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Flux-Weakening Control for IPMSM Employing Model Order Reduction

Mehnaz Farzam Far, Bilal Mustafa, Floran Martin, Paavo Rasilo, Anouar Belahcen, Senior Member, IEEE

Abstract -- The variation of magnetic parameters due to the magnetic saturation and cross coupling can affect the efficiency and the stability of the control system in electrical machines, especially at high-speed operation. This paper presents an approach independent of the magnetic model parameters to control synchronous motors at the flux-weakening region. In this approach, a model order reduction technique is applied to reduce the finite element model of a synchronous machine. The stator current components and the flux linkage components are the inputs and the outputs of the reduced model, respectively. The reduced model and its inversion are employed to calculate the current reference components from the reference torque. Field oriented control scheme is utilized to implement the overall control system. The proposed control system is validated by means of simulation and experiment on a 2.2 kW permanent magnet synchronous machine.

Index Terms-- Flux weakening, interior permanent magnet synchronous motor, model order reduction, orthogonal interpolation method, vector control.

I. INTRODUCTION

The salient feature and low effective air gap of interior permanent magnet synchronous motor (IPMSM) make it well suited for wide speed range operation. Due to overcome of the induced voltage, i.e. back EMF over the maximum available voltage at high speeds, the speed of the machine remains limited [1]. Therefore, flux-weakening control is required to run the machine above a certain base speed.

The control performance of the IPMSM, is deeply influenced if the method applied depends on the machine parameters. Stator resistance and permanent magnet flux linkage are directly affected by temperature changes and cannot retain the fixed values [2]. Furthermore, since the effective air-gap in IPMSM is relatively small, as compared to surface permanent magnet synchronous machine (SPMSSM), the armature reaction has a significant effect [3]. This causes magnetic saturation and hence the self-inductances for d and q-axis (Ld and Lq) vary with the change in the air-gap flux. Cross coupling may also exist between Ld and Lq [4]. This effect becomes significant especially in the flux-weakening region. Notably, the q-axis inductance exhibits more variation and depends on the current in that axis, whereas the d-axis inductance in comparison remains uniform [5].

Several studies investigating the magnetic cross coupling saturation have been carried out for achieving a more robust control model of electrical machines [6] - [9]. The authors of [6] suggest a flux-observer based control scheme for this purpose. However, according to the authors, this scheme is not applicable when using the stationary frame as the reference. The authors of [7] derive a saturated model by defining a single factor saturation as the ratio between the saturated inductance and the unsaturated one. In [8], a nonlinear state equation is applied to include both the iron loss and the magnetic cross-saturation in the vector control of a synchronous reluctance motor. The nonlinear state equation is obtained from an approximate equation, by measuring the inductances and the iron loss resistance from standstill and no-load rotating tests, respectively. The authors of [9] introduce explicit power functions to include the cross-saturation in a motion-sensorless synchronous reluctance machine.

Reference [10] attempts to reduce the effect of parametric sensitivity based on an analytical approach by using look-up tables. This reference manipulates both feedforward and feed path mechanism and shows that the torque obtained through this approach remains close to the maximum torque available in the flux-weakening region. Some authors suggest usage of on-line and off-line parameter estimation through the usage of optimal look-up tables [11] - [13]. In all these methods, either the error estimation of magnetic parameters or the slight difference in the identified model can lead to the degraded performance. Furthermore, the look-up tables in most of these techniques can be computationally demanding and upsurge the complexity itself.

Virtually, it is possible to compute the magnetic parameters accurately via the finite element (FE) method (FEM), but this requires the knowledge of the machine dimensions and material properties. FEM can solve the electromagnetic system of equations accounting for the nonlinear behavior of the material. Nevertheless, a direct implementation of FE model in a real-time control system is impossible due to the limitation on the computational time. In this paper, we use a model order reduction (MOR) technique on the FE model of an electrical machine to derive a faster and accurate representation of the machine. The reduced model is then applied to control an interior permanent magnet synchronous motor (IPMSM). The dimension and the complexity of the reduced model is significantly lower than that of the FE model.

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and therefore it can be used in a real-time application. The proposed method eliminates the effects of magnetic saturation and is entirely independent of the inductances. For the viability of proposition in a wide range of speed, we provide the results of torque, current, and flux linkage quantities obtained by simulation and experiment. Furthermore, we compare the proposed method with an unsaturated control method in terms of flux trajectory and torque-speed curve. To the best knowledge of authors, in the existing literatures, there is no control algorithm combined with the MOR techniques for the control drive of machines in the flux-weakening region.

In the succeeding section, organization of the paper is as follows. Section II describes briefly the mathematical modelling of an IPMSM and a magnetic model based on MOR. Section III details the feasible operating area of a PMSM, the methodology of the control technique and the implementation of MOR in the algorithm. In Section IV, we provide the simulation and the experimental results of the proposed method applied to a 2.2 kW IPMSM drive. Finally, conclusion is presented in the last section.

II. MODELING OF IPMSM

A. Fundamental Equations

Considering the equivalent circuit of an IPMSM, one can write the stator voltage equation in the \((d, q)\) rotor coordinate frame as:

\[
u_d = R_d i_d + \frac{d\psi_d}{dt} - \omega_L \psi_q ,
\]

\[
u_q = R_q i_q + \frac{d\psi_q}{dt} + \alpha_\omega \psi_d .
\]

In linear magnetic materials, the flux linkages are given by:

\[
\psi_d = L_d i_d + \psi_{pm} , \psi_q = L_q i_q .
\]

The notations used in (1) – (4) are designated as: 

- \(u_d, u_q\): \(d\) and \(q\)-axis voltage components,
- \(i_d, i_q\): \(d\) and \(q\)-axis current components,
- \(\psi_d, \psi_q\): \(d\) and \(q\)-axis flux linkage components,
- \(R_d, R_q\): Stator resistance,
- \(\alpha_\omega\): Electrical angular velocity,
- \(L_d, L_q\): \(d\) and \(q\)-axis inductances,
- \(\psi_{pm}\): Permanent magnet flux.

The electromagnetic torque \(T_e\) is computed from the flux linkages, currents, and the number of pole pairs \(p\) as follows:

\[
T_e = 1.5 p (\psi_d i_q - \psi_q i_d) = 1.5 p (\psi_{pm} i_q + (L_d - L_q) i_d i_q) .
\]

The term \(1.5 p (L_d - L_q) i_d i_q\) in (4) represents the reluctance torque in addition to the already available magnetic torque term \(1.5 p \psi_{pm} i_q\). It is perceptible that the negative value of \(i_d\) will be an addition to the torque expression when \(L_d\) is less than \(L_q\).

The magnetic circuit of an actual machine experiences saturation as the magnetic flux increases. In this case, the inductances and the magnetic flux components are functions of the current components. Fig. 1 is an example of the dependency of the stator flux linkages on both components of the stator current from the FE model of the IPMSM under study. Although this machine does not experience high saturation at high currents due to its structure properties, the cross-saturation phenomenon is more vivid on \(q\) component of the flux linkage than on the \(d\) component.

![Fig. 1. Computed variation of the flux linkages with respect to the stator current components. The arrows directions show increasing currents.](image)
model, is the method of snapshots. Snapshots refer to the output data of the system that can be obtained through the experiments or the numerical method, in frequency domain, time domain, or any other configuration. These solutions, nodal values of the magnetic vector potential in our case, are saved in a matrix called snapshot matrix $A_n$ of size $m \times n$, where $n (n \ll m)$ refers to the number of solutions for the system under study. The snapshot matrix can be decomposed into orthogonal basis by using singular value decomposition (SVD) as:

$$A_n = U\Sigma V^T.$$  \hspace{1cm} (6)

SVD is a factorization process involving three transformations, first of which is performed by right singular vectors in $V^T$ followed by the extension along the coordinate axis by $\Sigma$ and the final rotation with the left singular vectors in $U$. $U$, $U$ and $V$ are orthogonal matrices of size $m \times m$ and $n \times n$, respectively. $\Sigma$ is a rectangular diagonal matrix with size $m \times n$ and its diagonal entries represent the nonnegative singular values that are arranged as $\sigma_1 \geq \sigma_2 \geq \ldots \geq 0$. The energy of the matrix is defined as the square sum of the singular values. The first $r$ singular values ($r \ll n \ll m$) captures the most energy of the system. Therefore, the first $r$ singular values and the corresponding left and right singular vectors are sufficient to reconstruct the snapshot matrix. In this way, we replace the matrices $U$, $\Sigma$, and $V^T$ by $U_r$, $\Sigma_r$, and $V_r^T$ with the size of $m \times r$, $r \times r$, and $r \times n$, respectively.

The main difference between OIM and some other projection-based methods like proper orthogonal decomposition is that we mainly focus on the reduced right projection-based methods like proper orthogonal.
B. Control System Based on OIM

Field-oriented control strategy is adopted in the control structure of this paper. Fig. 3 shows the overall control scheme for the machine under study. The rotor position $\theta_r$ and the actual speed $\omega_r$ of the machine are known by means of an encoder. A proportional-integral (PI) speed controller [17] is used to obtain the torque reference $T_{ref}$. The current references are generated depending upon the machine speed and the control region. We use a discrete-time current controller [18] to control the current components and attain the reference voltages. Finally, the voltage regulation occurs accordingly to be exerted on motor terminals through space vector pulse width modulation (SVPWM).

As mentioned, the computation of the current references depends on the machine speed. If the speed is below the base speed, i.e. the constant torque region, we enforce the $d$-axis current reference $i_{d,ref}$ to be zero and compute the $q$-axis current reference from the torque reference $T_{ref}$ as $i_{d,ref} = 1.5T_{ref}/(P_d \psi_{pm})$. The $i_d = 0$ control principle is suitable for machines which have low inductances and insignificant armature reaction. Moreover, the implementation of this control method is easy because it maintains a linear relationship between the electromagnetic torque and the $q$ component of the current.

When the speed is above the base speed, the flux-weakening region, the control of the machine is no longer possible through the $i_d = 0$ control principle. Instead, a demagnetizing flux is introduced that encounters the fixed flux produced by the permanent magnets. The most feasible means to accomplish this aim is the instigation of negative demagnetizing flux is introduced that encounters the fixed flux.

To consider the magnetic saturation effect and the coupling between the current components in the flux-weakening region, we propose to implement the OIM in the FW reference block (Fig. 3). The internal structure of the FW reference block is shown in Fig. 4. The conditions to be applied during the control procedures for a region depend on the constraints that need to be followed. For the flux weakening both voltage and current limits need to be considered as mentioned in Section III A.

FW reference block is designed to acquire $\psi_q$ according to the flux weakening conditions and then generate the current component in the same axis that supports the required flux. The momentarily value of the flux linkage in $q$ axis $\psi_{q,est}$ is obtained through the OIM block with the measured current components as input of the block. The construction of the OIM block is explained in the next subsection. The reference $d$ component of the flux linkage $\psi_{d,ref}$ is obtained from $\psi_{q,est}$ and (13).

Subsequently, reference currents are to be produced to proceed towards the current controller. For this purpose, a Simulink feature known as ‘algebraic constraint’ is availed aptly in conjunction with the OIM block. In the representation of this block, $f(z)$ and $z$ hint at input and output, respectively. The algebraic constraint block operates in a manner to curb $f(z)$ to zero and generates the $z$ accordingly. To maintain this sequence of operation, it must have a feedback path that keeps the input at zero. Another key parameter for this block is the ‘Initial guess’ that will be set according to the required solution value, i.e. 0, to upgrade the solver efficiency.

Here, the error between $\psi_{d,ref}$ and $\psi_{q,est}$ behaves as $f(z)$, whereas $i_{d,ref}$ relates with $z$ state. A secondary algebraic constraint block is used to provide the input $i_{q,ref}$ for the OIM block. The input of this block is the difference between $\psi_{q,est}$, previously obtained from measured $i_q$, and the $q$ component flux $\psi_{q,OIM}$ from OIM block. One can simply compute the $q$ component of the current reference $i_{q,ref}$ from (4) by knowing the values of $\psi_{d,ref}$, $\psi_{q,est}$, $i_{d,ref}$, and $T_{ref}$. However, the value of $i_{d,ref}$ to be passed to the current controller depends on the current limit as well. If the resultant magnitude of $i_{d,ref}$ and $i_{q,ref}$ exceeds the current limit, $i_{d,ref}$ is limited by (10).

C. Current-Flux Conversion through OIM

In this section, we explain the construction of the OIM block from the FE model of the machine under study. The machine is modeled with second-order finite elements with 1379 nodes and electric current supply. The machine parameters are provided in Table I.

As mentioned in Section II B, the first step in building the
reduced model via OIM is to build the snapshot matrix. One of the main factors affecting the accuracy of the reduced model is how the range of $i_d$ and $i_q$ are chosen when generating the snapshot matrix. This range must cover all the possible operating points of the machine. Due to the nature of our control method, $i_q$ is expected to vary from zero to negative rated current and $i_d$ changes from negative rated current to positive rated current. Therefore, the FE model is solved for 40 different operating points of the current components. These operating points are chosen from all the possible combinations of 5 values of $i_d$, equally distributed in $[-I_N, 0]$, and 8 values of $i_q$, equally distributed in $[-I_N, I_N]$, with $I_N$ to be the rated current.

The FE results are stored in the snapshot matrix and then decomposed via SVD. The first five singular values capture more than 95% of the whole energy of the system. The corresponding right singular vectors $[v_1 \ldots v_5]$ of these five singular values are selected in constructing the reduced model, by introducing each of the right singular vectors as a function of two variables $i_d$ and $i_q$. Fig. 5 is an example of the functions for the fourth singular vector versus different values of $i_d$ and $i_q$.

Thereafter, for any values of the current components, the nodal values of the magnetic vector potential and the flux components are computed using (8) and (9).

### TABLE I

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
<td>2.2 kW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winding connection</td>
<td>Star</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated voltage (rms)</td>
<td>641 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated current (rms)</td>
<td>2.5 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated frequency</td>
<td>75 Hz</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated speed</td>
<td>1500 r/min</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rated torque</td>
<td>14 Nm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pole pairs</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct-axis inductance</td>
<td>0.108 H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quadrature-axis inductance</td>
<td>0.159 H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stator resistance</td>
<td>10.77 Ω</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permanent magnet flux linkage</td>
<td>0.944 Wb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moment of inertia of rotor and load</td>
<td>0.045 kg·m²</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Fig. 6. Simulation results for the 2.2 kW PMSM. Speed reference is set to 1.7 pu. The first subplot shows the reference speed and the actual speed. The second subplot shows the ratio of the estimated torque to the rated torque of the machine. The third and the last subplots show the measured current components and the flux components, respectively.

Fig. 7. Control trajectory in the $\psi_d$-$\psi_q$ plane.

Fig. 8. Torque vs speed curve.

Fig. 9. Picture of the laboratory setup.

Fig. 10. Experimental results for the 2.2 kW PMSM. Speed reference is stepped from zero to 1.7 pu.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, we propose a novel control method based on a MOR technique, i.e. OIM, that is obtained by reducing the order of the FE model of an IPMSM, effectively. The functionality of an in-built Simulink feature, i.e. ‘algebraic constraint’, is utilized altogether with the OIM model to generate the current references for the current controller as required in the field-oriented control scheme. The proposed method is implemented in the flux weakening control of an IPMSM, however, the same approach can be applied to any synchronous motors at different operating speed range.

The principal advantage of this method is that it eliminates the effect of magnetic saturation, cross coupling, and parameter sensitivity, since the method is independent of the motor parameters such as $L_d$, $L_q$, and the PM flux. Moreover, since the OIM significantly reduces the number of unknowns, it can be an efficient substitute for the look-up tables in the control systems. The simulation and experimental results, provided in the last section of the paper, validate the feasibility of the proposed control method. In the future work, we will consider the spatial harmonics in the model and study the effect of torque loading on the control method.

VI. ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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VII. REFERENCES

BIOGRAPHIES

Mehrnaz Farzam Far received the M.Sc. (Tech.) degree in electrical engineering from Aalto University, Espoo, Finland, in 2014, where she is currently working toward the D.Sc. degree in electrical engineering. Her research interest includes the numerical modeling of electrical machines.

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