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High-Order Sliding Mode Control of DFIG-Based Marine Current Turbine

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Abstract—This paper deals with the speed control of a variable speed DFIG-based marine current turbine. Indeed, to increase the generated power and therefore the efficiency of a marine current turbine, a nonlinear controller has been proposed. DFIG has been already considered for similar applications particularly wind turbine systems using mainly PI controllers. However, such kinds of controllers do not adequately handle some of tidal resource characteristics such as turbulence and swell effects. Indeed, these may decrease marine current turbine performances. Moreover, DFIG parameter variations should be accounted for. Therefore, a robust nonlinear control strategy, namely high-order sliding mode control, is proposed. This control strategy relies on the resource and the marine turbine models that were validated by experimental data. The sensitivity of the proposed control strategy is analyzed regarding the swell effect as it is considered as the most disturbing one for the resource model. Tidal current data from the Raz de Sein (Brittany, France) are used to run simulations of a 7.5-kW prototype over various flow regimes. Simulation results are presented and fully analyzed.

Index Terms—Marine current turbine (MCT), doubly-fed induction generator (DFIG), modeling, nonlinear control, high-order sliding mode.

NOMENCLATURE

DFIG	=	Doubly-Fed Induction Generator;
MCT	=	Marine Current Turbine;
ρ	=	Fluid density;
A	=	Cross-sectional area of the marine turbine;
V_{tide}	=	Fluid speed;
C_p	=	Power coefficient;
C	=	Tide coefficient;
$V_{st} (V_{nt})$	=	Spring (neap) tide current speed;
$s, (r)$	=	Stator (rotor) index;
d, q	=	Synchronous reference frame index;
$V (I)$	=	Voltage (Current);
$P (Q)$	=	Active (Reactive) power;
ϕ	=	Flux;
$T_{em} (T_m)$	=	Electromagnetic torque (Mechanical torque);
R	=	Resistance
$L (M)$	=	Inductance (Mutual inductance);
θ_r	=	Rotor position;

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$\omega_r (\omega_s)$	=	Angular speed (Synchronous speed);
f	=	Viscosity coefficient;
J	=	Rotor Inertia;
p	=	Pole pair number.

I. INTRODUCTION

Only a fraction of the global ocean energy resource is to be found in sites which are economically feasible to explore with available technology. However, this fraction could still make a considerable contribution to electricity supply. This is the reason why the marine renewable sector is currently the focus of much industrial and academic research around the world [1]. Sites with attractive wave climate and intense tidal currents are abundant in the vicinity of the European coastline. It has been shown that 48% of the European tidal resource is in the UK, 42% in France, and 8% in Ireland. Three examples in France are shown in Fig. 1. The Raz Blanchard situated in Cap de la Hague experiences extreme tidal currents exceeding 8 knots and leading to a large amount of kinetic energy flux.

There are basically two ways of generating electricity from marine and tidal currents: by building a tidal barrage across an estuary or a bay in high tide areas, or by extracting energy from free flowing water (tidal kinetic energy). Within the last few decades, developers have shifted towards technologies that capture tidally-driven coastal currents or tidal stream [2]. The astronomic nature of this resource makes it predictable, to within 98% accuracy for decades, and independent of prevailing weather conditions. This predictability is critical to a successful integration of renewable energy in the electrical grid [3]. It is therefore obvious that there is a need to quantify the potential to generating electricity from these various sites [4].

In this context, this paper is dealing with the control of a DFIG-based marine current turbine.

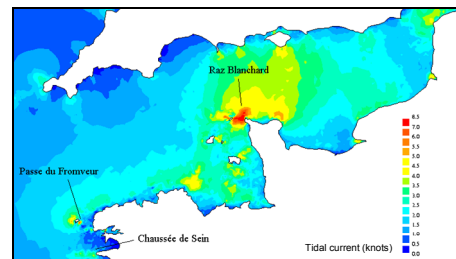


Fig. 1. Raz Blanchard, Fromveur, and Raz de Sein sites in the French western coast.

It should be noted that when scanning the literature, one will find very few papers in this topic [5]. Therefore, to account for some of tidal resource characteristics such as turbulence and swell effects, and the DFIG parameter variation, a robust nonlinear control strategy, namely HOSM control, is proposed. This control strategy relies on the resource and the marine turbine models that were validated by experimental data. Tidal current data from the Raz de Sein (Brittany, France) are used to run simulations of a 7.5-kW prototype over various flow regimes.

II. MARINE CURRENT TURBINE MODELING

The global scheme for a grid-connected marine current turbine is given by Fig. 2.

A. The Resource Model

1) *Resource Potential.* The total kinetic power in a marine current turbine has a similar dependence to that of a wind turbine and is governed by the following equation [6-7].

$$P = \frac{1}{2} \rho A V_{tide}^3 \quad (1)$$

However, a marine energy turbine can only harness a fraction of this power due to losses and (1) is modified as follows.

$$P = \frac{1}{2} \rho C_p A V_{tide}^3 \quad (2)$$

For marine turbines, C_p is estimated to be in the range 0.35–0.5 [8].

2) *Resource Model.* Tidal current data are given by the SHOM (French Navy Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service) and is available for various locations in chart form. The SHOM available charts give, for a specific site, the current velocities for spring and neap tides. These values are given at hourly intervals starting at 6 hours before high waters and ending 6 hours after. Therefore, knowing tides coefficient, it is easy to derive a simple and practical model for tidal current speeds V_{tide} .

$$V_{tide} = V_{nt} + \frac{(C-45)(V_{st} - V_{nt})}{95-45} \quad (3)$$

Where 95 and 45 are respectively the spring and neap tide medium coefficient.

This first-order model is then used to calculate the tidal velocity each hour. The implemented model will allow the user to compute tidal velocities in a predefined time range. Figure 3 shows the model output for a month (March 2007) and for a year (2007).

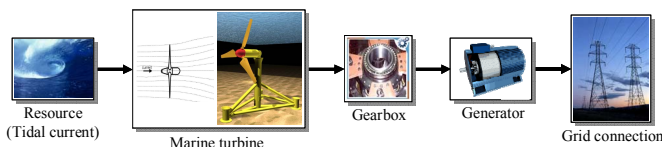


Fig. 2. Marine current turbine global scheme.

This adopted resource model has several advantages including its modularity not to mention its simplicity. Indeed, the marine turbine site can be changed, the useful current velocity can be adapted, and the time range taken into account can also be adapted from one month to one year.

B. The Turbine Rotor Model

The harnessing of the energy in a tidal flow requires the conversion of kinetic energy in a moving fluid, in this case water, into the motion of a mechanical system, which can then drive a generator. It is not too surprising, therefore, that many developers suggest using technology that mirrors that which has been successfully utilized to harness the wind, which is also a moving fluid [2]. Moreover, much of the technology is based upon the use of horizontal axis turbines, such as that shown in Fig. 4. Therefore, much can be transferred from the modeling and operation of wind turbines [9]. There are, however, a number of fundamental differences in the design and operation of marine turbines. Particular differences entail changes in force loadings, immersion depth, different stall characteristics, and the possible occurrence of cavitation [10-11].

Turbine rotor aerodynamics refers to the interaction of the wind turbine rotor with the incoming wind. The treatment of rotor aerodynamics in all current design codes is based on Glauert well-known, and well established Blade Element Momentum (BEM) theory [12]. The BEM method has therefore been used for the marine turbine rotor modeling. Indeed, it is widely used in the industry as a computational tool to predict aerodynamic loads and power of turbine rotors. It is relatively simple and computationally fast meeting the requirements of accuracy and control loop computational speed.

C. The Generator Model

The generator chosen for the marine current system was the DFIG [13].

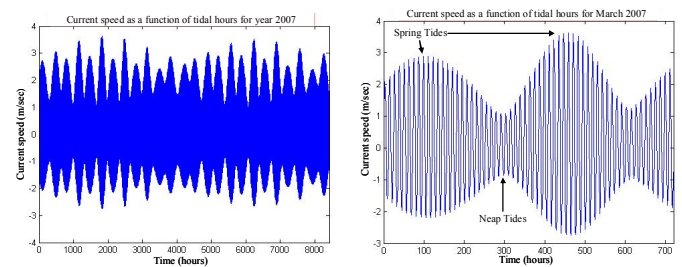


Fig. 3. Tidal velocity in the Raz de Sein for the year 2007 and March 2007.



Fig. 4. Tidal turbine against an offshore wind turbine [© MCT].

DFIG-based marine turbines, as for wind turbines, will offer several advantages including variable speed operation, and four-quadrant active and reactive power capabilities. Such system also results in lower converter costs and lower power losses compared to a system based on a fully fed synchronous generator with full-rated converter. Moreover, the generator is robust and requires little maintenance [5], [14]. A schematic diagram of a DFIG-based generation system is shown in Fig. 5.

The control system is usually defined in the synchronous d - q frame fixed to either the stator voltage or the stator flux [13]. For the proposed control strategy, the generator dynamic model written in a synchronously rotating frame d - q is given by the following equation.

$$\begin{cases} \frac{d\phi_{ds}}{dt} = V_{ds} + R_s I_{ds} + \omega_s \phi_{qs} \\ \frac{d\phi_{qs}}{dt} = V_{qs} + R_s I_{qs} - \omega_s \phi_{ds} \\ \frac{d\phi_{dr}}{dt} = V_{dr} + R_r I_{dr} + \omega_r \phi_{qr} \\ \frac{d\phi_{qr}}{dt} = V_{qr} + R_r I_{qr} - \omega_r \phi_{dr} \\ \phi_{ds} = -L_s I_{ds} - M I_{dr} \\ \phi_{qs} = -L_s I_{qs} - M I_{qr} \\ \phi_{dr} = -L_r I_{dr} - M I_{ds} \\ \phi_{qr} = -L_r I_{qr} - M I_{qs} \\ T_{em} = pM(I_{qs} I_{dr} - I_{ds} I_{qr}) \\ J \frac{d\omega}{dt} = T_{em} - T_m - f\omega \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

III. THE VARIABLE SPEED CONTROL STRATEGY

A. Problem Formulation

A common practice in addressing DFIG control problem is to use a linearization approach [15-20]. However, due to the tidal resource characteristics such as turbulence and swell effects and the inevitable uncertainties inherent in DFIG-based marine current turbines, such control methods come at the price of poor system performance and low reliability [21]. Hence the need for nonlinear and robust control to take into account these control problems [22-23].

In this context, sliding mode control seems to be an interesting approach.

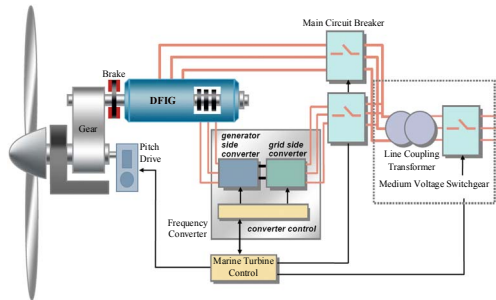


Fig. 5. Schematic diagram of a DFIG-based generation system.

Indeed, it is one of the effective nonlinear robust control approaches since it provides system dynamics with an invariant property to uncertainties once the system dynamics are controlled in the sliding mode [24]. Moreover, it is easy to implement.

For DFIG-based marine current turbines, sliding mode should provide a suitable control tool for conversion efficiency, torque oscillation smoothing [25] and robustness against electric grid disturbances [26]. Indeed, in an initial study, PI control has been adopted for speed tracking of DFIG-based marine current turbine [27]. This kind of controller is well-known for its robustness and its simplicity for constant references. Its gains are computed by compensating the larger system time -constant and by guaranteeing a constant tracking error when the reference is a ramp. However, in case of marine current turbine, the generated reference signals are time-varying and the current sources may be turbulent, which makes the PI feedback not efficient.

B. The Proposed Control Strategy

The proposed control strategy is based on a step-by-step procedure: First, the speed reference ω_{ref} is generated by a Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) strategy [28]. Then, an optimal electromagnetic torque, which ensures the rotor speed convergence to ω_{ref} is computed using the following mechanical equation.

$$T_{em_ref} = T_m + f\omega - \alpha(\omega - \omega_{ref}) + J\dot{\omega}_{ref} \quad (5)$$

where α is a positive constant. Afterwards, rotor current references are derived to ensure the DFIG torque and reactive power convergence the optimal torque and zero, respectively.

$$\begin{cases} I_{qr_ref} = -\frac{L_s}{pM} \frac{T_{em_ref}}{\phi_{sd}} \\ I_{dr_ref} = \frac{1}{M} \phi_{sd} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

In order to ensure the rotor currents convergence to their references, a robust high-order sliding mode strategy is used [29]. Let us define the following surfaces.

$$\begin{cases} S_1 = I_{dr} - I_{dr_ref} \\ S_2 = I_{qr} - I_{qr_ref} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

It follows that

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S}_1 = \frac{L_s}{M^2 - L_r L_s} \left(V_{dr} + R_r I_{dr} - \omega_r (L_r I_{qr} + M I_{qs}) - \frac{M}{L_s} V_{ds} \right. \\ \quad \left. - \frac{M R_s}{L_s} I_{ds} + \frac{M}{L_s} \omega_s (L_s I_{qs} + M I_{qr}) \right) - \dot{I}_{dr_ref} \\ \ddot{S}_1 = \varphi_1(t, x) + \gamma_1(t, x) V_{dr} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

and

$$\begin{cases} \dot{S}_2 = \frac{L_s}{M^2 - L_r L_s} \left(V_{qr} + R_r I_{qr} + \omega_r (L_r I_{dr} + M I_{ds}) - \frac{M}{L_s} V_{qs} \right. \\ \quad \left. - \frac{M R_s}{L_s} I_{qs} - \frac{M}{L_s} \omega_s (L_s I_{ds} + M I_{dr}) \right) - \dot{I}_{qr_ref} \\ \ddot{S}_2 = \varphi_2(t, x) + \gamma_2(t, x) V_{qr} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

Where $\varphi_1(t, x)$, $\varphi_2(t, x)$, $\gamma_1(t, x)$, and $\gamma_2(t, x)$ are uncertain functions which satisfy

$$\begin{cases} \varphi_1 > 0, |\varphi_1| > \Phi_1, 0 < \Gamma_{m1} < \gamma_1 < \Gamma_{M1} \\ \varphi_2 > 0, |\varphi_2| > \Phi_2, 0 < \Gamma_{m2} < \gamma_2 < \Gamma_{M2} \end{cases}$$

The control algorithm proposed which is based on super twisting algorithm has been introduced by Levant [30]. The proposed high-order (2nd) sliding mode controller contains two parts:

$$V_{dr} = u_1 + u_2 \quad (10)$$

$$\text{where } \begin{cases} \dot{u}_1 = -\alpha_1 \text{sign}(S_1) \\ u_2 = -\beta_1 |S_1|^p \text{sign}(S_1) \end{cases}$$

$$\text{and } V_{qr} = w_1 + w_2 \quad (11)$$

$$\text{where } \begin{cases} \dot{w}_1 = -\alpha_2 \text{sign}(S_2) \\ w_2 = -\beta_2 |S_2|^p \text{sign}(S_2) \end{cases}$$

In order to ensure the convergence of the sliding manifolds to zero in finite time, the gains can be chosen as follows [29], [31].

$$\begin{cases} \alpha_i > \frac{\Phi_i}{\Gamma_{mi}} \\ \beta_i^2 \geq \frac{4\Phi_i}{\Gamma_{mi}^2} \frac{\Gamma_{Mi}(\alpha_i + \Phi_i)}{\Gamma_{mi}(\alpha_i - \Phi_i)}; \quad i = 1, 2 \\ 0 < p \leq 0.5 \end{cases}$$

The above proposed high-order sliding mode control strategy for a DFIG-based MCT is illustrated by Fig. 6.

IV. VALIDATION RESULTS

A. Validation Data and Parameters

In this work, the Raz de Sein site was chosen above several others listed in the European Commission report EUR16683 [32] due to the presence of high speed current coupled with appropriate depths suitable for marine turbine. Moreover, the marine current speed distribution for most of the time is greater than the minimum, estimated to be 1 m/sec, required for economic deployment of marine turbine [4].

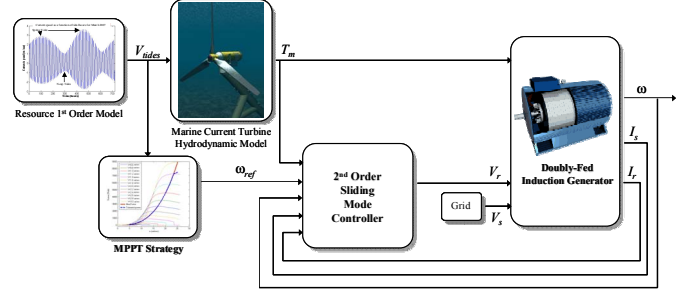


Fig. 6. The proposed control scheme.

The turbine rotor model was validated through the comparison of the simulation model with experimental data from the available literature [33-34] (Fig. 7). The adopted marine current turbine is of 1.44 m diameter and 7.5-kW.

In this context, the obtained power coefficient C_p and the extractable power curves are shown by Fig. 8.

The 7.5-kW DFIG parameters are given in the appendix.

B. Validation Results for a Filtered Resource

For speed references given by Fig. 9 (MPPT) and a filtered resource (Fig. 10), the DFIG-based MCT control performances are shown in Figs. 11, 12 and 13 respectively illustrating the rotor speed tracking performance, the reactive, and the generated active power.

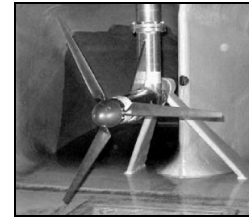
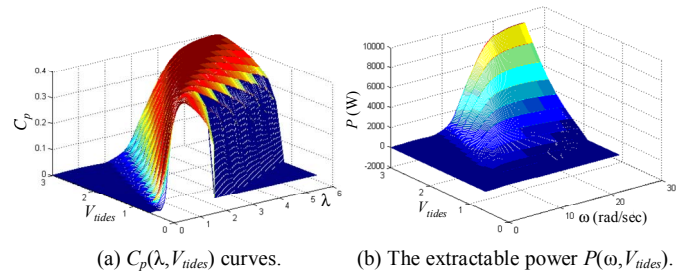


Fig. 7. The tested marine turbine [33-34].



(a) $C_p(\lambda, V_{tides})$ curves. (b) The extractable power $P(\omega, V_{tides})$.

Fig. 8.

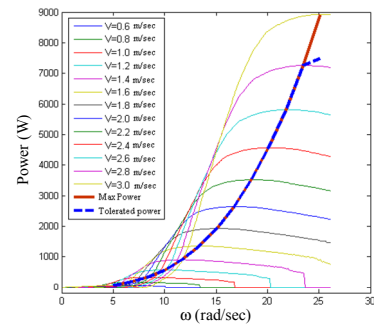


Fig. 9. Power curves for different tidal current speed.

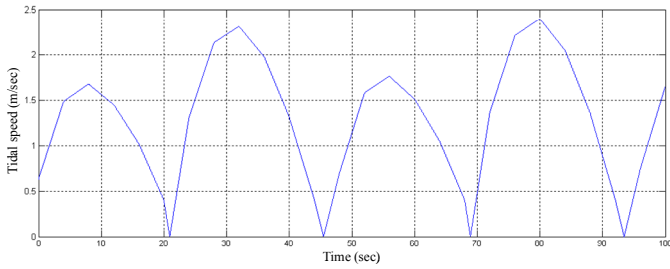


Fig. 10. Filtered resource speed.

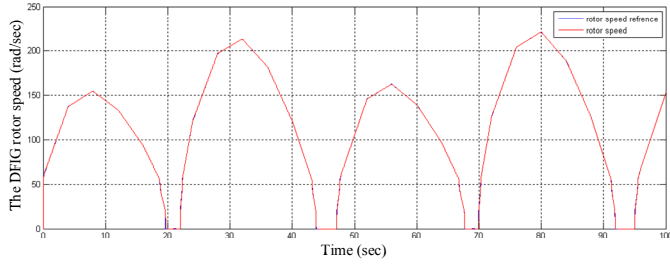


Fig. 11. The DFIG rotor speed and its reference.

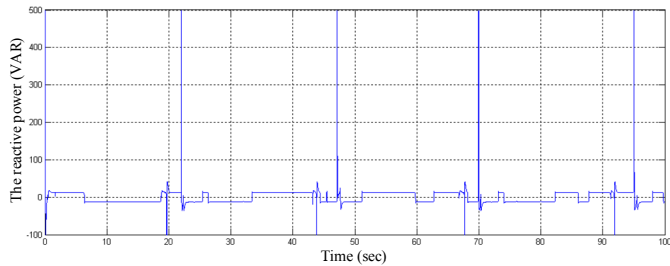


Fig. 12. The DFIG reactive power.

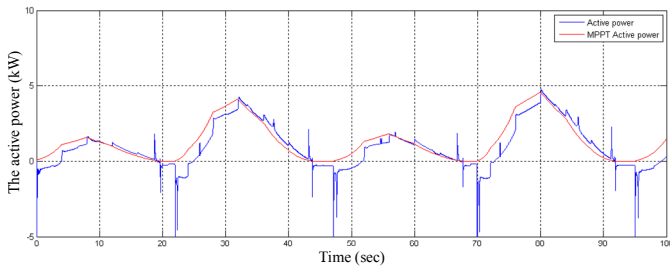


Fig. 13. The DFIG active power.

The obtained results show good tracking performances of the DFIG rotor speed, the reactive and the generated active power. Regarding [27] and as expected, the generated active power tracking is greatly improved.

C. Validation Results for a Turbulent Resource

Since the swell effect is considered as the most disturbing one for our resource model, a swell Stoke model is added. In this case, the speed potential is given by (Fig. 14)

$$\begin{cases} V_{tides} = grad\phi \\ \phi = -\frac{HL}{2T} \frac{ch2\Pi\left(\frac{z+d}{L}\right)}{sh2\Pi\left(\frac{d}{L}\right)} \sin 2\Pi\left(\frac{t}{T} - \frac{x}{L}\right) \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

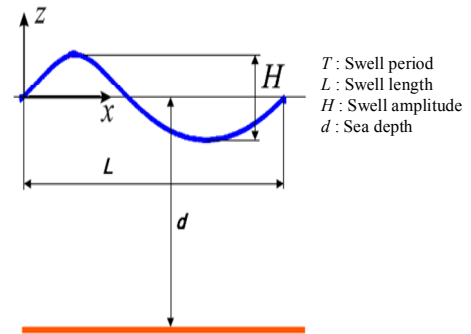


Fig. 14. Swell characteristics.

The turbulent resource characteristics are then given by Fig. 15. In this case, the DFIG-based MCT control performances are shown by Figs. 16, 17 and 18 respectively illustrating the rotor speed tracking performance, the reactive, and the generated active power. In spite of the good tracking accuracy of the high-order sliding mode control, the generated power exhibits fluctuations. In fact, these fluctuations are mainly due to accelerations and decelerations imposed to the marine current turbine by the MPPT strategy for a turbulent resource. This problem could be simply solved by filtering the resource at a certain level to avoid losing useful powers.

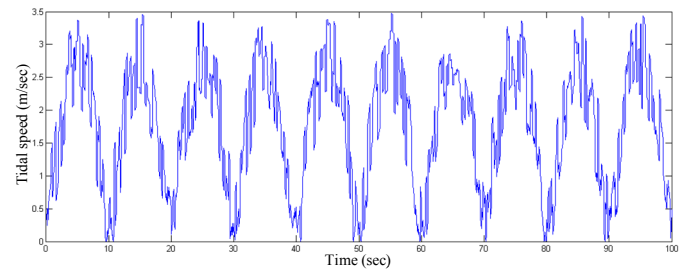


Fig. 15. Turbulent resource speed.

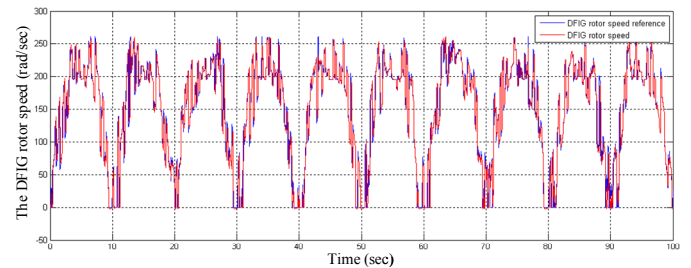


Fig. 16. The DFIG rotor speed and its reference.

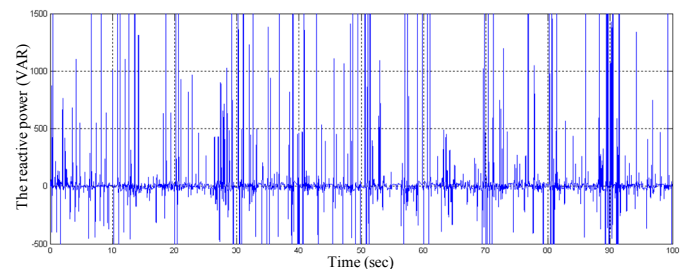


Fig. 17. The DFIG reactive power.

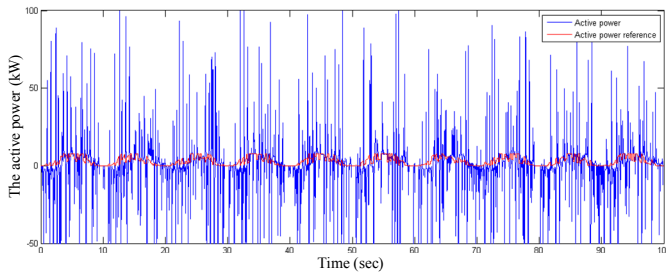


Fig. 18. The DFIG active power.

V. CONCLUSIONS

This paper dealt with a high-order sliding mode control of DFIG-based marine current turbine. The variable speed control strategy relies on the resource and the marine turbine models that were validated by experimental data. Tidal current data from the Raz de Sein (Brittany, France) have been used to run simulations of a 7.5-kW prototype over various flow regimes. Simulation results have shown that the proposed control strategy is effective in terms of speed tracking and power regulation. Moreover, the sensitivity of the proposed control strategy has been analyzed regarding the swell effect. The obtained results are very encouraging even if a fluctuation effect is observed. A solution could be an efficient resource filtering.

APPENDIX

PARAMETERS OF THE USED DFIG

$$R_s = 0.455 \, \Omega, L_s = 0.084 \, \text{H}, R_r = 0.62 \, \Omega, L_r = 0.081 \, \text{H}, M = 0.078 \, \text{H} \\ J = 0.3125 \, \text{kg.m}^2, f = 6.73 \cdot 10^3 \, \text{Nms}^{-1}$$

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