

Simple Dynamic Overmodulation Strategy for Fast Torque Control in DTC of Induction Machines With Constant-Switching-Frequency Controller

By Tole Sutikno

Simple Dynamic Overmodulation Strategy for Fast Torque Control in DTC of Induction Machines With Constant-Switching-Frequency Controller

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Abstract—This paper presents a simple dynamic overmodulation method to obtain a fast dynamic torque response in direct torque control (DTC) of induction machines with constant-switching-frequency controller. A fast dynamic torque response can be obtained by switching only the most optimized voltage vector during torque dynamic condition. The optimized voltage vector can be identified by comparing the rate of change of torque produced between applications of two possible active voltage vectors, according to the flux position. The selection of the optimized voltage vector can be simply implemented by modifying the flux error status before it is being fed to the lookup table. It will be shown that the proposed switching strategy facilitates the DTC to perform under six-step mode to achieve the fastest dynamic torque response. The effectiveness of the proposed dynamic overmodulation to obtain the fast torque response is verified with some experimental results.

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

1. INTRODUCTION

OVER THE past years, the 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 [1], partic-

ularly when compared with the 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 hysteresis-based DTC) 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]–[7].

The most popular variation of DTC of induction motor drives is one that is based on space vector modulation (SVM), which is normally referred to as DTC-SVM [6]–[10]. The major difference between hysteresis-based DTC and DTC-SVM is the way the stator voltage is generated. In hysteresis-based DTC, 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 vector modulator. The stator voltage reference vector is calculated based on the requirement of torque and flux demands. Due to regular sampling in SVM, the DTC-SVM produces constant switching frequency (CSF) 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 (PI) current controllers [11], stator flux vector errors [7], PI torque and flux controllers [8], and predictive and dead-beat controllers [6], [9], [10].

During 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 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. For example, some modified reference voltages $v_{[i]}$ (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) were proposed to minimize the voltage vector error and obtained a fast torque response [6], [9], [10], [12], [13], as shown in Fig. 1. However, the majority of them do not guarantee the fastest torque response. It can be seen that (from Fig. 1) $v_{[6]}$ and $v_{[12]}$ switch only a single voltage vector which is v_{k+2} during dynamic overmodulation. This single selection of vector

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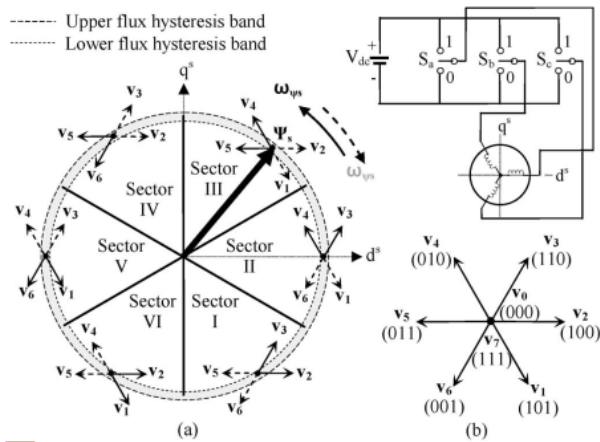


Fig. 3. Selection of the optimum inverter output voltage vectors. (a) Each sector indicates the appropriate voltage vectors. (b) Eight-possible-switch configuration in the three-phase voltage-source inverter.

TABLE I
LOOKUP TABLE (VOLTAGE VECTOR SELECTION)

Ψ_s^+	T_{stat}	Sector I	Sector II	Sector III	Sector IV	Sector V	Sector VI
1	1	V_2 (100)	V_3 (110)	V_4 (010)	V_5 (011)	V_6 (001)	V_1 (101)
	0	V_0 (000)	V_7 (111)	V_0 (000)	V_7 (111)	V_0 (000)	V_7 (111)
	-1	V_6 (001)	V_1 (101)	V_2 (100)	V_5 (110)	V_4 (010)	V_3 (011)
0	1	V_3 (110)	V_4 (010)	V_5 (011)	V_6 (001)	V_1 (101)	V_2 (100)
	0	V_7 (111)	V_0 (000)	V_7 (111)	V_0 (000)	V_7 (111)	V_0 (000)
	-1	V_5 (011)	V_2 (101)	V_3 (100)	V_4 (110)	V_1 (010)	V_6 (001)

from the lookup table. These switching states are selected by 52 on the requirement as to whether the torque and the stator flux need to be increased or decreased and 80 on the stator flux position. The decisions as to whether the torque 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. Fig. 3 shows the two optimized voltage vectors in every sector, which are selected from the eight-possible-switch configuration, 144 the lookup table given in Table I [1].

Notice that, in order to control the flux, two active voltage vectors are 26 required. On the other hand, to control the torque, one active voltage vector is used to increase the torque, while 13 zero-voltage vector is used to reduce it. By limiting the 20 ue and flux errors within their hysteresis bands, a decoupled control of torque and flux is achieved.

III. DTC-WITH-CSF SCHEME (DTC-CSF)

Unlike FOC, the DTC scheme as 64 shown in Fig. 2 offers simple control structure wherein the 13 ue and flux can be separately controlled using 16 e- and two-level hysteresis comparators, respectively. The output of the comparators and the stator flux angle are used to index a lookup table of optimum voltage vector 53 proposed by Takahashi and Noguchi [1], to determine the appropriate voltage vectors to control both torque and flux. However, the hysteresis torque controller utilized in the basic DTC structure results in two major disadvantages,

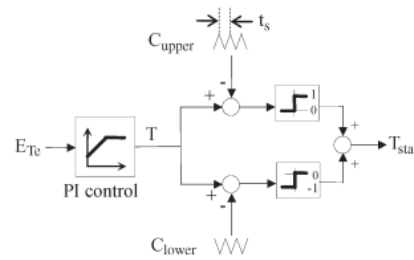


Fig. 4. CFCTC.

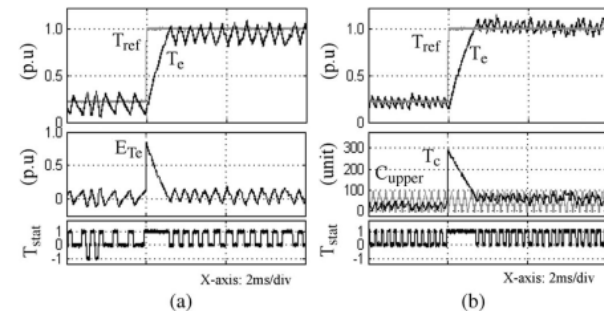


Fig. 5. Comparison by experiment of torque control operations in (a) hysteresis-based DTC and (b) DTC-CSF-based induction motors.

namely, 6 variable inverter switching frequency and high torque ripple. Several methods had been proposed to overcome 19 problems. For example, the problems were minimized by the use of variable hysteresis bands [4], dithering technique [2], controlled duty ratio cycle technique [3], [5], SVM (DTC-SVM) [6]–[8], and, recently, pr 5 active control [16].

An attempt has been made to reduce the torque ripple by replacing the torque hysteresis controller with CFCTC as shown in Fig. 4 [15]. In such a way, the simple control structure (with decoupled control structure) of hysteresis-based DTC is retained. For the sake of identification, in this paper, this scheme will be referred to as DTC-CSF. The torque error status T_{stat} (as shown in Fig. 4) generated from the CFCTC to compensate the torque error E_{Te} can be described by the following equation:

$$T_{stat} = \begin{cases} 1, & \text{for } T_c \geq C_{upper} \\ 0, & \text{for } C_{lower} < T_c < C_{upper} \\ -1, & \text{for } T_c \leq C_{lower} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

where T_c is the output of the PI controller and C_{upper} and C_{lower} are the upper and lower triangular carriers, respectively. In order to establish CSF and, hence, reduced torque ripple, the frequency and peak to peak of the 32 per and lower triangular waveforms are set at fixed values. For the PI 11 ue controller, the gain values of K_p and K_i are restricted 63 to ensure that the absolute slope of the output signal T_c 5 does not exceed the absolute slope of the triangular carrier [15].

Fig. 5 shows the experimental results of torque control operations for a step change of torque reference from 0.22 to 1.0 p.u. obtained in hysteresis-based DTC and DTC-CSF-based induction machines. The values of the machine and c 2 control system parameters are given in Table II. From Fig. 5, it can be seen that the output torque ripple in DTC-CSF is reduced

TABLE II
INDUCTION MACHINE PARAMETERS AND HYSTERESIS-BASED DTC AND
CSF-BASED DTC DRIVES

1. Induction Machine			
Rated power	1.5 kW		
Stator resistance	5.5 Ω		
Rotor resistance	4.51 Ω		
Stator self inductance	306.5 mH		
Rotor self inductance	306.5 mH		
Mutual inductance	291.9 mH		
Number of poles	4		
2(a). Hysteresis-based DTC		2(b). CSF-based DTC	
Flux hysteresis band	0.0045Wb	Flux hysteresis band	0.0045Wb
Torque hysteresis band	0.9Nm	Flux rated	0.892Wb
Flux rated	0.892Wb	Torque rated	9Nm
Torque rated	9Nm	Constant freq. torque controller	
		Proportional gain, K_p	34
		Integral gain, K_i	11925
		Carrier frequency	3.03kHz
		Peak to peak of carrier	90

and the output torque is regulated closer to the reference with a constant and higher switching frequency.

IV. 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.

A. Dynamic Torque Control in Basic Hysteresis-Based DTC

It is well known that the original DTC scheme proposed by Takahashi and Noguchi [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, hence large torque error, the hysteresis torque comparator produces a single status that requires a [27] increase in torque. This means that, under this condition, no zero-voltage 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 overmodulation mode, which is the reference voltage $\mathbf{v}_{[9]}$ in Fig. 1. 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 because one of two possible active voltage vectors switched during [9] torque dynamic may not be optimum. To explain this, at first, an equation of torque rate in terms of applied voltage vector which was derived in [14] will be used. According to the analysis in [14], the rate of change of torque at the instant in which a voltage vector is applied is given by

$$\frac{dT_e}{dt} = C\Psi_r [V\sin(\theta_i - \theta_{r,0}) - \omega\Psi_{s,0}\cos(\theta_{s,0} - \theta_{r,0})] \quad (10)$$

where C is [56] some constant which depends on the machine parameters and V is the magnitude of the applied voltage, θ_i ,

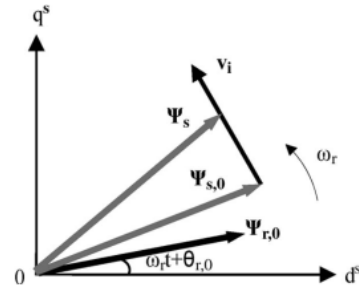


Fig. 6. Stator flux vector and initial stator and rotor flux vectors.

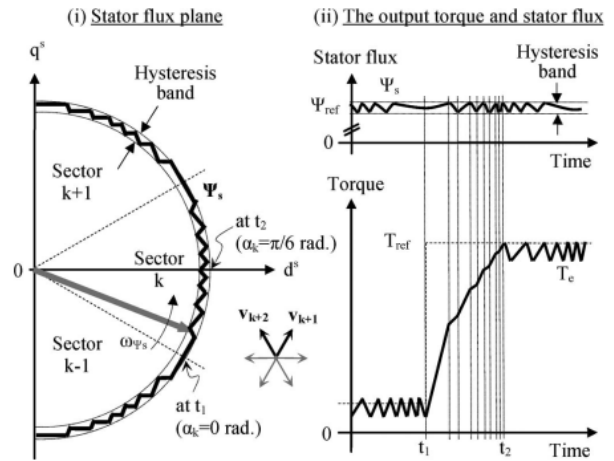


Fig. 7. Inconsistent torque slope in DTC due to the selecting different switching under dynamic condition.

$\theta_{r,0}$, and $\theta_{s,0}$ are the stator voltage vector angle, initial rotor flux angle, and initial stator flux angle, respectively. Ψ_r and $\Psi_{s,0}$ are the rotor flux magnitude and initial stator flux magnitude, respectively [58]. These parameters are shown in Fig. 6). The second term in (10) is [45] dependent of the applied voltage vector. Thus, the maximum rate of change of torque is determined by the first term of (10) which can be written as

$$\left[\frac{dT_e}{dt} \right]_{\max} = \max_i \{ \sin(\theta_i - \theta_{r,0}) \}. \quad (11)$$

The rotor flux angle in (11) can be assumed equivalent to the stator flux angle since the slip angular velocity, in practice, is too small. Equation (11) indicates that the fastest torque response is achieved when the voltage angle is 90° with respect to the stator flux angle. In other words, to obtain the fastest torque response, a voltage vector that has the largest tangential component has to be selected.

The behavior of torque dynamic in DTC is investigated by applying a step change of torque reference at time $t = t_1$ or when the [47] or flux vector is about to enter sector k (at $\alpha_k = 0$ rad), as shown in Fig. 7. The output torque and stator flux magnitude ([30] respect to time) in Fig. 7 correspond to the trajectory of the stator flux vector in the [62] stator flux plane. Assume that the space vector of the stator flux linkage [16] is in the counterclockwise direction and the variation of the stator flux vector is approximately proportional to the

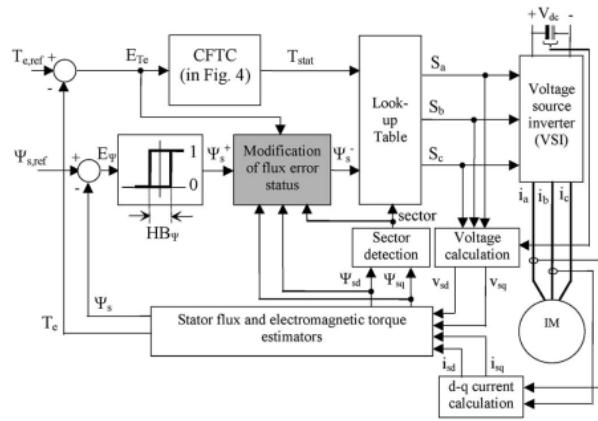


Fig. 8. Structure of the DTC-CSF-based induction machine with the proposed “modification of flux error status” block.

voltage vector applied (i.e., \mathbf{v}_{k+1} and \mathbf{v}_{k+2}). According to (11), higher torque rate can be achieved when \mathbf{v}_{k+1} is switched during the torque dynamic (as the flux vector moves from angle $\alpha_k = 0$ to $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad). Thus, as noticed in Fig. 7, the torque slope under dynamic condition is steeper when \mathbf{v}_{k+1} is used (or flux increases) than the slope when \mathbf{v}_{k+2} is switched (or flux decreases). The figure shows that the basic DTC may not give the fastest torque dynamic response since \mathbf{v}_{k+2} is switched more often as the flux vector approaches toward the middle of the sector.

It should be noted that the identification of the optimized voltage vector (between two possible voltages) to achieve the fastest dynamic torque response depends on flux position. In fact, if sector k is subdivided into subsectors, (i) and (ii) based on (12), vector \mathbf{v}_{k+1} will result in a higher torque slope throughout subsector (i) and \mathbf{v}_{k+2} will give a higher torque slope throughout subsector (ii)

$$\begin{aligned} 0 \leq \alpha_k < \pi/6 \text{ rad,} & \quad \text{for subsector (i)} \\ \pi/6 \leq \alpha_k < \pi/3 \text{ rad,} & \quad \text{for subsector (ii).} \end{aligned} \quad (12)$$

B. Proposed Dynamic Torque Control

In the proposed dynamic overmodulation method, the most optimized voltage vector that produces the highest rate of change of torque is switched and held (instead of selecting two active voltage vectors) during torque dynamic to achieve the fastest dynamic torque control. As discussed in the previous section, if sector k is considered, this would be vector \mathbf{v}_{k+1} in subsector (i) and vector \mathbf{v}_{k+2} in subsector (ii). Fig. 8 shows the structure of the DTC-CSF-based induction machine with the proposed modification of the flux error status. Notice that all components of the hysteresis-based DTC scheme are retained, except for the inclusion of the “modification of flux error status” block which is responsible to perform the dynamic overmodulation mode. The selection of the optimized voltage vector to give the fastest torque response can be simply done by modifying the flux error status (Ψ_s^+) to a new flux status (Ψ_s^-) before it is being fed to the look-up table. The “modification of flux error status” block and, hence, the proposed dynamic over-

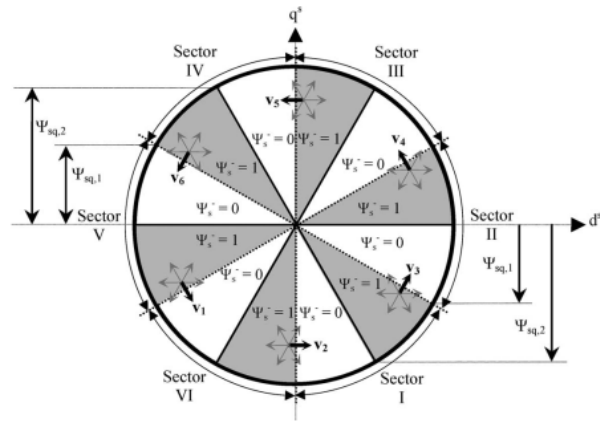


Fig. 9. Proposed digital outputs in the modified flux error status correspond to the optimized voltage vectors for every subsector in each sector.

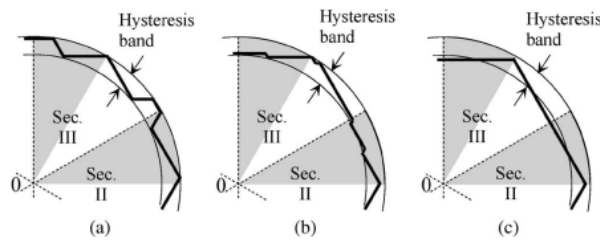


Fig. 10. Difference in stator flux trajectory performed in (a) the basic hysteresis-based DTC as proposed in [1], (b) the method proposed in [14], and (c) the proposed method (as performed in complex DTC-SVM [6] and direct self-control [12]).

modulation are activated when the torque error E_{Te} is greater than 20% of the rated torque. On the other hand, the proposed DTC will be deactivated (operated with the conventional DTC switching operation, i.e., $\Psi_s^- = \Psi_s^+$) when the error of torque E_{Te} reduces to zero. In doing so, the current distortion can only occur during torque transient which is relatively in a very short period of time.

When the “modification of flux error status” block is activated, the output of this block Ψ_s^- depends on the position of the flux within a sector as shown in Fig. 9. If it is in subsector (i), $\Psi_s^- = 0$; hence, \mathbf{v}_{k+1} is selected. If it is in subsector (ii), $\Psi_s^- = 1$; \mathbf{v}_{k+2} is selected. The border of the sectors and subsectors can be easily calculated using the threshold values of $\Psi_{s,q}^s$, denoted as $\Psi_{sq,1}$ and $\Psi_{sq,2}$, which can be calculated as

$$\Psi_{sq,1} = \Psi_{s,d}^s \tan(\pi/6) \quad (13)$$

$$\Psi_{sq,2} = \Psi_{s,d}^s \tan(\pi/3). \quad (14)$$

C. Performance Comparison of Torque Dynamic Control

Fig. 10 shows the difference in flux trajectory performed in some hysteresis-based DTC schemes (i.e., the basic DTC [1], [14] and the proposed method) during torque dynamic condition. In [14], the controller selects the most optimized voltage that gives maximum torque rate [according to (11)] when the flux is inside the hysteresis band. However, the controller selects the same voltage vector as the basic DTC when

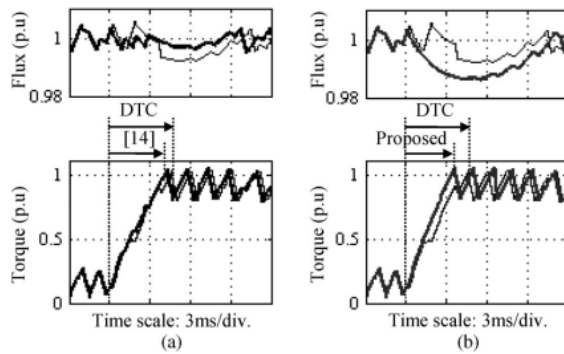


Fig. 11. Comparison on torque dynamic performance (a) basic DTC and that in [14] and (b) basic DTC and the proposed method.

the flux is outside the hysteresis band. The proposed method, on the other hand, uses only the most optimized voltage during the torque dynamic, which can completely perform in six-step voltage; the flux is no longer constrained to the circular shape but rather is transformed into a hexagonal shape.

Some simulations were carried out to compare the performances of torque dynamic resulted from these schemes. For comparison, the switching optimization in [14] is only performed during torque dynamic, and each result achieved in [14] and the proposed method is plotted in a same graph with the result obtained in the basic DTC as shown in Fig. 11. Under the same test condition, it can be seen from this figure that the improvement in the proposed method is significant than that obtained in [14] with almost consistent torque slope. In this case, a step change of reference torque is applied when the motor speed is about 0.75 p.u. and the flux position is at $\alpha_k = \pi/4$ rad (as defined in Fig. 7). The improvements achieved in [14] and the proposed method were also verified through simulation at different cases (i.e., the step change of torque is applied as the stator flux is at either one position, $\alpha_k = 0, \pi/12, \pi/6, \pi/4, \pi/3$ rad for different speed operations), as can be noticed in Fig. 12(a) and (b), respectively. In all cases, the rise time of torque is defined as the time taken for the torque to reach its target from the instant the step torque change is applied. Obviously, the proposed method results in better improvement for every case, and the improvement is significant particularly at high speeds and when the step change of torque applied as the stator flux is at around the middle part of a sector. It should also be noted that the performance of torque dynamic depends on operating conditions (i.e., dc voltage, load torque, and speed) [17], [18] and the selection of voltage vectors (which is influenced by flux position) as discussed previously.

V. IMPLEMENTATION AND EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

To verify the feasibility of the proposed dynamic overmodulation scheme, a complete drive system as shown in Fig. 13 has been realized. The parameters for the DTC drives and the actual parameters of an induction motor are shown in Table II. For safety reason, the dc voltage was limited to 240 V, which means that the base speed is reduced to 570 r/min. The control

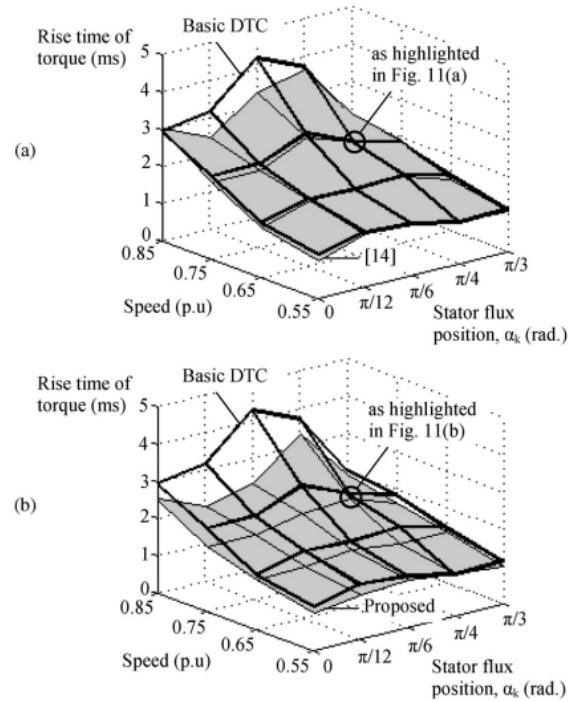


Fig. 12. Effects of stator flux positions and speed on torque dynamic performance. Comparison on (a) the dynamic performance between (a) the basic DTC and that in [14] and (b) the basic DTC and the proposed method.

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

To investigate the performance of dynamic torque control, a step change of torque reference from 1.5 to 9.0 N·m has been carried out for three different schemes. For convenience of identification, these schemes are referred to as follows:

- 1) DTC1—conventional hysteresis-based DTC;
- 2) DTC2—the hysteresis-based DTC with the proposed dynamic overmodulation strategy;
- 3) DTC3—the CSF-based DTC with the proposed dynamic overmodulation strategy.

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 control in these three DTC schemes was performed under the same load torque condition so that the rotor speed operated at around 410 r/min.

The experimental results under these two conditions are shown in Figs. 14 and 15, respectively. It can be seen that, for DTC1, two active voltage vectors are selected during the torque dynamic; this is indicated by the flux status waveform which switches between one and zero. For the proposed overmodulation (DTC2 and DTC3), a single flux 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. From these figures

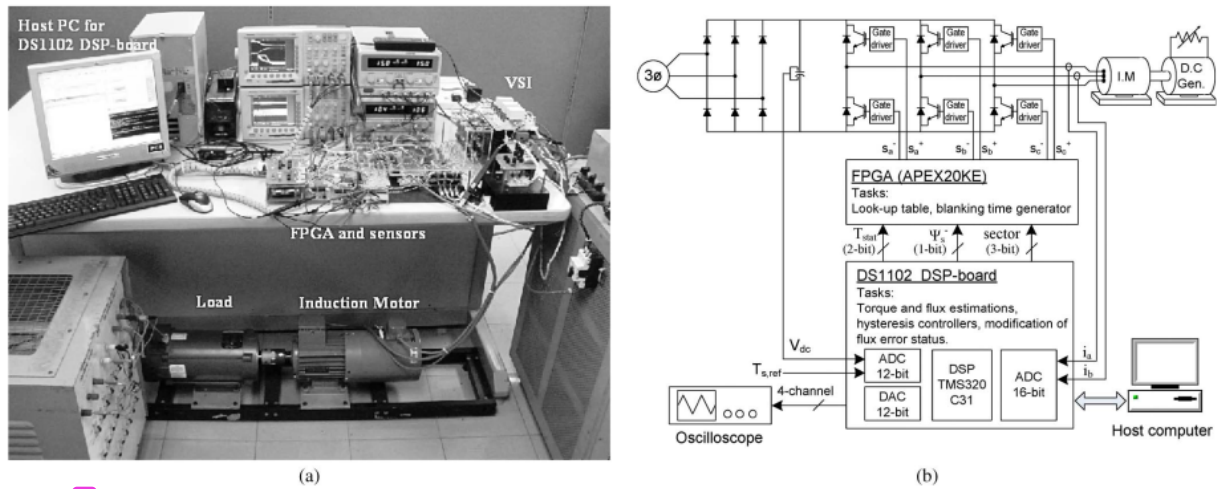


Fig. 13. Complete drive system. (a) Picture of the experimental setup. (b) Functional block diagram of the experimental setup.

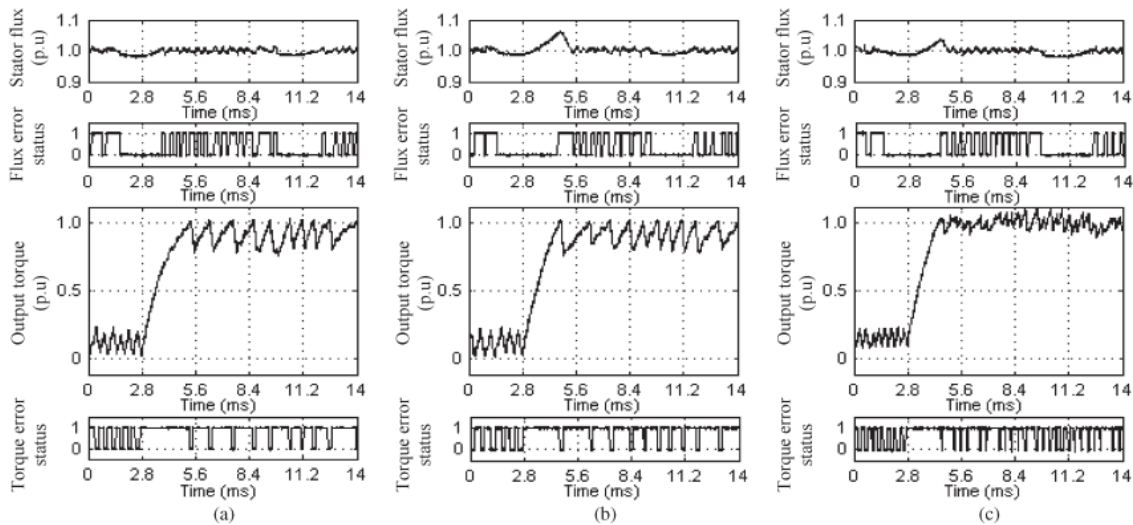


Fig. 14. Comparison by experiment of dynamic torque performance between (a) DTC1, (b) DTC2, and (c) DTC3, when a dynamic torque control occurs as the stator flux position is at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad (as the flux is about to enter sector 2).

(Figs. 14 and 15), we also notice that the output torque is regulated closer to the reference with DTC3. Thus, DTC3 is the best scheme among the three schemes as it offers the fastest torque response and reduced torque ripple.

The effect of the proposed overmodulation on the stator flux locus for the two different stator flux positions can be seen from the experimental results as shown in Figs. 16 and 17. For the purpose of comparing the effect, only DTC1 and DTC2 were tested as DTC3 is actually performed in the same manner with DTC2 in selecting the voltage vector during torque dynamic at particular flux positions. The shape and, hence, the magnitude of the stator flux are affected since a single voltage vector is switched during the dynamic overmodulation. When the torque dynamic occurs in subsector (i), a 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. 16. 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. 17. 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 torque dynamic condition. Fig. 18 shows the behavior of motor currents in DTC2 when the torque dynamic control 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 torque dynamic. It can also be concluded that the possibility of facing overcurrent is not a problem as the sharp increases in the stator phase currents occur within a very short period of time and within the peak value of the stator currents.

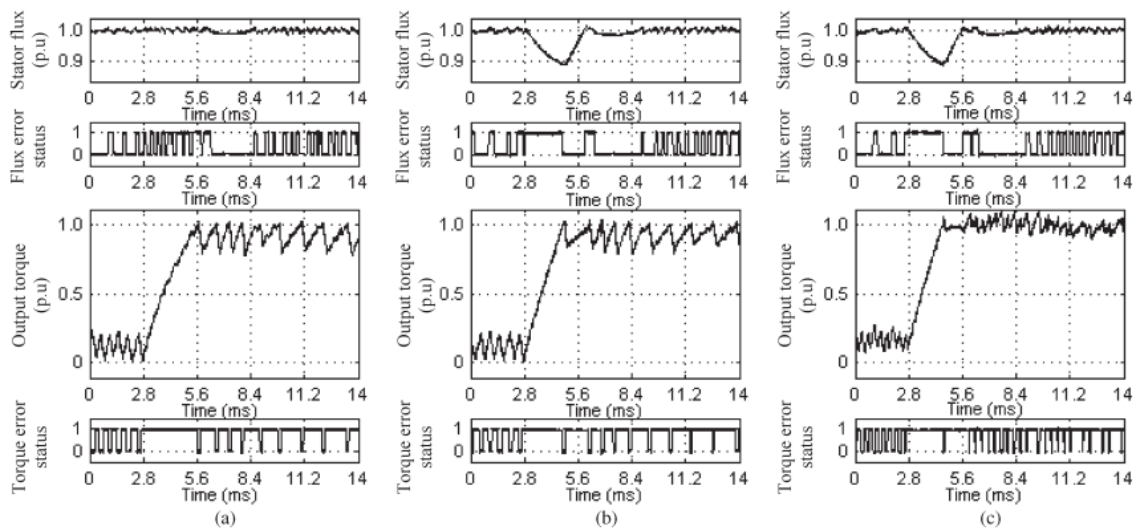


Fig. 15. Comparison by experiment of dynamic torque performance between (a) DTC1, (b) DTC2, and (c) DTC3, when a dynamic torque control occurs as the stator flux position is at $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad (as the flux is about the middle of sector 2).

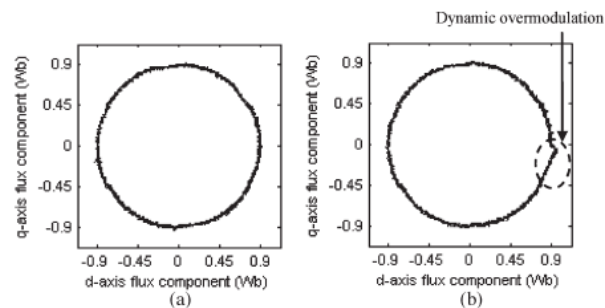


Fig. 16. Comparison of stator flux locus obtained in (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2 (for one complete flux wave cycle) when a dynamic torque condition occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad.

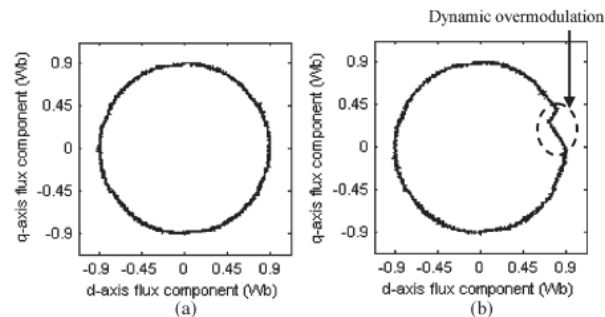


Fig. 17. Comparison of stator flux locus obtained in (a) DTC1 and (b) DTC2 (for one complete flux wave cycle) when a dynamic torque condition occurs at $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad.

VI. CONCLUSION

A simple dynamic overmodulation to achieve the fastest dynamic torque response in a DTC-CSF-based induction machine has been proposed. An optimized voltage vector that produces the highest rate of change of torque is switched and held so that the fastest dynamic torque response can be achieved. The selection of the optimized voltage vector is simply obtained

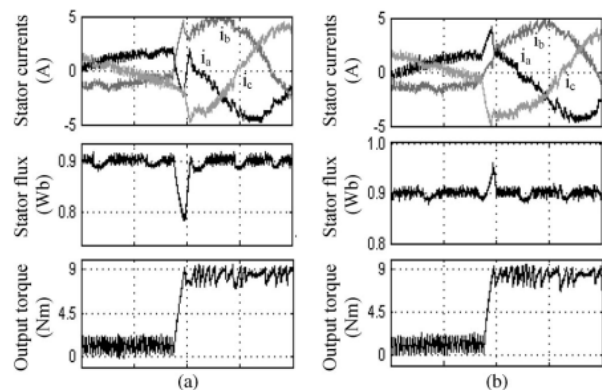


Fig. 18. Behavior of motor currents when the flux magnitude suddenly distorted due to the proposed switching strategy as the dynamic torque occurs at (a) $\alpha_k = \pi/6$ rad and (b) $\alpha_k = \pi/24$ rad.

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, is able to reduce the torque ripple and produce the fastest dynamic torque response (with six-step mode). The dynamic overmodulation is achieved without the need of a space vector modulator.

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