

Experimental determination of suboptimal parameters for energy-efficient control of an induction motor

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ABSTRACT

The article presents the results of experimental studies of the automatic speed control system (ASCS) of an induction motor (IM). Preliminary experimental studies have shown that the stator current minimum (power factor) is a suboptimal criterion. Optimal in terms of control is the rated power factor. Tests of IM with a thyristor voltage converter (TVC), as a power source, were conducted on an installation created at the department. A mathematical model of ASCS IM corresponding to the experimental setup has been developed. To determine the main functional dependences of IM, such as stator voltage, stator current, power factor, torque on the shaft, a program for approximating experimental data by polynomials was developed. Using the developed mathematical model, the regulatory characteristic of IM that was optimal from an energy point of view was obtained. The necessary indicators of IM and TVC are determined (thyristor control angle, stator voltage, stator current) to change existing settings in order to save electric energy. The results of experimental studies are presented, the graph shows an optimized version of the form of the regulatory characteristic according to the criterion of minimum electric energy consumption.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In modern conditions, the problem of energy saving during operation of asynchronous electric drives with variable load is becoming especially acute [1, 2]. To solve this problem, it is necessary to provide energy-efficient operation of an induction motor (IM) in the entire range of changes in the load moment. For this, it is necessary to determine such parameters of the motor at which it will develop the required moment with a minimum consumption of electric energy. For example, a number of studies in this area [3-6] show that when underloading due to a decrease in the amplitude of the supply voltage of the MI at a constant frequency, a minimum of losses can be obtained, i.e. provide energy-saving operation and reduce motor heating. The authors indicate that the mode of “minimum stator current” is close in energy indicators to the mode of minimum losses in the IM, not taking into account the value of the power factor.

The scientific team led by N. F. Ilyinsky (Moscow Power Engineering Institute) [7, 8] showed that due to the regulation of the amplitude of the supply voltage of constant frequency, when for technological reasons, for a significant part of the operating cycle, the load moment is 2 ... 3 times less than the rated It is possible to save up to 15% of energy consumed, reduce motor heating by 1.5 ... 2 times, increase power factor at low load by 30%. Therefore, by lowering the voltage across the stator windings to 0.7 U_n for the

half load mode or to 0.4 U_n for the idle mode, it is possible to ensure energy-efficient operation of the motor, and hence the whole electric drive. However, the experimental results and real practical recommendations were not presented by the authors.

As you know, electrical energy in the IM is transmitted by a magnetic field. The amplitude of the magnetic flux mainly depends on the amplitude of the voltage across the stator windings and is practically independent of the material and dimensions of the core. Thus, any mode of operation of the IM can be represented as nominal for some abstract motor of the corresponding power. For any nominal mode, the generalized energy efficiency parameter is the power factor, which is determined by the best ratio of current and voltage. The purpose of this work is to demonstrate by practical example that the maximum power factor is the most optimal criterion for ensuring energy-efficient operation of the IM in any mode. To achieve this goal, a mathematical model was created, preliminary calculations of the speed control loop of the IM with a thyristor voltage converter (TVC) were carried out, and the optimal control characteristic of the IM was theoretically built.

2. PROBLEM DEFINITION

In most cases, IM works in two modes: close to nominal, and close to idle (low load mode). The goal of this work is to create an inexpensive and easy-to-manage ASCS, as well as a linearized model of IM drive for determining feedback coefficients and stability studies. A suitable area of application of IM with a minimum of power consumption are the mechanisms working with variable load, in the "idling - rated load" mode. To solve this problem, in the case of small and medium-sized motors, it is necessary to create an easy-to-use, but accurate mathematical model "Proportional regulator-IM-load". The mathematical model is based on the static and dynamic characteristics of ASCS. The mathematical model of IM with TVC for the study of steady-state and transient processes is based on polynomial dependencies on the mode parameters [9-12]. The model is based on experimental data of IM of various powers. As an example of the implementation of such a system, a second-order system with feedbacks on the rotational frequency and stator current is presented. It was practically established that in such a system, with the calculated coefficients of the static speed controller and feedbacks, the stability is within the engineering requirements.

3. THEORETICAL RESEARCHES

The application of TVC is used to control the voltage at a constant frequency. In the study of proportional control systems with a predetermined control characteristic, that is, with a standard proportional voltage regulator, the main problem is to determine the functions of the reference signal, the transfer function of the TVC, and the operating parameters of IM.

The development and improvement of ASCS for the rotation of IM with TVC is expedient to be performed by calculation and experimentation. The mathematical description of ASCS can be very diverse. In calculating studies of IM transient processes, systems of linear differential equations describing the elements of ASCS are widely used. It should be noted that the characteristic transient processes are the processes of instantaneous increasing and decreasing of load. They differ insignificantly (8–10%) of the values of the rotation speed of the IM from its values in the steady state. In the study of such modes, the use of linear models of ASCS gives a fairly good agreement between the calculated and experimental data. A good result is a description of the characteristics of ASCS elements by polynomial dependencies based on experimental data [13-17]. A structural diagram that satisfactorily describes the transient processes in IM when it is fed from TVC is shown in Figure 1, where TCV - thyristor converter, SS - speed sensor, CS - current sensor, PPCC - pulse-phase control circuit.

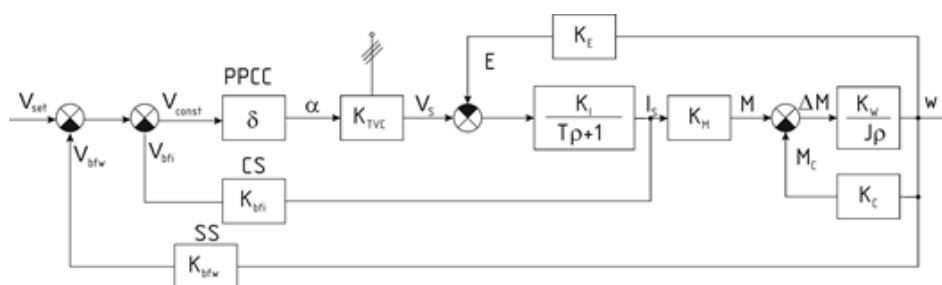


Figure 1. Block diagram of the ASCS IM

The moment of resistance of the consumer was described by the expression:

$$M_c = k_c \times n \quad (1)$$

where k_c is the proportionality factor of the consumer setting. An evaluation of the effect of reduced voltage on the dynamic parameters of IM was carried out using the developed mathematical model of ASCS IM. In the developed model the differential equations of the most significant elements of the ASCS are used in the following form [18]:

$$\begin{aligned} (T_{IM} \times p + 1) \times M &= k \times (w_0 - w), \\ M - M_c &= p \times w / J_s, \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where J_s is the total moment of inertia of the IM with the drive; T_{IM} - the electromagnetic time constant of IM; k is the rigidity modulus of the linearized mechanical characteristic; w_0 - synchronous rotational speed; w is the current rotational speed.

The first equation describes the linear mechanical characteristic of the IM in the working zone, where the slip s varies from 0 to s_{kp} . The second equation is a rigidly modified mechanical link.

Based on the experimental data, the following assumptions were made:

- The main functional dependencies were described by second-order polynomials;
- It is assumed that the valves are single-operation thyristors, in which only switching can be controlled. The thyristor is turned off instantly by software when the condition for the current drop that is currently flowing through the thyristor to zero is met;
- When calculating the thyristor is considered as an ideal valve, the switching time of which can be neglected ($t_p < 0.006 \text{sec}$).
- We also neglect the voltage drop on the open thyristor ($V < 1.5\%$ of the maximum switching voltage). Consequently, the TVC can be represented as an amplifying link;
- IM is an aperiodic link of the second order [18];
- The proposed quality criterion - power factor - is also written in the form of a second-order polynomial depending on the IM parameters and load.

The sensors of the mode parameters are described by algebraic equations:

$$V_{bfi} = k_{bfi} \times I_s, \quad V_{bfi} = k_{bfi} \times I_s \quad (3)$$

Without allowance for discreteness in signal extraction [2]. The role of the static speed controller is performed by the ASCS with a transmission factor δ (slope of the sawtooth), which is numerically equal to the reciprocal of the gain. The values of δ and, k_{bfi} , k_{bfi} are chosen by the results of analysis and synthesis, proceeding from the provision of specified dynamic properties of the circuit [15-19]. Differential equations describing the control loop for the frequency of rotation of the IM in the transient process (Middle - M_{nom} , M_{nom} - Middle) take the form:

$$\begin{aligned} (L_1/R_1) \times p J_s &= (V_{set} - k_{bfi} \times J_s - k_{bfi} \times w - k_e \times w) / R_1 \\ p \times w / J_s &= M - M_c, \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

where L_1 is the total inductance of the stator winding; R_1 - active resistance of the stator winding; V_{set} - speed reference signal; k_e - coefficient, taking into account the internal parasitic feedback on the frequency of rotation; J_s is the total moment of inertia of the IM and load. Since the system is a second-order system, two feedbacks are introduced to ensure stability: current and speed: k_{bfi} and k_{bfi} are the current and rotational feedback coefficients, respectively. Using the theory of modal control, studies were conducted on the stability of closed loop operation and the parameters $\delta = 1$, $k_{bfi} = 2$, $k_{bfi} = 1$ [20-25] were chosen. The purpose of ASCS is the optimal functioning of the controlled system in the presence of an external load, as a rule, random. The values of the parameters of IM and TVC entering the right-hand sides of the equations, in accordance with the recommendations of [19, 26, 27], were determined in the form of the above-mentioned functional dependences. The value of the reference signal according to the speed of rotation V_{set} is chosen according to the experimental characteristic, starting from the condition: minimum idle current and small loads (maximum power factor) while maintaining stable operation of the IM. Then the control signal will look like:

$$V_{cs} = V_{set} - V_{bfw} - V_{bfi} \tag{5}$$

The control signal V_{cs} is compared in ASCS with a sawtooth signal as shown in Figure 2. According to the test results, under certain assumptions TVC within the performance (Middle - M_{nom}) of IM, the operating range of the angle α of regulation of the Impulse-Phase Control System (IPCS) within 60–90 degrees. The voltage at the output of TVC as a function of α is defined as:

$$V_d = 160 - 1,067\alpha \tag{6}$$

The dependence $V_d(\alpha)$, (where $V_d = V_s$), constructed from the experimental data, is shown in Figure 3. The functional dependencies of the experimental data of the motor under investigation were described by polynomial second-order dependences. To determine the function of setting the signal $V_{set}(n)$ and the quality criterion—the power factor, linear dependences were constructed.

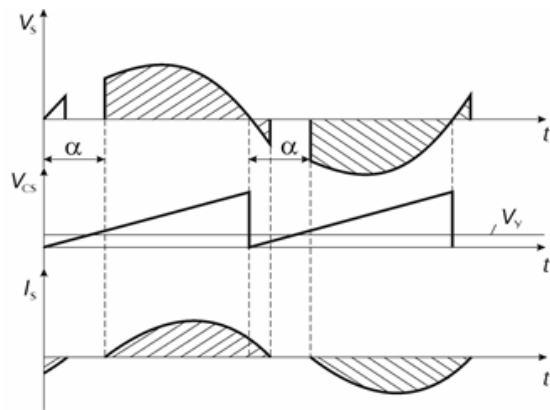


Figure 2. Timing diagrams of open loop operation

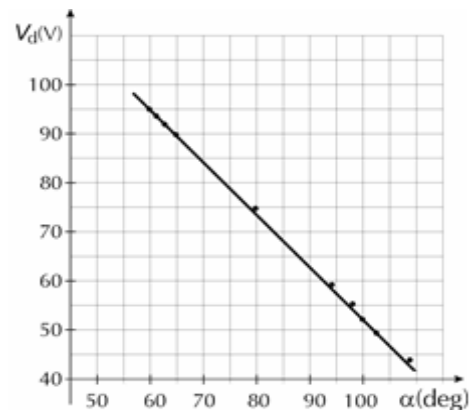


Figure 3. The voltage at the output of TVC depending on the angle of control of IPCS

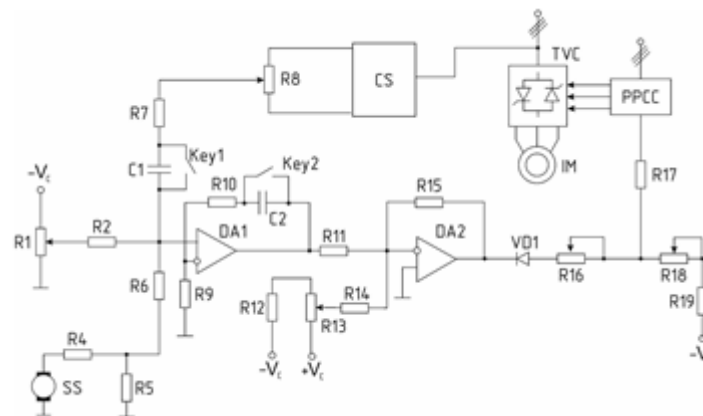


Figure 4. Diagram of the experimental setup

4. PRACTICAL RESEARCH

The experimental setup created in the training laboratory made it possible to build and analyze the static characteristics of the motor 4A80B6 in idle and low load modes. Static characteristics are given in Table 1, Figure 5: idle and low load modes for optimal settings are considered. I_s —stator phase current, $\cos\varphi$ —power factor, V_s —phase stator voltage, n —rotor speed, P_1 —power drawn from the supply network, P_2 —useful power, M —torque developed by the motor; α —thyristor control angle. The work of the motor under reduced voltage is stable.

An optimal control characteristic was obtained by the criterion of minimum current while maintaining effective power. On Figure 6: 1—is a natural electromechanical characteristic; 2—idle response

when changing the reference signal without driving the load on the shaft; characteristic 3—corresponds to the idle characteristic with a drive on the shaft; 4—corresponds to a characteristic with an motor load moment equal to 0.2 of the nominal; characteristic 5—corresponds to the moment of motor load equal to 0.4 of the nominal; characteristic 6—corresponds to the moment of motor load equal to 0.6 of the nominal; 7—corresponds to the moment of motor load equal to 0.8 of the nominal.

Table 1. Test 4A80B6: $P_{nom} = 1,1 \text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 920 \text{ min}^{-1}$, idling and low load modes with reduced voltage according to the criterion of the minimum stator current (maximum power factor)

M (Nm)	n (min^{-1})	V_s (V)	I_s (A)	a (grad)	$\cos\phi$	P_j (W)	P_2 (W)
0,15	975	44	0,52	108	0,65	23	15
0,55	970	49,8	0,7	102,5	0,78	71	56
0,75	967,5	51,1	0,8	101,2	0,78	97	76
0,8	965	52,5	0,88	100	0,77	105	81
1,25	960	55,2	1,03	97,5	0,78	161	126
1,41	957,5	56,6	1,13	96,25	0,77	184	142
1,58	955	58	1,18	95	0,77	204	157
1,88	950	58,5	1,3	94,5	0,76	245	187
2,0	947,5	58,8	1,38	94,25	0,75	264	199
2,23	945	59,1	1,45	94	0,74	268	221
2,39	942,5	66,3	1,5	87,5	0,75	315	236
2,55	940	74,5	1,55	80	0,75	293	252
2,83	935	90,3	1,68	65	0,74	331	278
3,18	930	92	1,83	63,33	0,72	428	310
3,53	925	93,6	1,95	61,67	0,72	478	342
3,9	920	95,3	2,1	60	0,70	535	376

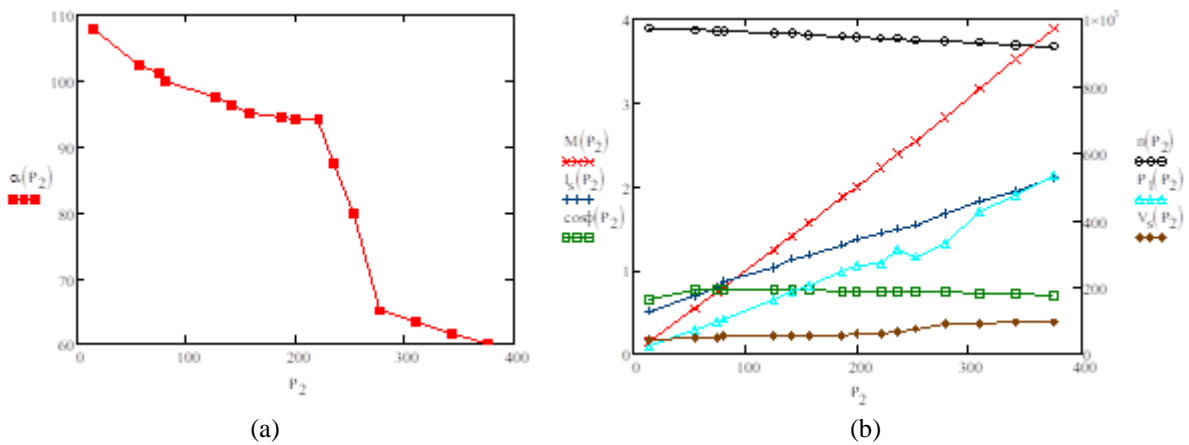


Figure 5. Test 4A80B6: $P_{nom} = 1,1 \text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 920 \text{ min}^{-1}$, idling and low load modes with reduced voltage according to the criterion of the minimum stator current (maximum power factor)
 a)–for $a(P_2)$ and b)–for $V_s, n, M, \cos\phi, P_j(P_2)$

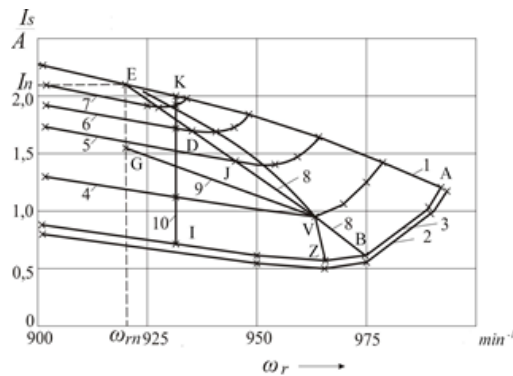


Figure 6. Electromechanical characteristics. IM 4A80B6: $P_{nom} = 1,1 \text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 920 \text{ min}^{-1}$

Analyzing the obtained characteristics, it can be noted that in each of them there is a minimum corresponding to the minimum value of the stator current (point B corresponds to idling; point V—to a load of 0.2 from nominal; point J—to a load of 0.4 from nominal; point D—to a load of 0.6 from nominal; Figure 7 shows a view of the recommended electromechanical characteristics of the suboptimal IM control system according to the criterion of the minimum stator current, where point E practically corresponds to the rated load of IM and point B is close to the optimal value for the idle. Starting from point V and with a further increase in load, an unstable mode of operation of the system is observed. Gradual increase in the current feedback signal (by adjusting the potentiometer R8) makes it possible to achieve stable operation, but at the same time, the amplification factor decreases, and the system continues to operate at characteristic 9 and enters the operation mode shown by point G. When a capacitor C1 is introduced into the feedback circuit (Key1 opens), only the alternating current feedback component is input to DA1 (Figure. 4). As shown by experimental data, the amplification factor of the system practically does not decrease. In this case, the ASCS at the initial operating mode corresponding to point B (Figure. 6), when the load increases, works on characteristic 8. By controlling the magnitude of the variable component of the current feedback, it is possible to achieve stable operation of the system in the entire range of characteristic 8 (on the segment B–E).

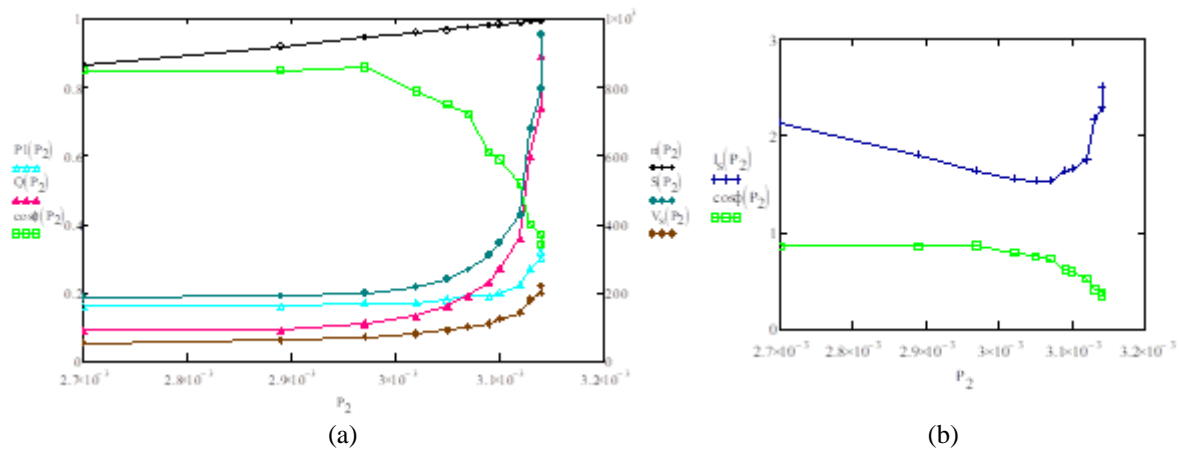


Figure 7. Test AOK2-51-6-T2: $P_{nom}=4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom}=955\text{ min}^{-1}$, idle
 a) –for V_s , Q , P_1 , n , $S(P_2)$ and b) –for I_s , $\cos\phi(P_2)$

When replacing a static regulator with an astatic one (when the Key2 key is opened), the speed reference signal is selected so that IM idling works in the mode shown by point I, which corresponds to a rotational speed $w_r = 931\text{ min}^{-1}$. With an increase in load, IM operating at characteristic 10, enters a mode close to the nominal (point K). The system works stably over the entire load range without introducing additional current feedback (potentiometer R8 is in the off position). The above theory and practical recommendations were tested in the training laboratory of electrical machines of SUSU on the motor AOK2-51-6-T2 (parameters: 220/380V, 16/10A, 4 kW, 955 min^{-1} , efficiency 82%, $\cos\phi = 0.78$). As a load, DC motor type 2PN160MUHL4 (parameters: 220V, 4.5kW, 24.2A, 1000/3000 min^{-1}) was used, mechanically connected to the IM and operating in the electromagnetic brake mode. The power supply was provided by a floor-mounted induction voltage regulator (IR) type IR 59/22-U3 (parameters: 160kVA, 380V, voltage regulation limits 0–380V, mains current 310A, load current 245A). The results of the tests are placed in Table 2, Figure 7 (AOK2-51-6-T2 test: $P_{nom} = 4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 955\text{ min}^{-1}$, idling mode), where V_s –is the voltage on the stator; I_s –is the stator current; P_1 –consumed active power; Q –reactive power consumption; $\cos\phi$ –is the power factor; n –is the rotation frequency; P_2 –useful power; S –is total power.

The rest results of the test are placed in Table 3 and Figure 8 (AOK2-51-6-T2 test: $P_{nom} = 4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 955\text{ min}^{-1}$, the mode of small loads when the conditions of the minimum stator current and maximum power factor are satisfied). From the graphs (Figure. 7b) it can be seen that at a minimum value of the stator current, while maintaining power, the power factor ($\cos\phi(P_2)$) varies within small limits and is approximately equal to the nominal (corresponding to the rated load). The optimized stator current linearly depends on the effective power.

Table 2. Test AOK2-51-6-T2: $P_{nom}=4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom}=955\text{ min}^{-1}$, idle.

V_s (V)	I_s (A)	P_r (kW)	Q (kVar)	$\cos\phi$	n (min^{-1})	P_2 (W)	S (VA)
219	2,5	0,32	0,89	0,34	996	3,14	951
200	2,29	0,30	0,74	0,37	995	3,14	795
180	2,17	0,27	0,60	0,40	994	3,13	677
141	1,75	0,22	0,36	0,52	989	3,12	427
121	1,65	0,20	0,27	0,59	985	3,10	345
110	1,63	0,19	0,23	0,61	981	3,09	311
100	1,53	0,19	0,19	0,72	975	3,07	265
91	1,53	0,18	0,16	0,75	969	3,05	240
80	1,55	0,17	0,13	0,79	959	3,02	215
70	1,63	0,17	0,11	0,86	944	2,97	198
60	1,8	0,16	0,09	0,85	919	2,89	188
51	2,13	0,16	0,09	0,85	866	2,70	187

Table 3. Test AOK2-51-6-T2 test: $P_{nom} = 4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 955\text{ min}^{-1}$, the mode of small loads when the conditions of the minimum stator current and maximum power factor are satisfied

V_s (V)	I_s (A)	M (Nm)	n (min^{-1})	Q (kVar)	P_2 (W)	$\cos\phi$
95,3	1,54	0,01	970	0,175	0,196	0,77
94,7	1,80	0,11	973	0,18	0,24	0,813
94,3	1,92	2,0	955	0,18	0,26	0,83
93,6	2,21	3,32	942	0,19	0,30	0,84
93,0	2,42	4,22	931	0,20	0,34	0,87
92,5	2,82	6,06	914	0,21	0,39	0,86
92,0	2,95	8,17	906	0,22	0,41	0,87

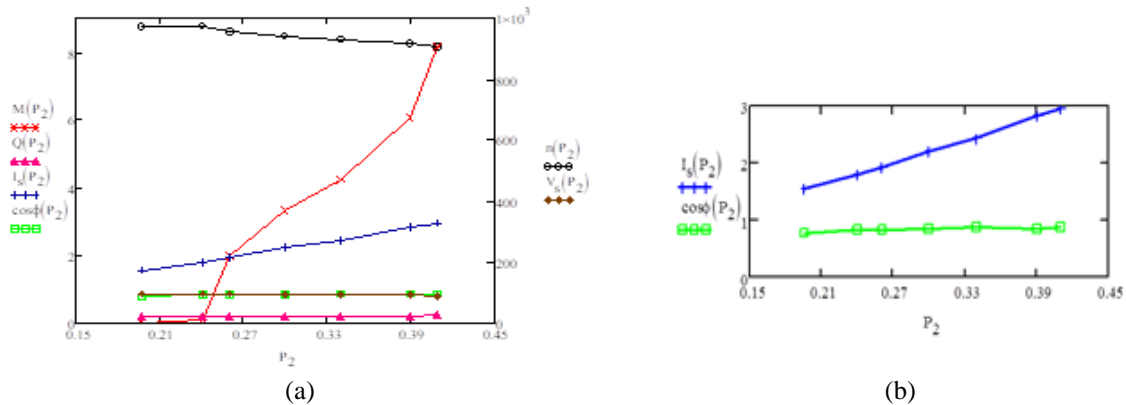


Figure 8. Test AOK2-51-6-T2 test: $P_{nom} = 4\text{ kW}$, $n_{nom} = 955\text{ min}^{-1}$, the mode of small loads when the conditions of the minimum stator current and maximum power factor are satisfied a)–for $M, Q, I_s, \cos\phi, n, V_s(P_2)$ and b)–for $I_s, \cos\phi(P_2)$

5. POLYNOMIAL DEPENDENCES OF THE MAIN PARAMETERS OF IM

To determine the coefficients of polynomials approximating a given array of source points, an approximating program was written in FORTRAN. The acceptable accuracy of the polynomial description of given arrays of input data was achieved by checking the results of calculations at control points [28, 29-34]. Polynomial dependence of the second degree for the torque M on the speed of the motor shaft n, the voltage of the thyristor power source Vs, the current consumed from the power source Is, the angle of control of the IPCS a:

$$M(n, V_s, I_s, a) = 55,719n - 322,205V_s + 1040,842I_s - 376,986a - 0,008n \times V_s - 1,435n \times I_s + 0,010n \times a + 1,965V_s \times I_s + 2,229V_s \times a + 2,694I_s \times a - 0,029n \times n + 0,999V_s \times V_s - 16,147I_s \times I_s + 1,241a \times a$$

To solve the direct and inverse control problems, the parameters of linear dependencies were determined [16]:

$$M(n, V_s, I_s, a) = -0,0161n + 0,0964V_s + 1,6638I_s + 0,0988a,$$

The polynomial dependence of the power factor on the same parameters will be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} \cos\varphi(n, V_s, I_s, a) = & 20,479n - 119,793V_s + 431,381I_s - 137,940a + 0,012n \times V_s - \\ & - 0,638n \times I_s + 0,019n \times a + 1,122V_s \times I_s + 0,727V_s \times a + 1,401I_s \times a - 0,012n \times a + \\ & + 0,329V_s \times V_s - 8,571I_s \times I_s + 0,401a \times a, \end{aligned}$$

The linear approximation takes the form:

$$\cos\varphi(n, V_s, I_s, a) = 0,011n - 0,061V_s + 0,385I_s - 0,065a,$$

The voltage on the stator winding with stable motor operation and with minimum stator current and optimum power factor will be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} V_s(n, M, I_s, a) = & 0,704n + 3278,201M - 7056,682I_s + 29,971a - 0,001n \times n - \\ & - 68,340M \times M - 106,666I_s \times I_s - 0,0003a \times a - 3,417n \times M + 7,344n \times I_s - \\ & - 0,032n \times a + 197,015M \times I_s - 0,355M \times a - 0,174I_s \times a, \end{aligned}$$

The linear approximation takes the form:

$$V_s(n, M, I_s, a) = 0,163n + 1,9622M + 1,1727I_s - 1,0749a,$$

The current consumed from the power network for the optimum power factor will be written as:

$$\begin{aligned} I_s(n, M, V_s, a) = & -30,681n - 435,947M + 181,552V_s + 205,114a + 0,016n \times n + 3,267M \times M - \\ & - 0,554V_s \times V_s - 0,6561a \times a + 0,465n \times M - 0,0030n \times V_s - 0,011n \times a - 0,042M \times V_s - \\ & - 0,163M \times a - 1,206V_s \times a, \end{aligned}$$

The linear approximation takes the form:

$$I_s(n, M, V_s, a) = -0,0021n + 0,4147M + 0,0144V_s + 0,0177a,$$

6. CONCLUSIONS

An experimental installation was created in the laboratory of electrical engineering of SUSU and a practical version of the suboptimal IM control system was implemented according to the criterion of the minimum stator current using the example of a three-phase IM type 4A80B6. Experimental studies of the system with a static regulator have shown that it is possible to reduce the stator current of IM by 43% at $M_c = 0$; 33% with $M_c = 0.2 M_{nom}$; 20% at $M_c = 0.4 M_{nom}$; 9% at $M_c = 0.6 M_{nom}$; 4% at $M_c = 0.8 M_{nom}$ in comparison with work of an IM at the same values of the moments of loading on a natural characteristic.

A practical version was developed and a mathematical model of the suboptimal control system for IM by the criteria of the minimum stator current and the maximum power factor, operating with a constant speed reference signal with a static regulator. As IM voltage converter, TVC and IR were used. The speed reference was selected based on the condition that the stator current IM in the idle is minimized and the modes of low loads (or close to them) are satisfied [2]. The dependence of the voltage signal of the job on the main operating parameters is constructed.

The static speed controller in the experimental setup provides for load moments less than the nominal work of IM on the control characteristic, which approximates the optimal curve [2]. The evaluation of the influence of the regulating characteristic on the main parameters of IM is described by polynomials of the second and first degrees. Studies of the suboptimal control system of IM of type 4A80B6 according to the criterion of minimum stator current with an astatic regulator showed that if at the load moments $M_c = 0.8 M_{nom}$ and $M_c = 0$, the stator currents of IM when working with the astatic and static regulators practically coincide, then for $M_c = 0.6 M_{nom}$ the stator current of IM, controlled from the suboptimal system with the astatic regulator by 4%, at $M_c = 0.4 M_{nom}$ —by 10%, at $M_c = 0.2 M_{nom}$ —by 14% more than with the static regulator. As a result of the study of the nature of the electromechanical characteristics (dependence I_s — n) of the operation of IM, controlled from TVC or IR, it was found that each point of the optimal curve corresponding to the minimum values of the stator current and the maximum of the power factor, at constant load moments, ranging from nominal to idle. Consequently, the linearized optimal control characteristic allows the use of a standard TVC as a static regulator [2, 26].

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