

Modified multistep model predictive control for three-phase induction motor drive system considering the common-mode voltage minimization

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ABSTRACT

It is acknowledged that the common-mode voltage may have detrimental effects on an induction motor (IM) drive system if not properly addressed. Therefore, in this paper, a modified multistep model predictive control method for IM drive system considering the common-mode voltage minimization is proposed. This research uses a multi-objective cost function, before applying the Sphere Decoding Algorithm to find the optimal control input. The results show that the proposed control method not only reduces the common-mode voltage significantly but also mitigates the computational burden of the microprocessor without affecting the system performance. The proposed control method is simulated by MATLAB/Simulink for an IM drive system with an 11-level cascaded H-bridge inverter.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Recently, multilevel inverters (MLI) are widely used in high-power industrial applications because of these advantages: low output voltage distortion, reducing the voltage level on semiconductor devices and lowering the du/dt changing speed [1]. Especially, in comparison with other MLI topologies such as neutral-point clamped [2], flying capacitors [3], multi-modular converters (MMC), the cascaded h-bridge (CHB) [4]-[6] has emerged as a prominent one for driving IM system due to its high degree of modularity, allowing upgrade and replacement easily. Furthermore, for the applications of induction motor drives, the connection of CHB-MLI with multi-phase rectifier transformer ensures the current drawn from the grid have a sinusoidal waveform, decreases the total harmonic distortion injected into the grid.

On the other hand, a considerable drawback of CHB-MLI that produces the common-mode voltage (CMV) between the neutral points of the load and the converter [7], which can be calculated by (1) and illustrated by Figure 1. Due to this CMV, high-frequency electromagnetic interference (EMI) is introduced, causing problems regarding measurement and system monitoring [8]. Furthermore, in IM driving system, the CMV generates the common-mode current making detrimental effects on the motor's productivity and endurance [9]. There have been many undergoing researches to minimize the CMV, for instance the addition of the EMI active or passive filter [10], [11]. However, this hardware solution can lead to an increase in the

size and cost of the system. Therefore, mitigation of CMV based on control method approaches like SVM [12], [13], MPC [14], [15] is preferred.

$$v_{ZN} = v_{CMV} = \frac{1}{3}(v_{AN} + v_{BN} + v_{CN}) \quad (1)$$

Among these control methods, multistep MPC has significant benefits since it takes the switching nature of the power converter. It is also shown that multistep MPC can improve the steady-state performance of the system better than single-step MPC [16]–[20]. However, in [21] multistep model predictive control (MPC) with CMV minimization target applies to RL load as the case study only. Regarding IM driving system case study, in [22], the multistep MPC controller does not consider CMV minimization target since it is designed toward optimizing the switching effort.

Therefore, this paper proposes a modified multistep MPC compared to [22]. To account for CMV, an additional term that penalizes the CMV is added to the cost function before using the SDA algorithm to solve the optimization problem. As evidence from the simulation results, this approach also cuts down the computational burden, confirms the feasibility of this proposal in practical adoption.

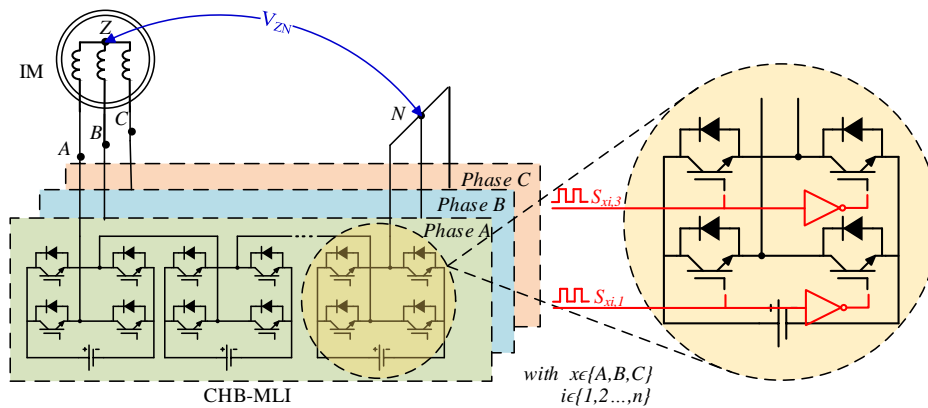


Figure 1. IM drive system with CHB-MLI.

2. MULTISTEP MODEL PREDICTIVE CONTROL METHOD

In general, the proposed control method for IM drive system follows the field oriented controller (FOC) approach, as depicted in Figure 2 [23]–[25]. There are two major control loops. The classical PI controller takes care of the outer speed and flux control loop, whereas the inner current loop is controlled by the multistep MPC. Notice that two different weighting factors which account for CMV minimization and reduce switching effort are applied to the cost function.

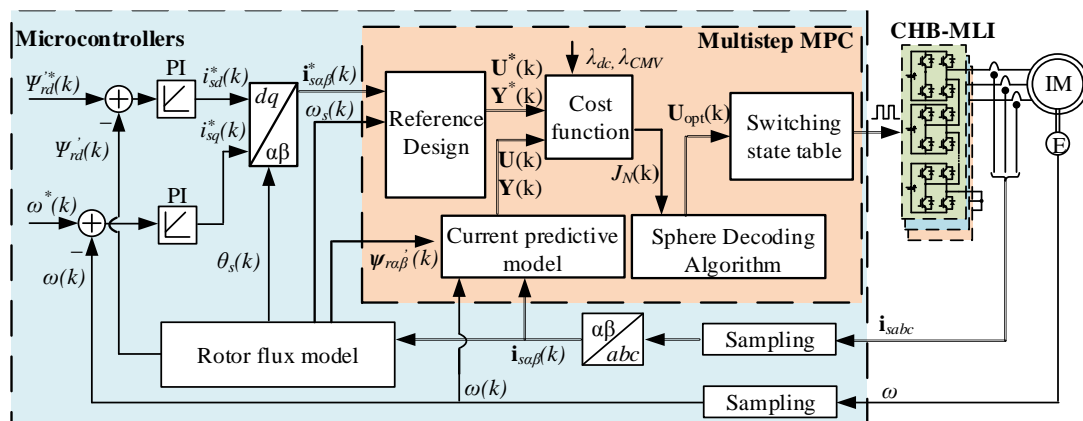


Figure 2. The control scheme for induction motor with inner multistep MPC current control loop

2.1. Current predictive model

First, the physical model of the IM drive system is formulated as differential equations, representing the relationship between system parameters. After that, a state-space representation of the system can be obtained. The state-space representation of the continuous-time prediction model of the IM drive system powered by a CHB-MLI can be written as (2):

$$\begin{cases} dx(t) = A'(t).x(t) + B'u(t) \\ y(t+1) = C.x(t+1) \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

With

$$A'(t) = \begin{bmatrix} -\left(\frac{1}{\sigma T_s} + \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r}\right) & 0 & \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r} & \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma} \omega(t) \\ 0 & -\left(\frac{1}{\sigma T_s} + \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r}\right) & -\frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma} \omega(t) & \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r} \\ \frac{1}{T_r} & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_r} & -\omega(t) \\ 0 & \frac{1}{T_r} & \omega(t) & -\frac{1}{T_r} \end{bmatrix};$$

$$B' = \frac{V_{dc}}{3\sigma L_s} \begin{bmatrix} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ 0 & \sqrt{3} & -\sqrt{3} \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix};$$

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

Where the state vector $x = [i_{s\alpha} \ i_{s\beta} \ \psi'_{r\alpha} \ \psi'_{r\beta}]^T \in \square^4$, the control input vector $u = S = [S_A \ S_B \ S_C]^T \in \mathbb{U}$ (the set \mathbb{U} is the set of voltage level combinations in three phase), output vector $y = i_{s\alpha\beta} = [i_{s\alpha} \ i_{s\beta}]^T \in \square^2$, notice that $A'(t)$ is a time-variant matrix because it consists of time-variant variables $\omega(t)$. Specifically, $i_{s\alpha}, i_{s\beta}, \psi'_{r\alpha}, \psi'_{r\beta}$ stand for stator currents and rotor flux linkages in the stationary $\alpha\beta$ -framework. System parameters σ, T_s, T_r and ω are defined as total leakage factor, stator time constant, rotor time constant and rotor speed respectively. After applying the Forward-Euler discretization with a sampling period of T , the discrete-time prediction model can be expressed as (3).

$$\begin{cases} x(k+1) = A.x(k) + Bu(k) \\ y(k+1) = C.x(k+1) \end{cases} \text{ with } \begin{cases} A = I_4 + T.A' \in \square^{4 \times 4} \\ B = T.B' \in \square^{4 \times 3} \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

Based on the prediction model in (4), the control input and output sequence over the prediction horizon $N > 1$ can be constructed as (5) with relationships in (6).

$$U(k) = [(u(k))^T \ (u(k+1))^T \ \dots \ (u(k+N-1))^T]^T \in \mathbb{U}^N \quad (4)$$

$$Y(k) = [(y(k+1))^T \ (y(k+2))^T \ \dots \ (y(k+N))^T]^T \in \square^{2N} \quad (5)$$

$$Y(k) = \Gamma x(k) + \Upsilon U(k) \text{ Where } \Gamma = \begin{bmatrix} CA \\ CA^2 \\ \vdots \\ CA^N \end{bmatrix}, \Upsilon = \begin{bmatrix} CB & 0 & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ CAB & CB & \dots & 0 & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots & \vdots \\ CA^{N-1}B & CA^{N-2}B & \dots & CAB & CB \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

2.2. Reference design

Because the stator current and rotor flux signals are slower than electrical ones, so that over the finite prediction horizon N , these parameters are assumed to be constant. The output reference sequence for the current controller is denoted by (7).

$$Y^*(k) = [(y^*(k+1))^T \ (y^*(k+2))^T \ \dots \ (y^*(k+N))^T]^T \in \square^{2N} \quad (7)$$

Where $\mathbf{y}^*(\ell) = \left[\sqrt{i_{s\alpha}^2(k) + i_{s\beta}^2(k)} \cdot \sin(\omega_s \ell T + \varphi_0) \quad \sqrt{i_{s\alpha}^2(k) + i_{s\beta}^2(k)} \cdot \sin(\omega_s \ell T + \varphi_0 + \frac{\pi}{2}) \right]^T$ $\ell \in \{k+1; \dots; k+N\}$, $\varphi_0 = \arctan(\frac{i_{s\beta}(k)}{i_{s\alpha}(k)})$ is the initial angle between $i_{s\alpha}$ and $i_{s\beta}$.

The control input reference sequence (8) is designed while considering a null CMV ($v_{CMV} = 0$).

$$\mathbf{U}^*(k) = [\mathbf{u}^*(k))^T \quad (\mathbf{u}^*(k+1))^T \quad \dots \quad (\mathbf{u}^*(k+N-1))^T]^T \quad (8)$$

$$\text{Where } \mathbf{u}^*(\ell) = \frac{\sigma L_s}{v_{dc}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ -1 & \sqrt{3} \\ 2 & 2 \\ 3 & -\sqrt{3} \\ 2 & 2 \end{bmatrix} \cdot \left(\frac{di_{s\alpha\beta}^*(\ell)}{dt} + \left(\frac{1}{\sigma T_s} + \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r} \right) \mathbf{i}_{s\alpha\beta}^*(\ell) - \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r} & \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma} \omega \\ -\frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma} \omega & \frac{1-\sigma}{\sigma T_r} \end{bmatrix} \boldsymbol{\psi}_{r\alpha\beta}'(k) \right)$$

2.3. Cost function

To achieve the desired CMV minimization target, the cost function (9) is modified match up to [22]. In addition to output reference tracking, the proposed method which is designed to minimize the CMV also tracks the input references.

$$J_N(k) = \sum_{\ell=k}^{k+N-1} (\|\mathbf{y}(\ell+1) - \mathbf{y}^*(\ell+1)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{dc} \|\Delta \mathbf{u}(\ell)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{CMV} \|\mathbf{u}(\ell) - \mathbf{u}^*(\ell)\|_2^2) \quad (9)$$

In (9), $\mathbf{u}(\ell)$ is the candidate control-input that generates the output current prediction $\mathbf{y}(\ell+1) = \mathbf{i}_{\alpha\beta}(\ell+1)$; $\Delta \mathbf{u}(\ell) = \mathbf{u}(\ell) - \mathbf{u}(\ell-1)$; λ_{dc} is the weighting factor for lessening switching effort, λ_{CMV} is the weighting factor for CMV minimization. Representation of (9) in matrix form can be written as (10):

$$J_N(k) = \|\mathbf{Y}(k) - \mathbf{Y}^*(k)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{dc} \|\mathbf{S}\mathbf{U}(k) - \mathbf{E}\mathbf{u}(k-1)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{CMV} \|\mathbf{U}(k) - \mathbf{U}^*(k)\|_2^2 \quad (10)$$

$$\text{Where } \mathbf{S} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_3 & \mathbf{0}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{0}_3 \\ -\mathbf{I}_3 & \mathbf{I}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{0}_3 \\ \mathbf{0}_3 & -\mathbf{I}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{0}_3 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \mathbf{0}_3 \\ \mathbf{0}_3 & \mathbf{0}_3 & \dots & \mathbf{I}_3 \end{bmatrix}_{[3N \times 3N]}, \quad \mathbf{E} = \begin{bmatrix} \mathbf{I}_3 \\ \mathbf{0}_3 \\ \vdots \\ \mathbf{0}_3 \end{bmatrix}_{[3N \times 3]}$$

2.4. Sphere decoding algorithm (SDA)

In this job, the SDA is adopted to solve the modified optimization problem, to obtain the input sequence $\mathbf{U}(k) = \mathbf{U}_{opt}(k)$ that minimizes the cost function $J_N(k)$ in detail. The computational process will be presented concisely. Further detail about the SDA can be found in [18], [19]. By using (5), the cost function (10) becomes:

$$J_N(k) = \mathbf{U}(k)^T \mathbf{W} \mathbf{U}(k) + 2\mathbf{F}(k)^T \mathbf{U}(k) + \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(k) \quad (11)$$

Where

$$\begin{aligned} \mathbf{W} &= \gamma^T \gamma + \lambda_{dc} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{S} + \lambda_{CMV} \mathbf{I}_{3N} \\ \mathbf{F}(k) &= \gamma^T \Gamma \mathbf{x}(k) - \gamma^T \mathbf{Y}^*(k) - \lambda_{dc} \mathbf{S}^T \mathbf{E} \mathbf{u}(k-1) - \lambda_{CMV} \mathbf{U}^*(k) \\ \boldsymbol{\varepsilon}(k) &= [\|\Gamma \mathbf{x}(k) - \mathbf{Y}^*(k)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{dc} \|\mathbf{E} \mathbf{u}(k-1)\|_2^2 + \lambda_{CMV} \|\mathbf{U}^*(k)\|_2^2] \end{aligned}$$

By solving $\frac{\partial J_N}{\partial \mathbf{U}} = 0$, the optimal solution \mathbf{U}_{uc} is yielded in (12), which does not necessary belong to the finite control-input set \mathbf{U} .

$$\mathbf{U}_{uc} = -\mathbf{W}^{-1} \mathbf{F}(k) \quad (12)$$

Because \mathbf{W} is a symmetric and positive definite matrix for $\lambda_{dc}, \lambda_{CMV} > 0$, there exists only one unique invertible lower triangular matrix \mathbf{H} , which can be obtained by performing the Cholesky decomposition to \mathbf{W}^{-1} : $\mathbf{W}^{-1} = \mathbf{H}^{-1} \mathbf{H}^{-T}$. Hence, the matrix \mathbf{H} will satisfy the equation: $\mathbf{W} = \mathbf{H}^T \mathbf{H}$. Consequently, the cost function (11) can be rewritten as (13). Figure 3 illustrates the graphical representation of a MPC problem in two-dimensional space. To simplify, control input vectors referring to the same ellipse will have the same cost value. By transforming the cost function (11) into (13), the original ellipses are transformed into circles. This procedure plays an important role in SDA.

$$J_N(k) = \|\mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}(k) - \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{uc}(k)\|_2^2 \text{ where } \bar{\mathbf{U}}_{uc}(k) = \mathbf{H}\mathbf{U}_{uc}(k) \quad (13)$$

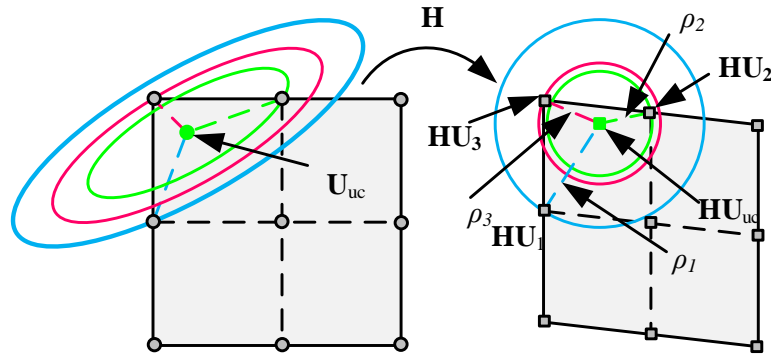


Figure 3. Representation of the meaning of the matrix H

The optimal control input for prediction horizon N can be presented as (14):

$$\mathbf{U}_{opt}(k) = [\mathbf{u}_{abc}(k) \quad \mathbf{u}_{abc}(k+1) \quad \dots \quad \mathbf{u}_{abc}(k+N-1)]^T \quad (14)$$

Now, reconstruct (14) into a sequence (element by element) as (15):

$$\mathbf{U}_{opt} = [u_1 \quad u_2 \quad \dots \quad u_{3N}]^T \text{ với } i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 3N\} \quad (15)$$

Figure 4 depicts the evaluation process of each element u_i , so-called a node, of the control input sequence \mathbf{U} in (15). Figure 5 illustrates the flow diagram of SDA. First, an initial sphere S_{ini} is defined with an initial center $\bar{\mathbf{U}}_{uc}(k)$ calculated by (16) and a selective initial radius p_{ini} . This initial sphere S_{ini} should be small enough to contain at least one solution $\mathbf{U}(k)$. Then during the evaluation process, the size of the sphere is decreased until there is only one solution contained in it, and that is the optimal control input sequence. Each time a node is visited, the radius p_i is calculated by (17) before evaluating the condition (18). If p_i violates condition (18), the node u_i will be discarded and its following nodes (from u_{i+1} to u_{3N}) will be discarded without performing any computation to avoid unnecessary computation. The control input having the smallest radius will be the optimal solution $\mathbf{U}(k) = \mathbf{U}_{opt}(k)$.

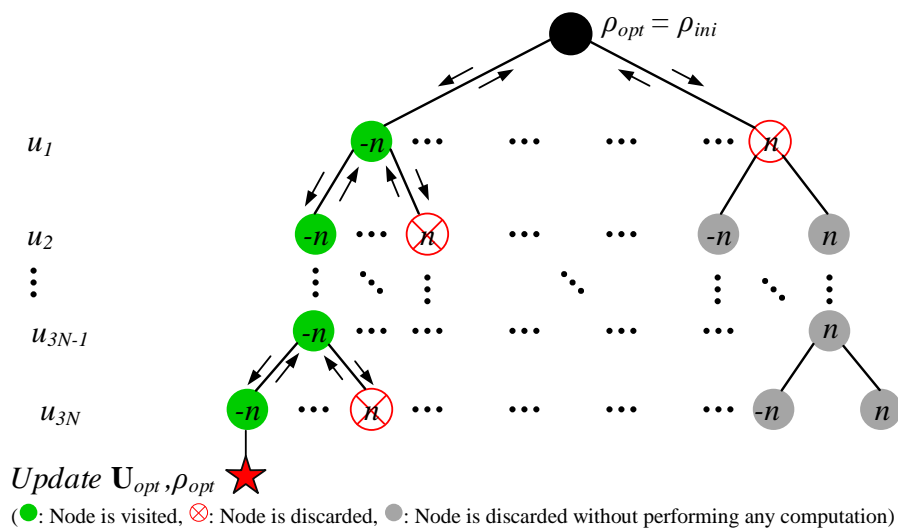


Figure 4. A tree-diagram of the control input sequence

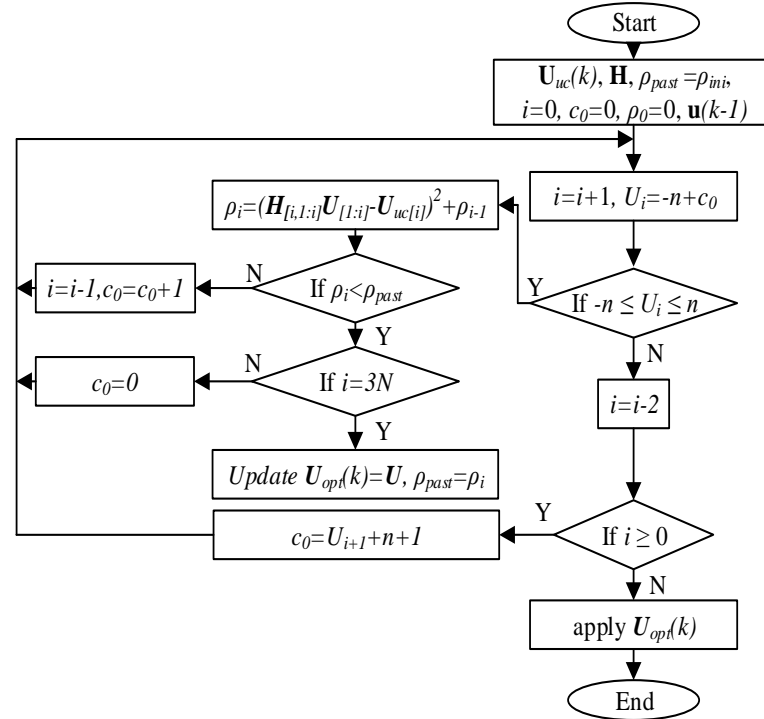


Figure 5. SDA flow diagram [20]

$$\bar{U}_{uc}(k) = H(-W^{-1})F(k) \quad (16)$$

$$\rho_i^2 = || \underbrace{[h_{i1} \dots h_{ii}]}_{H[i,1:i]} \underbrace{[u_1 \dots u_i]}_{U_{opt}[1:i]} - \underbrace{\bar{u}_{uc,i}}_{\bar{U}_{uc}[i]} ||_2^2 + \rho_{i-1}^2 \quad (17)$$

$$\text{Condition: } \rho_i^2 \leq \rho_{opt}^2 \quad (18)$$

2.5. Switching state table

When the optimal solution $U(k)$ is obtained, only the first element $u_{abc}(k)$ is employed to find the switching states for the inverter. Notice that $u_{abc}(k)$ is the phase voltage levels. Table 1 shows the switching states selection strategy clearly. In Table 1, variable represent the phases, the index notation denotes the position-number of a H-bridge in phase, is the voltage level of phase, is the voltage level of the H-bridge in phase, are the switching states of valve 1 and 3 of the H-bridge in phase. Figure 1 illustrates this switching state selection strategy.

Table 1. Switching state selection strategy

S_x	$S_{xi}(S_{xi,1}; S_{xi,3})$				
	$S_{x1}(S_{x1,1}; S_{x1,3})$	$S_{x2}(S_{x2,1}; S_{x2,3})$	$S_{x3}(S_{x3,1}; S_{x3,3})$	$S_{x4}(S_{x4,1}; S_{x4,3})$	$S_{x5}(S_{x5,1}; S_{x5,3})$
+5	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)
+4	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	0(0;0)
+3	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)
+2	1(1;0)	1(1;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)
+1	1(1;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)
0	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)
-1	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	-1(0;1)
-2	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)
-3	0(0;0)	0(0;0)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)
-4	0(0;0)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)
-5	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)	-1(0;1)

3. SIMULATION RESULTS

The proposed control scheme is simulated by MATLAB/Simulink for IM drive system with an 11-level CHB, DC voltage supply per CHB $V_{dc} = 600V$ and the prediction horizon $N=3$. The IM drive system parameters and the simulation scenarios are shown in Tables 2 and 3 respectively. To definitely demonstrate the benefits of the proposed control method in company with [22], the CMV weighting factors are applied to the cost function from 1,35s to 1,45s. The sampling period $T = 50\mu s$.

Table 2. IM drive system parameters

Nominal Power	P_{dm}	1119 KW
Nominal Electromagnetic Torque	M_{dm}	6906 Nm
Nominal Current	I_{dm}	234.18 A
Nominal Voltage	U_{dm}	3.3 kV
Nominal Speed	ω_{dm}	1470 rpm

Table 3. Simulation scenarios

Time	0-0.5 [s]	0.5-1 [s]	1-1.25 [s]	1.25-1.35 [s]	1.35-1.45 [s]
Reference speed	Magnetization $\omega_{ref} = 0$	Gradually increase speed $\omega_{ref} = 1470rpm$	Speed Stabilization $\omega_{ref} = 1470rpm$		
Weighting Factors		$\lambda_{dc} \approx 0; \lambda_{CMV} \approx 0$	$\lambda_{CMV} \approx 0; \lambda_{dc} = 4$ $\lambda_{CMV} = 4; \lambda_{dc} = 4$		

It is presented in Figure 6 that the rotor flux, the rotor speed, and the electromagnetic torque are smoothly ramped-up and quickly reach their reference values. Figure 7 illustrates the stator current and the CMV at the steady-state. The effectiveness of the proposed control method is clearly demonstrated when the CMV weighting factor is applied in the period of (1.35-1.45) [s]. Especially in (1.15-1.25) [s] and (1.25-1.35) [s], the CMV is registered at 1800V ($3V_{dc}$), while in (1.35-1.45) [s], the CMV is drastically reduced to 200V ($\frac{1}{3} \cdot V_{dc}$). Moreover, Table 4 depicts the number of evaluated nodes during the SDA optimization process.

It can be seen that this number is significantly decreased from 144,969 nodes to 88,396 nodes, indicates the reduction of the computational burden evidently. However, these benefits are traded for a small increase of THD and switching effort, specifically from 0.58% to 0.61% for THD and from 2.43 to 2.78 times per cycle for switching effort. Finally, Figure 8 shows that the stator current in $\alpha\beta$ -framework is attained its reference for all simulation scenarios with the error below 5%. Hence, the additional CMV minimization target does not affect the system performance.

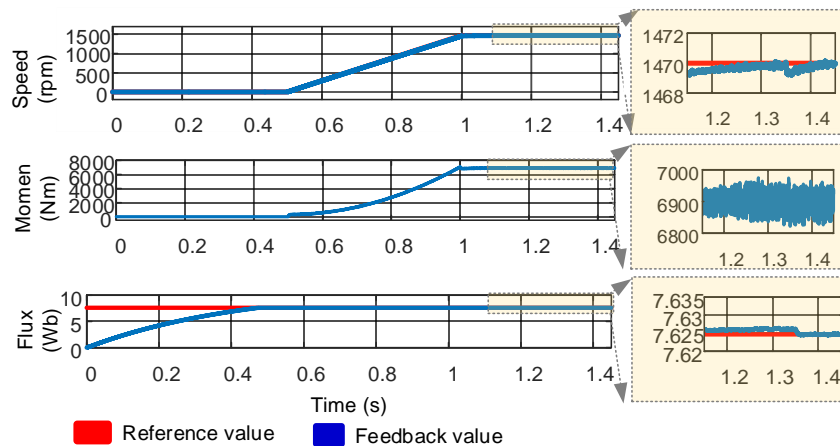


Figure 6. Graphs of motor speed, torque and motor flux

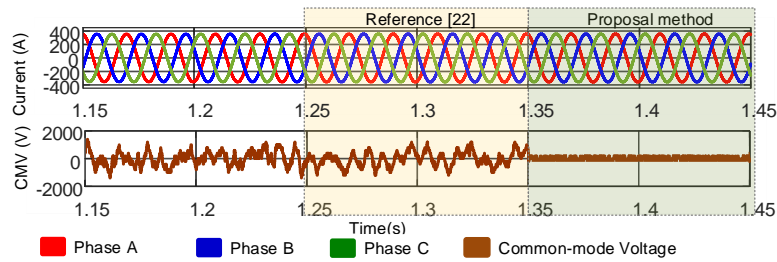


Figure 7. Graphs of stator currents and common-mode voltage

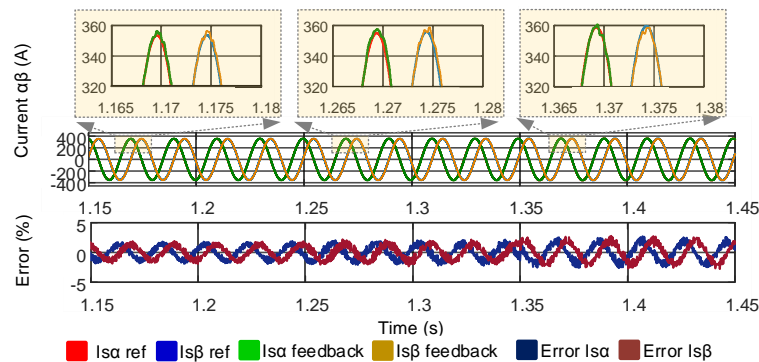
Figure 8. Graph of stator current and error value in the $\alpha\beta$ - framework

Table 4. Results about THD, switching effort, and number of evaluated nodes

Time	1.15-1.25 [s]	1.25-1.35 [s] (Reference [22])	1.35-1.45 [s] (Proposal)
THD	0.46%	0.58%	0.61%
Switching Effort	3.26 (times/ cycle)	2.43 (times/ cycle)	2.78 (times/ cycle)
Number of evaluated nodes	314336 (nodes)	144969 (nodes)	88396 (nodes)

4. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes a modified multistep MPC for IM drive system with a CHB-MLI. This proposed method achieves two main contributions: firstly, the reduction of CMV while retaining the current quality and switching effort at the desired range. Secondly, the required execution time for microcontrollers is decreased. Based on this potentiality, future research work will be focused on improving the controller performance in advance for practical implementation.

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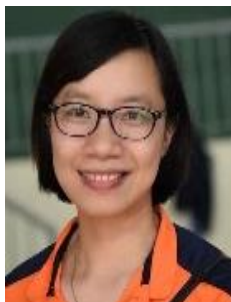
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