(\Omega\). We start the drive systems without adaptation of the stator resistance and then we use the estimator at \(t = 3\) s to adjust the stator resistance.

It should be noted that we have considered the rotor resistance to be constant. However, like stator resistance, rotor resistance also depends on temperature. Only the simulation study was carried out in [24] and [25] to investigate the sensitivity of the proposed method on the rotor time constant, which has an influence on the decoupling between the flux and torque and optimal controller. It is clear that an improvement of high-performance sensorless speed control requires tracking changes in rotor resistance.

### VI. Conclusion

This paper makes a contribution to the issue of sensorless SFOC of induction motor drive with stator resistance tuning and dynamic feedforward decoupling scheme. A new method has been presented that is able to perform at nominal, low, and
Fig. 8. Simulation and experimental results of step response ($\omega_\text{r}^* = 1000 \text{ r/min}$) with load torque applied at 2 s. (a) Simulation results of estimated and actual speed responses. (b) Experimental results of estimated and actual speed responses. (c) Simulation results of estimated $d$, $q$ axis stator flux. (d) Experimental results of estimated $d$, $q$ axis stator flux. (e) Simulation results of stator phase current. (f) Experimental results of stator phase current. (g) Simulation results of load torque and $q$-axis stator current. (h) Experimental results of load torque and $q$-axis stator current.
zero sensorless speed control of induction motor drive. What is really new, compared to previous works in the literature, is the sensorless control method using slip angular speed estimation with stator resistance tuning based on the error between $d, q$ axis stator currents and that generated by the algorithm command, respectively. Particularly, good performances have been obtained at locked rotor condition, while degradation due to stator resistance variation caused by temperature is taken into account. Simulation and experimental results have shown the practical feasibility of the proposed approach that allows one to estimate both rotor speed and stator resistance variation for a wide speed range. All experimental results confirm the good dynamic performances of the developed drive systems and show the validity of the proposed method.

**Fig. 9.** Experimental and simulation results of sensorless zero speed command (no load) with stator resistance tuning. (a) Experimental results of zero rotor speed response. (b) Experimental results of $q$-axis stator current. (c) Experimental results of estimated stator resistance variation. (d) Simulation results of estimated stator resistance variation. (e) Experimental results of $d$-axis stator current. (f) Simulation results of $d$-axis current.

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