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# DFIG-Based Wind Turbine Robust Control Using High-Order Sliding Modes and a High Gain Observer

Brice Beltran<sup>1</sup>, Mohamed Benbouzid<sup>1</sup>, Tarek Ahmed-Ali<sup>2</sup> and Hervé Mangel<sup>1</sup>

**Abstract**—This paper deals with the power generation control in variable speed wind turbines. In this context, a control strategy is proposed to ensure power extraction optimization of a DFIG-based wind turbine. The proposed control strategy combines an MPPT using a high gain observer and second-order sliding mode for the DFIG control. This strategy presents attractive features such as chattering-free behavior, finite reaching time, robustness and unmodeled dynamics (generator and turbine). The overall strategy has been validated on a 1.5-MW three-blade wind turbine using the NREL wind turbine simulator FAST. **Copyright © 2011 Praise Worthy Prize S.r.l. - All rights reserved.**

**Keywords:** Wind turbine (WT), Doubly-Fed Induction Generator (DFIG), high gain observer, high-order sliding mode.

## Nomenclature

$v$	=	Wind speed;
$\rho$	=	Air density;
$R$	=	Rotor radius (m);
$P_a$	=	Aerodynamic power;
$T_a$	=	Aerodynamic torque;
$\lambda$	=	Tip speed ratio;
$C_p$	=	Power coefficient;
$\omega$	=	WT rotor speed;
$\omega_{mg}$	=	Generator speed;
$T_g$	=	Generator electromagnetic torque;
$J$	=	Turbine total inertia;
$K$	=	Turbine total external damping;
$s(r)$	=	Stator (rotor) index;
$d(q)$	=	Synchronous reference frame index;
$V(I)$	=	Voltage (current);
$P(Q)$	=	Active (reactive) power;
$\phi$	=	Flux;
$T_{em}$	=	Electromagnetic torque;
$R$	=	Resistance;
$L(M)$	=	Inductance (mutual inductance);
$\sigma$	=	Leakage coefficient, $\sigma = 1 - M^2/L_s L_r$ ;
$\theta_r$	=	Rotor position;
$\omega_r(\omega_s)$	=	Angular speed (synchronous speed);
$s$	=	Slip;
$p$	=	Pole pair number.

## I. Introduction

Variable speed wind turbines are continuously increasing their market share, since it is possible to track the changes in wind speed by adapting shaft speed and thus maintaining optimal power generation. The more variable speed wind turbines are investigated, the more it becomes obvious that their behavior is significantly affected by the used control strategy. Typically, they use aerodynamic controls in combination with power

electronics to regulate torque, speed, and power. The aerodynamic control systems, usually variable-pitch blades or trailing-edge devices, are expensive and complex, especially when the turbines are larger. This situation provides a motivation to consider alternative control approaches and to introduce more *intelligence* [1].

Therefore, this paper deals with power generation control in variable speed wind turbines. A control strategy is proposed to ensure power extraction optimization and reduce mechanical stresses in the drive train of a DFIG-based wind turbine. The proposed control strategy combines an MPPT using a high gain observer and second-order sliding mode for the DFIG control. This strategy presents attractive features such as chattering-free behavior, finite reaching time, robustness and unmodeled dynamics (generator and turbine).

The overall control strategy, illustrated by Fig. 1, has been validated on a 1.5-MW three-blade wind turbine using the NREL wind turbine simulator FAST.

## II. Wind Turbine Modeling

The global scheme for a grid-connected wind turbine is given in Fig. 2. The wind turbine modeling is inspired from [2]. In the following, the wind turbine components models are briefly described.

### II.1. Turbine Model

In this case, the aerodynamic power  $P_a$  captured by the wind turbine is given by

$$P_a = \frac{1}{2} \pi \rho R^2 C_p(\lambda) v^3 \quad (1)$$

$$\text{where } \lambda = \frac{R\omega}{v} \quad (2)$$

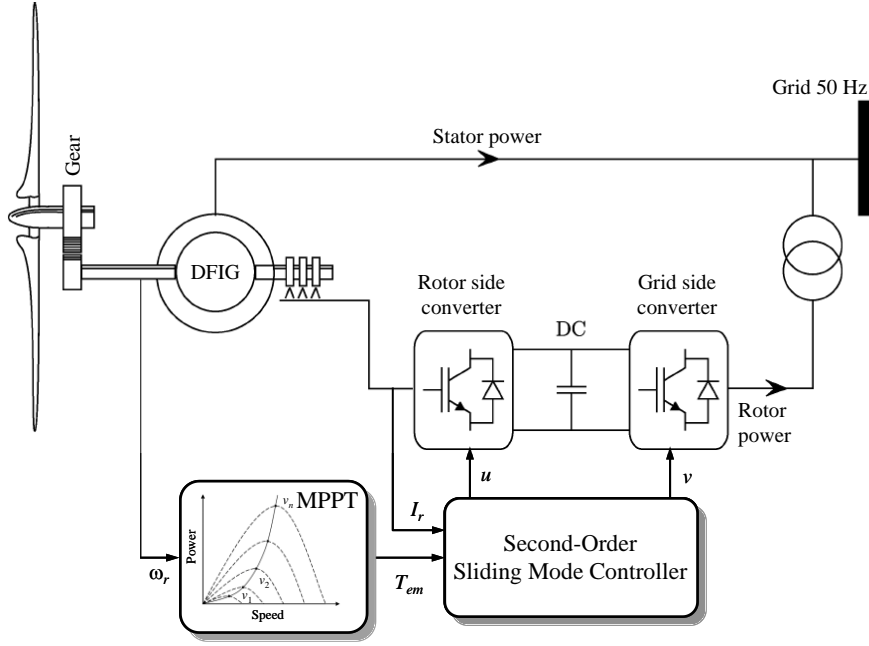


Fig. 1. The proposed control structure.

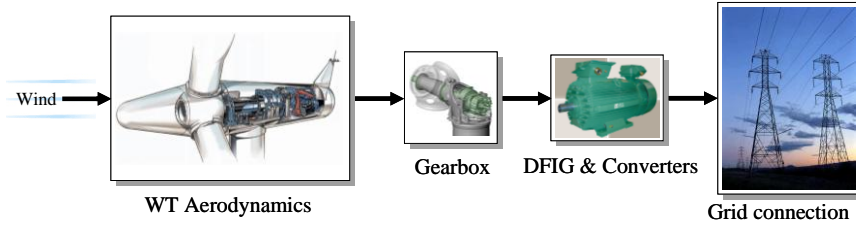


Fig. 2. Wind turbine global scheme.

Normally, a variable speed wind turbine follows the  $C_{pmax}$  to capture the maximum power up to the rated speed by varying the rotor speed to keep the system at  $\lambda_{opt}$ . Then it operates at the rated power with power regulation during high wind periods by active control of the blade pitch angle or passive regulation based on aerodynamic stall.

The rotor power (aerodynamic power) is also defined by

$$P_a = \omega T_a \quad (3)$$

According to [2], the following simplified model is adopted for the turbine (drive train) for control purposes.

$$J \dot{\omega} = T_a - K \omega - T_g \quad (4)$$

## II.2. Generator Model

The WT adopted generator is the DFIG. DFIG-based WT will offer several advantages including variable speed operation ( $\pm 33\%$  around the synchronous speed), and four-quadrant active and reactive power capabilities. Such system also results in lower converter costs (typically 25% of total system power) 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 [3-4].

The control system is usually defined in the synchronous  $d-q$  frame fixed to either the stator voltage or the stator flux. For the proposed control strategy, the generator dynamic model written in a synchronously rotating frame  $d-q$  is given by (5).

$$\begin{cases} V_{sd} = R_s I_{sd} + \frac{d\phi_{sd}}{dt} - \omega_s \phi_{sq} \\ V_{sq} = R_s I_{sq} + \frac{d\phi_{sq}}{dt} + \omega_s \phi_{sd} \\ V_{rd} = R_r I_{rd} + \frac{d\phi_{rd}}{dt} - \omega_r \phi_{rq} \\ V_{rq} = R_r I_{rq} + \frac{d\phi_{rq}}{dt} + \omega_r \phi_{rd} \\ \phi_{sd} = L_s I_{sd} + M I_{rd} \\ \phi_{sq} = L_s I_{sq} + M I_{rq} \\ \phi_{rd} = L_r I_{rd} + M I_{sd} \\ \phi_{rq} = L_r I_{rq} + M I_{sq} \\ T_{em} = pM (I_{rd} I_{sq} - I_{rq} I_{sd}) \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

For simplification purposes, the  $q$ -axis is aligned with the stator voltage and the stator resistance is neglected [4]. These will lead to (6).

$$\begin{cases} \frac{dI_{rd}}{dt} = \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} \left( v_{rd} - R_r I_{rd} + s\omega_s \sigma L_r I_{rq} - \frac{M}{L_s} \frac{d\phi_{sd}}{dt} \right) \\ \frac{dI_{rq}}{dt} = \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} \left( v_{rq} - R_r I_{rq} - s\omega_s \sigma L_r I_{rd} - s\omega_s \frac{M}{L_s} \phi_{sd} \right) \\ T_{em} = -p \frac{M}{L_s} \phi_{sd} I_{rq} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

### III. The MPPT Strategy

#### III.1. Problem Formulation

The reference torque of the MPPT block must address two problems: the captured power maximization and be driven according to the three fundamental operating regions illustrated by Fig. 3.

In practice, there are two possible regions of turbine operation, namely the high- and low-speed regions. High speed operation (III) is frequently bounded by the speed limit of the machine. Conversely, regulation in the low-speed region (II) is usually not restricted by speed constraints. However, the system has nonlinear nonminimum phase dynamics in this region. This adverse behavior is an obstacle to perform the regulation task [5].

In region II, the control objective is to optimize the capture wind energy by tracking the optimal torque  $T_{opt}$ .

$$T_{opt} = k \omega^2, \text{ with } k = \frac{1}{2} \pi \rho R^5 \frac{C_{p \max}}{\lambda_{opt}^3} \quad (7)$$

The standard strategy neglect the dynamic of the drive train, which means that the aerodynamic torque is supposed to be equal to the generator torque. It is obvious that in many cases, and especially for turbulent winds, this assumption will not be realistic.

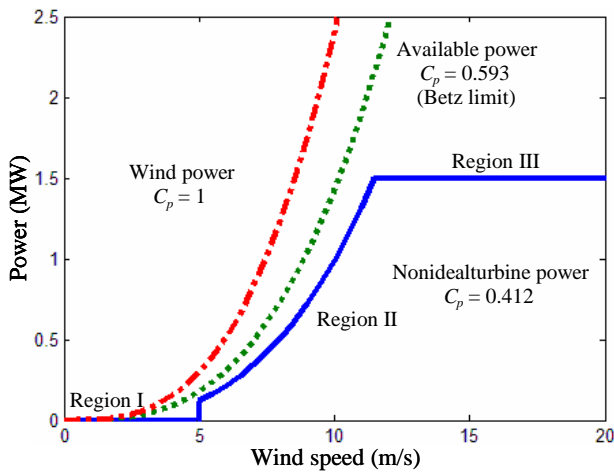


Fig. 3. Steady-state power curves.

The proposed control strategy relies then on the aerodynamic torque estimation using a high gain observer [6-7]. This estimate is then used to derive a high-order sliding mode controller that ensures  $T_{opt}$  tracking in finite time.

#### III.2. High Gain Observer

A high gain observer will therefore be used to estimate the aerodynamic torque. A key feature of a high gain observer is that it will reduce the chattering induced by a sliding mode observer [6].

From (4), we have

$$\dot{\omega} = \frac{T_a}{J} - \frac{K\omega}{J} - \frac{T_{em}}{J} \quad (8)$$

The following notations are introduced.

$$\begin{cases} x_1 = \omega \\ x_2 = \frac{T_a}{J} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

$$\text{Thus we have } \dot{x} = \begin{cases} \dot{x}_1 = x_2 - \frac{K}{J} x_1 - \frac{T_{em}}{J} \\ \dot{x}_2 = f(t) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

$$\text{or in matrix form } \begin{cases} \dot{x} = Ax + \varphi(x, u) + \varepsilon(t) \\ y = Cx \end{cases}$$

$$\text{where } \begin{cases} A = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ C = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \varphi(x, u) = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{-Kx_1 - u}{J} \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \\ \varepsilon(t) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ f(t) \end{bmatrix} \end{cases}$$

A candidate observer could be [6]

$$\dot{\hat{x}} = A\hat{x} + \varphi(\hat{x}, u) - \theta \Delta_\theta^{-1} S^{-1} C^T C(\hat{x} - x) \quad (11)$$

$$\text{where } \Delta_\theta = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\theta} \end{bmatrix}, S = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 \end{bmatrix}$$

Let  $S$  be the unique solution of the algebraic Lyapunov equation

$$S + A^T S + SA - C^T C = 0 \quad (12)$$

Let us define  $\bar{x} = \Delta_\theta (\hat{x} - x)$

$$\text{then } \dot{\bar{x}} = \theta(A - S^{-1}C^T C)\bar{x} + \Delta_\theta(\varphi(\hat{x}) - \varphi(x)) - \Delta_\theta \varepsilon(t) \quad (13)$$

Consider the quadratic function

$$V = \bar{x}^T S \bar{x} \quad (14)$$

$$\text{then } \begin{cases} \dot{V} = 2\bar{x}^T S \dot{\bar{x}} \\ \dot{V} = -\theta V - \bar{x}^T C^T C \bar{x} + 2\bar{x}^T S \Delta_\theta(\varphi(\hat{x}) - \varphi(x)) \\ \quad - 2\bar{x}^T S \Delta_\theta \varepsilon(t) \end{cases}$$

Therefore

$$\dot{V} \leq -\theta V + 2\|\bar{x}\| \lambda_{\max}(S) \left( \|\Delta_\theta(\varphi(\hat{x}) - \varphi(x))\| + \|\Delta_\theta \varepsilon(t)\| \right) \quad (15)$$

We can assume that (triangular structure and the Lipschitz assumption on  $\varphi$ )

$$\begin{cases} \|\Delta_\theta(\varphi(\hat{x}) - \varphi(x))\| \leq \xi \|\bar{x}\| \\ \|f(t)\| \leq \delta \end{cases} \text{ with } \xi = \frac{K}{J}$$

$$\text{It comes that } \dot{V} \leq -\theta V + 2\|\bar{x}\|^2 \lambda_{\max}(S) \xi + 2\|\bar{x}\| \lambda_{\max}(S) \frac{\delta}{\theta}$$

$$\text{then } \dot{V} \leq -\theta V + c_1 V + c_2 \frac{\delta}{\theta} \sqrt{V}$$

$$\text{with } \begin{cases} c_1 = 2 \frac{\lambda_{\max}(S)}{\lambda_{\min}(S)} \xi \\ c_2 = 2 \frac{\lambda_{\max}(S)}{\sqrt{\lambda_{\min}(S)}} \end{cases}$$

$$\text{Now taking } \begin{cases} \theta_0 = \max\{1, c_1\} \\ \lambda = \sqrt{\frac{\lambda_{\max}(S)}{\lambda_{\min}(S)}} \\ \mu_\theta = \frac{\theta - c_1}{2} \\ M_\theta = 2 \frac{\lambda_{\max}(S)}{\lambda_{\min}(S)(\theta - c_1)} \end{cases}$$

and  $\theta > \theta_0$ , we obtain

$$\|e(t)\| \leq \theta \lambda \exp(-\mu_\theta t) \|e(0)\| + M_\theta \delta \quad (16)$$

With  $\hat{T}_a = J\hat{x}_2$ , it comes that

$$\tilde{T}_a = \hat{T}_a - T_a \leq J [\theta \lambda \exp(-\mu_\theta t) \|e(0)\| + M_\theta \delta] \quad (17)$$

A practical estimate of the aerodynamic torque is then obtained as  $M_\theta$  decreases when  $\theta$  increases. The

asymptotic estimation error can be made as small as desired by choosing high enough values of  $\theta$ . However, very large values of  $\theta$  are to be avoided in practice since the estimator may become noise sensitive.

Now, the control objective can be formulated by the following tracking errors

$$e_T = T_{opt} - T_a \quad (18)$$

where  $T_a$  is observed. Then we will have

$$\dot{e}_T = 2k_{opt}\omega(T_a - K_t\omega - T_g) - \dot{T}_a \quad (19)$$

If we define the following functions

$$\begin{cases} F = 2k_{opt}\omega \\ G = 2k_{opt}\omega(T_a - K_t\omega) - \dot{T}_a \end{cases} \quad (20)$$

$$\text{then } \ddot{e}_T = -F\dot{T}_g + \dot{G} \quad (21)$$

Let us consider the following observer based on the supertwisting algorithm [2], [8].

$$\begin{cases} \dot{T}_g = y + B_1 |e_T|^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{sgn}(e_T) \\ \dot{y} = +B_2 \text{sgn}(e_T) \end{cases} \quad (22)$$

The gains  $B_1$  and  $B_2$  are chosen as

$$\begin{cases} B_1 > \frac{\Phi_2}{\Gamma_m} \\ B_2^2 \geq \frac{4\Phi_2\Gamma_m(A_1 + \Phi_1)}{\Gamma_m^2(A_1 - \Phi_1)} \\ |\dot{G}| < \Phi_2 \\ 0 < \Gamma_m \leq F < \Gamma_M \end{cases} \quad (23)$$

Thus we will guaranty the convergence of  $e_T$  to 0 in a finite time  $t_c$ . The aerodynamic torque estimation is then deduced.

$$T_a = T_{opt}, t > t_c. \quad (24)$$

The above proposed high gain observer principal is illustrated by the block diagram in Fig. 4.

#### IV. Control of the DFIG-Based Wind Turbine

The DFIG-based WT control objective is to optimize the extracted power by tracking the optimal torque  $T_{opt}$  (7). The control is a compromise between conversion efficiency and torque oscillation smoothing [9-11].

The reactive power is expressed as follows.

$$Q_s = V_{sq} I_{sd} - V_{sd} I_{sq} \quad (25)$$

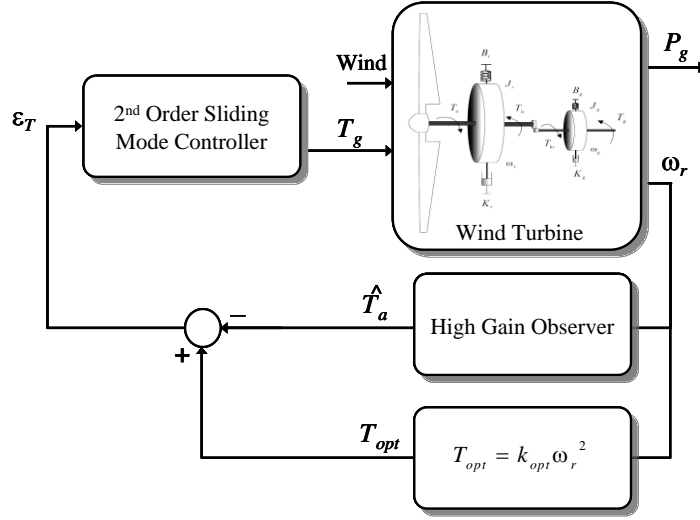


Fig. 4. High gain observer principle.

Adapting (25) to our hypotheses, it comes then

$$Q_s = \frac{V_s \phi_s}{L_s} - \frac{V_s M}{L_s} I_{rd} \quad (26)$$

$$\begin{cases} \ddot{e}_{I_{rd}} = \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} \dot{V}_{rd} + \dot{G}_1 - \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} R_r \dot{I}_{rd} \\ \ddot{e}_{T_{em}} = -p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s \dot{V}_{rq} + \dot{G}_2 + p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s R_r \dot{I}_{rq} \end{cases} \quad (30)$$

As the stator reactive power reference is zero, then

$$\phi_s = \frac{V_s}{\omega_s} \rightarrow I_{rd\_ref} = \frac{V_s}{\omega_s M} \quad (27)$$

Let us consider the following tracking errors.

$$\begin{cases} e_{I_{rd}} = I_{rd} - I_{rd\_ref} \\ e_{T_{em}} = T_{em} - T_{ref} \end{cases} \quad (28)$$

Then we will have

$$\begin{cases} \dot{e}_{I_{rd}} = \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} \left( V_{rd} - R_r I_{rd} + g \omega_s L_r \sigma I_{rq} - \frac{M}{L_s} \frac{d\phi_{sd}}{dt} \right) - \dot{I}_{rd\_ref} \\ \dot{e}_{T_{em}} = -p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s \left( V_{rq} - R_r I_{rq} - g \omega_s L_r \sigma I_{rd} \right) - \dot{T}_{ref} \end{cases} \quad (29)$$

If we define the functions  $G_1$  and  $G_2$  as follows.

$$\begin{cases} G_1 = \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} \left( g \omega_s \sigma L_r I_{rq} - \frac{M}{L_s} \frac{d\phi_{sd}}{dt} \right) - \dot{I}_{rd\_ref} \\ G_2 = -p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s \left( -g \omega_s \sigma L_r I_{rd} - g \omega_s \frac{M}{L_s} \phi_{sd} \right) - \dot{T}_{ref} \end{cases}$$

Thus we have

Now, let's consider the following high-order sliding mode controller based on the supertwisting algorithm [2], [10].

$$\begin{cases} V_{rq} = y_1 + B_1 \left| e_{T_{em}} \right|^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Sgn}(e_{T_{em}}) + \frac{1}{\sigma L_r} R_r I_{rd} \\ \dot{y}_1 = +B_2 \text{Sgn}(e_{T_{em}}) \\ V_{rd} = y_2 - B_3 \left| e_{I_{rd}} \right|^{\frac{1}{2}} \text{Sgn}(e_{I_{rd}}) - p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s R_r I_{rq} \\ \dot{y}_2 = -B_4 \text{Sgn}(e_{I_{rd}}) \end{cases} \quad (31)$$

Where the constants  $B_1, B_2, B_3, B_4, \Phi_1$ , and  $\Phi_2$  satisfy (32).

Thus, we can assert that there exist finite times  $t_{Tem}$  and  $t_{Ird}$  leading to (33).

This means that the control objective is achieved.

$$\begin{cases} |\dot{G}_1| < \Phi_1 \\ B_1 > p \frac{M}{\sigma L_s L_r} \phi_s \Phi_1, B_2^2 \geq \frac{4\Phi_1(B_1 + \Phi_1)}{\sigma^2 L_r^2 (B_1 - \Phi_1)} \\ |\dot{G}_2| < \Phi_2 \\ B_3 > \frac{\Phi_2}{\sigma L_r}, B_4^2 \geq \frac{4\Phi_2(B_3 + \Phi_2)}{\sigma^2 L_r^2 (B_3 - \Phi_2)} \end{cases} \quad (32)$$

$$\begin{cases} I_{rd\_ref} = I_{rd}, \quad \forall t > t_{Ird} \\ T_{ref} = T_{em}, \quad \forall t > t_{Tem} \end{cases} \quad (33)$$

## V. Validation Results with FAST

The proposed SOSM control strategy has been tested for validation using the NREL FAST code [13]. An interface has been developed between FAST and Matlab-Simulink® enabling users to implement advanced turbine controls in Simulink convenient block diagram form.

Numerical validations, using FAST with Matlab-Simulink® have been carried out on the NREL WP 1.5-MW (Fig. 5) wind turbine using turbulent FAST wind data shown by Fig. 6 [14]. The wind turbine, the DFIG ratings, and control parameters are given in the Appendix.

The observer validation is clearly illustrated by Fig. 7. Indeed, the aerodynamic torque tracks efficiently the optimal torque. As shown in Figs. 8 and 9, very good tracking performances are achieved in terms of DFIG rotor current and WT torque with respect to wind fluctuations. The proposed control strategy does not induce increased mechanical stress as there are no strong torque variations.



Fig. 5. 1.5-MW wind turbine illustration.

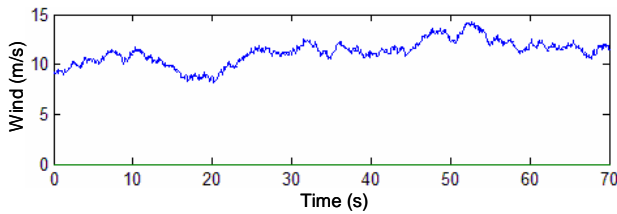


Fig. 6. Wind speed profile.

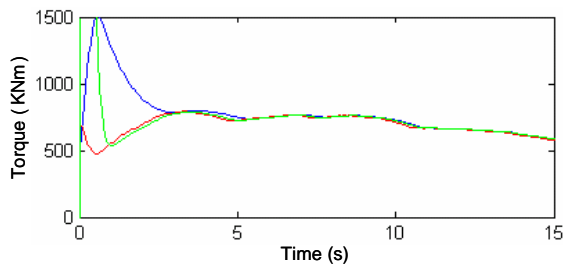


Fig. 7. Aerodynamic torque:  
 $T_{opt}$  (blue),  $T_a$  real (red),  $T_a$  observed (green).

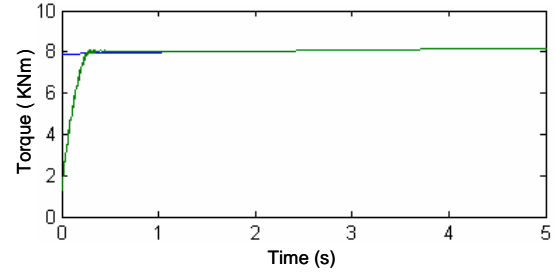


Fig. 8. Torque tracking performance: Reference (blue) and real (green).

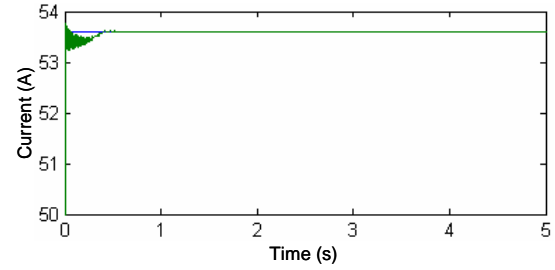


Fig. 9. Current  $I_{rd}$  tracking performance:  
Reference (blue) and real (green).

The proposed control strategy that combines a high gain observer-based MPPT and a second-order sliding mode has been compared to classical techniques used in wind power industry. The first one is that using the active power as reference and leading to the following control reference [15].

$$I_{rq\_ref} = -\frac{L_s}{V_s M} P_{ref} \quad (34)$$

This approach supposes that the active power is equal to the generator power. This approximation drives a difference between the desired torque and the generated one (Fig. 10).

The second classical approach is the one using the following reference [16].

$$I_{rq\_ref} = -\frac{L_s}{pM\phi_s} T_{ref} \quad (35)$$

In this case, bad tracking performances are also achieved (Fig. 11).

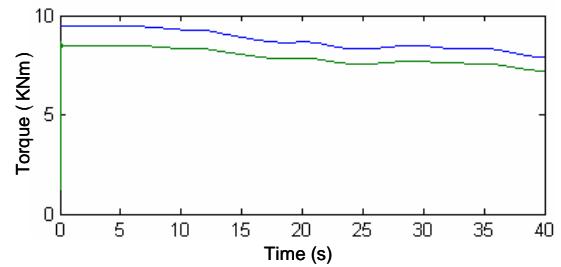


Fig. 10. Torque: Reference (blue) and real (green).

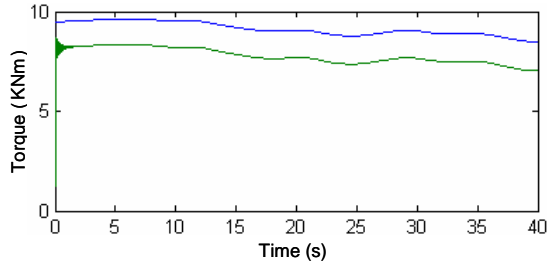


Fig. 11. Torque: Reference (blue) and real (green).

## VI. Conclusion

This paper dealt with a second-order sliding mode control of a doubly-fed induction-based wind turbine combined with a high gain observer-based MPPT. The proposed control strategy has been tested and validated using the NREL FAST simulator on a 1.5-MW wind turbine.

## Appendix

### CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SIMULATED WIND TURBINE

Number of blades	3
Rotor diameter	70 m
Hub height	84.3 m
Rated power	1.5 MW
Turbine total inertia	$4.4532 \times 10^5 \text{ kg m}^2$

### PARAMETERS OF THE SIMULATED DFIG

$$R_s = 0.005 \, \Omega, L_s = 0.407 \text{ mH}, R_r = 0.0089 \, \Omega, L_r = 0.299 \text{ mH} \\ M = 0.0016 \text{ mH}, p = 2$$

### CONTROL PARAMETERS

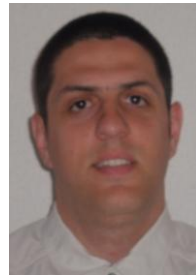
$$\theta = 30, A_1 = 5 \times 10^3, A_2 = 1 \times 10^5, B_1 = 1.5, B_2 = 50, B_3 = 200, B_3 = 1000 \\ k_{opt} = 1.6124 \times 10^5$$

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