

Performance Analysis of Unity Power Factor Converter-Inverter Fed Switched Reluctance Motor Drive

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Abstract This paper presents the analysis of a new converter-inverter topology for Switched Reluctance Motor (SRM) drive. The SRM is fed from a converter-inverter system. The current controlled converter draws sinusoidal ac currents from supply mains and maintains them in phase with the supply voltages, thereby facilitating unity power factor operation.

I. INTRODUCTION

A four phase SRM rotates by successive excitation of four phase windings through an inverter. The inverter feeds power to SRM by appropriately closing the semiconductor devices at accurate instants of rotor position signal. Normally, the inverter is fed from a single phase or a three phase diode bridge rectifier, which suffers from the operating problems [1] such as poor power factor, injection of harmonics into the ac mains and fluctuations in the dc link voltage with fluctuations in supply frequency and voltage. Further, diode bridge rectifier inhibits regeneration of energy. Attempts to improve the power factor and to meet the IEC 555 harmonic requirements are being made in industries. The main thrust of this investigation is to analyse the unity power factor converter operation feeding the highly non-linear SRM drive.

The problems at input ac mains are overcome by using a current controlled converter in place of a diode bridge rectifier. The undesirable harmonics are eliminated and converter has unity power factor sinusoidal currents at its input. Moreover, the converter employs high frequency bidirectional power switches which facilitate bidirectional power flow through the converter i.e. a - to the four quadrant operation [2] of the drive. With this arrangement, the energy can be easily extracted from or supplied to the ac mains [3-4] thereby facilitating regeneration. The current controlled converter operates at an adjustable power factor and hence the system could offer the possibilities of VAR compensation. Experimental work on a choppingless converter for the SRM with unity power factor and sinusoidal input current [5] is based on a converter fed by single phase ac mains. However, this paper presents a detailed analysis of a converter fed by three phase ac mains.

n. CONTROL PHILOSOPHY

Fig. 1 shows the schematic of the proposed unity power factor converter-inverter fed SRM drive system. The fast changing currents are maintained through the motor windings with the help of an IGBT based current controlled inverter. The current controlled inverter is connected with an IGBT based current controlled converter through a filter in the dc link. The input port of unity power factor current controlled converter is connected with the ac mains, current controlled converter is connected with the ac mains.

In the closed loop control of the converter, dc link voltage and current are sensed and the dc link power is estimated in the feed forward control loop [4] and a control command I_d is generated. The dc link voltage is kept within permissible

limits so that for given ac input voltage, the current distortion and current control limits are not exceeded. For this purpose, a dc link voltage control loop is incorporated. Here, the reference value of the dc link voltage (V_{dc}^*) is compared with the sensed voltage V_{dc} , and the resulting error is processed in the PID voltage regulator which results in a command current I_d . Both the current commands (I_d and I_m) are summed up and form the peak magnitude (I_m) of three phase reference currents at the input of the current controlled converter. In order to obtain the unity power factor operation of the current controlled converter, unit current templates (u_a, u_b, u_c) are derived from the three phase ac input voltage (e_a, e_b, e_c) and current templates are in phase with the ac input voltages. The current templates are multiplied with I_m and three phase reference currents (i_a^*, i_b^*, i_c^*) are generated. These are the ideal (sinusoidal) currents to operate the converter with unity power factor.

The control of SRM is achieved by sensing the rotor position θ , the derivative of which gives the motor speed. The actual speed is compared with the reference speed and the speed error is processed in the sliding mode speed controller. The speed controller produces the speed loci and switching along the speed loci is dependent upon the speed error and acceleration. The limiter limits the maximum value of the output of the speed controller and is considered as the reference torque T^* . This limit is dictated by the maximum motor rated current and current rating of devices used in inverter circuit. In response to the speed error, SMC generates the control signal so that the dynamics of SRM follows certain specified trajectory. For smooth control it is desired to obtain a fast response without overshoot. The reference torque signal is used to obtain the reference current magnitude. The turn on and turn off angles are fixed and depending upon the present rotor position θ , the reference current generator generates the reference current signal for each of the four phase windings of the SFU. The stator winding current of a particular phase is compared with its reference counterpart in a hysteresis current controller. The current controller then decides the switching (on/off) instants of IGBT of the inverter.

m. MODELLING OF THE SYSTEM

Each block of the above control scheme is systematically modeled for computing the transient and steady state behaviour of the SRM drive. This knowledge of instantaneous current, voltage and torque is required for the design of controller for optimum performance of the drive working under wide operating conditions.

A. Controlled Converter

The mathematical equations [4] governing the current controlled converter is represented by the following set of four equations (refer Fig 1):

$$p i_a = -(R_{sc}/L_{sc})i_a + (e_a - v_a)/L_{ac} \quad (1)$$

$$p i_b = -(R_{sc}/L_{sc})i_b + (e_b - v_b)/L_{ac} \quad (2)$$

$$p i_c = -(R/L i_{+} + (e - v_J/L) \quad (3)$$

$$p v_{j-} = (i_{fA} d_{+} + i_{L} S B \& + i_{L} S E C - i_{j-} / C \quad (4)$$

where, R , L and C are per phase resistance and inductance, respectively, of the ac source. e , e_b and e_c are three phase voltage applied at the input of converter. SAC, SBC and SCC are the switching functions stating the on/off positions of three phase converter's switches, v_a , v_b and v_c are three phase PWM voltage reflected on ac input side of the converter as a result of switching. i_{j-} is the load current of converter output and p is the differential operator (ddt).

R. Modeling of SR Motor

Since SR motor is highly non-linear in nature, the basic volt-ampere equation governing its current profile is

$$d \psi_j / dt = v_j - i_j R \quad (5)$$

j = number of the phase (1 to 4). Here, v_j is the instantaneous voltage across the mid-point converter applied to the phase winding having resistance R and ψ_j is the flux linking the j th phase winding.

The electromechanical equations governing the motor behavior are:

$$d T / dt = (T_e - T_m) / J \quad (6)$$

$$d \delta / dt = \omega' \quad (7)$$

$$\text{where } T_1 \text{ is given by } T_e = \frac{dW}{d\theta} \quad (8)$$

C. Inverter Modelling

The excitation of the stator windings of SRM is provided by the mid-point inverter. This inverter offers the advantage of requiring only one semiconductor switch (IGBT) per phase thereby considerably reducing the number of devices and their control complexity. The hysteresis current controller contributes to the generation of switching pattern for the converter devices.

(i) Renew Phase-1

$$\begin{aligned} \text{If } i_1 < i_1^* \quad & \text{Then } T_1 \text{ ON} \\ i_1 > (i_1^* + hb) \quad & T_1 \text{ OFF} \\ i_1 < (i_1^* - hb) \quad & T_1 \text{ ON} \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

(ii) Re-energise phase-1: T_1 OFF, D_1 OFF

where hb is the hysteresis band around the reference current i_1^* . Similar switching topology can be written for other phase windings. The stator winding currents i_a , i_b , i_c , and i_d are regulated in magnitude as per their reference current magnitudes. The IGBT switch is dosed by an advance angle δ such that the winding current rises to the desired current at the start of the rising inductance region of the particular phase.

$$\theta_{\text{ref}} = \int i_{\text{ref}} dt \quad (10)$$

For forward motion, the winding excitation sequence is 1-2-3-4 with winding excitation in the rising inductance region. Reversal of direction of rotation is obtained by exciting the stator windings in the sequence 4-3-2-1-4. This is achieved by advancing the current rotor position θ by π (stator pole arc).

D. Sliding Mode Speed Control

The action of sliding mode speed controller is based on the switching function S_1 and S_2 , whose values are decided [4] as follows!

$$\begin{aligned} S_1 &= +1 \text{ if } x_1 > 0; & S_2 &= -1 \text{ if } x_2 < 0; \\ S_1 &= +1 \text{ if } x_1 > 0; & S_2 &= -1 \text{ if } x_2 < 0; \end{aligned} \quad (11)$$

where x_1 is speed error $w_n - w_n^*$, $x_2 = p x_1$, and $s = -k x_1 + x_2$ is the switching hyperplane, k being the adjustable parameter.

The output of the sliding mode speed controller is the

reference torque magnitude

$$T^* = T_{ref} + S x \quad (12)$$

Depending upon the turn off, turn on angles, present rotor position and the sign of reference torque, the commutation logic decides the excitation of a particular phase, thereby giving the reference current for individual phase winding.

IV. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The developed model is simulated for transient and steady state behaviour of SRM. The model is solved using Fourth Order Runge-Kutta method. The simulated results of the proposed unity power factor control of SRM drive scheme are shown in Fig. 2. Fig. 2a shows the starting response of the motor. The actual motor speed reaches the reference speed within 40 mSec with practically negligible overshoot. The electromagnetic torque (Fig. 2b) required by the motor during starting is large and its value reduces as the motor speed reaches its steady state value. The torque waveform is pulsating in nature which is an inherent feature of SRM due to the pulsed current operation. The starting current (Fig. 2c) of phase 1 drawn by the SR motor winding is large and is limited by the current rating of the device employed in the inverter circuit. However, under steady state, the current requirement of the motor is reduced. The current waveforms for other phases (not shown) are similar with time shift. Effect on converter side current is similar to the stator winding current. The converter large three phase currents from the ac mains, during starting and the supply current under steady state is considerably reduced. Due to current controlled converter behaviour, the ac supply current is exactly in phase with the mains voltage thereby providing the unity power factor operation (Fig. 2d). As expected, the motor current is not perfectly sinusoidal due to switching action of the converter.

V. CONCLUSIONS

The paper presents the analysis of a three phase converter-inverter fed SRM drive system operating under starting as well as under steady state providing unity power factor operation at the ac mains thereby relieving the utility of harmful effects of low power factor. The use of current controlled converter at the supply side is found to be effective in maintaining ac current in phase with the supply voltage. Hence, the proposed scheme is suitable and quite effective for unity power factor operation.

VI. REFERENCES

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