

Comparative Study of Conventional, Fuzzy Logic and Neural PID Speed Controllers with Torque Ripple Minimization for an Axial Magnetic Flux Switched Reluctance Motor

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Abstract

Three speed controllers for an axial magnetic flux switched reluctance motor with only one stator, are described and experimentally tested. As it is known, when current pulses are imposed in their windings, high ripple torque is obtained. In order to reduce this ripple, a control strategy with modified current shapes is proposed. A workbench consisting of a machine prototype and the control system based on a microcontroller was built. These controllers were: a conventional PID, a fuzzy logic PID and a neural PID type. From experimental results, the effective reduction of the torque ripple was confirmed and the performance of the controllers was compared.

Keywords

Axial Flux SRM, PID Speed Controller, Fuzzy Logic PID Speed Controller, Neural PID Speed Controller, Torque Ripple Minimization, Current Shape Control Strategy

1. Introduction

The radial magnetic flux version of switched reluctance motors (SRM) has been widely used in many variable speed industrial applications and some advantages have been reported: high torque output, wide range of operating speed, geometrical simplicity, reliability and robustness [1] [2]. In the case of an axial flux SRM (AFSRM) the air gap magnetic flux is parallel to the rotation axis. As the AFSRM can have a smaller axis length than the radial magnetic flux motor, it is believed that it is a good solution for use in applications where size is important,

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as in electric cars, for instance.

The switched reluctance motor (SRM) analyses are complex because of their doubly salient pole structure and nonlinear magnetic characteristics. The developed torque is a nonlinear function of the currents applied to the stator windings and their inductances, which depend on the rotor position. Nevertheless, with an appropriate control system, minimum ripple torque can be obtained.

From literature, it can be observed that many works are related to radial flux SRM; however few works are related to axial flux SRM [3]. Some of them refer to axial flux SRM with two stators [4]-[6], but in this paper the motor has only one stator. With respect to the control strategies, several strategies are reported [7]-[9].

For ordinary radial flux SRM, the mutual inductances of the stator windings are considered small [10] and most researchers do not take them into account. For AFSRM this is not true because the magnetic flux paths are quite different to those found in radial flux SRM. In this work, the AFSRM self and mutual inductances were estimated based on the three-dimensional finite element method and then they were used in the motor electromechanical model.

When voltages or current pulses are imposed in the stator windings, the level of torque ripple is high, if compared with other kind of motors, which is the primary disadvantage of SRM as it contributes to the vibration and acoustic noise. For this reason, the imposition of different current shapes to reduce the torque ripple appears as an interesting solution. In this work, the procedure to obtain alternatives shapes is described and the effectiveness of this strategy is experimentally tested in an AFSRM prototype. Even more, in order to evaluate the performance of different kinds of speed controllers, three PID types were implemented: a conventional, a fuzzy logic and a neural based approach. Although in different levels the experimental results confirm the reduction of torque ripple, there are also differences with respect to the execution time and the speed response.

2. The Axial Flux SRM Prototype

The prototype has six poles in the stator, corresponding to three phases ("a", "b" and "c"), and four poles in the rotor. It is a 3-phase 6/4 poles AFSRM, shown in Figure 1.

Table 1. The characteristics of the 3-phase 6/4 axial flux SRM.	
Parameter	Value
Outer diameter of rotor and stator	126 mm
Inner diameter of rotor and stator poles	63 mm
Shaft diameter	40 mm
Air gap	1.9 mm
Stator pole width	34 mm
Rotor pole width	26 mm
Stator and rotor poles arc	40°
Poles radial length	31.5 mm
Stator yoke thickness	5 mm
Stator pole area (axial cross-section)	1039 mm ²
Rotor yoke thickness	17 mm
Number of turns per stator pole	175
Turn wire	24 AWG
Coil resistance	2.3 Ω
Stator and rotor cores material	Steel SAE-1020
Motor shaft material	Stainless steel

The characteristics of the 3-phase 6/4 AFSRM prototype are shown in Table 1.



Figure 1. The AFSRM prototype.

Each stator pole has one coil, so there are six coils named "a1", "a2", "b1", "b2", "c1" and "c2".

The stator and rotor cores were solid because the objective of this work was the torque ripple minimization and not the loss reduction.

3. Torque Ripple Minimization Strategy

Considering that the motor core is operating in the linear region, the net electromagnetic torque T_e for the three phase AFSRM prototype is found as:

$$T_{e}(\theta_{a}, I_{a}, I_{b}, I_{c}) = \frac{1}{2} \begin{bmatrix} I_{a}(\theta_{a}) & I_{b}(\theta_{a}) & I_{c}(\theta_{a}) \end{bmatrix} \frac{\partial}{\partial \theta} \begin{pmatrix} L_{11}(\theta_{a}) & L_{12}(\theta_{a}) & L_{13}(\theta_{a}) \\ L_{21}(\theta_{a}) & L_{22}(\theta_{a}) & L_{23}(\theta_{a}) \\ L_{31}(\theta_{a}) & L_{32}(\theta_{a}) & L_{33}(\theta_{a}) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I_{a}(\theta_{a}) \\ I_{b}(\theta_{a}) \\ I_{c}(\theta_{a}) \end{bmatrix}$$
(1)

$$L_{11}(\theta_a) = +L_{a1a1}(\theta_a) + M_{a2a1}(\theta_a) + M_{a1a2}(\theta_a) + L_{a2a2}(\theta_a)$$
(2)

$$L_{12}(\theta_a) = +M_{b1a1}(\theta_a) - M_{b2a1}(\theta_a) - M_{b1a2}(\theta_a) + M_{b2a2}(\theta_a)$$
(3)

$$L_{13}(\theta_a) = -M_{c1a1}(\theta_a) + M_{c2a1}(\theta_a) + M_{c1a2}(\theta_a) - M_{c2a2}(\theta_a)$$

$$\tag{4}$$

$$L_{21}(\theta_a) = +M_{a1b1}(\theta_a) - M_{a2b1}(\theta_a) - M_{a1b2}(\theta_a) + M_{a2b2}(\theta_a)$$
(5)

$$L_{22}\left(\theta_{a}\right) = +L_{b1b1}\left(\theta_{b}\right) + M_{b2b1}\left(\theta_{b}\right) + M_{b1b2}\left(\theta_{b}\right) + L_{b2b2}\left(\theta_{b}\right)$$
(6)

$$L_{23}(\theta_a) = +M_{c1b1}(\theta_b) - M_{c2b1}(\theta_b) - M_{c1b2}(\theta_b) + M_{c2b2}(\theta_b)$$
(7)

$$L_{31}(\theta_a) = -M_{a1c1}(\theta_a) + M_{a2c1}(\theta_a) + M_{a1c2}(\theta_a) - M_{a2c2}(\theta_a)$$
(8)

$$L_{32}(\theta_a) = +M_{b1c1}(\theta_b) - M_{b2c1}(\theta_b) - M_{b1c2}(\theta_b) + M_{b2c2}(\theta_b)$$
(9)

$$L_{33}\left(\theta_{a}\right) = +L_{c1c1}\left(\theta_{c}\right) + M_{c2c1}\left(\theta_{c}\right) + M_{c1c2}\left(\theta_{c}\right) + L_{c2c2}\left(\theta_{c}\right)$$
(10)

where: L and M stand for the self and mutual inductances.

The rotor position angle θ_a , for phase "a", is considered as 45° when the rotor pole was completely overlapping with the stator pole, as depicted in Figure 2, and this angle is measured clockwise.

The θ_b and θ_c angles correspond to rotor angular positions for phases "b" and "c", respectively. The relationships between these angles are:

• for $\theta_a \leq 30^\circ$

$$\theta_{\rm h} = \theta_{\rm a} + 30^{\circ} \tag{11}$$

$$\theta_c = \theta_a + 60^\circ \tag{12}$$



Figure 2. Position of rotor pole 45° relative to stator pole of the AFSRM prototype.

• for $30^\circ < \theta_a \le 60^\circ$

$$\theta_b = \theta_a + 30^\circ \tag{13}$$

$$\theta_c = \theta_a - 30^\circ \tag{14}$$

• for $60^\circ < \theta_a \le 90^\circ$

$$\theta_b = \theta_a - 60^\circ \tag{15}$$

$$\theta_c = \theta_a - 30^\circ \tag{16}$$

The relationship among the three phases self and mutual inductances are: $L_{a2a2}(\theta_a) = L_{a1a1}(\theta_a)$; $L_{b1b1}(\theta_b) = L_{a1a1}(\theta_b)$; $L_{c1c1}(\theta_c) = L_{a1a1}(\theta_c)$; $L_{c2c2}(\theta_c) = L_{c1c1}(\theta_c)$; $M_{a2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1a2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{a2b1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{a2b2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b1}(\theta_a)$; $M_{a2c1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{a2c2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c1}(\theta_a)$, $M_{b1a1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b1}(\theta_a)$; $M_{b1a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{b1b2}(\theta_b) = M_{a1a2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{b1c1}(\theta_b) = M_{a1b1}(\theta_b)$; $M_{b1c2}(\theta_b) = M_{a1b2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{b2a1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{b2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1b2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{b2b1}(\theta_b) = M_{b1b2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{b2c1}(\theta_b) = M_{b1c2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{b2c2}(\theta_b) = M_{b1c1}(\theta_b)$; $M_{c1a1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c1}(\theta_a)$; $M_{c1a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a2c1}(\theta_a)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{c1a1}(\theta_b) = M_{b1c2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{c1a2}(\theta_b) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_c)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_c) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_c)$; $M_{c2a1}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_c)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{a2c2}(\theta_a)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_a) = M_{b1c2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{c2b2}(\theta_b) = M_{b1c2}(\theta_b)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_c) = M_{a1c2}(\theta_c)$; $M_{c2a2}(\theta_c)$

The self and mutual inductances were estimated based on a simulation model using a three dimensional finite element method of the "ANSYS Multiphysics" software [11] with magneto static analysis. The 96 type solid elements were used in the simulation software.

In Figure 3, for eleven rotor positions, the self and mutual inductances estimated, for phase "a", are shown. The self-inductance is represented by L_{a1a1} and the mutual inductances are named M_{a1a2} , M_{a1b1} , M_{a1b2} , M_{a1c1} and M_{a1c2} , respectively.

As shown in **Figure 3**, the self-inductance has a similar profile to the radial flux SRM case, which means that the minimum inductance corresponds to the unaligned position (no overlap between rotor and stator poles) while the maximum inductance corresponds to the full alignment position between rotor and stator poles. The inductances profiles repeat every 90°.

From Figure 3, it can be noted that the mutual inductances between the coil "a1" and the other five coils are not negligible. For instance, the maximum relationship between them (M_{a1b1}/L_{a1a1}) is around 0.25 near 20°.

In this way, in order to provide a constant electromagnetic torque for all rotor positions, appropriated reference currents should be designed. From previous tests in open loop [12], the best current feed strategy consists of the following sequence of energizing the windings:



Figure 3. AFSRM self and mutual inductances.

- phases "*a*" and "*b*" from rotor position 0° to 15°;
- only phase "*a*" from rotor position 15° to 30°;
- phases "*a*" and "*c*" from rotor position 30° to 45°;
- only phase "*c*" from rotor position 45° to 60°;
- phases "b" and "c" from rotor position 60° to 75°;
- only phase "b" from rotor position 75° to 90°. This cycle repeats each 90°.

On the other hand, to define a reference torque without harmonics, it was considered as that generated when a current of 3A is imposed in phase "a", while the rotor position was 30°. In this situation a net electromagnetic torque of 0.126 Nm was calculated.

Next, for every one degree, the current values of the phase "a" were calculated as:

from rotor position 15° to 30°

$$I_{a}(\theta_{a}) = \sqrt{\frac{0.126}{\frac{\partial L_{a1a1}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}} + \frac{\partial L_{a1a2}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}}}}$$
(17)

• from rotor position 0° to 15° a function that starts in zero and it then assumes the value calculated with (17) in the rotor position of 15°, was used

$$I_a(\theta_a) = 2.7967 - 2.7967 e^{(-\theta_a/4)}$$
(18)

from rotor position 30° to 45° the I_a current values are calculated from quadratic Equation (19) considering that I_c assumes the values of I_a currents obtained from (18). For example, the I_c value for 35° is equal to the I_a value for 5°

$$\left(\frac{\partial L_{ala1}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}} + \frac{\partial L_{ala2}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}}\right)I_{a}^{2}(\theta_{a}) + \left[\left(\frac{-2\partial L_{alc1}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}} + \frac{2\partial L_{alc2}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}}\right)I_{c}(\theta_{a})\right]I_{a}(\theta_{a}) + \left(\frac{\partial L_{clc1}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}} + \frac{\partial L_{clc2}(\theta_{a})}{\partial \theta_{a}}\right)I_{c}^{2}(\theta_{a}) - 0.126 = 0$$
(19)

The reference currents of phases "c" and "b" are shifted by 30° and 60° relative to phase current "a". All these reference currents are shown in **Figure 4**.

4. Controllers Description

In order to evaluate the performance of different kinds of speed controllers, three PID types were implemented: a conventional, a fuzzy logic and a neural based approach.

In **Figure 5**, the conventional PID structure is shown. As noted, the current references are obtained multiplying the controller output by a table with three outputs, which depend on the angular position of the rotor. In our experiments, two tables were evaluated. In the first one, the outputs have pulsed shapes. The final effect is a torque with high ripple components. In the second case, the outputs have modified shapes according to **Figure 4**. As the experimental results show, the reduction of torque ripple is important.

In this case, the PID gains were adjusted by simulations using MatLab[®] Simulink software, resulting in gains proportional, integral and derivative, of 16, 3 and 1, respectively.

The controller output was limited to the interval of [0, 1].

In Figure 6, the fuzzy or neural control structure is shown. As noted, the outputs of the controller are directly the current references for the AFSRM.





Figure 6. Block diagram of the fuzzy or neural PID speed control system.

In the case of the fuzzy controller, the rules were based on the observation of the simulation results of the PID controller that use the modified current shapes. The inputs of the fuzzy logic controller were speed error, derivative of speed error, integral of speed error and angular rotor position. The output variables are the three phase's reference currents. In the actual implementation, this strategy was translated to a table.

The fuzzy logic characteristics used in MatLab[®] Simulink simulations are: minimum "And" Method, maximum "Or" Method, minimum "Implication", maximum "Aggregation" and centroid "Defuzzification".

The input variable speed error ("E") has three linguistic values: "negative", "zero" and "positive". The corresponding membership functions are:

- trapezoidal type $\begin{bmatrix} -50 & -50 & -1 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ for "negative" ("N");
- triangular type $\begin{bmatrix} -1 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}$ "zero" ("Z");
- trapezoidal type [0 1 350 350] for "positive" ("P").

The input variable derivative of speed error ("CE") has three linguistic values: "negative", "zero" and "positive". The corresponding membership functions are:

- triangular type $\begin{bmatrix} -20 & -20 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ for "negative" ("N");
- triangular type $\begin{bmatrix} -20 & 0 & 20 \end{bmatrix}$ for "zero" ("Z");
- trapezoidal type [0 20 20] for "positive" ("P").

The input variable integral of speed error ("IE") has three linguistic values: "negative", "zero" and "positive". The corresponding membership functions are:

- triangular type $\begin{bmatrix} -10 & -10 & 0 \end{bmatrix}$ for "negative" ("N");
- triangular type $\begin{bmatrix} -10 & 0 & 10 \end{bmatrix}$ for "zero" ("Z");
- triangular type [0 10 10] for "positive" ("P").

The input variable angular rotor position ("Pos") has ten linguistic values: "P1", "P2", "P3", "P4", "P5", "P6", "P7", "P8", "P9" and "P10", whose corresponding membership functions are shown in Figure 7.

The output variables are the three phase's reference currents. They have four linguistic values: "zero" ("Z"), "low" ("L"), "medium" ("M") and "high" ("H"). The corresponding membership functions for phase "*a*" current are shown in **Figure 8**.

Take into account the number of membership functions, there are 270 ($3 \times 3 \times 3 \times 10$) fuzzy rules. Its structure is similar to: if (E is "P") and (CE is "P") and (IE is "N") and (Pos is "P5") then (I_a is "M") (I_b is "Z") (I_c is "H").



Figure 7. Membership functions of input variables of the fuzzy speed controller.



For the neural PID controller design, the usual procedure of off-line training was adopted. This was based in the data, with sampling frequency of 1 kHz, from the simulation results of the PID controller that use the modified current shapes.

The simulation with MatLab[®] Simulink used 12,000 input data values (speed error, derivative of speed error, integral of speed error and angular rotor position) distributed as 6000 for training, 3000 for test and 3000 for validation. On the other hand, 12,000 output data values (currents in three phases) were used, obtained with the simulation of the PID conventional controller.

For neural network training the MatLab[®] software was used ("nntool"). The neural network properties were: feed-forward back propagation network type, network training function that updates weight and bias values according to Levenberg-Marquardt optimization (TRAINLM), gradient descent with momentum weight and bias adaption learning function (LEARNGDM), mean squared error performance function (MSE), two layers: layer 1 using 36 neurons with hyperbolic tangent sigmoid transfer function (TANSIG) and layer 2 using 3 neurons with linear transfer function (PURELIN). Figure 9 shows the neural architecture and Figure 10 shows the performance of the neural network training used in the simulation.

The training generated weight and bias values of the two layers that were used in the neural PID controller to calculate the references currents of the simulation. In the actual implementation, a correspondent table was prepared.

5. Controllers Implementation

The hardware to control the AFSRM consists of a controller circuit, three power converter circuits, one for each phase, a position sensor circuit, three Hall Effect current measurement circuits, also one for each phase, a torque meter connected between the AFSRM shaft and the mechanical load shaft. The shaft of a DC machine was used as an inertial load. These components are arranged as shown in the block diagram of Figure 11.

The experimental hardware is shown in **Figure 12**, including the AFSRM. In this photo the parts of the hardware used in the experiments can be identified: the controller circuit (1), the power converter circuits (2), the position sensor circuit (3), Hall Effect current measurement circuits (4), torque sensor and display (5), the AFSRM (6) and the DC machine (7).

The position sensor consists of an infrared optical circuit and an aluminum dish with 180 holes, fixed to the rotor structure. The signal from the sensor is transformed into a rectangular pulse stream with amplitude of 5 V,



Figure 9. Neural architecture generated by "nntool" of the MatLab[®] software.



Figure 10. Neural network training of the MatLab[®] software.



which is sent to the controller circuit.

The actual phase currents are measured using commercial Hall Effect circuits. Their gain and zero adjustments were done in order to obtain 1 V for 1 A of phase current.

The power circuits consist of three asymmetric bridge converters and auxiliary circuits. In Figure 13, one of the power circuits is depicted.

As illustrated, the actual measured current is compared with the reference current coming from the controller circuit. If the real current is greater than the reference, the power circuit switches off the Mosfets of this phase in order to decrease the current in the coils.

The controller circuit consists of one microcontroller PIC 18F4680, programmed using the "C" language, that receives the rectangular pulses from the position sensor and calculates the reference currents of the three phases



Figure 12. Experimental hardware and AFSRM prototype.





in accordance with the controller type used, sending them to the power converter. Due to the 180 holes in the aluminum dish, the controller imposed the reference currents every 2° .

6. Experimental Results

In order to evaluate the torque ripple minimization strategy, four experiments were performed:

- current pulses were imposed and a conventional PID speed controller was used;
- proposed current waveforms, shown in Figure 4, were imposed and a conventional PID speed controller was used;
- a fuzzy logic PID speed controller was used;
- a neural PID speed controller was used.

6.1. Imposing Current Pulses

In this case the current pulses were applied in the following sequence:

- phase "a" from rotor position 0° to 30° ;
- phase "c" from rotor position 30° to 60° ;
- phase "b" from rotor position 60° to 90° .

The **Figure 14** shows the reference current imposed by the controller and the actual current in the coils of one phase.

The Figure 15 shows the speed response and the Figure 16 shows the torque response, when current pulses are imposed and a conventional PID speed controller is used. The reference speed is 350 rpm.

In this case, the torque ripple in steady state was around 17.1% of the average torque.



6.2. Imposing Proposed Current Waveforms

The current waveform proposed as reference and the actual current in phase "*a*" are shown in Figure 17. Note that the actual and reference currents are practically overlapping.

The Figure 18 shows the speed response and Figure 19 shows the torque response for current waveforms proposed and conventional PID speed controller.

In this case, the torque ripple in steady state was around 2.1% of the average torque.



6.3. Using Fuzzy Logic PID Speed Controller

The actual currents in two phases of the AFSRM are shown in Figure 20. These were very close to their references.

Figure 21 shows the speed response and Figure 22 shows the torque response for the fuzzy logic PID controller.

In this case, the torque ripple in steady state was around 6.5% of the average torque.



6.4. Using Neural PID Speed Controller

The actual currents in two phases of the AFSRM are shown in Figure 23.

The Figure 24 shows the speed response and the Figure 25 shows the torque response for neural controller. In this case, the torque ripple in steady state was around 2.0% of the average torque.

7. Conclusions

In this work, particular reference waveforms for the currents of an ASFRM in a closed loop speed control



system have been proposed and experimentally tested. Comparing the performance of a conventional PID speed controller using current pulses with a conventional PID speed controller, using the current waveforms proposed, it is confirmed that the level of torque ripple is reduced.

All the controllers were adjusted through simulations, using a motor model that is composed by self and mutual inductances obtained through 3D FEM simulations.

Comparing the performance of a conventional PID speed controller using the proposed current waveforms with a fuzzy logic PID speed controller, it was noted that the torque ripple for the first one is lower, which can be explained because the currents obtained with fuzzy logic controller are not exactly similar to those that would

produce constant torque.

Nevertheless, in respect of the speed response, the fuzzy logic PID controller reaches the steady state in less time than the conventional PID controller. Even more, with respect to the implementation, the execution time of the fuzzy logic PID is lower than that used with the conventional PID controller but similar to that spent by the neural PID controller.

Finally, with respect to the neural PID controller, it notes similar torque ripple to the conventional PID controller but lower than that obtained using the fuzzy logic approach, which is expected as this was obtained from training based on the conventional PID controller results. However, this has a cost, which is the time spent in off-line training.

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