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An Optimized Switching Strategy for Quick Dynamic Torque Control in DTC-Hysteresis-Based Induction Machines

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Abstract—A dynamic overmodulation strategy for fast dynamic torque control in direct torque control (DTC)-hysteresis-based induction machine is proposed. The fastest dynamic torque response with a six-step mode can be achieved in the proposed method by switching only the most optimized voltage vector that produces the largest tangential component to the circular flux locus. This paper also discusses the performance of dynamic torque control in basic DTC in order to justify on how the proposed selected voltage vector results in excellent dynamic torque performance. The main benefit of the proposed method is its simplicity, since it only requires a minor modification to the conventional DTC-hysteresis-based structure and does not require a space vector modulator. To verify the feasibility of the proposed dynamic overmodulation strategy, simulation and experimentation, as well as comparison with the conventional DTC scheme, are carried out. Results showed a significant improvement in the dynamic torque response when compared to the conventional DTC-hysteresis-based method.

Index Terms—Direct torque control (DTC), dynamic overmodulation, hysteresis controller, induction machine, torque control.

I. INTRODUCTION

OVER THE past years, direct torque control (DTC) scheme for induction motor drives has received enormous attention in industrial motor drive applications. The main reason for its popularity is due to its simple structure, particularly when compared with field-oriented control (FOC) scheme, which was introduced a decade earlier. Since DTC was first

introduced, several variations to its original structure (which we referred to as DTC hysteresis based) [1] were proposed to overcome the inherent disadvantages in any hysteresis-based controller, such as variable switching frequency, high sampling requirement for digital implementation, and high torque ripple [2]–[11]. Recently, predictive control strategy has found applications in motor drives [12]–[21]. Predictive control applied to DTC has gained considerable amount of attention, particularly due to its ability to reduce the torque ripple, as well as the switching frequency [8]–[10], [21]. In particular, model predictive control (MPC), which was applied in [8] and [9], uses hysteresis comparators but with the switching table replaced with online optimization algorithm. However, the application of MPC during a large step change in torque demand will result in significant computational burden, whereas as will be shown later in this paper, a simplified method can be used. Furthermore, the use of MPC during the large step change in torque command does not guarantee the fastest torque response.

The most popular variation of DTC of induction motor drives is the one that is based on space vector modulation (SVM), which normally referred to as DTC-SVM [22]–[31]. The major difference between DTC-hysteresis-based induction motor and DTC-SVM is the way the stator voltage is generated. In DTC-hysteresis-based induction motor, the applied stator voltage depends on voltage vectors, which are selected from a lookup table. The selections are based on the requirement of the torque and flux demands obtained from the hysteresis comparators. On the other hand, in DTC-SVM, a stator voltage reference is calculated or generated within a sampling period, which is then synthesized using the space vector modulator. The stator voltage reference vector is calculated based on the requirement of torque and flux demands. Due to the regular sampling in SVM, the DTC-SVM produces constant switching frequency, as opposed to the variable switching frequency in hysteresis-based DTC, however, at the expense of more complex implementation. Various methods to estimate the voltage reference vector had been reported; these include the use of proportional–integral current controller [23], stator flux vector error [24], [25], proportional–integral torque and flux controllers [26]–[28], and predictive and deadbeat controllers [29]–[31]. During the large torque demand, it is inevitable that this reference exceeds the voltage vector limits enclosed by the hexagonal boundary. Under this condition, the SVM has

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to be operated in what is termed as dynamic overmodulation mode. The voltage reference vector has to be modified such that it will lie on the hexagonal boundary. Several methods [29], [30], [32], [33] have been proposed, and to some extent, these methods have managed to minimize the voltage vector error, as well as obtained a fast torque response; however, the majority of them do not guarantee the fastest torque response.

In hysteresis-based DTC, during the large torque demand, the torque hysteresis comparator will give an output that demands the selection of voltage vector to increase the torque. At the same time, a flux hysteresis comparator will regulate the flux to achieve a circular flux path. This circular flux path, however, does not correspond to the fastest torque demand. In other words, the basic method that is used to select the voltage vectors in hysteresis-based DTC will not guarantee the fastest torque response. A minor modification to the voltage vector selection needs to be performed to ensure the fastest torque response during this condition.

In this paper, a simple DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine with fastest dynamic torque response is presented. The voltage vector used in this proposed dynamic overmodulation is similar with that proposed in [31] and [34]; however, in [31], Tripathi *et al.* use a DTC-SVM with complex predictive stator flux control structure, while in [34], the stator current contains lower harmonic contents at any operating condition due to the hexagonal shape of the stator flux locus. In this paper, the optimized voltage vector to produce fast dynamic response that corresponds to the voltage vector that produces the largest tangential flux component is selected. The selection of the optimized voltage vector can be simply done by modifying the flux error status before it is being fed to the lookup table. In this way, the fastest dynamic torque control with six-step operation is achieved, and the simple structure of DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine is retained without the need of SVM. In Section II of this paper, the basic principle of DTC is briefly discussed. Section III discusses the previous proposed methods of dynamic overmodulation. The dynamic overmodulation operation in basic DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine and the proposed dynamic overmodulation method for DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine are also discussed. Section IV presents the simulation and experimental results of the proposed method. Finally, conclusion is given in Section V.

II. PRINCIPLE OF DTC

The behavior of induction machine in DTC drives can be described in terms of space vectors by the following equations written in stator stationary reference frame:

$$\mathbf{v}_s = r_s \mathbf{i}_s + \frac{d\mathbf{\Psi}_s}{dt} \quad (1)$$

$$0 = r_r \mathbf{i}_r - j\omega_r \mathbf{\Psi}_r + \frac{d\mathbf{\Psi}_r}{dt} \quad (2)$$

$$\mathbf{\Psi}_s = L_s \mathbf{i}_s + L_m \mathbf{i}_r \quad (3)$$

$$\mathbf{\Psi}_r = L_r \mathbf{i}_r + L_m \mathbf{i}_s \quad (4)$$

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} P |\mathbf{\Psi}_s| |\mathbf{i}_s| \sin \delta \quad (5)$$

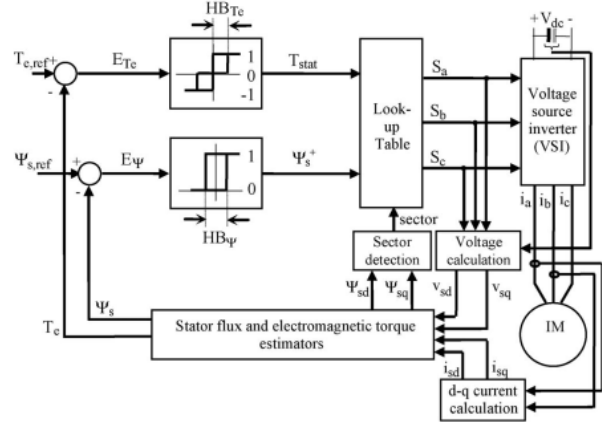


Fig. 1. Structure of basic DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine.

where P is the number of pole pairs; ω_r is the rotor electric angular speed in radians per second; L_s , L_r , and L_m are the motor inductances; and δ is the angle between the stator flux linkage and stator current space vectors. Based on (1), the d^s - and q^s -axis stator fluxes in a stationary reference frame can be written as

$$\Psi_{s,d}^s = \int (v_{s,d}^s - i_{s,d}^s r_s) dt \quad (6a)$$

$$\Psi_{s,q}^s = \int (v_{s,q}^s - i_{s,q}^s r_s) dt. \quad (6b)$$

In terms of switching states S_a , S_b , and S_c (can be either zero or one), the voltage vectors in (6) are given by

$$v_{s,d}^s = \frac{1}{3} V_{dc} (2S_a - S_b - S_c) \quad (7a)$$

$$v_{s,q}^s = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} V_{dc} (S_b - S_c). \quad (7b)$$

The electromagnetic torque given in (5) can be rewritten in d^s - q^s coordinates as

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} P (\Psi_{s,d}^s i_{s,q}^s - \Psi_{s,q}^s i_{s,d}^s). \quad (8)$$

Fig. 1 shows the structure of DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine, as initially proposed [1]. The output stator voltage is applied based on the selection of the switching states (S_a , S_b , and S_c) obtained from the lookup table. These switching states are selected based on the requirement as to whether the torque and the stator flux need to be increased or decreased and also on the stator flux position. The decisions as to whether the torque and/or the flux need to be increased or otherwise come from the three- and two-level hysteresis comparators for the torque and stator flux, respectively. The outputs from the torque and flux hysteresis comparators are labeled as T_{stat} (torque error status) and Ψ_s^+ (flux error status), respectively. Fig. 2 shows the two optimized voltage vectors in every sector, which are selected from the eight possible switch configurations, using the lookup table given in Table I [1]. Notice that, in order to control the flux, two active voltage

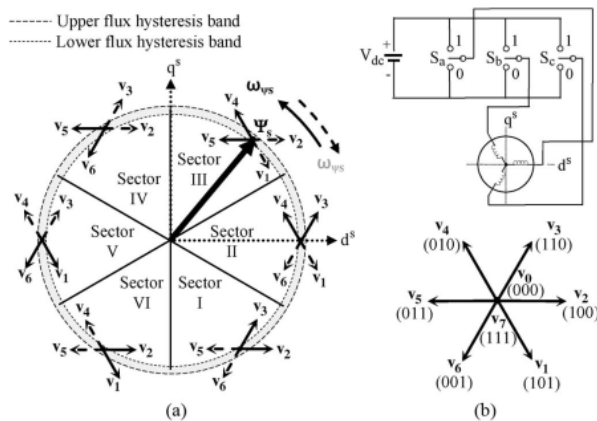


Fig. 2. Selection of the optimum inverter output voltage vectors. (a) Each sector indicates the appropriate voltage vectors. (b) Eight possible switch configurations in the three-phase voltage source inverter.

vectors are required. On the other hand, to control the torque, one active voltage vector is used to increase the torque, while a zero voltage vector is used to reduce it. By limiting the torque and flux errors within their hysteresis bands, a decoupled control of torque and flux is achieved.

III. DYNAMIC TORQUE CONTROL

In practice, a fast dynamic torque control can be achieved by fully utilizing a dc bus voltage through an overmodulation strategy. The switching strategy to perform overmodulation mode during torque transient condition is usually referred to as dynamic overmodulation. In DTC-SVM, dynamic overmodulation occurs whenever there is a large torque demand such that the generated voltage reference vector exceeds the hexagonal boundary on a voltage vector plane. In hysteresis-based DTC, there is no voltage reference vector involved. However, an equivalent condition occurs whenever the hysteresis torque comparator produces a demand to continuously increase the torque. At the same time, the flux is regulated to follow the circular path using two active voltage vectors.

A. Previous Methods Used for Dynamic Overmodulation

It had been reported that the overmodulation strategy is commonly utilized in SVM approach [23], [29]–[31], [35], [36]. For advanced motor control, the use of SVM is preferable than the other techniques (for example, Hava *et al.* [37] and Kerkman *et al.* [38] use triangular carrier based) since it is more flexible (uses only a single reference voltage as the input modulator) and able to exploit the overmodulation region to six-step mode [23], [31], [36]. However, the motor control performance using SVM is dependent on the accuracy of the estimation of the reference voltage. Moreover, the computations of reference voltage and maximum possible voltage used for the implementation of dynamic overmodulation lead to more complex control structures. Several methods of dynamic overmodulation are reported. Fig. 3 shows the comparison of some modified voltage references $v_{[i]}$ (e.g., when $i = 1$, proposed in [1]) with

respect to the original voltage reference vector $v_{s,ref}$, which is beyond the hexagonal boundary of the voltage vectors. Note that the voltage vector components are not drawn to scale. It can be seen that (from Fig. 1) [31] and [34] switched only a single voltage vector which is v_{k+2} during dynamic overmodulation. This single selection of vector shows the occurrence of a six-step operation that produces the fastest dynamic torque control, as will be discussed later in this paper. On the other hand, the other methods result in slower dynamic torque response since two active states are alternately switched during the dynamic condition. For example, [29] Habetler *et al.* used two active states utilizing deadbeat control in order to maintain the magnitude of stator flux under control for any condition.

Later, [30] was proposed to simplify the complexity control structure in [29] (where it does not provide a deadbeat control of the magnitude flux as a transient torque is encountered), and hence, it results in a faster dynamic torque control. In this way, the modified voltage vector $v_{[30]}$ has the same angle γ as the original reference voltage $v_{s,ref}$ but with a modified magnitude.

In [32], the reference voltage $v_{s,ref}$ was modified to $v_{[32]}$ such that the error between the magnitudes of $v_{[32]}$ and $v_{s,ref}$ is minimized. This means that the modified voltage vector $v_{[32]}$ should be closest to the original reference vector $v_{s,ref}$ by ensuring that the line joining $v_{s,ref}$ and $v_{[32]}$ is orthogonal to the hexagon boundary.

Although the SVM technique has been widely used in many advanced DTC and FOC of motor drives, it actually complicates the original control and structure of the drive system. This is due to the fact that more computations involving the estimation of $v_{s,ref}$ and the approximation of the modified voltage reference are required, as mentioned earlier. The simplicity advantage of DTC-hysteresis-based structure is lost.

B. Dynamic Torque Control in Basic Hysteresis-Based DTC

It is well known that the original DTC scheme proposed by Takahashi and Naguchi [1] offers fast instantaneous torque and flux control due to the optimized voltage vector selection in controlling simultaneously both flux and torque. During large torque demand, and, hence, large torque error, the hysteresis torque comparator produces a single status that requires an increase in torque. This means that, under this condition, no zero vectors are selected to reduce the torque. At the same time, the flux hysteresis will regulate the flux to follow the circular path using two active voltage vectors. This is similar to a condition in DTC-SVM in which the stator voltage reference vector follows the hexagonal boundary in the overmodulation mode, which is the reference voltage $v_{[29]}$ in Fig. 3. Since no zero voltage vectors are applied, rapid changes in the flux vector position and, hence, a quick dynamic torque response are achieved. However, this method does not give the fastest dynamic torque response simply because two active voltage vectors are switched during the dynamic condition. In order to achieve the fastest dynamic torque response, only a single vector should be switched and held instead of two active voltage vectors.

For the purpose of studying the effect of voltage vectors on the torque in DTC-hysteresis-based drives, the torque equation

TABLE I
LOOKUP TABLE (VOLTAGE VECTOR SELECTION)

Stator flux error status, Ψ_s^+	Torque error status, T_{stat}	Sector I	Sector II	Sector III	Sector IV	Sector V	Sector VI
1	1	\mathbf{v}_2 (100)	\mathbf{v}_3 (110)	\mathbf{v}_4 (010)	\mathbf{v}_5 (011)	\mathbf{v}_6 (001)	\mathbf{v}_1 (101)
	0	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)
	-1	\mathbf{v}_6 (001)	\mathbf{v}_1 (101)	\mathbf{v}_2 (100)	\mathbf{v}_3 (110)	\mathbf{v}_4 (010)	\mathbf{v}_5 (011)
0	1	\mathbf{v}_3 (110)	\mathbf{v}_4 (010)	\mathbf{v}_5 (011)	\mathbf{v}_6 (001)	\mathbf{v}_1 (101)	\mathbf{v}_2 (100)
	0	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)	\mathbf{v}_7 (111)	\mathbf{v}_0 (000)
	-1	\mathbf{v}_5 (011)	\mathbf{v}_6 (001)	\mathbf{v}_1 (101)	\mathbf{v}_2 (100)	\mathbf{v}_3 (110)	\mathbf{v}_4 (010)

*Note:
 $\mathbf{v}_{[i]}$ proposed in [i]

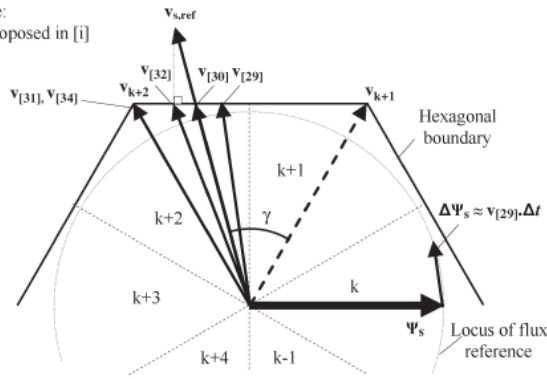


Fig. 3. Variations of the proposed voltage vectors applied during the dynamic overmodulation mode.

will be expressed in terms of the stator and rotor flux magnitudes, as given in the following:

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} P \frac{L_m}{\sigma L_s L_r} \Psi_s \Psi_r \sin \delta_{sr} \quad (9)$$

where σ is the total leakage factor and δ_{sr} is the angle difference between the stator and rotor flux vectors and plays a vital role in controlling the output torque. The relationship between the rotor and stator flux vectors in the rotor flux reference frame can be written as

$$\Psi_r^r = \frac{L_m/L_s}{1 + p\sigma\tau_r} \Psi_s^r \quad (10)$$

where τ_r is the rotor time constant. If the ohmic drop in (1) is neglected, then we can approximate the change in stator flux as

$$\Delta \Psi_s = \mathbf{v}_s \Delta t. \quad (11)$$

Equation (11) indicates that an instantaneous angular velocity of the stator flux is irregular due to the switching voltage vectors. According to (10), the rotor flux will follow the stator flux, however with the irregular motion removed due to the low-pass-filtering action.

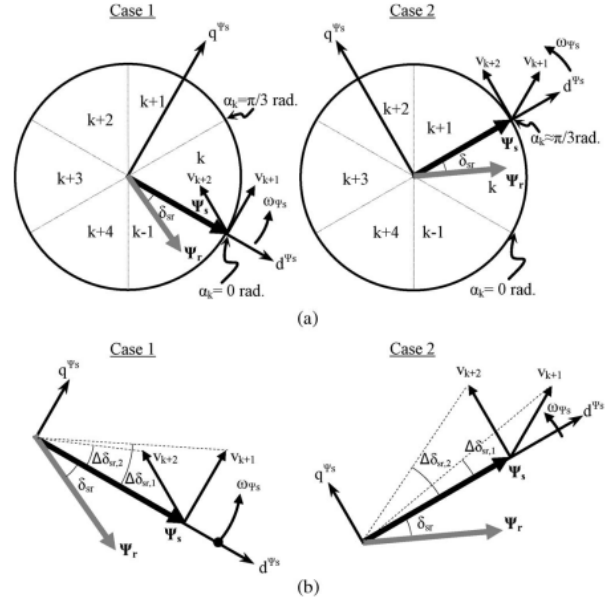


Fig. 4. Effects of selecting different switchings under dynamic condition. (a) Stator voltage vector in stator flux. (b) Comparison of the load angles δ_{sr} generated by the same magnitude of appropriate voltage vectors.

Fig. 4 shows the space vectors of the stator and rotor flux linkages moving in the counterclockwise direction. The motion of the stator flux is dictated by the voltage vectors \mathbf{v}_{k+1} and \mathbf{v}_{k+2} . Case 1 is when the stator flux is about to enter sector k (at $\alpha_k = 0$ rad), while case 2 is when the stator flux is about to leave sector k (at $\alpha_k = \pi/3$ rad). The dynamic torque response can be studied by looking at the effects of applying the possible two voltage vectors on the angle $\Delta \delta_{sr}$. For this purpose, the vectors are redrawn as shown in Fig. 4(b). From Fig. 4(a) and (b), it can be seen that \mathbf{v}_{k+1} has a larger tangential component to the circular flux locus, while the component of \mathbf{v}_{k+2} has a larger radial (negative) component in case 1. On the other hand, \mathbf{v}_{k+1} has a larger radial component, while \mathbf{v}_{k+2} has a larger tangential component to the circular flux locus in case 2. Fig. 4(b) shows the effect of selecting different switching states on $\Delta \delta_{sr}$. Based on the continuous rotation of the rotor flux as

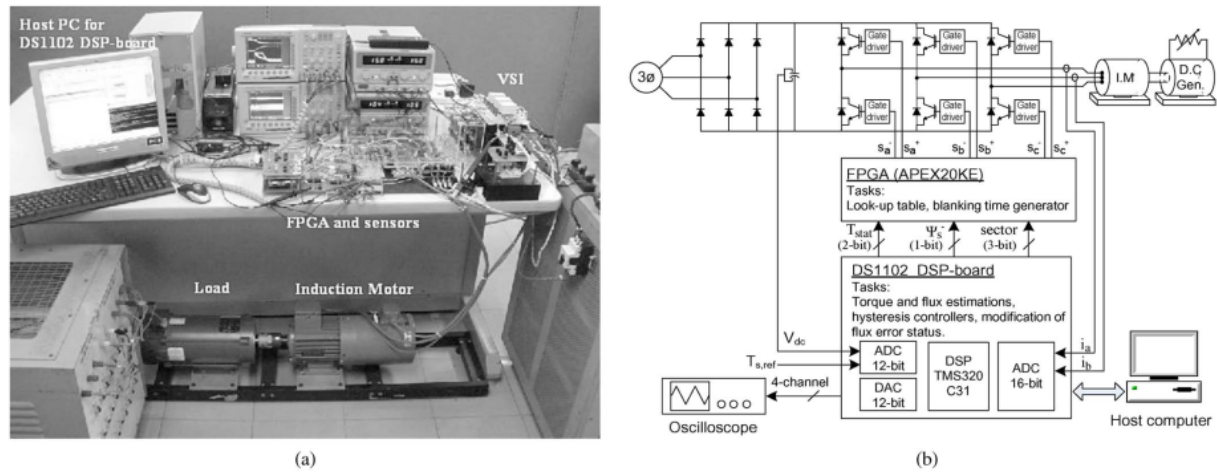


Fig. 7. Complete drive system (a) photograph of the experimental setup and (b) functional block diagram of the experimental setup.

an insulated-gate bipolar transistor inverter and a 1.5-kW four-pole squirrel-cage induction motor. The DTC-hysteresis-based system and induction machine parameters are the same to the parameters used for the simulation. For safety reason, the dc voltage was limited to 240 V, which means that the based speed is reduced to 570 r/min. It should be noted that using a higher dc voltage would further enhance the torque response since the higher dc voltage will result in a higher rate of change of torque.

The control algorithm is implemented on a DSPACE 1102 and Altera field-programmable gate array (APEX20KE). The sampling period of the DTC scheme, including the proposed dynamic overmodulation, is 55 μ s.

Some tests have been carried out to compare the performances of dynamic torque control in the basic hysteresis-based DTC with and without the proposed dynamic overmodulation. For the sake of identification, the DTC without the proposed overmodulation is referred as DTC1, while the one with the proposed dynamic overmodulation strategy is referred as DTC2. The dynamic torque control is performed by applying a step change of torque reference from 1.5 to 9.0 N \cdot m at two different stator flux positions. Based on Ψ_d^s and Ψ_q^s , a step change in the torque reference is introduced at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad [subsector (i) within sector 2] and at $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad [subsector (ii) within sector 2]. To make the comparisons fair, the dynamic torque controls in both DTC schemes were performed under the same load torque conditions so that the rotor speed operated at around 410 r/min.

The simulation and experimental results under these two conditions are shown in Figs. 8 and 9, respectively. It can be seen that, for DTC1, two active voltage vectors are selected during the torque dynamic; this is indicated by the flux error status waveform which switches between one and zero. For the proposed overmodulation (DTC2), the single flux error status is held; hence, only a single vector is selected during the torque dynamic. The selected voltage vector, as discussed in the previous section, provides the fastest torque response. The effect of the proposed overmodulation on the stator flux locus for the two different stator flux

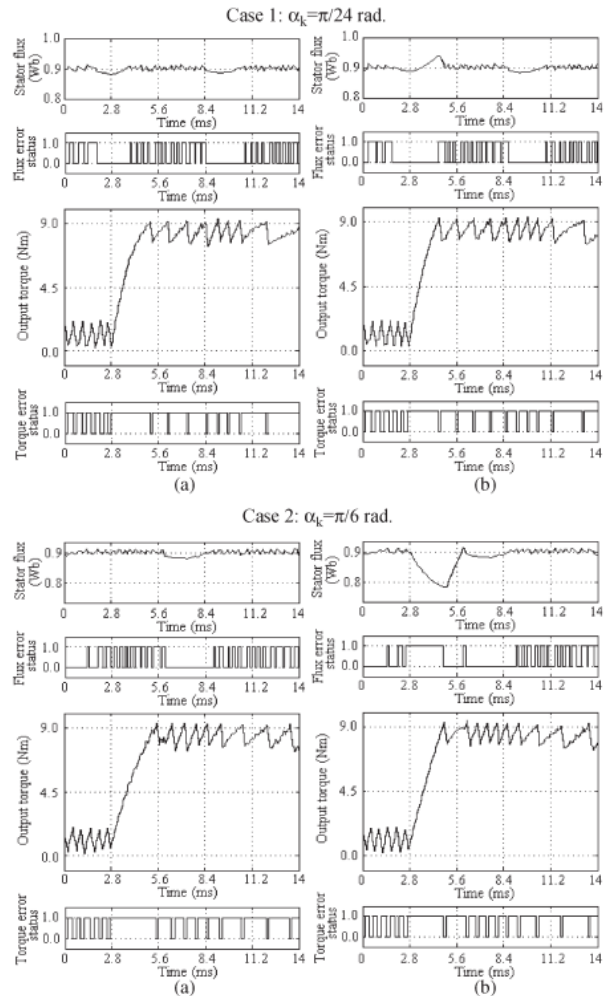


Fig. 8. Comparison by simulation of dynamic torque performances between (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2, when a dynamic torque control occurs as the stator flux position at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad or $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad (at the middle of sector 2).

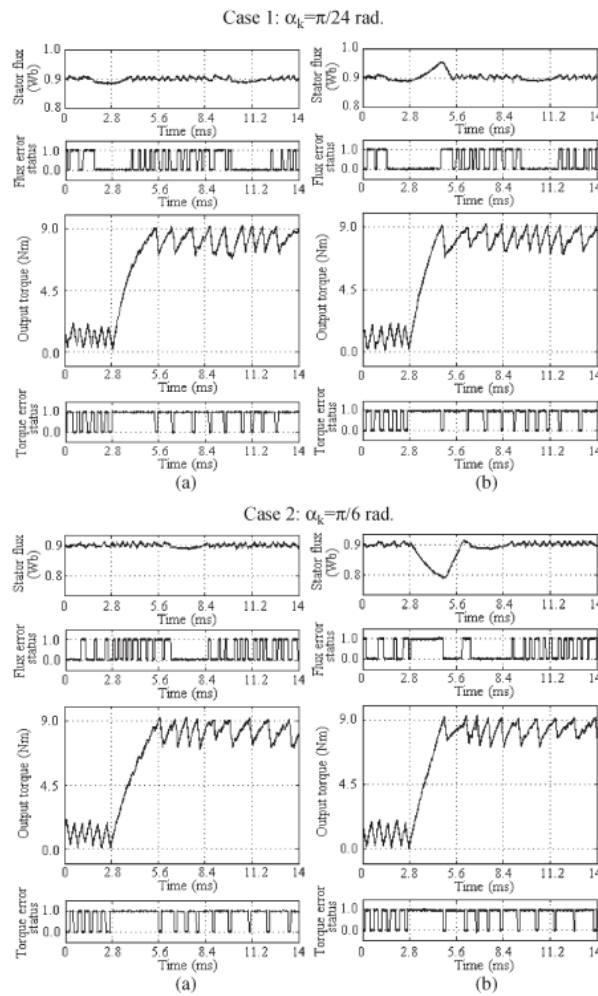


Fig. 9. Comparison by experimental of dynamic torque performances between (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2, when a dynamic torque control occurs as the stator flux position at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad or $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad (at the middle of sector 2).

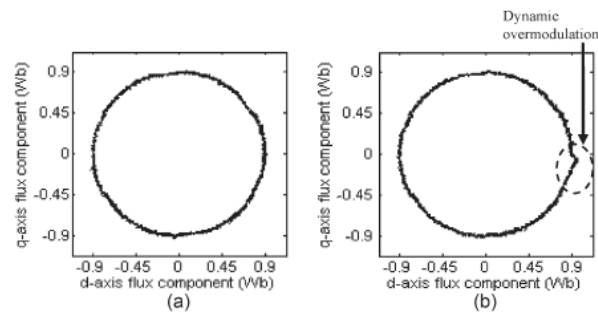


Fig. 10. Comparison of stator flux loci obtained in (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2 (for one complete flux wave cycle), when a dynamic torque condition occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad.

positions can be seen from the experimental results, as shown in Figs. 10 and 11.

The shape and, hence, the magnitude of the stator flux are affected since the single voltage vector is switched during the

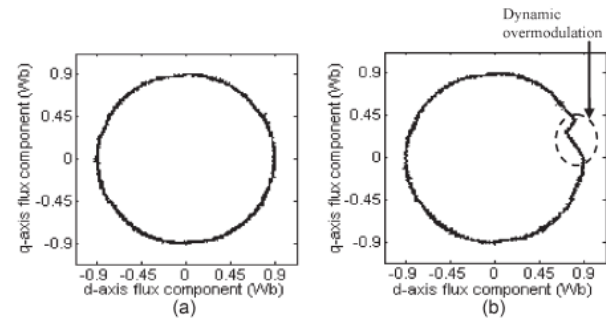


Fig. 11. Comparison of stator flux loci obtained in (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2 (for one complete flux wave cycle), when a dynamic torque condition occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad.

dynamic overmodulation. When the torque dynamic occurs in subsector (i), the single voltage vector that produces the fastest torque response is selected. This vector also increases the flux, causing the flux locus to deviate from the circular locus momentarily, as shown in Fig. 10. On the other hand, when the torque dynamic occurs in subsector (ii), a single voltage vector that gives the fastest torque response and at the same time reduces the flux is selected. This is indicated by the stator flux locus shown in Fig. 11. For both cases, the deviation in the flux locus from the circular locus occurs momentarily during the torque dynamic.

It is quite interesting to observe the behavior of motor currents as the flux magnitude is suddenly distorted due to the proposed switching strategy during the torque dynamic condition. Figs. 12 and 13 show the behavior of motor currents for DTC2 at three different operating speeds, named as Speed 1 (at 100 r/min), Speed 2 (at 300 r/min), and Speed 3 (at 550 r/min). These speeds represent the “low,” “medium,” and “high” speed ranges, respectively, relative to the reduced based speed of 570 r/min. For each operating speed, a step change of reference torque is applied at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad and $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad. As can be seen from the figures, the three-phase stator currents show rapid change during the torque dynamic, which occurs in a relatively very short period particularly for Speed 1. Thus, the possibility of facing an overcurrent problem is not serious, as the sharp increases of currents occur within a very short period of time. It can also be noticed that (in Figs. 12 and 13) the performance of dynamic torque control decreases (i.e., produces slower torque response) as the motor speed operation increases. This is due to the fact that the rate of change of torque depends on the operating conditions (i.e., dc voltage, load torque, and speed), which has been discussed in [39] and [40]. Nevertheless, regardless of the speed of operation, the torque response with the proposed dynamic overmodulation would give faster torque response when compared with the conventional DTC that uses two voltage vectors during the torque dynamic.

V. CONCLUSION

A simple dynamic overmodulation to achieve the fastest dynamic torque response in DTC-hysteresis-based induction machine has been proposed. An optimized voltage vector that

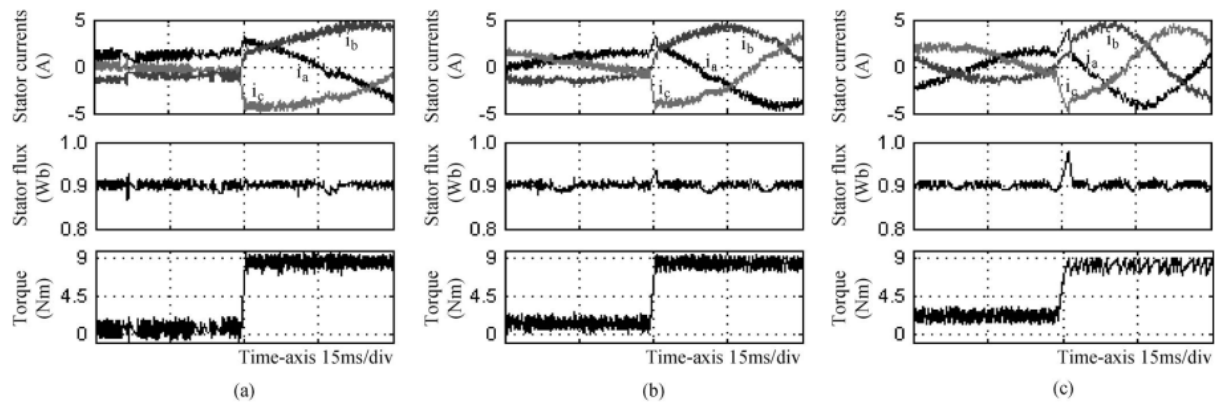


Fig. 12. Behavior of motor currents when the flux magnitude suddenly increases due to the proposed switching strategy, as the dynamic torque occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad. The dynamic torque control is applied at three different speed operations for (a) Speed 1 at 100 r/min, (b) Speed 2 at 300 r/min, and (c) Speed 3 at 550 r/min.

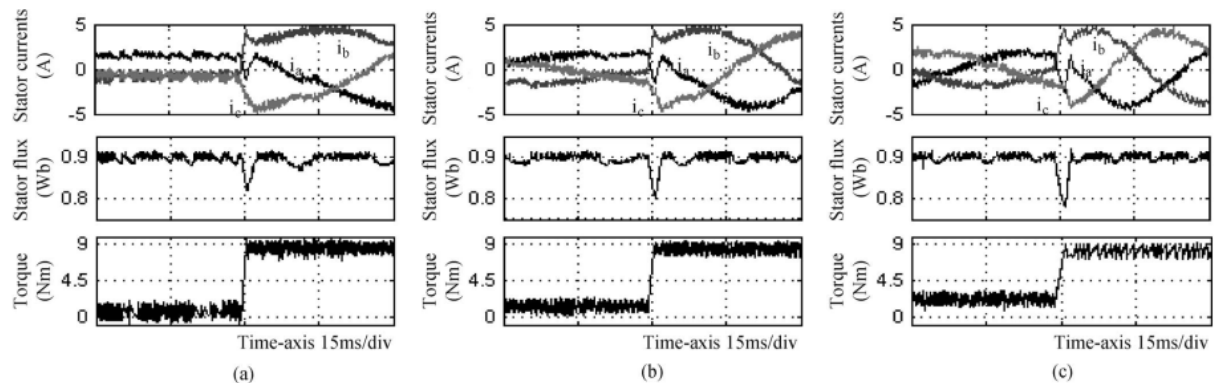


Fig. 13. Behavior of motor currents when the flux magnitude suddenly increases due to the proposed switching strategy, as the dynamic torque occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad. The dynamic torque control is applied at three different speed operations for (a) Speed 1 at 100 r/min, (b) Speed 2 at 300 r/min, and (c) Speed 3 at 550 r/min.

produces the largest tangential to the circular flux locus is switched and held so that a fast rate of change of angle $\Delta\delta_{sr}$ is achieved. The selection of the optimized voltage vector is simply obtained by modifying the flux error status before it is being fed to the lookup table. The main benefit of the proposed method is its simplicity and, at the same time, be able to produce the fastest dynamic torque response with a six-step mode. The dynamic overmodulation is achieved without the need of space vector modulator.

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