

# Efficiency enhanced adaptive quasi-sliding mode controller for variable-speed induction motor drive

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## ABSTRACT

Recent advancements in automated manufacturing and processing industries necessitate fast-responding, efficient, and robust methods for controlling induction motor (IM) drives. Classical proportional-integral (PI) controllers provide optimal performance only at specific operating points and are sensitive to parameter variations. This work proposes an adaptive quasi-sliding mode controller (AQSMC), which utilizes a tangent (tanh) function as the switching function and demonstrates enhanced robustness and adaptability across a wider range of operating conditions. The AQSMC employs an adaptation law to estimate the dynamic disturbances, offering insensitivity to structured and unstructured uncertainties. Numerical simulations are carried out with the AQSMC that analytically deduces the optimum field flux ensuring efficient performance. A lookup table derived from the efficiency optimization algorithm (EOA) is incorporated to further streamline the computational requirements. To validate simulation results, a prototype was developed using a 1 HP induction motor, a DSP controller board with a TI C2000 Delfino MCU F28379D microcontroller, and an IGBT-based Inverter module. Simulations show a 6.3% efficiency improvement at half load and 300 rpm, while experimental analysis records a 3.9% improvement with the EOA, highlighting the potential for enhancing energy efficiency in various industrial applications.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

Induction motors (IMs) are widely used in industrial applications due to their affordability, rugged construction, high efficiency, and self-starting capabilities. These features make IMs suitable for a wide range of applications that require minimal maintenance and high reliability. However, controlling IMs as variable-speed drives remains a challenging task, mainly due to their complex, multivariable, non-linear behavior, and dynamic fluctuations in electrical characteristics. Advanced control schemes such as field-oriented control (FOC) have been developed to address these complexities. FOC facilitates the decoupling of torque and flux by employing dynamic d-q modeling of the motor in a synchronously rotating reference frame, enabling precise control over motor operation [1], [2].

Classical proportional-integral (PI) controllers offer optimal performance only at specific operating points and are sensitive to parameter variations, making them less effective in dynamic environments. Sliding mode control (SMC) has emerged as a robust, non-linear control method capable of handling the uncertainties and variations inherent in IM drives. By applying a discontinuous control signal, SMC modifies the system's

dynamics to guide the state trajectories onto a predefined surface in the state space, ultimately achieving accurate tracking either asymptotically or in finite time [3], [4]. However, conventional SMC is often associated with high-frequency chattering [5] due to the use of switching functions like the signum function, which assumes instantaneous switching. Practical limitations such as control computation delays, sensor inaccuracies, and the dead time of power electronic switches contribute to this chattering phenomenon [6], [7]. High-frequency chattering can be problematic in control systems. It leads to excessive control activity, increased power consumption, and potential damage to components like actuators [8]. Additionally, it introduces unwanted internal non-linearities, leading to instability in certain applications. In the context of induction motors, chattering manifests as current harmonics and torque pulsations, resulting in degraded system performance [9], [10].

The proposed quasi-sliding mode controller (QSMC) addresses this issue by using a continuous control input, approximating the discontinuous signum function with a smooth function, such as the hyperbolic tangent function ( $\tanh$ ), to effectively reduce chattering [11]. In the presence of uncertainties, QSMC confines system states within a predictable and adjustable bound near the origin, ensuring reliable performance even when ideal sliding mode is not achieved [12]. This method has been effectively employed to reduce chattering in various applications, such as DC-DC converter switching [13], motor speed control [6], [14], [15], and electro-hydraulic actuator systems [16]. In spacecraft applications, the use of  $\tanh$  function instead of the signum function leads to quicker response and lower power consumption for pointing manoeuvres, as reported in the literature [17]. When the upper bound for parameter variations cannot be predicted in practical applications, a high sliding gain is often chosen in SMC design, leading to increased chattering and unnecessary control activity [18]. The proposed adaptive quasi-sliding mode controller (AQSMC) overcomes this by employing an adaptation law to estimate and adjust the sliding gain in real-time, ensuring efficient and robust control without the need to pre-calculate upper bounds.

As global electricity demand continues to rise, driven by industrial growth and improved living standards, enhancing energy efficiency in all engineering domains becomes imperative [19]. Remarkably, electric motors, particularly induction motors, consume over half of the world's total electricity [20]. While IMs operate most efficiently near their rated conditions, they often function far from their rated capacity in many real-world applications, such as elevators running at less than half their rated torque [21]. This inefficiency not only impacts operational performance but also increases energy costs and environmental impact. Therefore, optimizing control strategies for IMs in varying load conditions is essential. Electric vehicles, for example, can benefit significantly from energy-efficient control strategies, thereby extending battery life and vehicle range [22]. A substantial portion of losses in IMs, approximately 70%, can be attributed to copper and iron losses, which are influenced by the motor's electrical and magnetic loading [21]. Maintaining rated flux under partial load conditions results in higher magnetic losses compared to electrical losses. FOC-based IM drives have demonstrated significant energy savings at partial loads and various speeds when controllers operate at the minimum loss point [23], leading to efficiency improvements, especially in applications with non-linear torque-speed characteristics, such as fans or pumps [24].

To enhance machine efficiency, especially in light-load situations, various techniques have been proposed for IM drives. These efficiency optimization control (EOC) techniques differ in approach, complexity, accuracy, and convergence [25]. The literature broadly classifies EOC techniques into three categories: loss model-based control (LMC), search control (SC), and hybrid control (HC) [26]. LMC involves adjusting the magnetization level analytically by considering a specific machine model [19], [27], reducing power losses based on criteria such as flux, slip speed, power factor, or the d-axis component of the stator current [28]–[31]. The SC technique iteratively modifies the magnetization level to find the minimum input power but may suffer from slow convergence and objectionable torque dynamics [23], [32], [33]. To further enhance the efficiency of induction motors (IMs), various search techniques utilizing nature-inspired algorithms and neural networks (NNs) have been reported, yielding promising results in identifying optimal control parameters for improved performance and energy savings [34]–[37].

The key contributions of this paper include the development and implementation of an adaptive, efficiency-enhanced variable-speed controller with a hyperbolic tangent switching function. The efficiency optimization algorithm (EOA) based on a loss model is designed to deduce the optimal d-axis stator current in real-time for varying speed and load conditions. The proposed AQSMC effectively reduces chattering and enhances control performance. Extensive simulations carried out in MATLAB/Simulink and experimental validation underscore the robustness and practicality of the proposed control strategy. The approach is established as a viable solution for enhancing induction motor drive efficiency while providing robust control across varying load and speed conditions in different applications.

The adaptive quasi-sliding mode speed controller design based on equivalent control technique is included in section 2 and efficiency optimization algorithm design based on IM loss model in section 3. Section

4 covers the simulation results and section 5 experimental analysis. Conclusion and future scope are included in section 6.

## 2. ADAPTIVE QUASI-SLIDING MODE CONTROLLER (AQSMC)

In this section, an adaptive quasi-sliding mode controller is designed for controlling the speed of the induction motor. In this method, a QSMC is designed with a continuous hyperbolic tangent (tanh) function in place of the discontinuous signum function of conventional SMC in anticipation of a better response and chattering reduction. An equivalent control technique is applied in which the control signal  $u_c$  can be written as (1) [38].

$$u_c = u_{eq} + u_n \quad (1)$$

Where,  $u_{eq}$  is the equivalent control signal, ensuring system convergence, and  $u_n$  is the switching control signal, ensuring that the sliding surface is drawn to the system state space. The sliding plane  $S$  is defined as a function of the speed error  $e(t)$  and its integral and is given by (2).

$$S = K_1 \cdot e + K_2 \int e \cdot dt \quad (2)$$

The derivative of the Lyapunov energy function is negative definite, which guarantees the state trajectory's motion to the sliding surface. i.e. as in (3).

$$\dot{S}(t) \cdot S(t) < 0 \quad (3)$$

The switching control component is given by (4).

$$u_n = \zeta_m \tanh\left(\frac{S}{\epsilon}\right) \quad (4)$$

Where, the switching gain,  $\zeta_m$ , is the output saturation value of the controller, and its value is set to meet the uncertainties of the system. The tanh function is a rescaled logistic sigmoid function given by (5) [39].

$$\tanh\left(\frac{S}{\epsilon}\right) = \frac{e^{\frac{S}{\epsilon}} - e^{-\frac{S}{\epsilon}}}{e^{\frac{S}{\epsilon}} + e^{-\frac{S}{\epsilon}}} \quad (5)$$

Where,  $S$  is the sliding variable and  $\epsilon$  is the boundary layer width which determines the steepness or inclination of the tanh function ( $\epsilon > 0$ ). The steepness of the tanh function determines how closely the tanh function can resemble the signum function.

Prior knowledge of the upper bound of the parameter variations, unmodeled dynamics, and noise magnitudes, is required to decide the value of switching gain [40]. This upper bound should be determined as precisely as possible because the higher the upper bound, the higher should be the switching gain [41]. A suitably high value for the switching gain is usually used as this upper bound is challenging to calculate. However, this could result in a control signal that is too high or more control activity than is necessary to achieve the control objective [18]. This is undesirable in IM control as it implies higher  $i_{qs\_ref}$  and increases the chattering phenomenon. The proposed AQSMC scheme continuously estimates the sliding gain to adapt to evolving system uncertainties over time.

The switching gain  $\hat{\zeta}$  is estimated as per the following adaptation law, as in (6).

$$\dot{\hat{\zeta}} = \gamma |S| \quad (6)$$

Where,  $\gamma$  is a positive constant that determines the switching gain's adaptation speed and  $\hat{\zeta}_{(0)} = 0$ . The high control activity in the reaching phase can be effectively avoided by selecting an appropriate adaptation gain. The modified switching control component is given by (7).

$$u_n = \hat{\zeta} \gamma \tanh\left(\frac{S}{\epsilon}\right) \quad (7)$$

There exists an unknown finite non-negative switching gain  $\zeta$  such that in (8).

$$\zeta > L_{max} + \eta \quad (8)$$

Where,  $\eta$  is a positive constant and  $L_{max} \geq |L(t)| \forall t$ . The uncertainty terms have been collected in the signal  $L(t)$  [38]. The tracking error exponentially approaches zero when sliding mode occurs on the sliding surface,  $S(t) = \dot{S}(t) = 0$  [41]. By using the gain adaptation law, the obtained control magnitude is reasonable, as the gain-adaptation law does not overestimate the magnitude of uncertainties or perturbations.

### 3. EFFICIENCY OPTIMIZATION ALGORITHM (EOA) BASED ON LOSS-MODEL OF IM

The percentage efficiency of the IM drive system is investigated using both the conventional PI controller and the proposed AQSMC under varying load conditions. Although the adaptive controller exhibits substantial improvement in transient performance compared to the PI controller, the efficiency across various loads shows a slight downgrade trend. Therefore, there is potential for efficiency optimization to further enhance overall controller performance. This section introduces an EOA designed to minimize total losses in the IM at all operating conditions. The losses in an IM include copper losses  $P_{cu}$ , core losses or iron losses  $P_{fe}$  and mechanical losses  $P_{mech}$ . The copper losses occur in a machine due to current flow through stator and rotor windings. Under steady-state, the total copper losses are computed as (9) [42].

$$P_{cu} = \frac{3}{2} R_s (i_{ds}^2 + i_{qs}^2) + \frac{3}{2} R_r (i_{dr}^2 + i_{qr}^2) \quad (9)$$

Where,  $R_s$  denotes the stator resistance and  $R_r$ , rotor resistance. The d-axis and q-axis components of stator and rotor currents are given by  $i_{ds}$ ,  $i_{qs}$ ,  $i_{dr}$  and  $i_{qr}$  respectively. The core losses consist of eddy current losses and hysteresis losses.

$$P_{fe} = \frac{3}{2} (k_h \omega_e + k_e \omega_e^2) \Psi_m^2 \quad (10)$$

Where,  $k_h$  denotes the hysteresis loss coefficient and  $k_e$  is the eddy current loss coefficient. Synchronous speed is given by  $\omega_e$  and mutual flux is denoted by  $\Psi_m$ . Mechanical losses include friction due to bearing and windage losses. Mechanical losses, as an approximation, are proportional to the square of the rotor speed.

$$P_{mech} = k_m \omega_r^2 \quad (11)$$

Where,  $k_m$  is the mechanical loss coefficient and  $\omega_r$  is the rotor mechanical speed. Hence, the total power losses in the IM can be expressed as (12).

$$P_{loss} = \frac{3}{2} \{R_s (i_{ds}^2 + i_{qs}^2) + R_r (i_{dr}^2 + i_{qr}^2) + (k_h \omega_e + k_e \omega_e^2) \Psi_m^2\} + k_m \omega_r^2 \quad (12)$$

When the motor is running under steady-state and in the rotor field-oriented control [28].

$$i_{dr} = 0; \text{ and } i_{qr} = -\frac{L_m}{L_r} i_{qs} \quad (13)$$

Where  $L_m$  is the mutual inductance and  $L_r$  rotor inductance. Here, the air-gap flux can be derived as (14) and (15) [43].

$$\Psi_m^2 = (L_m i_{ds})^2 + \left(L_m i_{qs} - \frac{L_m^2}{L_r} i_{qs}\right)^2 \quad (14)$$

$$\Psi_m^2 = L_m^2 i_{ds}^2 + \frac{L_m^2 L_{lr}^2}{L_r^2} i_{qs}^2 \quad (15)$$

Where,  $L_r = L_{lr} + L_m$ . Also, the motor Torque developed in IFOC is given by (16).

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} \frac{P}{2} \frac{L_m^2}{L_r} i_{qs} i_{ds} = K_t i_{qs} i_{ds} \quad (16)$$

From the (16),  $i_{qs}$  can be written as (17).



Table 1. Parameters of 1 HP induction motor

Parameter	Value
Rated power	750 W
No. of phases	3
$R_s$	10 $\Omega$
$R_r$	5.64 $\Omega$
$R_c$	1273 $\Omega$
$L_{ls}$	0.0386H
$L_{lr}$	0.0386H
$L_m$	0.5353H
Rated torque	5.1 Nm
$J$	0.008 kg m <sup>2</sup>
$B$	0.000503 kg m <sup>2</sup> /s
Poles	4
Rated speed	1380 rpm
Rated voltage	415 V <sub>(L-L)</sub>

#### 4.1. Optimal $i_{ds}$

The optimal values of  $i_{ds}$  corresponding to each speed/output load condition are found out using EOA and is plotted in Figure 2. At a fixed load torque, say  $T_n$ , if speed is varied from 1400 rpm to 300 rpm, the optimal  $i_{ds}$  value varies as shown in Figure 2. Optimal value of  $i_{ds}$  goes on decreasing as load torque is decreased corresponding to all speed conditions, as observed from Figure 2.

#### 4.2. Reduction in Ploss

The reduction in power loss by using optimal  $i_{ds}$  compared to fixed  $i_{ds}$  is illustrated in Figure 3. The most significant reduction occurs under heavy load and low-speed conditions with the optimal  $i_{ds}$ . A maximum reduction of 116 W in power loss is observed in the simulation for the 1 Hp IM drive. A maximum power loss reduction of 116 W is observed in the simulation for the 1 HP IM drive. Each graph corresponds to a specific load torque condition with speed variation, and all exhibit a consistent trend.

#### 4.3. Efficiency enhancement

Simulations are carried out for all possible speed/load conditions, and power input and efficiency are noted with fixed  $i_{ds}$  control and optimal  $i_{ds}$  control using EOA. The efficiency of the system obtained with fixed  $i_{ds}$  value for different speed/load torque conditions are tabulated in Table 2 and that corresponding to optimal  $i_{ds}$  using EOA are given in Table 3.

The efficiency of the drive system with and without EOA algorithm are found out in simulation and the curves are plotted with respect to output power in Figure 4. Each curve corresponds to a speed condition with varying loads. A maximum of 27.57% improvement in efficiency is observed in the simulation at 300 rpm, full load torque.

#### 4.4. Lookup table-based efficiency optimization control

A lookup table is also developed using the optimal  $i_{ds}$  values derived from the simulated results of the EOA algorithm for all operating speed/load conditions. In this approach, the optimal value of  $i_{ds}$  is retrieved from this lookup table, eliminating the need for analytical deduction using the EOA algorithm. This not only streamlines the process but also reduces computational complexity. The lookup table containing the optimal  $i_{ds}$  values is presented in Table 4.

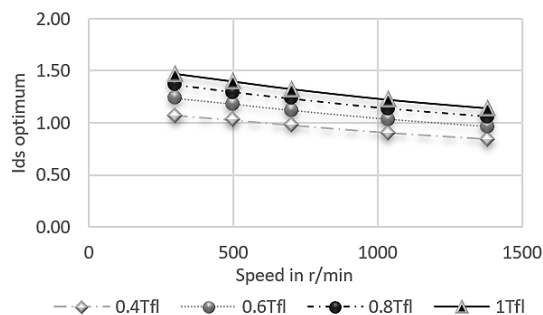


Figure 2. Optimal values of  $i_{ds}$  for different speed/load conditions

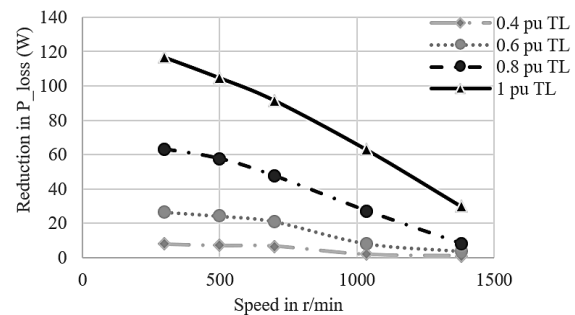


Figure 3. Reduction in  $P_{loss}$  for different speed/load conditions

Table 2. Efficiency of AQSMC IM drive with fixed  $i_{ds}$ 

Torque	Speed (rpm)				
	300	500	700	1035	1380
0.1Tfl	22.37	28.63	33.88	38.68	42.48
0.2Tfl	33.1	41.97	47.25	53.01	56.38
0.3Tfl	38.02	47.4	53.52	59.79	63.05
0.4Tfl	39.48	50.15	56.37	63.02	66.81
0.5Tfl	39.65	50.52	56.98	64.11	68.7
0.6Tfl	38.83	49.93	57.01	64.8	69.47
0.7Tfl	37.49	49.01	56.62	64.51	69.68
0.8Tfl	36.09	47.64	55.37	64.06	69.67
0.9Tfl	34.68	46.38	54.39	63.38	69.38
1.0Tfl	33.51	45.18	53.24	62.57	68.84

Table 3. Efficiency of AQSMC IM drive with EOA (optimal  $i_{ds}$ )

Torque	Speed (rpm)				
	300	500	700	1035	1380
0.1Tfl	26.71	33.92	39.82	44.06	46.4
0.2Tfl	35.29	44.14	50.53	55.57	57.94
0.3Tfl	39.37	49.66	55.24	60.31	63.42
0.4Tfl	41.53	51.72	57.82	63.19	66.84
0.5Tfl	42.05	53.28	59.03	64.85	68.76
0.6Tfl	43.45	53.9	60.25	65.76	69.53
0.7Tfl	43.8	54.21	60.66	66.52	69.74
0.8Tfl	43.7	54.6	60.61	66.52	70.3
0.9Tfl	43.75	54.91	61.05	67.05	70.59
1.0Tfl	42.75	54.71	61.13	67.3	70.75

Table 4. Lookup table for optimal  $i_{ds}$ 

Torque (pu)	Speed (rpm)				
	300	500	700	1035	1380
0.1Tfl	0.68	0.65	0.62	0.58	0.55
0.2Tfl	0.85	0.82	0.78	0.72	0.68
0.3Tfl	0.98	0.93	0.89	0.83	0.77
0.4Tfl	1.07	1.03	0.98	0.91	0.85
0.5Tfl	1.16	1.11	1.05	0.97	0.91
0.6Tfl	1.23	1.18	1.12	1.03	0.97
0.7Tfl	1.30	1.24	1.18	1.09	1.02
0.8Tfl	1.37	1.29	1.23	1.14	1.06
0.9Tfl	1.42	1.35	1.28	1.18	1.10
1.0Tfl	1.47	1.40	1.32	1.22	1.14

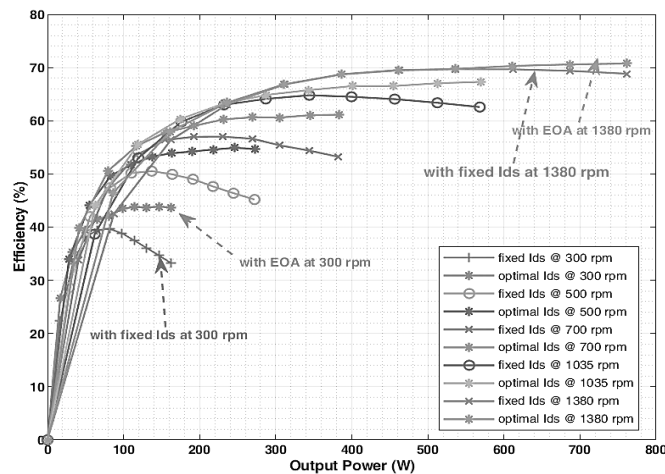


Figure 4. Efficiency curves for fixed-speed, varying-load with and without EOA

## 5. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND AND DISCUSSION

A prototype has been built with a 1 HP induction motor, a DSP controller board using a TI C2000 Delfino MCU F28379D microcontroller, and an IGBT-based IPM Inverter module to validate simulation results, the photograph of which is shown in Figure 5. The motor speed is sensed by a 2-phase incremental type optical rotary encoder with 600 pulses per revolution, which offers high resolution, excellent accuracy, and quick response times. The encoder's quadrature output facilitates precise position and speed measurements, making it ideal for applications requiring fine control. Additionally, low-pass filtering circuitry is employed in the current sensors to minimize high-frequency noise, ensuring that the integrity of the measurements is preserved. The speed of the IM drive is controlled experimentally using the AQSM controller. The performance parameters of these controllers are analyzed in simulation and are experimentally validated.

### 5.1. Efficiency enhancement

The developed IM drive with AQSM controller is run at half load and 300 rpm, and the corresponding efficiency of the drive is measured. The overall system efficiency is 39.6% in simulation and 38% in

experimentation. The TI microcontroller is again loaded with the drive model incorporating the EOA, which provides the optimal  $i_{ds}$  value, and is run under identical speed and load conditions. Efficiency with the EOA improves to 42.1% in simulation and 39.5% in experiment. The hardware drive efficiency with fixed  $i_{ds}$  closely matches the simulated results, within a tolerance limit of 4.2%, while with the EOA, the system efficiency in hardware remains within a tolerance limit of 6.6% of the simulated outcome. For an input speed of 300 rpm at half-rated load, the optimal  $i_{ds}$  provides a 6.3% efficiency improvement in simulation and a 3.9% in experimental analysis. The close agreement between the simulated and the experimental results confirms the validity of the proposed technique.

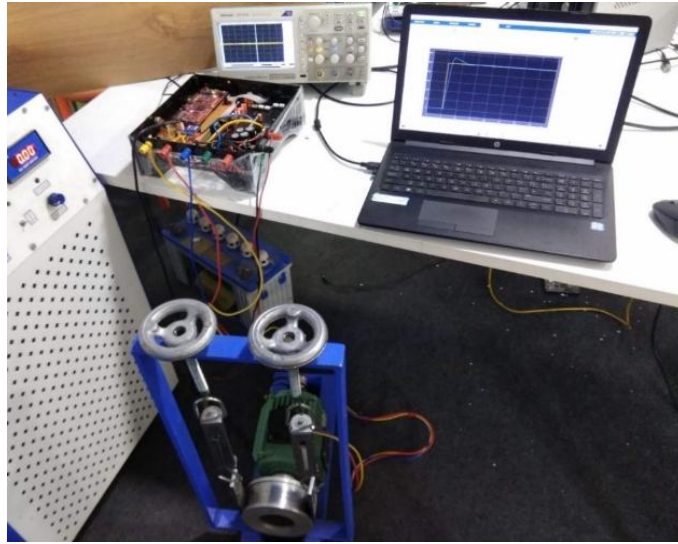


Figure 5. Hardware setup of the developed IM drive

## 5.2. Speed response

The speed response of the AQSM controller with fixed  $i_{ds}$  under simulation and experimental analysis are presented in Figure 6 and its transient analysis in Figure 7, respectively. The speed response of the AQSM controller with optimal  $i_{ds}$  under simulation and experimental analysis are presented in Figure 8. and its transient analysis in Figure 9, respectively. While comparing Figures 7 and 9, it can be concluded that by incorporating the EOA algorithm not only improves the efficiency but also reduces the settling time, peak time and peak overshoot in practical implementation.

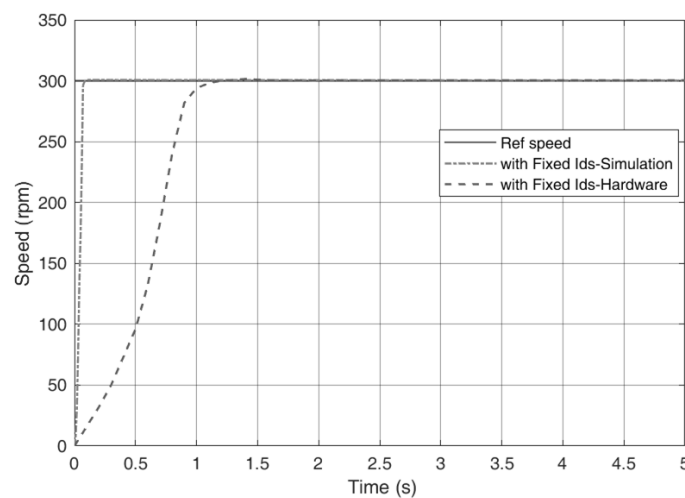


Figure 6. Speed response of the AQSM controller with fixed  $i_{ds}$  in simulation and in hardware



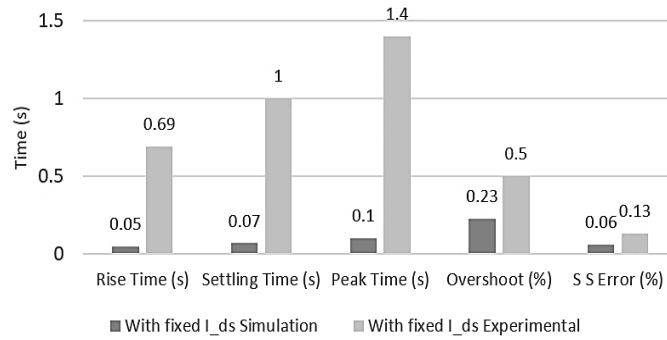


Figure 7. Transient analysis of AQSMC with fixed  $i_{ds}$  in simulation and in hardware

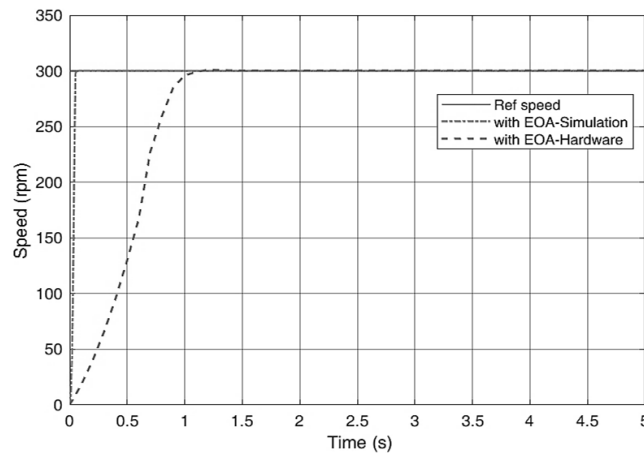


Figure 8. Speed response of the AQSM controller with optimal  $i_{ds}$  in simulation and in hardware

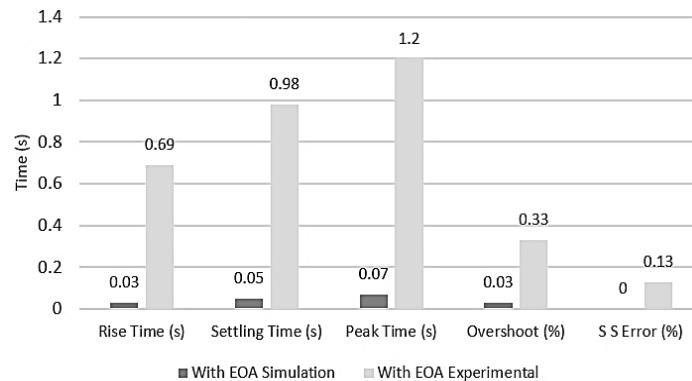


Figure 9. Transient analysis of AQSMC with EOA in simulation and in hardware

## 6. CONCLUSION

This paper proposes an adaptive, efficiency-enhanced, variable-speed non-linear controller for optimal speed control of IM drives, featuring reduced computational complexity. An adaptive quasi-sliding mode controller is designed using a tan function as the switching function, along with an integral control law that adheres to the Lyapunov stability condition. The AQSMC offers robust control performance by effectively managing system uncertainties and non-linearities while ensuring stability and minimizing chattering through the real-time adaptation of the sliding gain. To enhance efficiency, an efficiency optimization algorithm (EOA) based on a loss model is incorporated that will dynamically search for the optimal d-axis current in real time across all load and speed conditions. Extensive MATLAB simulations demonstrate that the EOA effectively identifies optimal  $i_{ds}$  values, which are stored in a lookup table for efficient implementation.

The AQSM controller, combined with the EOA, is successfully implemented on a TI F28379D DSP controller for a 1 HP IM drive. Results indicate a significant efficiency improvement of 6.3% in simulation and 3.9% in experimental analysis at half load and 300 rpm compared to the system without the EOA. The hardware efficiency with fixed  $i_{ds}$  closely matches the simulation results, maintaining a tolerance of 4.2%. Additionally, with the EOA, the system efficiency in hardware is within a tolerance of 6.5% of the simulated results. These findings validate the proposed method's effectiveness in enhancing IM drive efficiency. Future work can explore extending this approach to higher-rated motors and incorporating hybrid control techniques to further enhance efficiency across diverse industrial applications, including electric vehicles and renewable energy systems, ultimately optimizing motor performance and sustainability.




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