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Fault Detection, Isolation and Control Reconfiguration of Three-Phase PMSM Drives

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Abstract—This paper deals with on-line software fault detection and isolation method for a drive composed of a four-leg inverter and a three-phase permanent magnet synchronous machine. The considered faults are single-phase open-circuit and current sensor outage. The method is based on the monitoring of the abc currents with phase-locked loops and the ‘CUSUM’ algorithm for the decision system. The impact of the considered faults is examined: first, in case there is no modification of the control and then in case a control reconfiguration is performed taking into account the fault diagnosis. Closed-loop operation is performed before, during and after the fault. Experimental results show that the latter case allows maintaining the drive in safe operation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The need for reliability and continuous operation has lead all over the years to the development of fault-tolerant electrical drives for various industrial purposes and for transport applications [1], [2]. Although permanent magnet synchronous machines (PMSM) are not inherently fault tolerant, especially to short-circuit in the windings, their power density and absence of maintenance make them a good trade-off in applications where weight and volume are particularly important.

Fault detection can be generally performed with hardware devices and/or software methods. Hardware devices have to be used when software methods are unsuitable, i.e. when the characteristic time of the fault is much smaller than the sampling period. An example is a short-circuited IGBT that can be managed with gate drive protection. Hardware devices are generally costly and complex but can provide a fast and reliable detection, while software requires only computation time but can be slower.

Survey papers dedicated to machine faults describe very well the different faults and various software methods to detect them [3]–[5]. Current-based methods are obviously attractive for drives since the currents are measured for the control and protections anyway. Hence, a current measurement-based diagnostic can be implemented without additional cost.

Inverter faults and fault-tolerant three-phase topologies are investigated in [6]. Redundancy is adopted to cope with switch faults and the authors suggest to access the neutral point of the machine or to supply each phase individually to keep the motor in operation after the fault mitigation. Considering PMSM drives, the neutral accessibility may be an issue since most of the commercial PMSMs have no neutral connection. However, fault-tolerance should be taken into account from the beginning when designing a fault-tolerant drive. The neutral connection can cause different problems that can be solved

with an appropriate PMSM design. First, the electromotive force (emf) zero-sequence component should be as low as possible. It prevents the flow of a current zero-sequence component that creates torque ripple, unless a complex current control is implemented [7]. Secondly, the zero-sequence inductance can be much lower than the dq -axis inductance, leading to a high current ripple and losses. This can be avoided by choosing a fractional-slot winding and non-overlapping coils [8].

The authors of [9] propose the idea of detecting mechanical sensor faults by comparing the output of the sensor with the estimation of a sensorless algorithm. They also suggest detecting dc-link voltage sensor fault based on a power balance equation. Moreover, a test at standstill assessing the condition of the current sensors is detailed. In case of current sensor fault, observers are used to reconstruct the missing data.

Current sensor fault detection and isolation (FDI) is studied in [10]–[13] with two different approaches: in [10], a model-based fault detection and isolation is performed, whereas [11]–[13] uses a signal-based approach. A shortcoming of these methods is that they all perform the fault detection and isolation with an open-loop control, except in [13] where the fault is detected but not isolated. Generally, model-based methods are sensitive to parameter variations and/or uncertainties, while signal-based methods present a lack of performance with a closed-loop controller.

Beyond the ease of repair brought by the FDI, it makes fault-tolerant control (FTC) possible since the controller knows which component is faulty and can adapt the control strategy accordingly. For example, FTC for induction motor drives is presented in [14], where an architecture that changes the control algorithm in function of the available sensors is presented. A different way to achieve FTC is to take benefit of the additional degrees of freedom in case a fault tolerant topology is used. For example, it is possible to reconfigure the control to drive the machine with two phases and the neutral point [15], [16].

In this paper, we consider a fault-tolerant topology where the inverter has one additional leg. By connecting this leg continuously to the neutral point of the machine, we show how the effect of a fault is reduced. This is particularly important since the software FDI method needs some time to be executed and the system needs then to withstand the fault while waiting for a control reconfiguration.

The proposed FDI method is based on a phase-locked loop (PLL) [12], [17] and the CUSUM algorithm for the decision

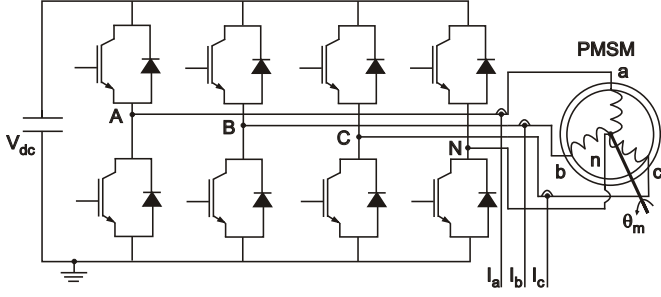


Figure 1. Drive topology: a four-leg VSI supplying a three-phase PMSM.

system [18]. PLL allows tracking the frequency of the current signals, which deviates from the electrical pulsation for the studied faults. The ‘CUSUM’ algorithm allows taking a decision whether there is a fault or not. From the fault diagnosis the control reconfiguration is then activated. The decision to stop supplying the faulty phase is taken systematically, whatever the fault. The advantages of this method are that: it performs the FDI with a closed-loop controller; it is robust to parameter variations and uncertainties; it allows the detection and isolation of two different faults with similar properties (single-phase open circuit and current sensor outage).

II. DRIVE MODEL

In this section we describe the drive model composed of a three-phase star-connected PMSM and a four-leg inverter as shown in Fig. 1. The three phase-currents, the dc-link voltage and the mechanical position are measured.

A. PMSM model with connected neutral point

In what follows, we consider that effects of saliency and saturation are negligible and the emf harmonic content is negligible beyond the third harmonic component.

1) *Natural abc model*: the voltage equations expressed in the *abc* reference frame are given by:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_a - V_n \\ V_b - V_n \\ V_c - V_n \end{bmatrix} = R_s \begin{bmatrix} I_a \\ I_b \\ I_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} L & M & M \\ M & L & M \\ M & M & L \end{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} I_a \\ I_b \\ I_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} E_a \\ E_b \\ E_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

where R_s is the stator resistance, L and M are the stator phase self and mutual inductances, V_x , I_x , E_x are the x -phase voltage with respect to a common reference, the x -phase current and the emf induced by the magnets in the x -phase respectively ($x \in \{a, b, c\}$) and V_n is the voltage between the neutral point of the machine and the common reference. The neutral current I_n is given by:

$$I_n = -(I_a + I_b + I_c). \quad (2)$$

2) *Synchronous dq0 model*: the model of the machine expressed in the *dq0* synchronous reference frame is obtained by applying the Park transformation defined by:

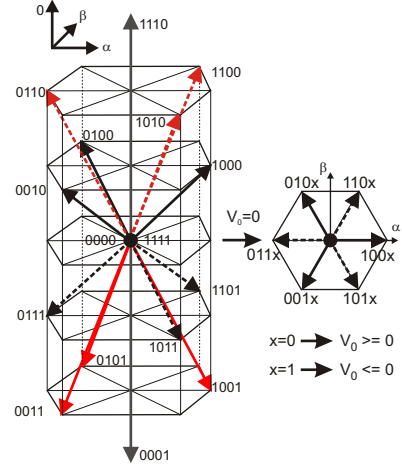


Figure 2. Four-leg VSI: the 16 voltage space vectors and their projection on a $V_{\alpha\beta}$ plane.

$$[X_{dq0}] = [P] [X_{abc}]; [X_{abc}] = [P]^{-1} [X_{dq0}] \quad (3)$$

$$[P] = \frac{2}{3} [R] [C]; [P]^{-1} = [C]^t [R]^t \quad (4)$$

$$[R] = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta_e & \sin \theta_e & 0 \\ -\sin \theta_e & \cos \theta_e & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 \end{bmatrix}; [C] = \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{2}} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

where θ_e is the electrical position of the rotor. Applying the transformation (3) to the natural system (1) gives:

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_d \\ V_q \\ V_0 \end{bmatrix} = R_s \begin{bmatrix} I_d \\ I_q \\ I_0 \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} L_{dq} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & L_{dq} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & L_0 \end{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} I_d \\ I_q \\ I_0 \end{bmatrix} + \omega_e \begin{bmatrix} -L_{dq} I_q \\ L_{dq} I_d + \psi_{M,1} \\ e_{M,3}(\theta_e) \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

$$L_{dq} = L - M; L_0 = L + 2M \quad \left(-\frac{1}{2}L \leq M \leq 0\right) \quad (7)$$

where ω_e is the electrical pulsation, $\psi_{M,1}$ is the amplitude of the magnet fundamental linkage flux and $e_{M,3}(\theta_e)$ is the emf third harmonic component for each electrical radian, which is a sinusoidal function of $3\theta_e$.

The electromagnetic torque expressed in the *dq0* reference frame is equal to:

$$T_{em} = \frac{3}{2} P (\psi_{M,1} I_q + e_{M,3}(\theta_e) I_0) \quad (8)$$

where P is the number of pole pairs.

Parameters of the machine used for the tests are: $R_s = 1.39\Omega$, $L_{dq} = 11.4mH$, $L_0 = 4.9mH$, $\psi_{M,1} = 1.05Vs/rad$, $\frac{e_{M,3}}{\psi_{M,1}} = 0.06$, $P = 3$. Ratings are: $\Omega_m = 2000rpm$, $P = 2.59kW$, $I_{nom} = 5.7A$. As the emf third harmonic component is much smaller than the fundamental component for the considered machine, the zero-sequence component contribution to the electromagnetic torque (8) will be neglected in what follows.

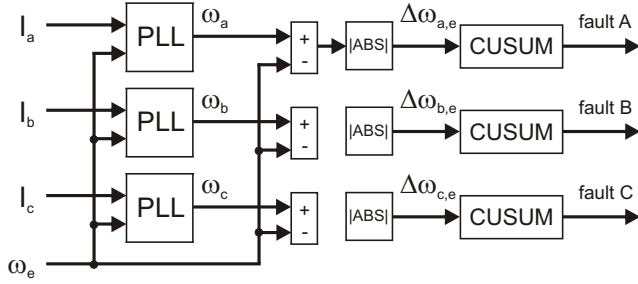


Figure 3. FDI method: monitoring of each phase-current with a PLL and comparison with the motor pulsation. Decision is taken by the CUSUM algorithm.

B. Four-leg inverter model

A four-leg inverter possesses 4 degrees of freedom, i.e. the upper or lower switch ‘on’ or ‘off’ state of each leg [20]. Fig. 2 shows the 2^4 voltage space vectors in the $\alpha\beta 0$ stator reference frame. The four numbers near the vector arrows indicate the state of the ABCN legs respectively, ‘1’ meaning that the upper switch is ‘on’ and ‘0’ that the bottom switch is ‘on’. There are 2 zero vectors, 2 vectors having only a zero sequence component (equal to $\pm\sqrt{2} V_{dc}$) and 12 vectors split up equitably into 4 different zero-sequence planes (with V_0 equal to $\sqrt{2}V_{dc}$ times $-\frac{2}{3}$, $-\frac{1}{3}$, $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{2}{3}$ respectively). The common factor $\sqrt{2}$ is due to the transformation matrix that is used. It is interesting to note that the commutation of the fourth leg only affects the zero-sequence voltage component and that the projections of the VSVs onto the $\alpha\beta$ plane coincide with the VSVs of the classic three-leg inverter.

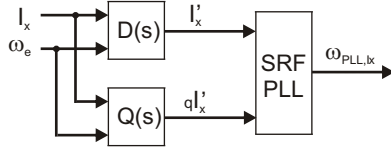


Figure 4. Signal frequency estimation based on an adaptive filtering stage and a synchronous reference frame phase locked-loop.

III. FAULT DETECTION AND ISOLATION METHOD

The proposed FDI method is shown in Fig. 3. The three phase-currents are measured and monitored with modified PLLs. The output of the PLL is the frequency of the signal that is compared to the actual electrical pulsation. The absolute value of the error is then taken as input of the CUSUM algorithm.

A. Phase-locked loop

Various types of PLL have been proposed in the literature. A PLL expressed in the synchronous reference frame (SRF) has been implemented [17]. An additional adaptive filtering stage has been added at the input of the PLL, as shown in Fig. 4. It consists of a structure called second order generalized integrator-based quadrature signals generator (SOGI-GSQ) [19]. Its role is to eliminate harmonics and to generate a quadrature signal needed by the SRF PLL. The D filter transfer function is equal to:

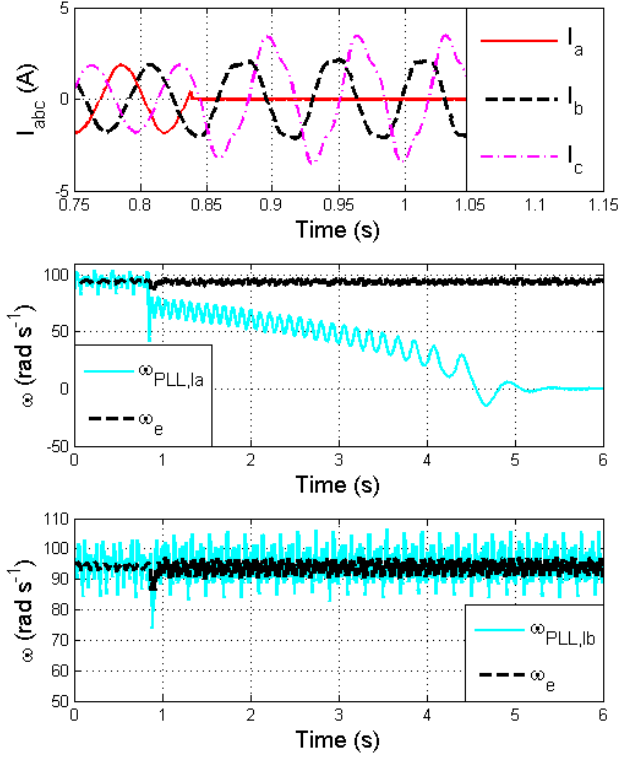


Figure 5. PLL-based frequency monitoring of the phase-currents in case of single-phase open-circuit fault. From top to bottom: abc phase-currents; I_a frequency estimation compared to ω_e ; I_b frequency estimation compared to ω_e .

$$D(s) = \frac{X'(s)}{X(s)} = \frac{k\omega_e s}{s^2 + k\omega_e s + \omega_e^2} \quad (9)$$

where $X'(s)$ is the filter output, k a damping factor, s the Laplace variable and ω_e , the electrical pulsation, is the resonant frequency of the filter.

The quadrature signal generator is a filter of which the transfer function $Q(s)$ is:

$$Q(s) = \frac{qX'(s)}{X(s)} = \frac{k\omega_e^2}{s^2 + k\omega_e s + \omega_e^2}. \quad (10)$$

An example is shown in Fig. 5. A fault on the a -phase has been performed at the time $t = 0.84s$. When the fault occurs, the signal $\omega_{PLL,Ia}$ drops, but not immediately to zero, while the value of the signal $\omega_{PLL,Ib}$ remains equal to the electrical pulsation. After several seconds, the frequency estimation reaches zero.

B. CUSUM Algorithm

A theoretical background of the CUSUM algorithm (‘Cumulative SUM’) can be found in [18]. This algorithm acts like an integrator that allows detecting variations in signal properties, such as the mean value. The difference of pulsation between the input signal and the electrical pulsation is thus the input of the CUSUM algorithm.

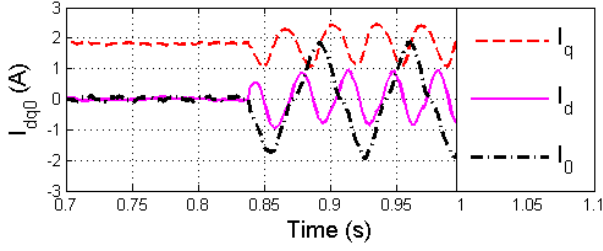


Figure 8. Currents expressed in the rotating reference frame in case of single-phase open-circuit fault.

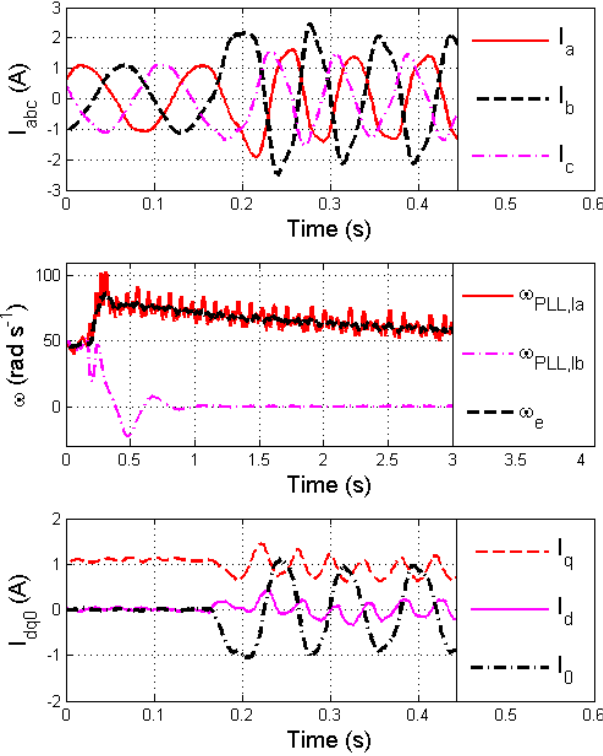


Figure 9. b -phase current sensor fault. From top to bottom: real abc phase-currents; I_a and I_b frequency estimation compared to ω_e ; $dq0$ -axis currents seen from the controller.

connector). Response of the classic three-phase drive has been studied in [22]. Torque is pulsating and current increases in the two remaining phases, both amplitudes depending on the current controller. The speed keeps its average value and the speed ripple depends on the inertia of the system.

Fig. 8 shows the I_{dq0} currents for the considered fault and the proposed control and topology. The peak-to-peak torque ripple is reduced with a factor 3 compared to the classic three-phase system. This is due to the neutral connection and because the neutral current is free to flow (open-loop voltage control of the zero-sequence component).

B. Current Sensor Fault

Test results with a b -phase current sensor fault at time $t = 0.16s$ is presented in Fig. 9. The real abc phase-currents are shown on the top. The increase of the currents is due to

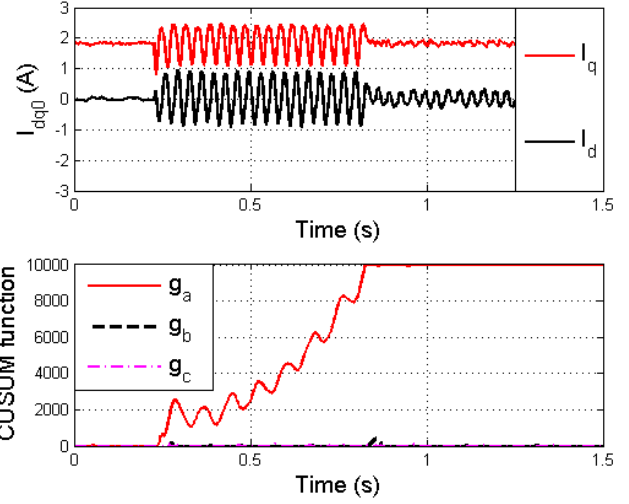


Figure 10. Response of the drive in case of single-phase open-circuit fault (a -phase). Fault is detected, isolated and the control is reconfigured when the a CUSUM function reaches the threshold.

the controllers, which have to impose their reference based on the a - and c -phase current measurements only. However, the real b -phase current is different from zero, what gives an electromagnetic torque higher than expected. The motor speed increases until almost twice the initial speed (middle figure). It has to be noted that the a -phase frequency estimation follows the speed measurements very well whereas the b -phase frequency estimation reaches zero as expected. The speed controller will then decrease the torque reference to restore the steady-state. This explains why the q -axis current seen from the controller slowly decreases (bottom figure).

VI. FDI AND CONTROL RECONFIGURATION

A. Single-Phase Open-Circuit Fault

Fig. 10 shows the test results where a single-phase open-circuit fault occurs at time $t = 0.23s$ in the a -phase. The a CUSUM function reaches the threshold at time $t = 0.83s$. Operating conditions are: $\Omega_m = 300rpm$, $T_{em} \approx 5Nm$. We can observe that the control reconfiguration reduces the q -axis current ripple to nearly zero.

B. Current Sensor Fault

Fig. 11 shows the test results where a current sensor fault occurs at time $t = 0.31s$ in the b -phase. The b CUSUM function reaches the threshold at time $t = 0.42s$. Operating conditions are: $\Omega_m = 150rpm$, $T_{em} \approx 2.8Nm$. We can observe that the control reconfiguration reduces again the q -axis current ripple to nearly zero. A comparison with the single-phase open-circuit fault shows that: in case there is no open-circuit fault, the current is still able to flow in the machine and is then not exactly equal to zero (top figure). The speed still increase when the fault occurs. However, the electromagnetic torque is restored with the control reconfiguration and the speed controller must not compensate the error anymore. Another main difference is that the detection time is much lower for the second test. This is due to the PLL transient response that takes more time for higher speeds.

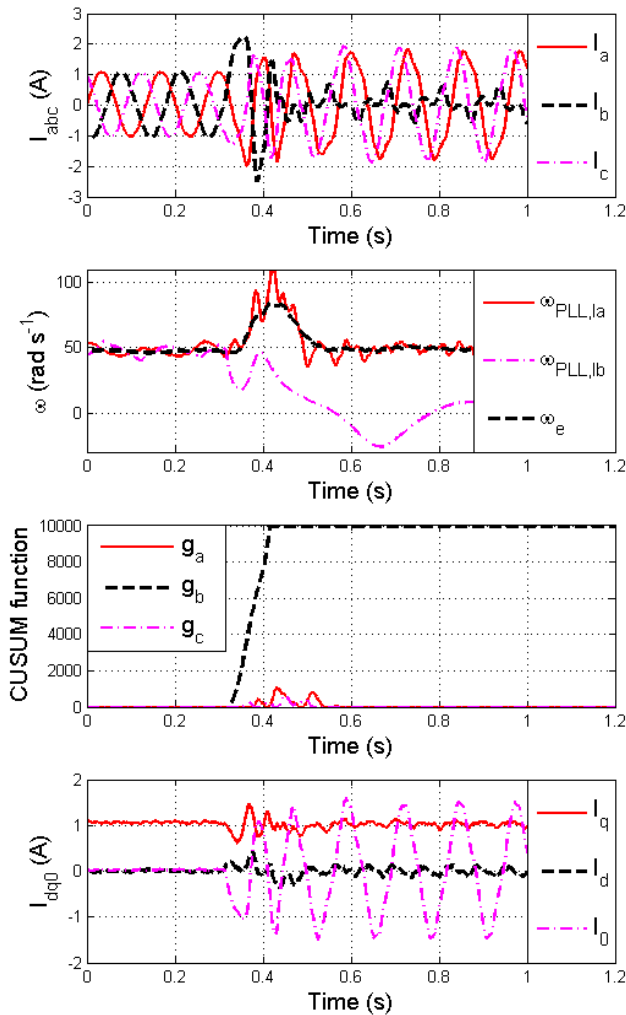


Figure 11. Response of the drive in case of current sensor fault (b -phase). Fault is detected, isolated and the control is reconfigured when the b CUSUM function reaches the threshold.

VII. CONCLUSION

A PLL-based software fault detection and isolation for single-phase open-circuit and current sensor faults has been presented and validated with experimental results. The fault diagnosis is used to reconfigure the control by taking advantage of the fault-tolerant topology. A systematic decision to stop supplying the faulty phase has been adopted.

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