Research Article

Estimation of Rotor Temperature of Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor Based on Model Reference Fuzzy Adaptive Control

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Received 17 January 2020; Revised 9 March 2020; Accepted 19 March 2020; Published 29 April 2020

1. Introduction

High-speed permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) has many advantages such as high rotating speed, small volume, high efficiency, high power, and high torque density, and it has been widely used in many industrial fields. Since the excitation magnetic field is provided by permanent magnet, the performance of PMSM is highly dependent on the permanent magnet (PM) temperature; irreversible demagnetization will occur when the PM temperature rises to a certain value [1, 2]. Therefore, it is important to detect the temperature of PMs in rotor to prevent the performance degradation of PMSM.

Methods for detecting PM temperature are mainly divided into two types: direct detection method and indirect estimation method [3, 4]. The direct detection method needs to install temperature sensors into the motor, and the sensors include contact sensors such as thermistors or thermocouples and noncontact sensors like infrared sensors [5, 6]. The advantage of the direct detection method is that temperature data are easily obtained, and the obtained data have small error. On the other hand, the direct detection method requires temperature sensors and extra complicated data transmission device [7–10], which will increase the total cost of system and reduce the robustness of control system of PMSM.

Another method is to estimate the PM temperature according to the parameters relating to temperature. Through consulting different literatures, there are three main methods for estimating the PM temperature, including thermal model, high-frequency signal injection, and back electromotive force (BEMF) [4, 5, 7, 11, 12]. The thermal...
model includes the finite element model (FEM) and lumped parameter model (LPM), which can provide very detailed temperature distribution of PMSM. But this method requires precise knowledge of the machine geometry, materials, and cooling system [13–15]. Furthermore, the temperature has impact on the properties of the materials, just like winding resistance, magnet remanence, and intrinsic coercivity, and the model needs to be appropriately adjusted for different motors. The high-frequency signal injection method is based on the variation of high frequency resistance with temperature, which can be measured by the feedback current after injecting high-frequency voltage. This method can be used to estimate the temperature at low speed, including zero speed [5, 7], but it will have adverse effects on the machine, such as unnecessary mechanical vibration. Based on the linear relationship between the PM temperature and flux linkage, the BEMF method is proposed to estimate the PM temperature according to the calculated value of flux linkage [4, 16, 17], but the establishment of the model of flux observer is more complicated, and it needs to eliminate fundamental components of the obtained BEMF and make complex analysis of harmonic components, and it cannot estimate the PM temperature when machine operates at standstill or low speed.

For PMSM, parameters such as rotor position and speed are necessary information for motor control, but the usage of position or speed sensor will reduce the robust performance of the motor, so different sensorless control methods of PMSM have been presented and studied for decades [18]. The model reference adaptive system (MRAS) method is one of the widely used algorithms to estimate the real-time parameters of the motor [19, 20], which has the advantages of less calculation, good anti-interference performance, easy convergence, and high steady-state accuracy, etc. In addition, nonlinear control of underactuated systems [21] and the convergence of the closed-loop system [22] are all helpful for the sensorless control of PMSM.

Based on the relationship between permanent magnet flux linkage and its temperature, the MRAS method can be used to estimate PM temperature according to the permanent magnet flux linkage. However, this method needs to establish an accurate mathematical model, and the model must be a linear stationary system. On the other hand, the fuzzy control algorithm does not require accurate mathematical model, and it has high accuracy, good parameter tracking performance, and good control performance [23, 24], which has a good complementary effect for MRAS.

In this paper, a new temperature estimation method using model reference fuzzy adaptive control (MRFAC) is proposed to estimate PM temperature. In this method, the model reference adaptive system (MRAS) is built to estimate the permanent magnet flux linkage, and the fuzzy control method is introduced into MRAS, which is used to improve the accuracy and applicable speed range of parameters estimated by MRAS. Different permanent magnet flux linkages are estimated in MRFAC based on the variation of stator resistance, which corresponds to different working temperatures measured by thermal resistance, and the PM temperature will be obtained according to the estimated permanent magnet flux linkage. The main contributions of this paper are listed as follows:

Due to the limitations of traditional temperature measurement methods of PM temperature in rotor of PMSM, a new temperature estimation method is proposed to estimate the PM temperature according to the permanent magnet flux linkage. This method combines the advantage of MRAS and fuzzy control, and it can obtain the PM temperature in rotor under different stator temperature conditions, which expands the traditional indirect temperature detection methods.

Different from the usage of fuzzy algorithm in the traditional MRFAC method, in this paper, d-axis current error (\(e_d\)) is fuzzed before it enters into the adaptive mechanism in the inductance estimation model (Figure 2); for the flux linkage estimation model, the fuzzy control algorithm is used to replace the adaptive mechanism (Figure 2). The changed usage of fuzzy control algorithm improves the estimation performance and applicable speed range of estimated parameters.

The back electromotive force (BEMF) is measured on the experimental motor, and the flux linkage and PM temperature of experimental motor are deduced according to the BEMF. Compared with the experimental results, the estimated PM temperature is very close to the actual test value, and the error is less than 5%, which verifies that the proposed method is suitable for the estimation of PM temperature.

This paper is organized as follows. Firstly, the calculation principle of PM temperature through flux linkage is presented. Secondly, the estimation method based on MRFAC is designed. Then, the stator winding resistances are calculated according to the measured temperature, and the values of stator inductance and permanent magnet flux linkage are estimated. Finally, experiments are designed to verify the accuracy of the estimation value of the proposed method. The flowchart of PM temperature estimation is shown in Figure 3.

2. Principle of the BEMF-Based Method

As the proposed method to estimate PM temperature is based on MRFAC, in which the inductance and flux linkage are estimated, the PM temperature is indirectly calculated by the same principle as BEMF-based method. Here, the BEMF-based method for estimating PM temperature is outlined for reader’s convenience.

The fundamental model of a PMSM in the rotor reference frame is described as [25]

\[
V_d = R_i d + p L_d i_d - \omega L_q i_q, \tag{1}
\]

\[
V_q = R_i q + p L_q i_q + \omega (L_d i_d + \lambda_m), \tag{2}
\]

where \(V_d\) and \(V_q\) are d-axis and q-axis voltages, respectively, \(i_d\) and \(i_q\) are d-axis and q-axis currents, \(p\) is differential operator, \(L_d\) and \(L_q\) are d-axis and q-axis stator inductance, \(R\) is stator resistance, \(\omega\) is electrical rotor angular speed, and \(\lambda_m\) denotes flux linkage.
Because $\lambda_m$ only exists in the $q$-axis equation, the voltage equation of $q$-axis can be written as follows:

$$\lambda_m = \frac{V_q - (R_i + pL_d i_q + \omega L_d i_d)}{\omega}. \quad (3)$$

The linear relationship between flux linkage and PM temperature can be expressed as

$$\lambda_m(T_r) = \lambda_m(T_0)[1 + \beta(T_r - T_0)], \quad (4)$$

where $T_r$ and $T_0$ are the rotor temperature and room temperature, respectively, $\lambda_m(T_0)$ and $\lambda_m(T_r)$ are flux linkage at room temperature and actual rotor temperature, and $\beta$ is the magnet flux thermal coefficient. The PM temperature in rotor can be expressed as follows:
The relationship between the winding resistance and winding temperature can be expressed as follows [12]:

\[ R = R_0 \left[ 1 + \alpha (T_2 - T_0) \right] \]

(6)

where \( R \) is the winding resistance, \( \alpha \) is the temperature coefficient of the winding, \( T_2 \) and \( T_0 \) are actual winding temperatures and room temperature, and \( R_0 \) is the winding resistance value at \( T_2 \) and \( T_0 \), respectively.

### 3. Estimation of Parameters Based on MRAS

#### 3.1. Estimation of Stator Inductance

In equations (1) and (2), the resistance value is measured under different stator winding temperatures, and currents and voltages are also measured. Beyond that, there are two unknown parameters, \( L \) and \( \lambda_m \). As the motor model is a surface-mounted PMSM, the inductances of \( d \)-axis and \( q \)-axis are equal, which will simplify the following analysis.

The first estimated parameter is the stator inductance; for better observation of the estimated parameter, equation (1) can be rewritten as follows [26]:

\[ \frac{d i_d}{dt} = \frac{-R}{L} i_d + \omega i_q + \frac{V_d}{L} \]

(7)

where \( R \) is a known value, \( \omega \), \( i_d \), and \( i_q \) need to be measured. Here, the estimated parameter equation can be obtained according to equation (7), and the superscript symbol represents the estimated value in equation (8).

\[ \frac{d \hat{i}_d}{dt} = \frac{-R}{L} \hat{i}_d + \omega \hat{i}_q + \frac{V_d}{L} \]

(8)

Subtracting equation (8) from equation (7), the error equation is obtained as

\[ \frac{d e_d}{dt} = \frac{R}{L} e_d - \Delta \frac{1}{L} (V_d - R \hat{i}_d) = Ae_d - W, \]

(9)

where \( e_d \) and \( \Delta (1/L) \) denote the difference of \( d \)-axis current and inductance between the reference model and the adaptive model, respectively, \( e_d = i_d - \hat{i}_d \), and \( \Delta (1/L) = (1/L) - (1/L) \).

In order to guarantee the stabilization of the estimation method, Popov’s super stability theory is adopted, and the adaptive law is derived by using Popov’s integral inequality:

\[ \int_0^t e^T W dt \gg - y^2, \]

(10)

where \( y \) is a positive limited constant.

By solving the Popov inequality, the inductance \( L \) can be estimated as follows:

\[ \frac{1}{\hat{L}} = \frac{1}{L} \left( 0 \right) + \left( k_p + \frac{k_i}{s} \right) \left[ e_d \left( V_d - R \hat{i}_d \right) \right], \]

(11)

where \( k_p \) and \( k_i \) are proportionality coefficient and integral coefficient.

#### 3.2. Estimation of Flux Linkage

To estimate the flux linkage, equation (2) can be rewritten as

\[ \frac{d \hat{\lambda}_d}{dt} = \frac{R}{L} \hat{\lambda}_d - \omega \hat{i}_d + \frac{V_d}{L} \]

(12)

where \( \lambda_m \) is the unknown value, \( \omega \), and \( V_d \) are measured parameters. The estimated value of \( i_q \) and \( \lambda_m \) can be expressed as follows:

\[ \frac{d \hat{\lambda}_d}{dt} = \frac{R}{L} \hat{\lambda}_d - \omega \hat{i}_d + \frac{V_d}{L} - \omega \hat{\lambda}_m \]

(13)

Subtracting equation (13) from equation (12), equation (14) is obtained.

\[ \frac{d e_q}{dt} = \frac{R}{L} e_q - \omega \Delta \hat{\lambda}_m = Ae_q - W, \]

(14)

where \( e_q \) and \( \Delta \hat{\lambda}_m \) denote the difference of \( q \)-axis current and flux linkage between the reference model and the adaptive model, respectively, \( e_q = i_q - \hat{i}_q \), and \( \Delta \hat{\lambda}_m = \lambda_m - \hat{\lambda}_m \).

In order to satisfy Popov’s integral inequality, the adaptive rule of \( \hat{\lambda}_m \) is established as follows:

\[ \hat{\lambda}_m = \lambda_m (0) - \left( k_p + \frac{k_i}{s} \right) \left( \omega \cdot e_q \right). \]

(15)

### 4. Simulation Analysis

In the simulation model, the motor is a 8-pole, 36-slot surface-mounted PMSM, and its detailed parameters are shown in Table 1. In addition, the vector control method is adopted in the PMSM, where the \( d \)-axis current is equal to 0.

#### 4.1. Simulation Analysis of Inductance

According to equations (7)–(11), the simulation model of inductance estimation in MATLAB is established, as shown in Figure 4, where \( k_p = 0.002 \) and \( k_i = 250 \).

In order to verify the correctness of the PMSM model, several specific parameters of the PMSM in operation are solved by simulation, corresponding to the speed rises from 1000 r/min to 2000 r/min in one second. Figure 5 shows the simulation result of \( d \)-axis current under different rotational speeds, which is approximately equal to zero, and the result is consistent with the control strategy of \( i_d = 0 \).

The estimated value of inductance is obtained by simulation as shown in Figure 6. As the initial value of \( L \) (0) differs from the actual value, it takes time to self-correct for the adaptive model. From Figure 6, it can be concluded that the estimated value is getting closer to the actual value (2.94 mH), and it eventually stabilizes at this value. It can also be seen that the method has a fast response, and the inductance value can be estimated in a very short time.

At the same time, the difference of \( d \)-axis current between the reference model and adaptive model is obtained, as shown in Figure 7. As the difference approaches to 0, the
estimated \(d\)-axis current value is consistent with the actual \(d\)-axis current value. According to the definition of model reference adaptation system, the smaller the value of \(ed\), the smaller the difference between the output value and the ideal value.

In order to verify the stability of the established model, the inductance parameters of the motor are changed to 2.5 mH, 3 mH, and 3.5 mH, respectively. The curves of estimated inductance of the motor model with the same initial value are obtained, as shown in Figure 8. It can be seen that the inductance value tends to equal the set value, and the stability of the MRAS is well.

PMSM can work in a wide speed range due to its high speed characteristics, and it is difficult to apply the constant PI parameter at the full speed range; the fuzzy control is introduced to improve the deficiency and applicable speed range of MRAS. As shown in Figure 1, the fuzzy control unit is introduced into traditional MRAS, and the simulation model is named model reference fuzzy adaptive control (MRFAC) method.

In traditional MRAS with fuzzy control algorithm, the fuzzy control is connected with the PI controller, and the fuzzy controller is used to update the PI parameters according to the operation condition, and it requires extensive experience to determine the PI parameters of the motor at different operating stages. For the inductance
The estimation model, the \(d\)-axis current error between the reference model and the adaptive model is used as the input and output for fuzzy control, that is, the \(d\)-axis current error is fuzzed, as shown in Figure 1.

Figure 1 shows the flowchart of MRFAC, where output \(u\) is current error of \(d\)-axis and \(\Delta e\) is the rate of change of \(e\). The input scaling factor \(K_e\), \(K_{\Delta e}\) and output scaling factor \(K_u\) of the fuzzy controller can be modified according to the actual situation.

Figure 9 shows the membership function of input \(e\), \(\Delta e\), and output \(u\), where NB is negative big, NM is negative medium, NS is negative small, ZE is zero, PS is positive small, PM is positive medium, and PB is positive big.

The logic rules of fuzzy control for the inductance model are shown in Table 2.

In order to verify the stability of the system of the estimation model after adding fuzzy control algorithm, the curves of estimated inductance are simulated based on MRAS and MRFAC, as shown in Figure 10. It can be seen that the estimation results of the two methods are similar, and the estimated time for both is shorter, but the response speed of the MRFAC method is faster than that of the MRAS method.

In [23], the robustness of the estimated model was tested by changing the load torque of motor during the simulation process. In this paper, the same method is adopted to test the stability of the MRFAC system. Figure 11 shows the torque change during motor operation, and Figure 12 shows the estimated inductance value during this operation. It can be seen from Figure 12 that when the torque changes, the estimated inductance value almost does not change, and the estimation model can be considered stable.

### 4.2 Simulation Analysis of the Flux Linkage

According to equations (12)–(15), the simulation model of flux linkage estimation is established, as shown in Figure 13, where \(k_p\) is equal to 0.00002 and \(k_i\) is equal to 0.002, and the previously estimated inductance values are used in the model for simulation.

In order to study the accuracy of the estimation model based on traditional MRAS, the flux linkage values are estimated at five different rotating speeds, respectively, as shown in Figure 14. As the PI parameter is set according to...
the rotating speed, the response speed and accuracy of the estimation result will decrease with the decrease of speed.

Fuzzy control algorithm is also introduced in MRAS, similar to the inductance estimation model. In this part, fuzzy control algorithm is used to replace the adaptive mechanism in traditional MRAS. Unlike the inductance estimation model, the input of the flux linkage estimation model has been changed from $e_d$ to $\omega e_q$, which leads to the change of fuzzy logic rules, as shown in Figure 2, where $K_c$, $K_r$, and $K_u$ are 6/1400, 6/440000, and 6, respectively.

The fuzzy control output is the flux linkage value, and the membership function remains unchanged. Table 3 gives the logic rules of fuzzy control for flux linkage.

Figure 15 shows the estimated flux linkage value in the varying speed process. The starting speed starts at low speed (100 r/min) and rises to high speed (2500 r/min) in 0.2 seconds. It can be seen that the introduction of fuzzy control in MRAS has a good adaptation to the varying speed process. In the low rotating speed stage, the flux linkage can be estimated quickly and accurately; at the same time, the estimated value almost does not fluctuate from low speed to high speed.

Because the stator resistance of the estimated model is measured by thermal resistance, the stator resistance value may fluctuate. Figure 16 shows the results of the flux linkage estimation in the case of stator resistance fluctuations; the fluctuation occurs at 0.2 seconds and then returns to initial values. It can be seen from the figure that the fluctuation will cause an error in the estimation result, but the estimated value will return to the correct value when the fluctuation disappears, and this also proves the stability of the system.

### 4.3. Detection of Winding Resistance

The input of the proposed model is $U_{dp}$, $i_{dp}$, $\omega$, and $R$, $U_{ap}$, $i_{ap}$, and $\omega$ can be obtained by direct measurement. As the stator winding resistance is obviously affected by temperature change, its value can be calculated based on the measured temperature according to equation (6). As shown in Figure 17(a), four thermal resistors are placed in four different positions in the
motor windings, and Figure 17(b) shows the average temperature of the four temperature measuring points in 150 minutes.

Figure 18 shows the relationship between the rotor flux linkage and its temperature. The measured winding resistance is substituted into the simulation model based on MRFAC to estimate the inductance and flux linkage, which are the real-time values corresponding to working temperature. Then, the estimated flux linkage value and the flux linkage value at room temperature are substituted into equation (5), and the rotor temperature can be obtained.

5. Experiment

In the experiment, the BEMF of PMSM is measured, which is used to calculate the BEMF coefficient (flux linkage), by equation (16). And the value of flux linkage measured is compared with the estimated value, which is used to verify the effectiveness of the proposed method. The BEMF coefficient can be expressed as

$$K_e = \frac{U}{(2\pi/60)n_{p\text{pole}}}, \quad (16)$$

where $K_e$ denotes BEMF coefficient, which equals the flux linkage of PMs in rotor, $U$ is the amplitude of phase BEMF, $n$ is the measured speed of PMSM, and $p_{\text{pole}}$ is the number of pole pairs.

The experimental testing equipment is shown in Figure 19, where the initial motor temperature (room temperature) is 25°C. Two identical motors are connected by a coupling: one motor is an experimental motor (motor mode) and the other is the load motor (generator mode). When the winding temperature reaches a certain temperature, the load motor drives the experimental motor running, and the BEMF of the experimental motor is measured by oscilloscope without eliminating the load voltage and harmonics. Then, the BEMFs are substituted into equation (16) to obtain the flux linkage.

When the winding temperature reaches 30°C, 35°C, 40°C, 45°C, and 47.5°C (thermal steady state), the BEMF of the experimental motor is measured. Then, the BEMF is converted to flux linkage value according to equation (16), and the flux linkage is solved under different temperatures. At the same time, the stator resistance value corresponding to this temperature point is substituted into the estimation model, and the flux linkage is estimated based on the MRFAC method for obtaining the PM temperature.

Table 4 gives the flux linkage values measured and estimated at different winding temperature points, and the value in parentheses is the temperature corresponding to the flux linkage value. It can be seen that the estimated error does not exceed 3°C, which proves the validity of the proposed estimation method.

Table 5 shows the comparison between the proposed method in this paper and other methods. It can be seen that the BEMF method has the smallest error, but it needs to perform Fourier operation on the BEMF and analyse the harmonics, so the solution process is complex. The flux observer method has the largest error among the three methods, and its input can be directly measured and its response is fast, which is suitable for real-time temperature estimation. The proposed method can estimate flux linkage quickly based on the variation of stator resistance corresponding to different working temperatures measured by thermal resistance, and the PM temperature will be obtained according to the estimated permanent magnet flux linkage. MRAS and fuzzy control are stable and mature control
Figure 17: Winding temperature measurement experiment. (a) Installation position of thermal resistance. (b) Curve of winding temperature rise.

Figure 18: The relation curve between temperature and flux linkage.

Figure 19: Experimental testing equipment.
strategies; the maximum error of estimated results is 3°C, which is within the acceptable range.

6. Conclusions

The temperature rise will cause the demagnetization of PMs, which will affect adversely the efficiency of the PMSM, and it is very important to detect the temperature of PMs in rotor to ensure the efficient and safe operation of the motor. Due to the limitations of traditional temperature measurement methods, a new temperature estimation method using model reference fuzzy adaptive control (MRFAC) is proposed to estimate PM temperature, which relies on the linear relationship between flux linkage and temperature. In the new method, the MRAS parameter estimation method is adopted to estimate the flux linkage to obtain the rotor temperature, and in order to improve the accuracy and applicable speed range of the estimation model, a fuzzy control method is introduced to MRAS. Compared with the experimental data, the estimated temperature of PMs in rotor is very close to the experimental actual value. Also, this method can greatly simplify the rotor temperature measurement; it is suitable for temperature estimation of PMs in rotor of PMSM.

Data Availability

The data used to support the findings of this study are available from the corresponding author upon request.

Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflicts of interest, financial or otherwise.

Acknowledgments

This research was supported by the Key Research and Development Project of Shandong Province (2017GGX203005) and Natural Science Foundation Project of Shandong Province (ZR2019ME068).

Table 4: Flux linkage values measured and estimated.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winding temperature (°C)</th>
<th>Flux linkage value/Wb (measured)</th>
<th>Flux linkage value/Wb (estimated)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>0.147 (25°C)</td>
<td>0.147 (25°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>0.1458 (34.87°C)</td>
<td>0.146 (33.22°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>0.145 (39.9°C)</td>
<td>0.1449 (40.65°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>0.1442 (44.88°C)</td>
<td>0.1439 (47.01°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45</td>
<td>0.1432 (52.1°C)</td>
<td>0.1429 (54.24°C)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>47.5</td>
<td>0.1423 (58.5°C)</td>
<td>0.1424 (57.8°C)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 5: Comparison of different methods.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Method of obtaining flux linkage</th>
<th>Max error (°C)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Proposed method</td>
<td>MRFAC</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flux observer method [16]</td>
<td>Flux observer</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

References


