Modeling and Implementation of the Direct Torque Control Technique Used in a Relevant PV-powered Pumping Application

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Abstract: The main purpose of this paper is to model and implement the direct torque control technique for driving a single phase induction motor in a low-cost and easily transportable photovoltaic-powered pumping system. To achieve this goal, a comparative investigation of the performance characteristics of different control techniques, such as closed loop scalar control (voltage/frequency) and indirect field oriented control Technique, is presented. From this study and according to complexity, robustness, difficulty of implementation and cost, an accurate and simple photovoltaic water pumping system is developed. This system is based on a single-phase motor supplied by a three-phase inverter using the direct torque control method. This standalone photovoltaic system is dedicated to water pumping, especially in rural areas that have no access to national grid but have sufficient amount of solar radiation. Simulation modeling (Matlab / Simulink) and experimental test results are presented to demonstrate the effectiveness and relevance of the proposed system designed for industrial use.

Key words: Direct torque control (DTC), single phase induction motor (SPIM), low cost and transportable photovoltaic pumping system.

1. Introduction

For many years now, electric motors have been commonly used in a wide range of industrial applications such as fans, pumps, machine tools, household appliances or, in an original way, implantable medical devices [1,2]. Whatever the type of motor (direct current or DC, alternating current or AC), there are two key elements. The first one is composed of an armature (a conductive coil) surrounded by a field magnet responsible for creating an electromotive force that causes the shaft to rotate, generating mechanical torque. The second one is a commutator composed of a set of contacts attached to the armature shaft. Its role is to keep reversing the direction of current flow in the armature as it turns, thus ensuring that the motor continues to turn.

Even if DC motors have a very long history, including the fact that they offer the easiest way to control the flux and torque in any application requiring drives with variable speed and position, harsh applications (in particular, dry and warm environments) can greatly affect their lifetime [3]. For example, regarding brush DC motors, these conditions may increase the wear-out of the brushes and accelerate the breakdown of the commutator and bearings. The use of brushless DC (BLDC) motors makes it possible to partly overcome these difficulties. However, BLDC motors need sophisticated electronic control circuitry as well as some way to continuously determine the position of the rotor [4].

AC electric motors and particularly induction motors (IM) have obtained special interests from the industry since their invention. Indeed, these motors do not require mechanical commutation, separate-excitation or self-excitation for all or part of the energy transferred from stator to rotor, as for instance in DC motors. IM are currently used in variable-frequency drive (VFD) applications such as in variable-torque centrifugal fan, pump or compressor load applications [5].

Despite some disadvantages such as high starting current and speed control that may uneasy to drive, the reasons for this success are amongst others: higher reliability due to the absence of brushes, higher robustness, easiness to build, inexpensive, and higher efficiency (about 80%). However, the use of an induction motor in any application is challenging, because of its complex mathematical model, its non-linear behavior during saturation mode and the electrical parameters’ oscillation which is particularly temperature-dependent. As a consequence, the control of an induction motor is still a major issue [6].

In recent years, application of advanced control techniques has increased significantly for induction motor drive systems owing to the technological improvements, especially in power electronics and microprocessor technologies.

The scalar control, also called V/f control, well-known for its simplicity, was the first command introduced in the industry. This technique consists in monitoring the induction motor speed by adjusting the magnitude of stator voltages and frequency in such a way that the air gap flux is always maintained at the desired value in steady-state.

Nevertheless, using this technique, field orientation of the motor is not used. Indeed, the frequency and the voltage are the main control variables and are applied
to the stator windings. The status of the rotor is ignored, meaning that no speed or position signal is fed back. Therefore, torque can not be controlled with any degree of accuracy.

The field oriented control (FOC), which is one of the vector control methods, is currently a particularly interesting research area [7]. This technique consists in separately controlling the torque producing and magnetizing flux components. Thus, the stator currents are represented by a vector. In a sense, the aim is to imitate DC motors’ operation by transforming a three phase time and speed dependent system into a two coordinate time invariant sys-tem. The implementation of FOC may be complex because it requires current regulator, coordinate transformation, generator of pulse width modulation (PWM) signals and timers.

Direct torque control (DTC) has been developed to replace traditional PWM drives of the open- and closed-loop type used in FOC [8]. This method describes the way in which the control of torque and speed are directly based on the electromagnetic state of the motor in comparison with PWM drives which use input frequency and voltage. There are many benefits of the DTC technique: torque response, accurate torque control at low frequencies, torque repeatability, motor static and dynamic speed accuracy.

The ultimate challenge of this paper is to model and implement the DTC technique to control a 370 W induction motor used in a low-cost and easily transportable photo-voltaic powered pumping system (35 l/min).

First of all, the present manuscript describes the application requirements and the reasons related to the implementation of the DTC method to control the induction motor. Then, a comprehensive overview of control techniques for electrical machines is proposed. The aim is to justify the choice of the DTC method. The fourth section of this paper is dedicated to the DTC technique modeling and its relevance through experimental measurements. Finally, a discussion is proposed to compare the model outputs and test results.

2. Review of the Background and Motivations

Water pumping is one of the most significant photovoltaic (PV) applications, especially to overcome the need for water in mountainous or remote locations and improve isolated populations’ life. Moreover it reduces the negative impact of diesel installations on the environment. For example, on average, for an operating time of 5 hours per day, 1,000 PV-pumps, each with a nominal power equal to 950 W, can support the reduction of CO2 emissions by 4.2 tons a year. This positive outcome shows the interest of such a PV system in industrial applications, such as water pumping [9].

Although the single phase induction motor (SPIM) is not widely accepted in literature, it can be an excellent choice due to consideration of cost, availability, simplicity of control and operation. Regarding irrigation and pumping water applications, the water flow regulation is needed. The control techniques applied to induction machine allow this regulation and offer the best performances [10,11].

Figure 1 shows the general architecture of a PV pumping system.

![Fig. 1. General architecture of the photovoltaic-powered pumping application.](image)

It is composed of six 80 Wp PV modules, a DC-DC converter (boost converter) controlled by a maximum power point tracking (MPPT) system, 3-phase inverter and 370 W single-phase motor pump. It is important to note that this kind of motor is easily transportable thanks to its very compact size (length, width and height equal to 135 mm, 245 mm and 176 mm, respectively) and low gross weight (less than 10 kg). The starting capacitance was suppressed to control the SPIM, and particularly to have access to the connection point between the two windings. This operation permits to supply the SPIM by a three-phase inverter that gives the phase shift to the motor. The first one is composed of an armature (a conductive coil) surrounded by a field magnet responsible for creating an electromotive force that causes the shaft to rotate,
generating mechanical torque. The second one is a commutator composed of a set of contacts attached to the armature shaft. Its role is to keep reversing the direction of current flow in the armature as it turns, thus ensuring that the motor continues to turn.

2.1. Modeling of the PV Generator

The one-diode mathematical model of the solar cell is given by Equation (1) and Equation (2), where: $I_{pv}$ is the output-terminal current, $I_{sh}$ is the light-generated current, $I_d$ is the diode-current, $I_{ph}$ is the shunt-leakage current, $I_0$ is the saturation current of the diode, $q$ is the electron charge, $V_{pv}$ is the output-terminal voltage, $R_s$ is the serial resistance, $A$ is an ideality factor of the pn junction, $k$ is the Boltzmann’s constant, $T_f$ is the junction temperature of the solar cell, and $R_{sh}$ is the shunt resistance [12-14].

$$I_{pv} = I_{ph} - I_d - I_{sh}$$

$$V_{pv} = V_{ph} - I_{ph} - R_s I_{ph}$$

Table 1 summarizes the parameters of the PV module (SUNTECH STP080S-12/Bb) used in this application.

A DC-DC boost converter is used to track the MPPT in order to boost the DC voltage of the PV module. The duty cycle ($D$) of the switch is obtained using the MPPT controller based on the Perturb & Observe (P&O) technique. The output voltage ($V_{out}$) and output current ($I_{out}$) of the converter are given by Equation (3) and Equation (4) [15,16].

$$V_{out} = V_{pv} \left( \frac{1}{1 - D} \right)$$

$$I_{out} = I_{pv} (1 - D)$$

Table 1

Main features of the SUNTECH STP080S-12/Bb PV module (36 monocrystalline silicon solar cells)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$P_{pp}$</td>
<td>Peak power</td>
<td>80 Wp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$I_{mpp}$</td>
<td>Maximum current at MPP</td>
<td>4.58 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{mpp}$</td>
<td>Maximum voltage at MPP</td>
<td>17.5 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$I_{sc}$</td>
<td>Short-circuit current</td>
<td>4.95 A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$V_{oc}$</td>
<td>Open-circuit voltage</td>
<td>21.9 V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOCT</td>
<td>Nominal Operating Cell Temperature</td>
<td>48 °C ± 2 °C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$a_{sc}$</td>
<td>Short-circuit current temperature coefficient</td>
<td>0.020%/K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$b_{oc}$</td>
<td>Open-circuit voltage temperature coefficient</td>
<td>-0.34%/K</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2. Modeling of the Three-Phase Inverter

The function of the inverter is to convert the direct voltage into alternating one. Figure 2 shows the general architecture of the inverter. The DC-AC converter is composed of 6 insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBTs) to control the 3-phase motor.

The aim of this kind of system is to manage the amplitude and frequency of the stator voltages. The three-phase inverter model contains eight switching states. Figure 3 shows the representation of each IGBT state based on a vector presentation.

The stator phase voltages are described in Equation (5) using literature [17,18], where $V_{a,b,c}$ are the three phase stator voltages, $V_{dc}$ is the DC link voltage and $S_{a,b,c}$ are the switching functions that can take 2 logic values: 0 or 1.

$$V_{an} = V_{dm} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right] S_a$$

$$V_{bn} = V_{dm} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right] S_b$$

$$V_{cn} = V_{dm} \left[ \begin{array}{ccc} 2 & -1 & -1 \\ -1 & 2 & -1 \\ -1 & -1 & 2 \end{array} \right] S_c$$

The output voltage of the inverter is defined in Equation (6) and Equation (7) using the vector presentation.

The three-phase voltage system is given by Equation (8).

Then, $\tilde{v}$ can be expressed using Equation (9). This equation allows the determination of the voltage for each sector using the vector presentation.

The inverter is controlled by the DTC technique which is detailed in the next section.
the DC voltage on all frictional losses of the pipe network, where $H$, $Q$, $H_g$, $\Psi$ are the total head, the flow rate, geodetic head and the constant depending on conduit diameter on all frictional losses of the pipe network, respectively [23-24].

\[ T_r = k_s \Omega^2 \quad \text{(14)} \]

This equation is derived from the mechanical energy balance, where $T_r$ is the rotor torque, $k_s$ is the torque constant, and $\Omega$ is the rotor speed.

### 3. Comprehensive Overview of Control Methods for Electrical Machines

Many techniques of variable speed control are well-described in literature, such as scalar control using opened or closed loop, vector control that involves direct and indirect field oriented control, and direct torque control.

In this section of the paper, the advantages and draw-backs of the closed loop scalar control, indirect field oriented control (IFOC) and direct torque control (DTC) techniques are discussed. In particular, their interest in the control of induction motors is highlighted.

#### 3.1. Closed Loop Scalar Control

Figure 4 shows the scalar control method using a closed loop speed. Its principle that is based on Equation (16) consists of varying the magnitude of the stator voltage ($V_s$) and stator frequency ($f$), while maintaining the $V_s/f$ parameter constant [25-29]. In this equation, $R_s$ and $I_s$ are the stator resistance and stator current, respectively. As described in Figure 4, the speed sensor is very helpful to calculate the rotation speed ($\omega_m$) of the motor. The value of this parameter is compared to the reference speed ($\omega_m^*$). The error is introduced to the proportional – integral (PI) controller.
to get the slip command ($\omega_r$). This slip control is added to the speed measured to determine the stator frequency command ($\omega_s$). This one allows obtaining the stator voltage and stator angle ($\theta_r$) using the $V/f$ function generator. The inverter is controlled by a pulse width modulation (PWM) system.

Ignoring the voltage drop across the stator resistance, the stator flux is given by Equation (17), where $\lambda$ is constant [25].

In scalar control, flux and torque are linked with frequency and voltage. Moreover, at low voltage, the stator resistance cannot be neglected [6].

As can be seen in Figure 5, even if this control technique is widely used due to its simplicity and low cost, it presents a low accuracy, a small voltage range band and a poor torque response.

$$\Phi_s = \frac{V_s - R_s I_s}{\omega_s} dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

$$\Phi_s = \frac{V_s}{f} = \lambda$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)

3.2. Indirect Field Oriented Control Technique

The vector control technique not only enables to control the amplitude but the phase of the voltage, current and flux in a vector presentation. Its operating principle consists in controlling the flux and torque of an induction machine, separately. Decomposing the stator currents into two components in the ($d,q$) axes stator reference frame, it is possible to get a behavior similar to that of the DC machine. $i_{ds}$ (resp. $i_{qs}$) operates on the rotor flux reference $\Phi^*_{r}$ (resp. the torque reference $\Gamma^*$), as shown in Equation (18) (where the $p$-parameter represents the Laplace operator) and Equation (19) [6], [22], [26].

$$\Phi^*_{r} = -\frac{M}{1 + p \frac{L_s}{R_s}} i_{ds}$$  \hspace{1cm} (18)

$$\Gamma^* = \frac{3 M}{2 L_s} \Phi^*_{r} i_{qs}$$  \hspace{1cm} (19)

The block diagram of the IFOC technique is presented in Figure 6.

As can be seen in Figure 5, even if this control technique is widely used due to its simplicity and low cost, it presents a low accuracy, a small voltage range band and a poor torque response.

$$\Phi_s = \frac{V_s - R_s I_s}{\omega_s} dt$$  \hspace{1cm} (16)

$$\Phi_s = \frac{V_s}{f} = \lambda$$  \hspace{1cm} (17)
The torque reference ($\Gamma_e^*$) is obtained by the regulation of the speed reference ($\omega_m^*$) to extract the stator current components ($i_{qs}^*$, $i_{ds}^*$) with the regulation of the rotor flux reference ($\Phi_r^*$) too. To extract the synchronous angular velocity, a speed sensor is used to estimate the speed of the machine which is added to the slip control (obtained using the $\Phi_r^*$ and $i_{ds}^*$ parameters).

However, its main drawbacks are the need to warrant high calculation capacity, the use of a PI controller, the need of a speed or position sensor and the precise knowledge of the machine’s parameters [27,28].

3.3. Direct Torque Control Technique

Comparing to the IFOC control technique, the DTC method is simple to implement. It depends on the stator resistance parameter and does not use any mechanical sensor [6], [29].

Figure 7 shows the block diagram of the command. The DTC technique is based on the direct control of the stator flux and electromagnetic torque. For this purpose, the selection of the optimal space vector using a hysteresis controller is required. Similarly, the stator flux, electromagnetic torque developed by the machine and its position in terms of flux can be estimated [15].

As can be seen in Equation (20), the $\Phi_{sa}$ and $\Phi_{sb}$ parameters of the stator flux along the ($\alpha$, $\beta$) stator axes are reported in literature [13], [21], [30-32]. The stator flux is estimated from Equation (21). The electromagnetic torque is calculated using Equation (22).

The estimated flux and torque are compared to their reference values and the obtained error is used as an input of two (resp. three) levels hysteresis regulators (the first one for the flux and the second one for the torque). The regulator maintains torque and flux errors inside the hysteresis bands as shown in Figure 8 [28].

As proposed in [27], the flux is divided in six equal sectors. Each sector has selected vectors to increase or decrease the stator flux and torque. To sum up the main facts, if the stator flux vector is in sector named $i$ and the motor turns counter clockwise, then:

- If $V_{i+1}$ is selected, $\Phi_s$ will increase and $\Gamma_e$ will increase.
- If $V_{i-1}$ is selected, $\Phi_s$ will increase and $\Gamma_e$ will increase.

$$
\Phi_{sa}(t) = \int (V_{sa} - R_s \times i_{sa}) \, dt
$$

$$
\Phi_{sb}(t) = \int (V_{sb} - R_s \times i_{sb}) \, dt
$$

$$
\Phi_s = \sqrt{\Phi_{sa}^2 + \Phi_{sb}^2}
$$

$$
\Gamma_e = \frac{3P}{2} (\Phi_{s\alpha} i_{sa} - \Phi_{s\beta} i_{sb})
$$

![Fig. 7. General implementation of the direct torque control technique used to drive 3-phase induction motor.](image)

![Fig. 8. General outline schematic of 3-level hysteresis regulator.](image)
increase.

- If \( V_{s+2} \) is selected, \( \Phi_s \) will decrease and \( \Gamma_e \) will decrease.
- If \( V_{s-2} \) is selected, \( \Phi_s \) will increase and \( \Gamma_e \) will increase.

For instance, if \( V_3 \) or \( V_f \) is selected, then \( \Phi_s \) will be constant and \( \Gamma_e \) will increase.

The space vector applied in each condition is described in Table 2 [13], [21], [28].

Table 3 sums up the main characteristics of each control technique. This table is necessary to justify the selection of the DTC method. The analysis focuses on the easiest technique to elaborate, the less dependent on machine settings and its cost-effectiveness by avoiding the use of any position sensor.

### Table 2

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( b_p = 0 )</th>
<th>( b_p = 1 )</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = 1 )</td>
<td>110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = 0 )</td>
<td>111</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = -1 )</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = 1 )</td>
<td>010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = 0 )</td>
<td>000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>( b_1 = -1 )</td>
<td>001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Table 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>( V/f )</th>
<th>IFOC</th>
<th>DTC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principle</td>
<td>Keep ( V/f ) constant</td>
<td>Decoupling of stator current components</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Controlled size</td>
<td>Amplitude</td>
<td>Amplitude and phase</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dynamic response</td>
<td>Poor / Low</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parameter sensitivity</td>
<td>Average</td>
<td>High</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In / Out</td>
<td>Regulation of the rotor speed / PWM signals</td>
<td>Regulation of the rotor speed / PWM signals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sensor speed</td>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>Necessary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Complexity and easiness</td>
<td>Simple</td>
<td>Heavy due to the PI controller</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost</td>
<td>Cheap</td>
<td>Expensive</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 4. DTC Modeling, Experimental Test Set up and Discussion

#### 4.1. DTC Modeling and Simulation Results

The Matlab/Simulink simulation tool is very helpful to design and implement the global PV-pumping application schematic described in Section 3. It is composed of a PV generator (its modeling is possible using Equation (2)), and a motor-pump controlled by the DTC method. For this purpose, the relations (10)-(13) are used.

The following pictures present the simulation results. It is important to note that the simulations were performed using the same parameters than the experimental ones to highlight the relevance of the proposed PV pumping system.

The voltage waveform, determined at a constant irradiance value \( G = 680 \text{ W/m}^2 \) and an ambient temperature \( T \) equal to 27.5 °C (values that can typically be measured in Algeria in July), is shown in Figure 9. At start up, the PV voltage reaches the optimal value at \( t = 700 \text{ ms} \) and oscillates around the MPP.

Regarding the SPIM, torque and flux responses are illustrated in Figure 10, Figure 11, Figure 12, Figure 13, and Figure 14, respectively.

The waveform of the electromagnetic torque oscillates around the load torque value. Even if the motor is troubled by increasing the load torque at \( t = 10 \text{ s} \) from 0.7 N.m to 1 N.m, the electromagnetic torque follows the load torque and still oscillates around this value, validating the expected behavior.

The stator flux is maintained constant, at the set value of 0.6 Wb.

Figure 14 shows that the rotor speed reaches the value of 175 rad/s at the steady state, and decreases at \( t = 10 \text{ s} \) when the torque increases due to the absence of regulation speed loop.

The flow rate is proportional to the rotor speed as shown in Figure 15. According to a value of 180 V of the PV voltage, the flow rate manages to reach the value of 19 l/min.

![Fig. 9. Evolution of the output voltage of the PV array.](image)

![Fig. 10. Electromagnetic torque waveform.](image)

![Fig. 11. Zoom on the electromagnetic torque waveform.](image)
4.2. Experimental Tests Procedure, Results and Discussion

The experimental test bench was performed in the LTII laboratory of the University of Bejaia (Algeria) (see Figure 16). The test bench is composed of a PV generator, a tank of water, a computer to manage the control techniques, a three-phase inverter, a motor-pump system, and a dSPACE1104 card using the TMS320F240 DSP. This card acts as an interface between the Matlab Real-Time Work-shop and the equipment. The current and voltage measurements are insured by current and voltage sensors.

The results come to support the proposed system and are obtained from the Digital Analog Converter of the dSPACE1104 card.

Figure 17 shows the PV voltage delivered at solar irradiance and ambient temperature equal to 680 W/m² and 27.5 °C, respectively. The presence of the ripple is due to the use of P&O MPPT technique. This phenomenon is well described in literature.

As can be seen in Figure 18 and Figure 19, it is important to note that the experimental waveform of the electro-magnetic torque is similar as the simulated signal [32].

As can be seen in Figure 20 and Figure 21, the waveform of the stator flux is sinusoidal with amplitude equal to 0.60 Wb.
Figure 22 shows that the stator flux of the machine has a sinusoidal waveform. This experimental and theoretical signals are the same. All these experimental results demonstrate the robustness of the DTC control method. As a consequence, the relevance of this kind of application is proven.

5. Conclusions
The aim of this paper is to design and implement a low-cost photovoltaic pumping system that uses a single phase induction motor controlled by the DTC technique. A model of this PV system, based on the Matlab-Simulink simulation tool, has been proposed and validated through-out experimental test results. It is important to note that the method has been validated for a small AC machine, but it may be applied for a huge one.

Despite the fact that ripples are present in the torque waveform, the robustness of the model is verified both in modeling and experimental setup, which allows the machine to be invulnerable to mechanical disturbances.

This PV voltage based on the P&O MPPT technique generates enough power to run the pumping water station under the most low-light conditions. The use of the single phase induction motor offers a rugged and cost-effectiveness solution. The whole PV system could be very helpful in rural areas that which are not connected to the national grid.

References