

Speed Estimation Using Neural Network in Vector Controlled Induction Motor Drive

F. HAGHGOEIAN, M.A. OUHROUCHE & J.S. THONGAM
Electric Machines Identification and Control Laboratory (EMICLab)
Department of Applied Sciences
University of Quebec at Chicoutimi
555, Blvd. de l'Université, Chicoutimi (QC), G7H 2B1
CANADA

Abstract: - This paper presents a speed estimation method using neural networks (NN) in a vector controlled (VC) induction motor drive. The estimation algorithm is implemented using a Jordan recurrent NN structure where training of the NN is done online using back-propagation algorithm. Two back *emf* models are used in order to realize the reference and the adaptive models from which depending upon the speed error back *emf* error is generated which is used for training the NN. Results of real-time digital simulation using RT-Lab show good estimation accuracy. This achievement is believed to be an important contribution to sensorless vector control of induction motor drive.

Key-Words: - Induction Motor, Vector Control, Sensorless Speed Estimation, Neural Networks.

1 Introduction

Vector Control (VC) or Field Oriented Control (FOC) originated from the works of Blaschke [1] and Hasse [2] has become an industry standard for controlling induction motors in high performance drive applications. Orientation is possible along mutual flux, stator flux or the rotor flux; however, orientation of the stator current space vector with respect to the rotor flux alone gives natural decoupling between the torque producing and flux producing components of the stator current space vector. Control of induction motor using the principle of field orientation gives control characteristics similar to that of a separately excited dc motor. In fact, VC induction motor drive outperforms the dc drive because of higher transient current capability, increased speed range and lower rotor inertia.

Shaft mounted sensors in conventional VC drives lower the system reliability and require special attention to electrical noise in addition to extra expenses involved. Moreover, rotational transducers cannot be mounted in certain applications, such as drives in hostile environments, high-speed drive applications etc. Therefore, a lot of researches are underway to develop accurate speed estimation techniques. With sensorless vector control we have the decoupled control structure similar to that of a separately excited dc machine, retaining the inherent ruggedness of induction motor at the same time. The

commonly used methods for speed estimation are Model Reference Adaptive System (MRAS) [3]-[5], Extended Kalman Filter (EKF) [6]-[9], Nonlinear Observer [10]-[13] and Neural Networks [14]-[18]. It has been shown that using NN in motor modeling has the advantages of extremely fast parallel computing, immunity from input harmonic ripples, and fault tolerance characteristics [19]. Some researchers have used NN with offline training [15]-[17]; however in the online solution, the neural network seems to be more robust towards load and parameter changes [14],[18].

In this paper we propose a speed estimation method using NN in a vector controlled induction motor drive. A multilayer neural network with 4 inputs, one hidden layer consisting of 8 neurons and an output is used for the speed estimation. The speed at the output of the NN is used for completing the feedback loop thus giving rise to a Jordan type recurrent NN. The NN is trained online by continuously updating the weights using back-propagation method. The error signal required for updating the weights are obtained using MRAS based method where two back *emf* models are used; one as the reference and the other as the adaptive [5]. The adaptive model is continuously updated with the estimated speed signal obtained at the output of the NN. Results of real-time digital simulation show good estimation accuracy and the response of the drive are found to be satisfactory.

2 Speed Estimation Using NN

It has been proved that an MRAS scheme is very effective in identifying motor speed [3]. The MRAS scheme for speed identification without integrators can be expressed in the stationary α - β frame as given below [5]:

$$\vec{v}_s = R_s \vec{i}_s + \sigma L_s \frac{d\vec{i}_s}{dt} + \vec{e}_m \quad (1)$$

$$\frac{d\vec{i}_m}{dt} = \omega_r \otimes \vec{i}_m - \frac{1}{T_r} \vec{i}_m + \frac{1}{T_r} \vec{i}_s \quad (2)$$

where \vec{v}_s and \vec{i}_s are the stator voltage and current vectors respectively, \vec{i}_r and \vec{i}_m are rotor and magnetized current vectors respectively, \vec{e}_m is counter back *emf* vector, L_s , L_r and L_m are stator, rotor and mutual inductances respectively, σ is leakage coefficient, R_s is stator resistance, T_r is rotor circuit time constant and ω_r is a vector whose magnitude ω_r is rotor electrical angular velocity.

From (1) and (2), \vec{e}_m can be delivered as followed:

$$\vec{e}_m = \vec{v}_s - \left(R_s \vec{i}_s + \sigma L_s \frac{d\vec{i}_s}{dt} \right) \quad (3)$$

$$\vec{e}_m = \frac{L_m^2}{L_r} \left(\omega_r \otimes \vec{i}_m - \frac{1}{T_r} \vec{i}_m + \frac{1}{T_r} \vec{i}_s \right) \quad (4)$$

Defining α , β as stator fixed reference, and $e_m = e_{m\alpha} + j \cdot e_{m\beta}$, using equation (3) derives the back *emf* for the reference model below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_{m\alpha} \\ e_{m\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} v_{s\alpha} \\ v_{s\beta} \end{bmatrix} - (R_s + \sigma L_s \cdot p) \begin{bmatrix} i_{s\alpha} \\ i_{s\beta} \end{bmatrix} \quad (5)$$

where p stands for d/dt .

By using (2) and (4) the back *emf* for the adaptive model can be derived as below:

$$\begin{bmatrix} e_{m\alpha} \\ e_{m\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{R_r}{L_r} & -\omega_r \\ \omega_r & -\frac{R_r}{L_r} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} I e_{m\alpha} \\ I e_{m\beta} \end{bmatrix} + \frac{L_m^2}{L_r} R_r \begin{bmatrix} i_{s\alpha} \\ i_{s\beta} \end{bmatrix} \quad (6)$$

Fig.1 illustrates the structure of the proposed speed estimator. In the Reference Model block we

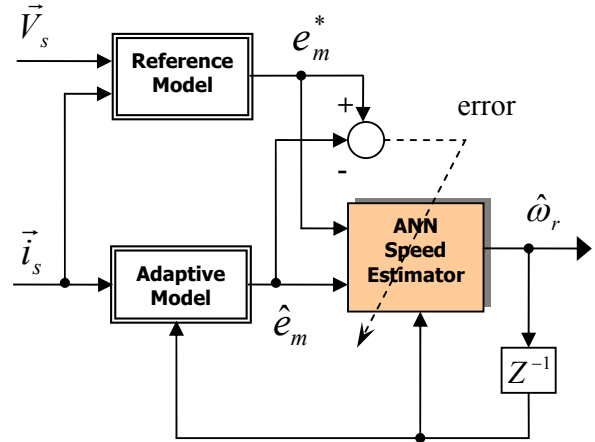


Fig.1: Structure of speed estimator using NN

are using equation (5) to find out the back *emf* voltage independent of the motor speed (ω_r) as in Adaptive Model block the current and the estimated speed (obtained from our ANN) are used for that. The error between these two blocks then is used to adjust the weights of the neurons in the speed estimator. The bigger error between the two back *emf* model outputs, the more correction in the weights is exerted.

The structure of the ANN Speed Estimator is the well known structure of Jordan recurrent network [20] which is shown in Fig.2. The inputs are the voltage and current of the motor in the stationary α - β frame (four inputs: $V_{s\alpha}$, $V_{s\beta}$, $i_{s\alpha}$, $i_{s\beta}$) plus the output (estimated speed) of the previous step which is used as the extra input.

The adjustment of the weights in hidden layer is achieved by using the error of back *emf*. Note that though the back *emf* is a vector, but as using the amplitude of it conduces to acceptable result, it's used in order to simplify the calculation. Back-propagation method is used in this way, so the weight correction for the $i \rightarrow j$ connection is calculated from this equation [21]:

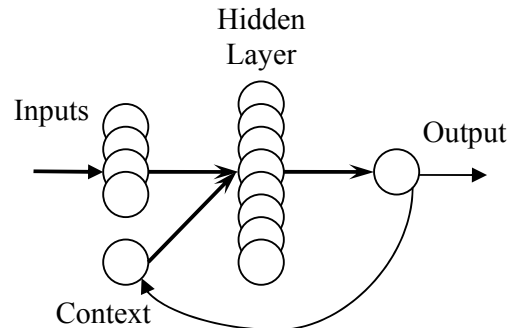


Fig.2: Structure of NN

$$\Delta w_{ji}(k) = \alpha \Delta w_{ji}(k-1) + \eta_{ji} \sum_{b=1}^B \delta_j^{(b)}(k) y_i^{(b)}(k) \quad (7)$$

Or by naming the output for neuron i as o_i it could be written as bellow [13]:

$$\Delta w_{ji}(k) = \alpha \Delta w_{ji}(k-1) + \eta \delta_j o_i \quad (8)$$

To start the training the weights are initially randomize from 0.5 (these two recent parameters are obtained by try and error in several tests to have the best result. Theoretically they can take some amount between 0 and 1 with no exact formula [22]). After that, in each step the estimated speed is used in adaptive model and the error between two models would replace to repeat the calculation. So, the training is completely online (real-time) with no necessary pre-calculation.

3 Real-Time Simulation Results

The parameters of the induction motor used in this work are given below in Table 1. Real-Time digital simulation is carried out using RT-Lab in order to verify the accuracy of the estimation algorithm in addition to observing the response of the sensorless VC drive system. The block diagram of the sensorless Indirect FOC induction motor drive, incorporating the proposed NN speed estimation

Table 1 : Induction Motor Parameters

Related Power	Pr	500 W
Line-Line Voltage	Vr	220 V
Related Torque	T	3.41 Nm
Number of Poles	P	4
Stator Resistance	Rs	4.495 Ω
Rotor Resistance	Rr	5.365 Ω
Stator Indoctunce	Ls	165 mH
Rotor Inductance	Lr	162 mH
Magnetising Inductance	Lm	149 mH
Rotor Moment of Inertia	J	.00095 Kg m ²

algorithm is shown in Fig.3.

Real-time simulation technique is widely used nowadays by high-tech industries, particularly automotive and aeronautics industries (aircraft flight control, satellite control, etc), as the main tool for rapid prototyping of complex engineering systems in a cost-effective and secure manner, while reducing the time-to-market. RT-Lab uses Simulink as a front-end interface for editing graphic models in block-diagram format which are afterward used by this real-time plate-form to generate necessary C-Codes for real-time simulations on parallel processors.

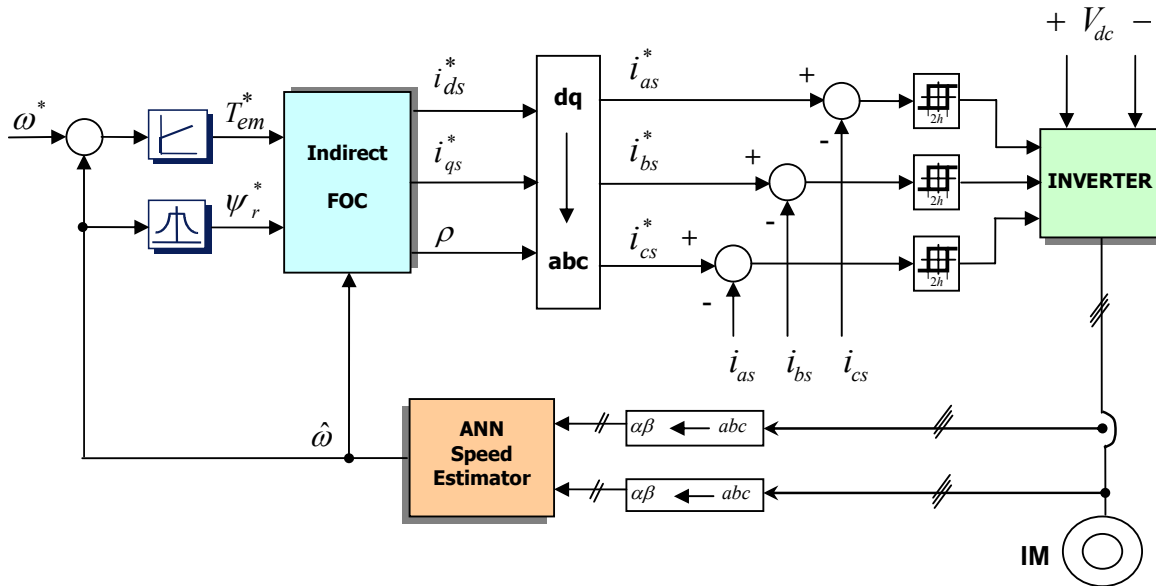


Fig.3: Block diagram of sensorless Indirect FOC Induction Motor Drive using NN

Simulation is carried out for different operating conditions of the motor drive to study the performance of the NN speed estimator. First, the machine is operated at no load. Fig.4 shows the speed, estimated speed and the speed estimation error for this operation. At 0.5 s the machine is accelerated to 150 rad/s and then, decelerated in steps to 120 rad/s, 50rad/s and 10rad/s at 2 s, 3 s and 4 s respectively.

There is an error of less than 1% in the estimated speed in the steady states, but trying to decrease it (by changing the training parameters) causes some instability in the output.

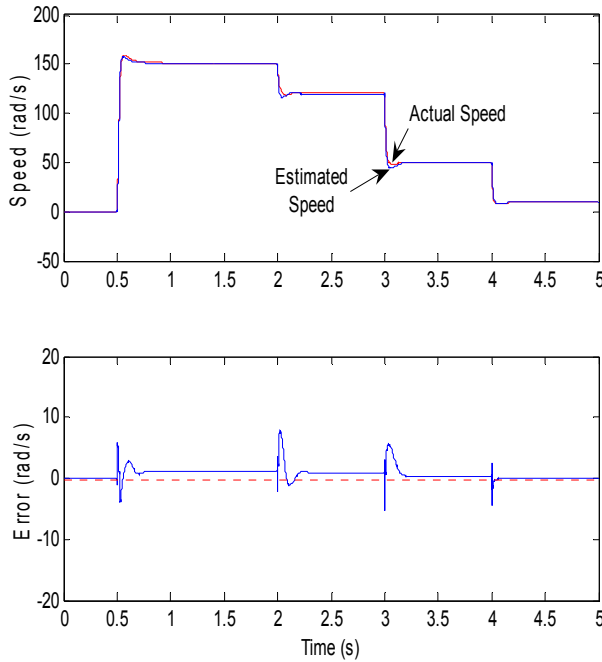


Fig.4: No-Load Speed Estimation

Next, the performance of the estimator while the machine is loaded and unloaded is studied. The machine is accelerated to 150 rad/s at 0.5 s and full load is applied at 2 s and then, the load is fully removed at 3.5 s. The speed estimated speed and the speed estimation error are shown in Fig.5.

It is observed that the estimated speed tracks the actual speed very well with a small error of less than 1% in steady states. Smaller changes in the load perform even a better result for sure.

Finally, the performance of the fully loaded drive system at various operating speeds is studied. The fully loaded motor is started at 0.5 s to 150 rad/s and after the speed gets stable it is decelerated in steps to 75 rad/s at 2 s and finally to 10 rad/s at 3.5 s. The actual speed, estimated speed and the speed estimation error are shown in Fig. 6.

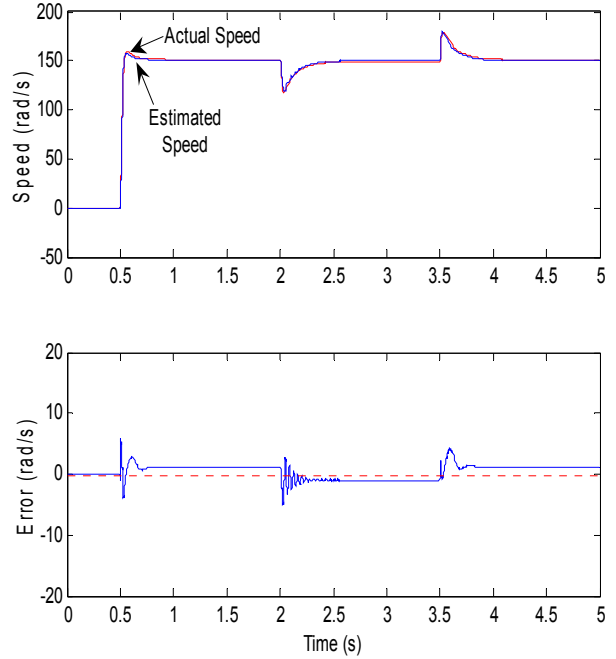


Fig.5: Speed Estimation for Load Changes

The accuracy of estimation was found to be very good with a small error of less than 1% under steady state conditions.

It is found that the NN speed estimator has good accuracies under both transient and steady state conditions, at high and low speeds and at no load and loaded conditions of the speed sensorless VC induction motor drive system.

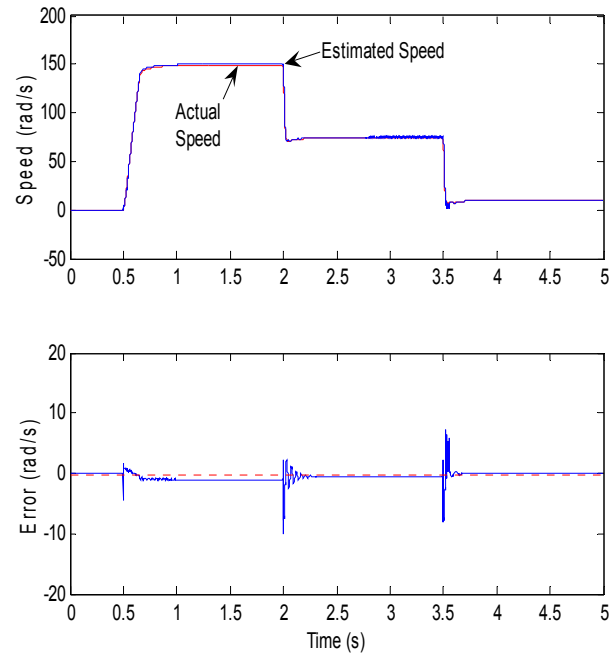


Fig.6: Full-Loaded Motor Speed Estimation

4 CONCLUSION

In this paper, we have presented a speed estimation method using neural networks (NN) in a vector controlled (VC) induction motor drive. The proposed method uses a Jordan recurrent NN structure where training of the NN is done online using back-propagation algorithm. The method uses the back *emf* based MRAS where reference model is independent of speed and the adaptive model needs speed information which it obtains from the NN estimator.

The flux based MRAS requires pure integration of sensed variables which leads to problems with initial conditions and drift. To avoid these problems, the pure integrator is replaced with a high gain low-pass filter which causes the instability of identification at low speed, which results to weak performance. As only differentiators exist in the used scheme, system has a very good performance even in low speeds as long as the stator resistance is known.

Real-time digital simulation results show that the method is capable of accurate estimation under no load and loaded conditions of the drive, at high or low speeds of operation, and in both steady state and transient conditions. This achievement is considered to be an important contribution to sensorless operation of induction motor drives.

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