A Cost Effective sensorless vector control of 4-Switch 3-Phase Inverter Fed IM using MRAS

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Abstract

This paper investigates performance of a Model reference adaptive system (MRAS) based cost-effective drive system of an induction motor (IM) for low-cost applications. In this paper, the MRAS is used as a speed estimator and the motor is fed from a four-switch three-phase (FSTP) inverter instead of a conventional six-switch three-phase (SSTP) inverter. This configuration reduces the cost of the inverter, the switching losses, and the complexity of the control algorithms. The robustness of the proposed MRAS-based FSTP inverter fed IM drive is verified by Experimental results at different operating conditions. A comparison of the proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive with a conventional SSTP inverter system is also made in terms of the performance analysis. The proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive is found quite acceptable considering its performance, cost reduction and other advantages.

Keywords: induction motor, four switch inverter, six switch inverter, sensorless control, vector control, MRAS

1. Introduction

Over the years induction motor has been utilized as a workhorse in the industry due to its easy build, high robustness, and generally satisfactory efficiency. With the invent of high speed power semiconductor devices three-phase inverters play the key role for variable speed AC motor drives [1]. Induction motor drives have been thoroughly studied in the past few decades and many vector control strategies have been proposed, ranging from low cost to high performance applications. Traditionally, 6-switch, 3-phase (SSTP) inverters have been widely utilized for variable speed IM drives. This involves the losses of the six switches as well as the complexity of the control algorithms and interface circuits to generate six PWM logic signals [2].

In the past, researchers mainly concentrated on the development of the efficient control algorithms for high performance variable speed IM drives However, the cost, simplicity and flexibility of the overall drive system which become some of the most important factors did not get that much attention to the researchers. That’s why, despite tremendous research in this area most of the developed control system failed to attract the industry. Most of the reported works on 4-switch, 3-phase (FSTP) inverter for machine drives did not consider the closed loop vector control scheme, which is essential for high performance drives.

Usually, high performance motor drives used in robotics, rolling mills, machine tools, etc. require fast and accurate response, quick recovery of speed from any disturbances and insensitivity to parameter variations. The dynamic behavior of an AC motor can be significantly improved using vector control theory where motor variables are transformed into an orthogonal set of d-q axes such that speed and torque can be controlled separately. This gives the IM machine the highly desirable dynamic performance capabilities of a separately excited DC machine, while retaining the general advantages of the ac over DC motors [3].

In this paper, a cost effective FSTP inverter fed sensorless IM drive is developed. The four switches makes the inverter less cost, less switching losses, less chances of destroying the switches due to lesser interaction among switches, less complexity of control algorithms and interface circuits as compared to the conventional SSTP inverter, the proposed control approach reduces the computation for real time implementations. Furthermore, the use of speed sensorless for induction motor drives besides being reduce bulky and increase the robustness, it reduce additional electronics, extra wiring, extra space. And reduce extra cost to the drive system, Speed sensor, also, implies and careful mounting which detracts from the inherent robustness of the drive.

The proposed sensorless control method verifies the validity of an MRAS-based FSTP inverter fed IM drive system for cost reduction and other advantages such as reduced switching losses, reduced number of interface circuits to supply logic signals for the switches, easier control algorithms to generate logic signals. Thus, the main issue of this paper is to develop a cost effective, simple and efficient high performance IM drive.

A closed-loop vector control scheme of the proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive incorporating the MRAS is implemented using digital signal processing DSP1104 interfaced with the MATLAB/SIMULINK soft ware. A comparison of the proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive with a conventional SSTP inverter system is also made in terms of performance analysis.
2. The Proposed Inverter

The proposed FSTP inverter is configured as shown in Fig. 1. The inverter converts the DC-voltage to a balanced three-phase output with adjustable voltage and frequency.

![Four switch three-phase inverter with IM](image)

This inverter is configured with four switches Q1, Q2, Q3 and Q4, respectively. Two output phases are taken from the inverter legs directly where the third output is taken from the midpoint of the two capacitors. A detailed comparison of the four-switch inverter with the conventional six-switch inverter configuration is given in [5], [6].

Two control possibilities exist to control the four-switch bridge inverter, i.e., two-level current control to force the two controlled phases currents to sinusoidal, or using PWM to control the voltages applied to the three-phase quasi-sinusoidally. The two-level current control of the four-switch bridge inverter used to control the load current by forcing it to follow a reference one. This is achieved by the switching action of the inverter to keep the current within the hysteresis band. The load currents are sensed and compared with respective command currents using two independent hysteresis comparators. The output signals of the comparators are used to activate the inverter power switches. This controller is simple and provides excellent dynamic performance. The modulated phases voltages of four switch inverter are introduced as a function of switching logic NA, NA1, NB and NB1 of power switches by the following relations [7].

\[
V_a = \frac{E_{dc}}{3}(4NA + 2.NB - 1). \tag{1}
\]
\[
V_b = \frac{E_{dc}}{3}(-2NA + 4.NB - 1). \tag{2}
\]
\[
V_c = \frac{E_{dc}}{3}(-2NA - 2.NB + 2). \tag{3}
\]

where, NA1 and NB1 are complementary of NA and NB.

3. MRAS Model for Sensorless Control of IM

Model Reference Adaptive Systems (MRAS) techniques applied in order to estimate rotor speed. This technique is based on the comparison between the outputs of two estimators. The outputs of two estimators may be (the rotor flux, back emf, or motor reactive power). The estimator that does not involve the quantity to be estimated (The rotor speed \(\omega_r\)) is considered as the induction motor voltage model. This model considered to be the reference model (RM). The other model is the current model, derived from the rotor equation, this model considered to be the adjustable model (AM). The error between the estimated quantities by the two models is used to drive a suitable adaptation mechanism which generates the estimated rotor speed [4].

In this paper, the observer depends on the MRAS technique. The speed observer is based on stator current and rotor flux as state variables. The speed estimating procedures from the stator current error are as follows: First, the rotor flux is expressed as in Eqs. (7) and (8) from the induction motor equation the stator current is represented as:
Using Equation (4), and estimated instead of measured speed, the stator current is estimated as

\[
\hat{i}_{ds} = \frac{1}{L_m} \left[ \lambda_{ds} + \omega T \lambda_{qs} + T_p \lambda_{ps} \right]
\]

\[
\hat{i}_{qr} = \frac{1}{L_m} \left[ \lambda_{qr} - \omega T \lambda_{qs} + T_p \lambda_{ps} \right]
\]

Form the relationship between the real stator current and the estimated stator current, the difference in the stator current is obtained as

\[
i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds} = \frac{T}{L_m} \lambda_{ds} [\omega_r - \hat{\omega}_r]
\]

\[
i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr} = \frac{T}{L_m} \lambda_{dr} [\omega_r - \hat{\omega}_r]
\]

In Equation (6), the difference of stator current is sinusoidal value because it is the function of rotor flux. Multiplying by the rotor flux and adding them together:

\[
(i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds}) \lambda_{ds} + (i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr}) \lambda_{dr} = \frac{T}{L_m} \lambda_{ds} + \lambda_{dr} [\omega_r - \hat{\omega}_r]
\]

By summing the above two equations.

\[
(i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds}) \lambda_{ds} + (i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr}) \lambda_{dr} = \frac{T}{L_m} [\lambda_{ds} + \lambda_{dr}] [\omega_r - \hat{\omega}_r]
\]

Hence, the error of the rotor speed is obtained as follows:

\[
\omega_r - \hat{\omega}_r = \frac{K}{T} [i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds}) \lambda_{ds} + (i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr}) \lambda_{dr}]
\]

Where \( K = \frac{T}{L_m} [\lambda_{ds} + \lambda_{dr}] \)

The right hand term seems as the term of speed calculation from adaptive observer, so the speed can be calculated from the following equation [8]:

\[
\dot{\omega}_r = \frac{1}{K} \left[ (K_p (i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds}) \lambda_{ds} - (i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr}) \lambda_{dr}) + (K_i \int (i_{ds} - \hat{i}_{ds}) \lambda_{ds} - (i_{qr} - \hat{i}_{qr}) \lambda_{dr}) \right]
\]

Fig. 2 shows The MRAS system.

4. Drive System

The control scheme of low cost induction motor drive is shown in Fig. 3. It incorporates the speed controller which receives the error signal between the preset speed and the actual observed speed of the motor shaft and then generates the torque command \( (T^*_{e}) \) through a proportional integral (PI) speed controller. This torque command produces the quadrature current command \( i_{q*} \) in the synchronous reference frame (SYRF). The direct
current $I_{d_s}^{*}$ is set by the rotor flux level $\lambda_{dr}^{*}$. This flux level is calculated according to the method described in [6]. The two current commands are then transformed to the stationary reference frame (STRF) with the aid of the calculated command angle ($\theta^e$). This command angle is calculated in such a way that aligns the direct-axis of SYRF with the rotor flux axis. The two stator current commands, $I_{qs}^{*}$ and $I_{ds}^{*}$ in the SYRF are then transformed to STRF and then transformed to three phase references current $i_a$, $i_b$, and $i_c$. Only, two currents reference $i_a$ and $i_b$ required for the hysteresis current controller that generates the switching function for the pulse width modulated voltage source inverter.

The estimation of rotor flux $\lambda_{ds}$, rotor speed $\omega_e$, and the stator flux $\lambda_{qs}$ is performed in the MRAS speed estimator. The estimation of the rotor flux and speed is done indirectly by the field-oriented controller. The speed estimation is done through a recursive algorithm, and the rotor flux $\lambda_{ds}$ is estimated through a two-phase (dq) transformation. The stator flux $\lambda_{qs}$ is estimated through a scalar MRAS algorithm.

Fig. 2 MRAS speed estimation

5. Experimental Results
To verify the validity of the proposed system, an induction motor vector control system was constructed. Fig. 4 shows a block diagram of the experimental system, which was composed of a DSP board DSP 1104 which is based on 32-bit floating point DSP TI TMS32OC31. The board is also equipped with a fixed point 16 bit TMS320P14 DSP which is used as a slave processor [9]. Two phases currents and voltages $I_a$, $I_b$, and $V_a$, $V_b$ are sensed by Hall-effect current and voltage sensors.

Fig 3. Block diagram for a vector-controlled induction motor based on speed estimation

Fig 4 Experimental set-up for DSP-based control of induction motor
These signals are fed to the DSP through the signal conditioning circuit. Also the speed of the rotor is sensed by 2048 PPR incremental encoder for detecting the motor speed and fed to the encoder interface on the DSP board. The control algorithm is executed by ‘simulink’ and downloaded to the board through host computer. The outputs of the board are four logic signals, which are fed to the proposed 4-switch, 3-phase inverter through driver isolation circuits. The sampling time for experimental implementation is chosen as 100 µsec. The performance of the conventional six switch inverter based sensorless IM drive system and proposed system is compared at different operating conditions.

The performances of the proposed MRAS-based FSTP inverter fed IM have been investigated experimentally. The response due to a step change in the speed command is used to evaluate the performance in terms of steady state errors and stability. The motor is subjected to step increase in the reference speed at no load to evaluate the performance.

Fig. 5.a shows the estimate and measured speed response with a command speed of 90 rad/sec at no load at t=0.9 second, the speed reference has been changed to 120 rad/sec. It can be seen that the rotor speed is accelerated smoothly to follow its reference value with nearly zero steady state error. Fig. 5.b shows the motor phase current and its reference. The motor current increases with increasing speed and return back to its normal value. These results show a good correlation between the estimated speed signal and its corresponding measured as well as reference speed signals.

In order to provide a fair comparison, the speed responses of the conventional SSTP inverter fed IM drive at identical conditions are shown in Fig.6. It is seen in Figs 6.a that the estimated and measured speed follows the reference speed. Fig. 6.b shows the motor phase current and its reference for the step change in speed command.

Fig. 6 Experimental results of SSTP Drive at no load, (a) Motor Speed; (b) Phase current and its reference

Fig. 7 shows the drive response when motor fed from FSTP inverter. The drive is subjected to step change in the speed reference at full load. The motor is running at 90 rad/sec, At t=0.9 second, the speed reference has been changed to 120 rad/sec. it shows that perfect speed tracking with zero steady state error. The response indicates how well the controller succeeds in forcing the actual rotor speed to follow the desired reference trajectory. With nearly zero steady-state error. Fig. 7.b shows motor phase current with its reference, it increases with step up of speed reference and back to its normal value.

Also, Fig. 8 shows the drive response when the motor is fed from SSTP conventional inverter at identical conditions. Fig. 8a shows that the estimated and measured speed follows the reference speed with nearly zero steady state error. Fig. 6.b shows the motor phase current and its reference for the step change in speed command.

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Fig. 7 Experimental results of FSTP Drive at full load, (a) Speed; (b) Phase current and its reference

Fig. 8 Experimental results of SSTP Drive at full load (a) Speed; (b) Phase current and its reference

Fig. 9 Three phase motor currents of FSTP Drive at no load

Fig. 10 Three phase motor currents of SSTP Drive at no load

Fig. (12) Estimate, measured and reference motor speed at no load

Fig. 9 shows the steady-state three phase motor currents of FSTP Drive at no load with a command speed of 90 rad/sec. The steady-state three phase motor currents indicate almost balanced operation of the 4-switch, 3-phase inverter, which is also verified by conventional 6-switch, 3-phase inverter response shown in Fig. 10. Figs. 11, 12 show the estimate and measured speed response when motor fed from FSTP and SSIP inverter at low speed respectively, with a step change in command speed from 20 to 40 rad/sec at load. It is observed that the actual speed
of the proposed drive is following the command speed without steady-state error. However, after considering all the results, the proposed system can successfully perform sensorless control.

6. Conclusion

A cost-effective FSTP inverter fed IM drive using an MRAS has been implemented. The proposed MRAS-based FSTP inverter fed IM drive system reduces the cost of the inverter, the switching losses and the complexity of the control algorithms as compared with the conventional SSTP inverter based drive. The vector control scheme has been incorporated in the integrated drive system to achieve high performance. The MRAS as a speed estimator verified the robustness of the proposed approach. The performances of the proposed MRAS-based FSTP inverter fed IM drive has been investigated. A comparison of performances for the proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive with a conventional SSTP inverter fed IM drive has also been made in terms of the speed under identical operating conditions. The proposed FSTP inverter fed IM drive has been found robust and acceptable for low-cost applications such as automotive and home appliance.

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Appendix

Machine parameters of the applied induction machine

| Parameter                     | Value         |
|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Rated power                   | 1.1 kw        |
| Rated load torque             | 7.5 N.m.      |
| No. of poles                  | 4             |
| Stator resistance             | 7.4826 ohm    |
| Rotor resistance              | 3.6840 ohm    |
| Rotor leakage inductance      | 0.0221 H      |
| Stator leakage inductance     | 0.0221 H      |
| Mutual inductance             | 0.4114 H      |
| Supply frequency              | 50 Hz         |
| Motor speed                   | 1500 r.p.m.   |
| Supply voltage                | 380 volts     |
| Inertia                       | 0.02 kg.m²    |

List of Symbols;

\[
L = L_s - \frac{L_m^2}{L_f}, \quad T_e = \frac{L_s}{R_s} \cdot \sigma = 1 - \frac{L_s^2}{L_d L_q}
\]

\[
V_{dse}, V_{qse}, I_{dse}, I_{qse}, \lambda_{dse}, \lambda_{qse}, R_s, R_r, J, B
\]

\[
L_s, L_d, L_m
\]

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