Comparative Study Of Back EMF Based Sensorless Control Methods For Dual Three-Phase PMSM

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Abstract—Multiphase electrical machines have gained increased attentions recently due to its fault tolerance capability which is of great importance for more-electric aircraft application. This paper studies sensorless control of a high-speed dual three-phase electrical machine for turboprop aircraft green taxying motor and engine generator applications. After introduction of a detailed mathematical model of a dual three-phase permanent magnet machine, two different types of back EMF based sensorless control are compared in this paper. The first method uses a phase-locked-loop (PLL) type speed and rotor position estimator and the other uses a Luenberger observer estimator. The effectiveness of these two different methods is demonstrated using simulations in the Matlab/Simulink environment. The comparison studies show that Luenberger type estimator has better dynamic performance but suffers high frequency noise in the estimated speed error and requires the use of machinal parameters. In contrast, PLL type estimator has inferior but acceptable performance. Its low-pass characteristics frees it from the high frequency noise. Moreover, it does not require the use of mechanical parameters.

Keywords—Dual Three-Phase PMSM, Sensorless Control, Back EMF Sensorless Control Method.

I. INTRODUCTION

Over the last few decades, there has been tremendous progress in the efforts to move toward more electric aircraft (MEA). Many subsystems that previously used hydraulic, mechanical, and pneumatic power have been fully or partially replaced by electrical systems. Multiphase machine has been widely used in MEA [1] since it can provide notable improvements in various aspects of performance when compared with the use of conventional three-phase machine [2]. Multiphase machine exhibits outstanding advantages, such as reduced phase current rating as well as torque ripple, less DC link harmonic current; smooth magneto motive force (MMF), improved efficiency, and excellent fault tolerant characteristics [2-5]. In addition, the system reliability is greatly improved with multiphase machines since the machine can operate continuously even if one or several phases (in some cases) are lost [1]. One of the various multiphase drive solutions is the dual three-phase (DTP) machine that has two identical star-connected three-phase stator windings with isolated neutral points [6]. Considering the spatially shifted angle between two sets of three-phase windings, DTP machines can be classified as symmetrical (shifted by 60 electrical degrees) machines and asymmetric (shifted by 30 electrical degrees) machines. According to [7], symmetric DTP-PMSM is preferred to satisfy the severe fault-tolerant requirements that are imposed by the specific aerospace application. Hence, in this study, a symmetric DTP-PMSM is investigated to try to develop a mechatronic device for turboprop aircraft applications. The electrical machine is used for green taxying application and driving propellers during motoring mode. During the generation mode, the electrical machine is driven by the engine and runs as an electrical generator. The schematic diagram of the machine is shown in Fig. 1.

Sensorless control is required in this study because the space in the gear-box is too small to install mechanical speed/position sensors. Besides, system reliability is improved since vulnerable components such as mechanical sensors in entire system are removed. Generally, sensorless control methods can be divided into two categories [8]. One is rotor saliency based methods such as high frequency signal injection approaches [9, 10]. The other one is a back EMF based method. In this study, the characteristics of the estimated back EMF signals are analyzed. The differences between a phase-locked-loop (PLL) type estimator and a Luenberger observer type speed and position estimator are compared. Sensorless control design for symmetric DTP-PMSMs has not been studied in details in existing publications and this paper undertakes the attempt to fill this gap.

II. DUAL THREE-PHASE PMSM MODEL

In this section, mathematical models of DTP-PMSM are built in three-phase coordinate frame, dq rotating frame and aβ stationary frame.

A. Mathematical Model in Three-Phase Coordinate Frame

The voltage and flux equations of a DTP-PMSM in original phase coordinate frame can be written as

\[ u_s = R i_s + \frac{d\varphi_s}{dt} \quad (1) \]

\[ \varphi_s = L i_s + \lambda \varphi_m \quad (2) \]

where \( u_s = [u_A \ u_A \ u_C \ u_U \ u_V \ u_W]^T \) is a vector of stator voltages, \( i_s = [i_A \ i_B \ i_C \ i_U \ i_V \ i_W]^T \) is a vector of stator currents,
\[ \varphi_s = [\varphi_A \varphi_B \varphi_C \varphi_U \varphi_V \varphi_W]^T \] is a vector of stator flux linkages,
\[ \lambda = [\cos \theta_e \cos(\theta_e - \frac{2\pi}{3}) \cos(\theta_e - 4\pi/3)]^T \] is a flux coefficient matrix,
\[ \theta_e \] is the electrical rotor position in radians,
\[ R \] is stator resistance,
\[ \varphi_m \] is permanent magnet flux.
\[ L_s \] is the inductance coefficient matrix which can be presented as
\[ L_s = L_e I + \left( \frac{L_d + L_q - 2L_s}{3} \right) M_o + \left( \frac{L_d - L_q}{3} \right) M_x \quad (3) \]
where \( L_e \) is the stator leakage inductance, \( L_d \) and \( L_q \) are stator inductances in \( d \)-axis and \( q \)-axis respectively. \( I \) is a unity matrix with six columns and six rows. \( M_o \) and \( M_x \) are detailed in Appendix II. The system parameters used in this study are given in Appendix I.

The electromagnetic torque of the PMSM is obtained by taking the partial derivative of the system co-energy with respect to the rotor position angle,
\[ T_e = P_p \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta_e} \left( \frac{1}{2} i_s^T L_s i_s + i_s^T \lambda \varphi_m \right) \quad (4) \]
where \( P_p \) is the number of pole pairs.

**B. Model Representation in dq Rotating Frame**

By ignoring zero sequence component, DTP-PMSM can be represented as two single three-phase machines with mutual coupling through transformation matrix \( T_s \).
\[ [f_{d1} \ f_{q1} \ f_{d2} \ f_{q2}]^T = T_s [f_A \ f_B \ f_C \ f_U \ f_V \ f_W]^T \quad (5) \]
where \( f \) stands for variable such as voltage, current or flux.
\[ T_s = \begin{bmatrix} T_{r1} & 0 \\ 0 & T_{r2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6) \]
\[ T_{r1} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_e & \cos \left( \theta_e - \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) & \cos \left( \theta_e + \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) \\ -\sin \theta_e & -\sin \left( \theta_e - \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) & -\sin \left( \theta_e + \frac{2\pi}{3} \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (7) \]
\[ T_{r2} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \cos \left( \theta_e - \frac{\pi}{3} \right) & \cos(\theta_e - \pi) & \cos \left( \theta_e + \frac{\pi}{3} \right) \\ -\sin \left( \theta_e - \frac{\pi}{3} \right) & -\sin(\theta_e - \pi) & -\sin \left( \theta_e + \frac{\pi}{3} \right) \end{bmatrix} \quad (8) \]

\[ M_1 = \begin{bmatrix} R + s \cdot L_d & -\omega_L L_q & s \cdot L_{dd} & -\omega_L L_{qq} \\ -\omega_L L_q & R + s \cdot L_d & \omega_L L_{qq} & s \cdot L_{dd} \\ s \cdot L_{dd} & -\omega_L L_{qq} & R + s \cdot L_d & -\omega_L L_q \\ \omega_L L_{qq} & s \cdot L_{dd} & \omega_L L_d & R + s \cdot L_d \end{bmatrix} \]

\[ e \] is defined as the extend EMF which presented as:
\[ e = (L_d - L_q) \left( \omega_e (i_{d1} + i_{d2}) - (i_{q1} + i_{q2}) \right) + \omega_e \varphi_m \quad (13) \]

Since the two sets of three-phase windings are exactly symmetric, if the current controllers of these two \( dq \) frames share same parameters, (12) can be expressed as:
\[ M_2 = \begin{bmatrix} M_{d1} & 0 \\ 0 & e \\ 0 & e \end{bmatrix} \quad (14) \]

**C. Model Representation in \( \alpha \beta \) Stationary Frame**

The transformation of variable between \( dq \) rotating frame and \( \alpha \beta \) stationary frame can be presented as:
\[ [f_{d1} \ f_{\beta1} \ f_{d2} \ f_{\beta2}]^T = T_s [f_A \ f_B \ f_C \ f_U \ f_V \ f_W]^T \quad (9) \]
\[ T_s = \begin{bmatrix} T_{s1} & 0 \\ 0 & T_{s2} \end{bmatrix} \quad (10) \]
\[ T_{s1} = T_{s2} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_e & -\sin \theta_e \\ \sin \theta_e & \cos \theta_e \end{bmatrix} \quad (11) \]
Voltage equation in αβ stationary frame can be deduced combining (9)-(11) and (14)-(15):

\[
M_2 = \begin{bmatrix}
R + s \cdot L_D & -\omega_L \cdot L_Q & 0 & 0 \\
\omega_L \cdot L_Q & R + s \cdot L_D & 0 & 0 \\
0 & 0 & R + s \cdot L_D & -\omega_L \cdot L_Q \\
0 & 0 & \omega_L \cdot L_Q & R + s \cdot L_D
\end{bmatrix}
\]

\[L_D = L_d + L_{dd}, L_Q = L_q + L_{qq}\]  \hspace{1cm} (15)

According to (16), two sets of three-phase windings can be completely decoupled and voltage equation of DTP-PMSM in αβ stationary frame can be simplified as

\[
u_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} = Ri_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} + s \cdot L_d i_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} + j\omega_L (L_d - L_Q) i_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} + \hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} + \frac{d}{dt}\]

\[\hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}}\]  \hspace{1cm} (17)

Combining (17) and (18) gives:

\[\hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} = \frac{d}{dt}(i_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} - \hat{i}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}})\]

\[\hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} + (R + s \cdot L_D)(i_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} - \hat{i}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}}) = 0\]  \hspace{1cm} (19)

Since the estimated Back EMF is the output of the PI controller, the following equation exists:

\[-\hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} = (i_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} - \hat{i}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}})(k_p + \frac{k_i}{s})\]  \hspace{1cm} (20)

\[k_p = L_d \omega_{est}, k_i = R \omega_{est}\]  \hspace{1cm} (21)

Combining (19)-(21), the following relationship between actual extend EMF and estimated EMF can be given as:

\[\hat{e}_{\alpha_{1β1,2}} = \frac{\omega_{est}}{s + \omega_{est}} e_{\alpha_{1β1,2}}\]  \hspace{1cm} (22)

B. Estimation of Speed and Position

In this section, two different types of speed and position estimator will be introduced, i.e. PLL type and Luenberger observer type.

1) PLL Type Speed and Position Estimator

The PLL type speed and position estimator is shown in Fig. 3.

From (16), it can be deduced that

\[e_a = e(-\sin\theta_e), e_p = e(\cos\theta_e)\]  \hspace{1cm} (23)

According to (23) and (24), the error signal \(\Delta e\) in Fig. 3 can be presented as:

\[\Delta e = -\hat{e}_a \cos\theta_e - \hat{e}_p \sin\theta_e = k(\sin\theta_e \cos\theta_e - \cos\theta_e \sin\theta_e) = k\sin(\theta_e - \hat{\theta}_e)\]  \hspace{1cm} (24)

where

\[k = (L_d - L_Q)(\hat{\omega}_e(i_{d1} + i_{d2}) - (i_{q1} + i_{q2})) + \hat{\omega}_e \varphi_m\]  \hspace{1cm} (25)

The following approximation exists if \(\theta_e - \hat{\theta}_e\) is small enough[12]:

\[\Delta e \approx k(\theta_e - \hat{\theta}_e)\]  \hspace{1cm} (26)

Thus, a PI controller can be utilized to correct the position error \(\Delta e\) and make the estimated position converge to the reference one.
According to (26), Fig. 3 can be simplified equivalently to Fig. 4. The transfer function from $\theta_e$ to $\dot{\theta}_e$ in Fig. 4 can be given by:

$$\frac{\dot{\theta}_e}{\theta_e} = \frac{K_p s + K_i}{s^2 + K_p s + K_i}$$ (27)

The characteristic equation of the standard second-order system can be written as:

$$2\xi \omega_n s + \omega_n^2 \over s^2 + 2\xi \omega_n s + \omega_n^2$$ (28)

where $\xi$ is damping ratio and $\omega_n$ is natural frequency.

By assuming that the denominator of (27) is the same as that of (28), $K_p$ and $K_i$ can be deduced as follows:

$$K_p = 2\xi \omega_n, K_i = \omega_n^2$$ (29)

The transient response of the PLL type estimator can be improved by adding a double integral term into the PI controller as follows:

$$K_1 + \frac{K_2}{s} + \frac{K_3}{s^2}$$ (30)

The transfer function from $\theta_e$ to $\dot{\theta}_e$ is given by:

$$\frac{\dot{\theta}_e}{\theta_e} = \frac{K_1 s^2 + K_2 s + K_3}{s^3 + K_1 s^2 + K_2 s + K_3}$$ (31)

The three gains in (31) are determined to satisfy the following condition:

$$s^3 + K_1 s^2 + K_2 s + K_3 = (s + \omega_n)(s^2 + 2\xi \omega_n s + \omega_n^2)$$ (32)

where $\xi$ and $\omega_n$ are the same values as in the foregoing simulations.

2) Luenberger Observer Type Speed and Position Estimator

An Luenberger observer type speed and position estimator can also be used for the estimation of rotor speed and position [13] as shown in Fig. 6. The transfer function of the Luenberger observer type position estimator, shown in Fig. 6 is given by (37) [14]

$$\frac{\dot{\theta}_e}{\theta_e} = \frac{K_a s^2 + (B K_a + K_b) s + K_c}{s^3 + (K_a + K_b) s^2 + (B K_a + K_b) s + K_c}$$ (33)

where $J$ is rotational inertia, $B$ is viscous friction, $\alpha$ is the root of the characteristic equation.

The gains of the estimator in Fig. 6 can be selected such that the characteristic equation of (33) has the same roots as the following [14]:

$$K_a = -\alpha, K_b = J\alpha^2, K_c = -J\alpha^3$$ (34)
IV. SIMULATION RESULTS

The block diagram of the sensorless control system is shown in Fig. 7. Simulation results of PLL based back EMF method and Luenberger observer based back EMF method are shown in Fig. 8. The comparison of these two methods is made on the same scenario which can be divided into two stages. The first stage continues from beginning to 2.5 s while the second stage lasts from 2.5 s to the end. In the first stage, there is no load torque and rotor speed increases steadily from 0 rpm to 18 krpm during the first two seconds and retains at 18 krpm afterwards. In the second stage, a torque load is applied. The torque load grows steadily from 0 N·m to 100% load (14.8 N·m) between 2.5 s and 3.5 s and then stays at 14.8 N·m for 1 s. After unloading from 100% load to 0 N·m between 4 s and 5 s, it keeps at 0 N·m to the end of simulation.

The aims of using sensorless control in this study is achieved according to Fig. 8. Satisfactory performance of current is observed and flux weakening control is thereby verified after calculation. System keeps at stable status as variable load torque is applied. The tracking of speed reference ($\omega_1^*$) is satisfactory. Yet, there are some differences of speed and position estimation between control performance obtained using PLL type estimator and Luenberger type estimator. The Luenberger type estimator has a better dynamic performance which can be observed especially in the partial enlargement figure during dwell 0 s to 0.2 s. This advantage is due to include the demanded torque as a feed forward term [15] as shown in Fig. 5. Luenberger observer type estimator is parameter dependent although it provides the best dynamic response [16]. Besides, high frequency noise is observed in the estimated speed obtained using Luenberger observer type estimator. In contrast, the high frequency component in the estimated speed error is filtered by the PLL type estimator since the estimator and the low-pass filter share a same frequency.

CONCLUSIONS

Two back EMF based estimators for the sensorless control of a DTP-PMSM are investigated in this study. S-domain simulations are conducted to compare the effectiveness of these two estimators. Luenberger type estimator has better dynamic performance but suffers high frequency noise in the estimated speed error and requires the use of machinal parameters. In contrast, PLL type estimator has inferior but acceptable performance. Its low-pass characteristics frees it from the high frequency noise. Moreover, it does not require the use of mechanical parameters. PLL type estimator is preferred in further study and potential applications due to its simpler structure and independence from mechanical parameters.

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## Appendix I

| Parameter | Mark | Value | Unit |
|-----------|------|-------|------|
| Phase Resistance | $R$ | 0.41 | Ohm |
| D-axis Inductance | $L_d$ | 365 | $\mu$H |
| Q-axis Inductance | $L_q$ | 410 | $\mu$H |
| Rotational Inertia | $J$ | 0.00263 | kg m$^2$ |
| Peak No-load Flux | $\Phi_m$ | 0.0287 | V S $^{-1}$ |
| Pole Pairs Number | $P_p$ | 6 | / |

## Appendix II

$M_a$ and $M_x$ are matrixes in (3). $M_3$ is matrix in (16).

$$M_a = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 & -1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -1 & 2 & -2 & 2 & -2 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ -2 & 2 & 2 & 2 & 2 \\ 0 & -1 & 1 & 1 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_x = \begin{bmatrix} \cos 2\theta & \cos (2\theta - 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta + 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) \\ \cos (2\theta - 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta + 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) \\ \cos (2\theta + 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) & \cos (2\theta + \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta + \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) \\ \cos (2\theta - \pi) & \cos (2\theta + \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - 4\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) \\ \cos (2\theta + \pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) & \cos (2\theta + 2\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - 4\pi/3) & \cos (2\theta - \pi) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$M_3 = \begin{bmatrix} R + s \cdot L_D & \omega_c (L_D - L_Q) & 0 & 0 \\ -\omega_c (L_D - L_Q) & R + s \cdot L_D & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R + s \cdot L_D & \omega_c (L_D - L_Q) \\ 0 & 0 & -\omega_c (L_D - L_Q) & R + s \cdot L_D \end{bmatrix}$$