Comparison between flux estimation methods for direct torque controlled permanent magnet synchronous motors

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Article Info	ABSTRACT				
Article history:	Nowadays, direct torque control (DTC) of AC drives is one of the most interesting fast dynamic response motor control techniques. Permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSM) are now replacing induction motors (IM) in a wide range of applications because of their salient merits such as high efficiency and compactness. Combining DTC and PMSM in one drive may result in excellent performance not only for torque dynamics but also for efficiency. DTC relies on the estimation of the stator flux and torque to be compared with the set points of the torque and flux. In the literature, there are various flux estimation methods and each one has its own merits and demerits. Comparisons of these various methods are discussed in this paper showing their effect on the drive performance through MATLAB/Simulink simulations.				
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1. INTRODUCTION

Direct torque control (DTC) of AC drives may be considered as one of the most interesting fast performance control methods nowadays. Permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSM) are now replacing induction motors (IM) in many applications because of their valuable characteristics especially compactness and high efficiency. The inclusion of DTC and PMSM in one drive system may result in high dynamic response [1].

DTC offers high dynamic torque and flux with simple controller that uses two hysteresis controllers and a switching table to select the most suitable voltage vector to meet the torque and flux requirements. No machine parameter dependences, no voltage modulation techniques, no axes transformation needed, and no current controllers are the advantages of DTC over FOC. Although, DTC gives excellent dynamic responses for both torque and flux, the ripple content is high [2], [3].

For high performance drives, field-oriented control (FOC) or direct torque control (DTC) may be utilized. Based on [4] and [5], comparing FOC and DTC it is concluded that DTC provides a simple control drive with a better dynamic response than FOC as in DTC, no motor parameters dependence, no position sensors, no current control loops, no need for reference frame transformation, and voltage modulation is not required. DTC has hysteresis controllers with switching look up table. DTC gives separated control for torque as well as flux. It chooses the most suitable inverter voltage vector from a pre-designed look up table which would result in fast torque response. The selection is conducted to limit the flux and torque errors within their hysteresis bands. The DTC has the demerits of high torque and flux ripples, variable inverter switching frequency, and bad performance at low speeds [4], [5]. Moreover, many researches have been conducted to

solve DTC problems. Some studies have been made that neither use switching table nor hysteresis controllers but they calculate the voltage vector and realize it by one of the voltage modulation methods like Space vector modulation (SVM-DTC) [6], [7] or Sinusoidal pulse width modulation (SPWM-DTC) [8]. Whereas in [9], [10], the voltage vector is applied to a certain ratio of the sampling time, which reduces the torque ripples remarkably in a control method called duty ratio control. Model predictive control (MPDTC) also replaces the table and the hysteresis controllers by a prediction algorithm and a cost function. The prediction algorithm uses the motor equations to find the trajectory of the torque in the next sampling times that also decreases the torque ripples [11]. Okumuş and Aktaş [12] presented the hysteresis band of the hysteresis controllers is adapted in real time with the stator flux and torque errors variation.

Moreover Tarmizi et al. [13] presented the DTC of Brushless DC motor is proposed by injecting the triangular waveform and using PI controller to reduce the torque ripples and obtain constant switching frequency. Recently, nine-switch inverter is utilized in [14] to drive two independent induction motor loads with DTC to reduce ripples in torque and flux with higher efficiency. While Echeikh et al. [15] presented fivephase induction motor drive using backstepping control with constant switching frequency is developed. Whereas, improvement of DTC applied to doubly fed induction motor under variable speed is proposed in [16] using multilevel inverter. Furthermore, SVM-DTC strategy of PMSM employing ultra-sparse matrix converter that uses only nine switches is developed in [17] to reduce the flux and torque ripples with a cheaper converter. While Nasr et al. [18], torque ripple suppression for interior permanent magnet synchronous motor IPMSM using finite element analysis based model predictive-DTC is derived to optimize the duty ratio simultaneously with the voltage vector selection to guarantee further torque ripple reduction under steady-state operation, especially at low speeds. Although these relatively new methods for DTC can solve various problems of the conventional method; these new techniques require the use of position sensors which increases system complexity, cost, and reduces reliability. Machine parameters dependence is also a disadvantage of these new techniques, thus on-line parameter estimation, temperature rise, and saturation should be considered. Increased computations and control algorithm complexity need the utilization of powerful processors that have high performance capabilities, therefore cost is affected [5]. The conventional DTC drive controller basically consists of flux estimator to deduce the torque. Any error in flux vector estimation rather than its real value would result in errors in both flux and torque control loops. Therefore, flux estimation is a crucial stage in a DTC drive [19].

In this paper, four different methods of flux estimation are compared through MATLAB/Simulink simulations to interpret their effect on the DTC drive performance. The paper is organized as following; section 2 provides the modeling of the PMSM motor in the stationary reference frame. Section 3 discusses the concept of DTC as applied to PMSM. While in section 4, the control strategy of the flux vector is presented. In section 5, the voltage selection looks up table is outlined. The various flux estimation methods are discussed in section 6 while the results and discussions are provided in section 7. Finally, conclusions are given in section 8.

2. MODELING OF PMSM IN THE STATIONARY REFERENCE FRAME (D-Q PLANE)

The stator voltage space vector (\underline{u}_s) of PMSM in the stationary reference frame can be expressed by (1).

$$us = Rs is + \frac{d\Psi_s}{dt}$$
(1)

Where: (R_s): the stator resistance and ($\underline{\Psi}_s$): the stator flux linkage. The stator flux linkage can be given by (2).

$$\Psi s = Ls \, is + \Psi PM \, e^{j \, \theta_r} \tag{2}$$

Where: (L_s): the stator self-inductance, (Ψ_{PM}): the permanent magnet stator flux linkage, and (Θ_r): the rotor angle. Substitution (2) into (1) results in:

$$\underline{\mathbf{u}}_{s} = \mathbf{R}_{s} \, \underline{\mathbf{i}}_{s} + \mathbf{L}_{s} \, \frac{d\mathbf{i}_{s}}{dt} + \mathbf{j} \, \boldsymbol{\omega}_{r} \, \Psi_{PM} \, \boldsymbol{e}^{\mathbf{j} \, \boldsymbol{\theta}_{r}} \tag{3}$$

Where $\omega_{\rm r} = \frac{d \, \Theta_{\rm r}}{dt}$ while $\Psi_{\rm PM}$ and $L_{\rm s}$ are constants.

The (3) represents the motor voltage equation in the stationary reference frame. This equation can be decomposed into its D-Q components as in (4) and (5):

$$usD = Rs isD + LsD \frac{di_{sD}}{dt} - \omega r \Psi PM \sin(\theta r)$$
(4)

$$usQ = Rs \, isQ + LsQ \, \frac{di_{sQ}}{dt} + \omega r \, \Psi PM \cos(\Theta r) \tag{5}$$

3. CONCEPT OF DTC AS APPLIED TO PMSM

It is known that quick torque response is obtained by changing the position of the stator flux linkage space vector with respect to the rotor flux space vector as (6) shows.

$$Te = \frac{3}{2} P\left(\frac{1}{L_s}\right) \left| \underline{\Psi_s} \right| \cdot \Psi_{PM} \sin(\delta)$$
(6)

The stator flux is maintained constant within certain limits to ensure the operation at the rated condition and to avoid the saturation region. Therefore, the control of torque is obtained by controlling the torque angle (δ) as the permanent flux (Ψ_{PM}) is also constant.

In the stationary reference frame, the stator flux linkage space vector is the integration of the stator EMF and it is obtained by in (1). If the stator resistance voltage drop is neglected for simplicity, then the stator flux is the integration of the applied voltage. Thus, in a small time period, the increment of the stator flux relies on the applied voltage. Then, the desired trajectory of the stator flux can be achieved by selecting the appropriate inverter voltage vector. The following analysis shows this idea [20]:

$$\underline{\mathbf{u}}_{s} = \mathbf{R}_{s} \, \underline{\mathbf{i}}_{s} + \frac{d\Psi_{s}}{dt} \text{ then,}$$

$$\frac{d\Psi_{s}}{dt} = \underline{\mathbf{u}}_{s} - \mathbf{R}_{s} \, \underline{\mathbf{i}}_{s} \text{ then,}$$

$$\underline{\Psi_{s}} = \int (\underline{\mathbf{u}}_{s} - \mathbf{R}_{s} \, \underline{\mathbf{i}}_{s}) \, \mathrm{dt}$$
(7)

It is shown from (7) that the stator flux linkage space vector ($\underline{\Psi}_s$) can be controlled by controlling the stator voltage (\underline{u}_s). Where, (\underline{u}_s) is one of the VSI eight voltage vectors. For simplification, the resistive voltage drops ($R_s \underline{i}_s$) can be neglected, then (8).

$$\underline{\Psi}_{\underline{s}} = \int \underline{\mathbf{u}}_{\underline{s}} \, \mathrm{dt} \tag{8}$$

Also, for a small period of time (Δt), the voltage vector can be assumed constant, then (9).

$$\underline{\Psi}_{s} = \underline{u}_{s} \cdot \Delta t + \underline{\Psi}_{s} \Big|_{t=0}$$
(9)

Where, $\underline{\Psi_s}\Big|_{t=0}$: is the initial value of the stator flux linkage. For a switch-on time (Δt), the increment of the stator flux can be obtained by (10).

$$\Delta \Psi_{\rm s} = \mathbf{u}_{\rm s} \cdot \Delta t \tag{10}$$

This means that the stator flux linkage space vector moves by $\Delta \Psi_s$ in the direction of the applied stator voltage vector, as shown in Figure 1.

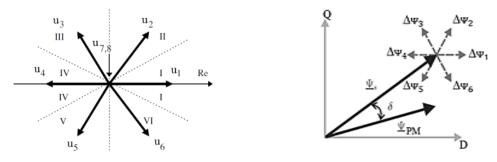


Figure 1. Inverter voltage vectors and the corresponding flux variation in time Δt

4. CONTROL OF STATOR FLUX-LINKAGE SPACE VECTOR MAGNITUDE

To choose the appropriate voltage vectors required to control the magnitude of the stator flux space vector, the voltage space vector plane (D-Q plane) or (α - β plane) is divided into six sectors K(1) through K(6), Figure 1, such that, [20]:

$$(2N-3)\frac{\pi}{6} \le K(N) \le (2N-1)\frac{\pi}{6}$$
(11)

where, $N = 1, 2, 3, \ldots, 6$. The idea is to make the switching frequency as low as possible so that the most suitable voltage vector is the one requires the minimum number of switching and drives both the stator flux and the torque errors in the needed direction. In the kth sector, the stator flux can be increased by applying one of the: k, k+1 (anticlockwise), or k-1 (clockwise) vectors. Therefore, flux can be increased by applying the voltage vector belongs to the sector or any of the adjacent voltage vectors. To decrease the stator flux, one of the voltage vectors is applied: k+2 (anticlockwise), k-2 (clockwise), or k+3. A deviation by a hysteresis band equal to $\pm \Delta \Psi_s$ is allowed for the actual flux with respect to the reference flux [20]. The block diagram of the DTC scheme is given in Figure 2.

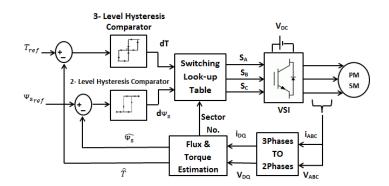


Figure 2. The block diagram of DTC of PMSM

5. THE VOLTAGE SWITCHING LOOK-UP TABLE

It is a pre-designed table as shown in Table 1 that utilizes its inputs from the torque and flux comparators and uses the sector number to achieve the needed voltage vector. Its criterion is based on the previous idea of the stator flux vector control [19]. Assume that the flux vector is in sector (1) and $d\Psi_s = 1\&$ $d_T = 1$, then both of torque and flux are needed to be increased. Thus, u_2 (110) is applied, Figure 3. Note that u_1 (100) cannot be applied as torque will be reduced as the torque angle will be decreased. Now, $d\Psi_s = 1\& d_T = 0$, the flux does not be changed instantaneously and torque has the priority to be changed, then a zero-voltage vector is applied that gives minimum switching states, u_7 (111). Now, $d\Psi_s = 1\& d_T = -1$, flux is required to be increased and torque is required to be decreased, then u_6 (101) is applied. In the case of $d\Psi_s = 0 \& d_T = 1$, u_3 (010) is applied to increase the torque [20].

Table 1	l.	The voltage switching	g
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look-up table											
dΨs	d _T	K(1)	K(2)	K(3)	K(4)	K(5)	K(6)				
1	1	u ₂	u_3	\mathbf{u}_4	u ₅	u ₆	u_1				
	0	u ₇	\mathbf{u}_0	u ₇	\mathbf{u}_0	\mathbf{u}_7	\mathbf{u}_0				
	-1	u ₆	u_1	u_2	u_3	u_4	u_5				
0	1	u_3	\mathbf{u}_4	u_5	u_6	\mathbf{u}_1	\mathbf{u}_2				
	0	\mathbf{u}_0	\mathbf{u}_7	\mathbf{u}_0	\mathbf{u}_7	\mathbf{u}_0	\mathbf{u}_7				
	-1	u_5	u_6	\mathbf{u}_1	u_2	u_3	\mathbf{u}_4				

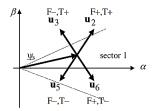


Figure 3. Voltage vector selection concept

6. VARIOUS STATOR FLUX ESTIMATION METHODS

Comparisons between some implementation methods of the flux estimation are conducted. The simulation results will help us know the advantages and disadvantages of each method. Through our discussion, problems encountered in each method will be stated and suggested solutions against them will be given too.

6.1. Pure integrator flux estimator

This method is a direct application of in (7). This means an open loop integration of the induced EMF $(\underline{V}_s - \underline{i}_s R_s)$ so, voltage and current measurements are needed. It is simple and does not rely on motor parameters except the stator resistance. Also, it does not need the rotor position. However, the implementation of the pure integrator has some problems as: DC drift problem, stator resistance variation, initial value problem, operation at low frequencies.

6.1.1. DC drift problem

Errors in voltage or current measurements lead to a drift in the estimated flux value. Although it may be small, the integrator may finally get into saturation. These errors may be resulted from the following: i) Sensors may result in phase shift, ii) Added gains or scaling factors, iii) Quantization errors in digital systems. Figure 4(a) indicates estimated stator flux linkages when dc offsets are present. Speed ripples are shown in Figure 4(b) when offset exists. Figure 4(c) and Figure 4(d), show flux and speed without any offsets in measurements [21].

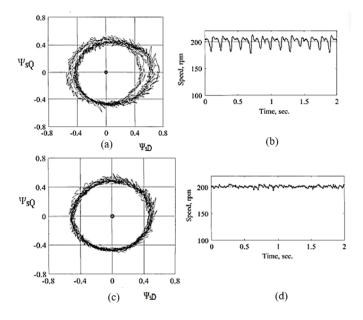


Figure 4. The error effect [21] (a), (b) with offset on flux and speed and (c), (d) without offset on flux and speed t

6.1.2. Stator resistance variation

An accurate stator resistance value has to be utilized to ensure the correctness of the estimated stator flux. The stator resistance changes with the temperature variation and the frequency (skin effect), so it must be adapted to these changes. Stability may be affected if the stator resistance value that is used in the control algorithm is different from the actual resistance. Figure. 5 represents some results of flux response when the stator resistance or using of thermal machine model is an eligible solution to this problem. A stator resistance estimator was proposed in [21] utilizing the relation between current and resistance variations.

6.1.3. Initial value problem

Unlike IMs, the initial value of the stator flux vector $\underline{\Psi_s}\Big|_{t=0}$ is not zero in PMSMs due to the existence of the PM but it can be obtained using the rotor position. Therefore, the rotor position should be measured using position sensor or estimated using a sensor less technique to ensure correct startup of the drive. If the drive is started with a false initial stator flux value, a drift may be presented in the flux different from its accurate trajectory [22].

6.1.4. Operation at low frequencies

The pure integrator becomes inaccurate at low speeds. This is because the stator voltage becomes very small and both the resistive voltage drop and the inverter switches voltage drop cannot be neglected. The pure integrator performs well at high frequencies (speeds) since the resistive voltage drop is very small and the voltage drop across the inverter switches may be ignored [20].

6.2. Low pass filter (LPF) flux estimator

A low pass filter (LPF) can be utilized instead of the pure integrator to solve the problems of the drift and the initial value problem. Starting from the motor voltage in (12).

$$vs = Rs\,is + p\,\Psi s \tag{12}$$

where p = d/dt, "the derivative operator".

A low pass filter is obtained by replacing:

$$\frac{1}{p} \rightarrow \frac{T}{1+pT} \tag{13}$$

And hence,
$$vs = Rs is + \frac{1+pT}{T} \Psi s$$
 (14)

where T is the filter time constant and the cutoff frequency $\omega_c = \frac{1}{T}$. The cutoff frequency should be selected carefully. It should be small enough to act as a pure integrator for a wide speed range. The transfer function of the low pass filter is $H(s) = \frac{T}{1+Ts} = \frac{1}{s+\omega_c}$, which means that a damping effect by a time constant of "T" will help in solving the initial value problem but a small steady state error will be introduced in the stator flux final value [23].

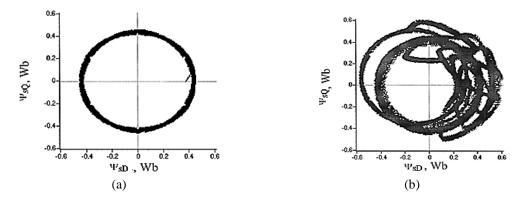


Figure 5. Flux trajectories with (a) correct resistance value and (b) 30% increased resistance value [21]

6.3. Modified integrator flux estimator

Hu and Wu [24], three modified integrators were proposed to estimate the stator flux over a wide speed range. The output of these integrators can be represented by (15).

$$y = \frac{1}{s+\omega_c} x + \frac{\omega_c}{s+\omega_c} z \tag{15}$$

Where "x" is the integrator input and "z" is a compensation signal. The modified integrator acts as a LPF if the compensation signal equals to zero. If the compensation is taken from the integrator's output, the modified integrator acts as a pure integrator. The three integrators presented in [24] differ in the way of the compensation signal. From the three methods, the third one provides the best performance. It will be discussed in some detail.

The third algorithm is designed for motor drives that operate at variable flux. The algorithm relies on the fact that the flux vector should be orthogonal to the EMF (which is the stator voltage minus the resistive voltage drop). The orthogonality is tested by obtaining the dot product of the back EMF and the flux linkage. The compensation signal amplitude is controlled using a PI controller. The algorithm block diagram is displayed in Figure 6 [24].

The estimated flux vector " Ψ_s " is the sum of two vectors; a feed-forward vector " Ψ_1 " and a feedback vector " Ψ_2 ". If there is neither drift nor initial value problems, the orthogonality will be achieved and the dot product of the two vectors will equal to zero. If a drift or initial value problem exists, the flux and EMF will not be orthogonal, and the angle " γ " becomes greater than 90°. This leads to an error signal Δe that is (16).

$$\Delta e = \frac{\Psi_s \underline{Q} \underline{E} \underline{M} F}{|\Psi_s|} = \frac{|\Psi_s| \cdot |\underline{E} \underline{M} F| \cdot \cos \gamma}{|\Psi_s|} = |\underline{E} \underline{M} F| \cdot \cos \gamma$$
(16)

Where " γ " is the angle between the flux and EMF.

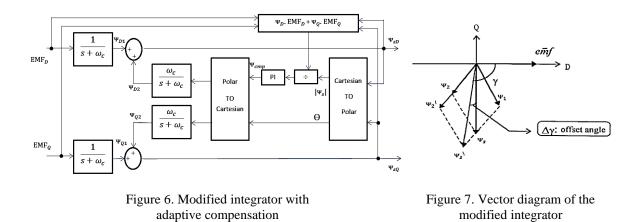
The output of the PI controller can be expressed as (17).

$$\Psi_{cmp} = (\mathrm{kp} + \frac{k_i}{s}).\Delta \tag{17}$$

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Where k_p and k_i are the PI controller gains.

For example, if the value of $"\underline{\Psi_2}"$ is increased to " $\underline{\Psi_2}^{\}$ " as given in Figure 7 due to an offset or initial value problem, the angle " γ " will be greater than 90°. A negative error will be introduced. The PI controller output " Ψ_{cmp} " and the feedback vector will be decreased. Therefore, the flux vector " $\underline{\Psi_s}^{\}$ " changes its position toward the "original 90°-position" until the orthogonality is occurred. The opposite case will happen if " γ " becomes less than 90°. The transient as well as the steady state responses of this modified integrator are relatively good. It has a problem that is it needs carful tuning for both the PI controller and the low pass filters so that complexity is increased.



6.4. Tunable low pass filter flux estimator

Singh *et al.* [25], a low pass filter with tunable cutoff frequency is presented for flux estimation for IM drive and it offered good results. The flux distortion and ripples are decreased, no flux drop at sector boundaries, and the flux trajectory is a pure circle which implies the effectiveness of this estimator over the conventional constant cutoff frequency LPF mentioned in section (VI.B) above. As mentioned before, a LPF is an eligible solution to the problems of drift and initial value problem that may occur when utilizing a pure integrator, but flux distortion may be introduced when the cutoff frequency is higher than the synchronous frequency. Thus, the cutoff frequency value should be carefully chosen [25]. A low pass filter with a tunable cutoff frequency relying on the synchronous frequency can be a good solution. It is depicted in Figure 8. Utilizing a simple relation between the cutoff frequency ω_c and the synchronous frequency ω_e that is: $\omega_c = K * \omega_e$; the cutoff frequency can be obtained and K is a constant where: 0.1 < K < 0.5. The synchronous frequency can be obtained as (18).

$$\omega e = \frac{E_{SQ}\Psi_{SD} - E_{SD}\Psi_{SQ}}{|\Psi_S|^2}$$

$$(18)$$

$$E_{DS} = \frac{1}{s + \omega_C} + \frac{\Psi_{DS} \cdot E_{QS} - E_{DS} \cdot \Psi_{QS}}{\Psi_{DS}^2 + \Psi_{QS}^2} + \frac{\Psi_{QS}}{\Psi_{QS}}$$

Figure 8. Tunable-low pass filter flux estimator

7. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

The DTC drive system will be tested via simulations using MATLAB/Simulink for each flux estimation method mentioned above. The used PMSM has 6.1 N.M full load torque and full load speed of 180 rad/sec electric. Motor parameters are shown in Table 2. The Simulink model is shown in Figure 9.

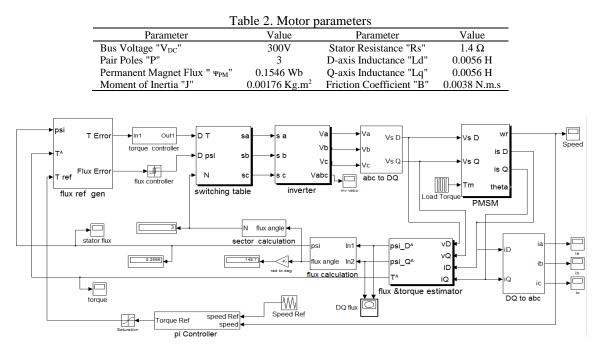


Figure 9. Simulink model for DTC of PMSM

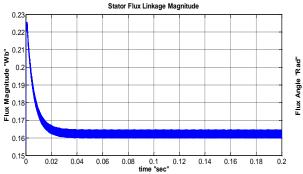
7.1. Pure integrator flux estimator

As mentioned before, the flux estimation using the pure integration technique is the simplest method but it has some problems as DC drift, initial value, and stator resistance variation problems. In simulation, the initial rotor position can be adjusted to be equal to zero; therefore, there are not any measurement errors or resistance variation in simulation. Therefore, this method may be considered as the nearest one to the actual flux and it will be used as a reference for comparing the other flux estimation methods. The motor is operated at rated torque and speed 180 rad/sec in the speed control mode. Stator Flux linkage magnitude, phase, D-axis flux, and Q-axis flux, are shown in Figures 10, 11, 12, and 13, respectively.

7.2. Low pass filter flux estimator

LPF is expected to solve the problems of the pure integrator but phase and magnitude errors are occurred especially at low frequencies. The dynamic performance of the LPF flux estimator is poor but it is acceptable to some extent at steady state. Figures 14, 15, 16, and 17 show: stator flux magnitude of LPF estimator, flux angle of LPF estimator, D-and Q- axes fluxes of LPF estimator compared to the pure integrator estimator respectively.

It is clear from the above figures that the LPF flux estimator provides poor results at transient state but it is acceptable to some extent at steady state conditions. The steady state error of the magnitude and phase of the flux is relatively high for the LPF estimator. The selection of the filter cut-off frequency is critical in implementing such flux estimator type.



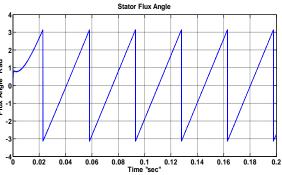


Figure 10. Stator flux magnitude using pure integrator estimator

Figure 11. Stator flux angle using pure integrator estimator

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Pure Integrate

Pure Integrato LPF Estimator

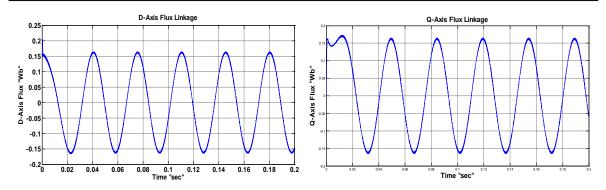


Figure 12. D-axis flux using pure integrator estimator Figure 13. Q-axis flux using pure integrator estimator

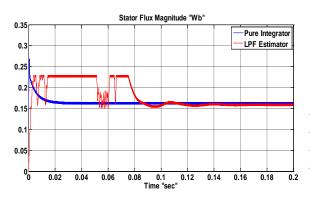
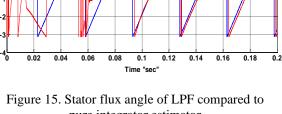


Figure 14. Stator flux magnitude of LPF compared to pure integrator estimator



Flux Angle "rad"

pure integrator estimator

Q-Axis Flux Linkage "Wb"

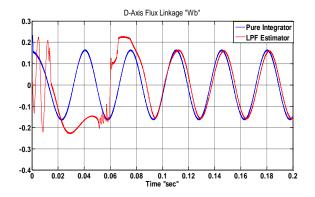
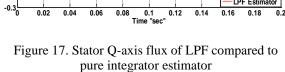
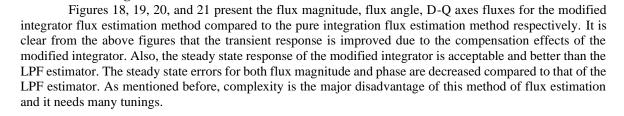


Figure 16. Stator D-axis flux of LPF compared to pure integrator estimator



7.3. Modified integrator flux estimator



0.

-0

-0.

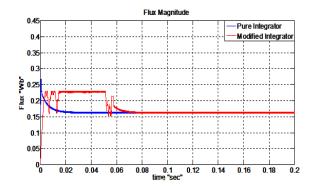


Figure 18. Stator flux magnitude of modified integrator compared to pure integrator estimator

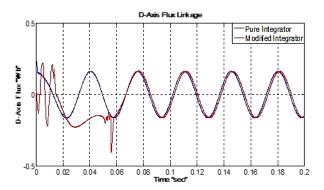


Figure 20. Stator D-axis flux of modified integrator compared to pure integrator estimator

7.4. Tunable low pass filter flux estimator

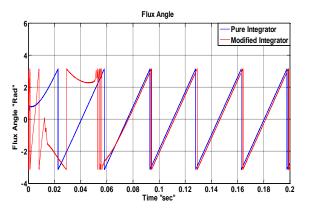


Figure 19. Stator flux angle of modified integrator compared to pure integrator estimator

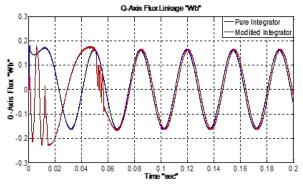


Figure 21. Stator Q-axis flux of modified integrator compared to pure integrator estimator

Figures 22, 23, 24, and 25 display the flux magnitude, flux angle, and D-Q fluxes of the tunable LPF estimator compared to the pure integrator estimator method respectively. The tunable LPF estimator provides the best results of the above flux estimation methods in both transient and steady state conditions due to its brilliant criteria for tuning the cut off frequency of the filter as mentioned before. Its simple algorithm structure is another advantage of this method of flux estimation.

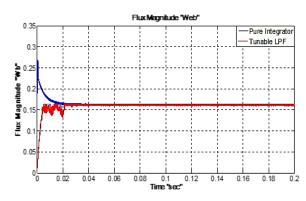


Figure 22. Stator flux magnitude of tunable LPF compared to pure integrator estimator

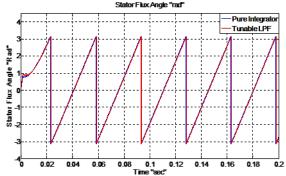


Figure 23. Stator flux angle of tunable LPF compared to pure integrator estimator

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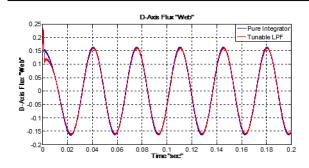


Figure 24. Stator D-axis flux of tunable LPF compared to pure integrator estimator

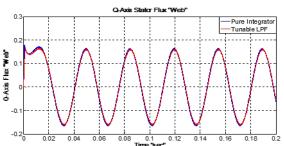


Figure 25. Stator Q-axis flux of tunable LPF compared to pure integrator estimator

8. CONCLUSION

Various methods are proposed in the literature to estimate the flux and the most powerful methods are compared in this paper via MATLAB/Simulink simulations. Pure integration method of flux estimation is the basic method that has a lot of disadvantages like offset, resistance variation dependence, initial value problem, and low performance at low speeds. Low pass filter (LPF) is designed to solve the pure integration problems but its performance at transient state is poor and there is some drift in the flux from the actual flux. The modified integrator is also one of the interesting flux estimation methods that presents better performance at both transient and steady state conditions than that of LPF estimator but it contains PI controller and low pass filters so many tunings are needed and complexity is increased. A flux estimator uses tunable-cutoff-frequency-LPF is simple and accurate. It is utilized for IM before but never be used for PMSM. It is also compared and gives excellent results in both transient and steady state periods which implies the effectiveness of it for PMSM as well as IM. Therefore, in this paper, the different flux estimators were compared via simulations and the conclusions are: i) The pure integration is the simplest method but it has some problems like offset, initial rotor position, poor performance at low speeds, and stator resistance variation, ii) The LPF estimator was intended to solve pure integration problems but its dynamic response is bad and has drift in the flux magnitude, iii) The modified Integrator has good steady state and transient responses better than LPF and pure integration methods but it is a complex method and requires tuning for both LPFs and PI controller, and iv) The tunable LPF estimator has simple structure with excellent steady state and transient responses better than the other methods.

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