

Comparison between Field Oriented Control of BLDCM and PMSM using SVPWM in Minimizing Torque Ripples in Satellite Application

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Abstract—AC motors have always been an area of interest in the field of electrical drives. With improvements in technology there is always a need of effective utilization of electrical power as well as the available resources. Nowadays the focus is given mainly on the efficiency of these drives with improvement in the performance of the motors used in the drives. Permanent magnet motors are classified as BLDC and PMSM among which Brushless DC Motor is one of the highly preferred AC motors used in various applications due to various advantages offered such as high efficiency, better speed versus torque characteristics. Although BLDC drives has several advantages it generates torque ripples which is a major concern in high precision applications especially in spacecrafts. Even though the torque generated is less when compared to BLDC motors, PMSM generates less torque ripples. Field oriented control of PMSM drives is becoming more popular especially in high precision applications. The main objective of this thesis is to make a comparison study between the FOC control of BLDC motor and PMSM using SVPWM technique in reducing torque ripples in reaction wheels used in satellites. FOC controlled AC motor drives provide better dynamic response and lesser torque ripples. The field oriented control scheme of the BLDC Motor drive and PMSM drive using SVPWM are simulated in MATLAB SIMULINK.

Key words: Permanent Magnet Alternating Current (PMAC) Motor, Brushless DC Motor (BLDCM), Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM), Field Oriented Control (FOC), SVPWM (Space Vector Pulse Width Modulation)

I. INTRODUCTION

In space flight analysis it is very important to know the position and motion of the satellite. Satellites are required to have more rapid rotational movement and agility than before in order to provide multi-target pointing and tracking capability. Reaction wheels are typical attitude control devices used in spacecraft which works on the principle of angular momentum [10].

The reaction wheels are basically flywheels which may be spun or braked down by an electric motor. Necessary torque required for pointing maneuver can be created by accelerating or decelerating the speed of motor. The required rotation can be created by changing the angular momentum. According to the law of conservation of momentum the body of the spacecraft to which the stator is connected start rotating in the opposite direction when the motor spins the wheel in one direction. Generally the moment of inertia of the reaction wheel is smaller than that of the spacecraft.

The attitude can be tuned very precisely by spinning the wheel. Reaction wheel is often used in space crafts with cameras and other instruments which requires high precision [10]. Using three orthogonal wheels, attitude control by 3-axes can be achieved. In reaction wheels and

momentum wheels, electric motor is used to drive high inertial wheel. Permanent magnet alternating current (PMAC) motors are commonly used for this purpose.

Permanent Magnet Alternating current (PMAC) motors are classified mainly into two types namely Permanent Magnet synchronous Motor (PMSM) and Brushless Direct Current Motor (BLDCM). Permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) produces sinusoidal back EMF. The second type of PMAC which has trapezoidal back EMF is referred to as the Brushless DC (BLDC) motor [5]. The BLDC motor requires excitation with quasi-rectangular shaped currents.

In conventional DC motor current is switched by means of commutator and brushes whereas in BLDC motor electronic commutator is used thereby eliminating the need for brushes which reduces the wear and tear. Permanent Magnet AC (PMAC) motor drives are finding increased use in high performance applications where torque smoothness is essential. PMSM is more reliable than a DC motor with the elimination of commutator. It is more efficient than an AC induction motor because the production of the rotor flux is from a permanent magnet. General characteristics of the PMSM are compactness, high efficiency, smooth torque, low acoustic noise and fast dynamic response. In DC motors, the currents producing the flux and torque are orthogonal and can be controlled independently. The magneto motive forces developed by these currents are also held orthogonal.

Hence the flux is only dependent on the field winding current. The torque can be controlled by the armature current if the flux is held constant. Because of this DC machines are said to have decoupled or independent control of torque and flux. When compared to DC machines the stator and rotor fields are not orthogonal to each other in AC machines. The stator current is the only current that can be controlled.

Field Oriented Control scheme is used to achieve the decoupled control of torque and flux by transforming the stator current quantities from stationary reference frame to torque and flux producing current components in rotating reference frame (d-q axis). It is more efficient than an AC induction motor because the production of the rotor flux is from a permanent magnet.

FOC scheme not only decouples the torque and flux which makes faster response but also makes control task easy. FOC is carried out to control the space vector of magnetic flux, current and voltage of machines in order to attain the required torque. The aim of the FOC method is to control the magnetic field and torque by controlling the d and q components of the stator currents or consequently the fluxes.

Space Vector Pulse width Modulation (SVPWM) refers to a special switching sequence which generate less harmonic distortion in the output voltages applied to the

phases of an AC motor[11]. It provides more efficient use of supply voltage. It has superior characteristic like easy digital realization. The objective of SVPWM is to approximate the reference voltage vector V_{ref} using the eight switching patterns. Sinusoidal commutation technique is used here where all the three coils are excited at any given point of time.

II. COMPARISON BETWEEN BLDC AND PMSM DRIVE

Based on the shape of the flux density distribution and stator current excitation, Permanent Magnet Synchronous motors are mainly classified into two categories namely permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) and permanent magnet brushless DC motor (BLDCM). PMSM is also called as Permanent magnet AC motor (PMAC) which has got sinusoidal flux density, sinusoidal stator current variation and sinusoidal back EMF whereas in the case of BLDCM the flux density variation is rectangular, back emf is trapezoidal and current quasi square wave. Classification of the PMSM motors based on their characteristics are shown in Table 2.1.

Characteristic	PMSM	BLDCM
Fux Density	Sinusoidal	Trapezoidal
Back Emf	Sinusoidal	Trapezoidal
Stator current	Sinusoidal	Square
Power	Constant	Constant
Torque	Constant	Constant

Table 1: Classification of Permanent Magnet AC motor

III. BLDC MOTOR TECHNOLOGY

BLDC motors have three phase star connected stator windings and are placed 120 degree apart. Each of the winding is constructed with numerous interconnected coils, with one or more coils placed in the stator slots. The windings are distributed so as to produce trapezoidal back EMF. The rotor is made of permanent magnet with eight pole pairs with alternate North (N) and South (S) pole. Samarium Cobalt one of the rare earth magnet is used as permanent magnet. This magnet thus has high magnetic density per volume and enables using a smaller rotor and stator for the same torque [8]. These alloy magnets improve the size-to weight ratio and also give higher torque for the same size motor. In the case of Brushless DC motors, there are no brushes on the rotor and the commutation is done electronically using inverter topology and hence they are normally referred to as electronically commutated motors.

In the case of BLDC motor it is required to sense the rotor position at each instant in order to determine when to change the direction of current thereby accomplishing electronic commutation. Rotor position is determined using either Hall effect sensors or optical encoder. Hall sensors are devices used for position estimation for the rotor which work on the principle of Hall Effect. The stator windings along with permanent magnets provided on the rotor generates a nearly uniform flux density in the air gap.

BLDC motor has three Hall sensors inside the stator of the motor. A high or low signal is obtained when the rotor magnetic poles pass near the hall sensors indicating whether North pole or South pole is passing near the hall sensors. Thus proper commutation sequence can be determined based on the combination of Hall Sensors [7].

Hall sensors are embedded into the stationary part of the motor. Placement of hall sensors in the stator part is a difficult task as any misalignment will result in incorrect determination of rotor position. Thus the output of Hall Sensor reflects the rotation of the rotor.

The stator winding of BLDC Motor is wound in such a way so as to generate the back-emf having trapezoidal shape waveform. Torque ripples are generated at each step of the trapezoidal (or six-step) commutation [6]. The Hall-effect sensor is the cost effective way of rotor position sensing. It uses a six-step sequence using three Hall-effect sensors to get rotor position information. There is a significant torque ripple generated from the non-linearities in the commutation scheme, because only two motor windings carry current at a given time.

BLDC Motor is fed by a three phase voltage source inverter as shown in fig.1

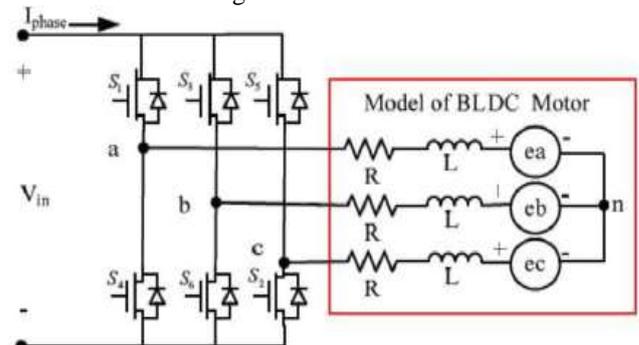


Fig. 1: BLDC Motor Drive System

For each of the phases the equations on the stator side are given as

$$\begin{bmatrix} V_a \\ V_b \\ V_c \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & R & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} L - M & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & L - M & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & L - M \end{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_a \\ e_b \\ e_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (1)$$

Where, V_a, V_b, V_c are the motor phase voltage. L is the inductance of each of the phases. R is the resistance of each of the phases. e_a, e_b, e_c are the back-emf of each of the phases. i_a, i_b, i_c are the phase current in each phases and M is the mutual inductance which is assumed to be zero .

In the 3-phase BLDC motor, the instantaneous back-EMF is related to a function of rotor position which is given by the following equations.

$$e_a = k_b f(\theta) \omega_m \quad (2)$$

$$e_b = k_b f\left(\theta - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \omega_m \quad (3)$$

$$e_c = k_b f\left(\theta - \frac{4\pi}{3}\right) \omega_m \quad (4)$$

Where k_b is back emf constant, θ is the electrical rotor angle and ω_m is the rotor speed .

The generated electromagnetic torque is given by

$$T_e = \frac{e_a i_a + e_b i_b + e_c i_c}{\omega_m} \quad (5)$$

The electromagnetic torque T_e is also related with the motor constant and product of the current with the electrical rotor position which is given by

$$T_e = k_t \{f_a(\theta) i_a + f_b(\theta) i_b + f_c(\theta) i_c\} \quad (6)$$

The equation of motion is given by

$$T_e - T_L = J \left(\frac{d\omega_m}{dt} \right) + B \omega_m \quad (7)$$

Where J is the Moment of inertia of the motor and B is the coefficient of friction.

IV. PMSM TECHNOLOGY

When compared to other AC motors, Permanent magnet synchronous motors(PMSM) have smaller size, better dynamic performance and very high efficiency. In the recent years there has been significant development in the field of power electronic devices and rare earth permanent magnetic materials like Ceramium cobalt which significantly improved efficiency of Permanent magnet motors. PMSM is widely used in high precision applications such as in national defense, and also in various day today applications.

PMSM is a rotating electrical machine which is provided with a three phase stator winding and permanent magnets in place of rotor. One of the magnetic fields is generated by the stator winding whereas the other one is created by the permanent magnet provided in the rotor in the case of PMSM [9]. The performance of the motor is highly dependent on the nature of the permanent magnet material used and therefore a proper understanding is required while selecting the material and in understanding the performance of PM motors.

In the case of DC motors mechanical commutators are used where as in the case of PMSM electronic commutation is used to control the direction of current. In the case of PMSM motors since the armature winding is provided in the stator, external commutation is required and for this a 3 phase inverter topology is used.

Due to the interaction of the two magnetic fields an electromagnetic torque is produced which causes the motor to rotate in the case of PMSM. Sinusoidal commutation is used in the case of PMSM where all the three coils are excited at the same time. The torque produced will be smooth and has less ripples [3] since the current as well as the back emf are sinusoidal.

V. FIELD ORIENTED CONTROL

The main drawback of sinusoidal commutation is that the motor currents are controlled which are time variant and thus PI controllers have to operate on limited bandwidth. Hence using field oriented control the currents in a, b, c reference frame are transformed to d-q reference frame [1]. Thus controllers are not subjected from time variant currents and voltages and limitation of controller frequency response and phase shift on motor speed and torque is eliminated.

Using Field Oriented Control, current control is largely unaffected by speed of rotation of the motor. In the scheme of filed oriented control motor currents and voltages obtained from the motor are transformed into d-q reference frame. Measured currents from three stator phases which are now in the stator reference frame are converted into two phase using Clarke transformations which are further converted into the corresponding rotor reference frame using Park transformation [2]. The resultant current obtained is dc which is easier for the PI controllers to operate.

The obtained outputs from the PI controllers are transformed to inverse Park Transform to obtain the corresponding reference vector for the Space Vector PWM.

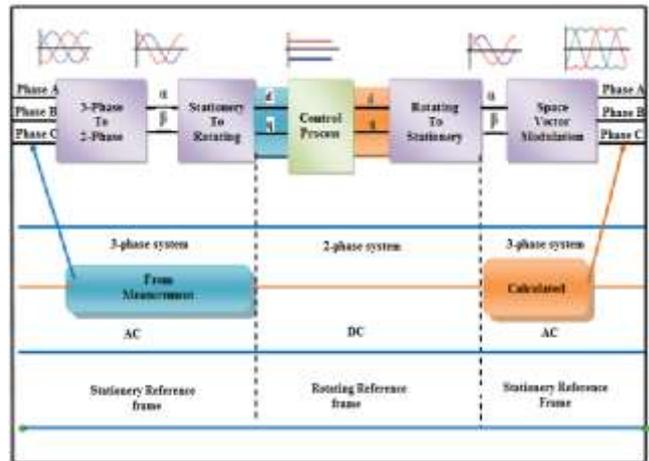


Fig. 2 Field Oriented Control Scheme

The advantages of Field Oriented Control are transformation of a complex and coupled AC model into a simple linear system , independent control of torque and flux, fast dynamic response , good transient and steady state performance ,high torque and low current at start up and high Efficiency.

A. Clarke Transformation Equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_\alpha \\ i_\beta \\ i_0 \end{bmatrix} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \begin{bmatrix} 1 & -\frac{1}{2} & -\frac{1}{2} \\ 0 & \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} & -\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} \\ \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} & \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} \quad (8)$$

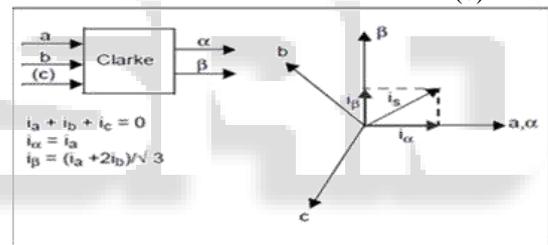


Fig. 3 Clarke Transform

B. Park Transformation Equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & \sin \theta \\ -\sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_\alpha \\ i_\beta \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

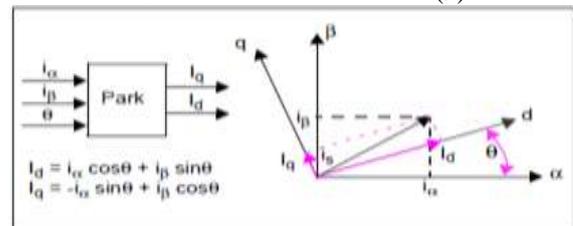


Fig. 4: Park Transformation

C. Inverse Park transformation equation

$$\begin{bmatrix} i_\alpha \\ i_\beta \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \cos \theta & -\sin \theta \\ \sin \theta & \cos \theta \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

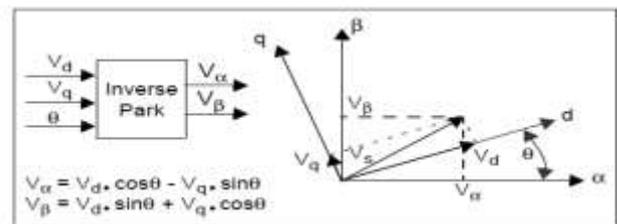


Fig. 5 Inverse Park Transformation

The Clarke transformation transforms the three phase (a, b, c) signals into α, β reference frame in the stator. In order to transform the signals to the rotor reference frame Park transformation is used so as to transform the signals into rotor reference frame (d-q) [4]. Inverse park transform converts the signals back to stator reference frame (d-q to α, β).

VI. SPACE VECTOR MODULATION

In general the SVPWM implementation involves the sector identification, switching time calculation, switching vector determination and optimum switching pattern selection for the inverter voltage vectors[11]. In SVPWM technique complex reference voltage is processed as a whole and avoids using separate modulator for each phase. The interaction between three motor phases has to be considered. SVPWM generates less harmonic distortion in the output voltages and currents when compared to other PWM techniques[12]. It actually provides a more efficient uses of the applied supply DC voltage in comparison with sinusoidal modulation techniques.

SVPWM aims to generate a voltage vector that is close to the reference circle through the various switching modes of inverter. There are total eight voltage vectors V_0 to V_7 . Six vectors are non zero vectors are two are zero vectors. Zero vectors apply zero voltage to the load. When an upper switch is switched ON, the corresponding lower switch connected to the same leg is switched OFF[11]. Therefore the ON and OFF states of the upper switches S1, S3 and S5 can be used to determine the output voltage.

There are eight possible switching states, i.e (0,0,0), (0,0,1), (0,1,0), (0,1,1), (1,0,0), (1,0,1), (1,1,0), (1,1,1). The inverter has six states when a voltage is applied to the motor and two states when the motor is shorted through the upper or lower switches resulting in zero volts applied to the motor.

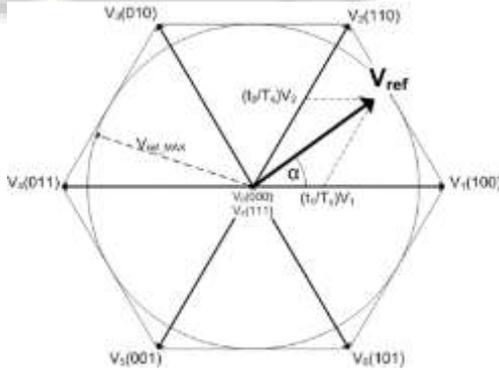


Fig 2: Space Vector Modulation

Sl.No	S1	S2	S3	V _{ab}	V _{bc}	V _{ca}	V _{an}	V _{bn}	V _{cn}	V _k
1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	V ₀
2	0	0	1	0	-V _{dc}	V _{dc}	-V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	-2V _{dc} /3	V ₅
3	0	1	0	-V _{dc}	V _{dc}	0	-V _{dc} /3	2V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	V ₃
4	0	1	1	-V _{dc}	0	V _{dc}	-2V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	V ₄
5	1	0	0	V _{dc}	0	-V _{dc}	2V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	-V _{dc} /3	V ₁
6	1	0	1	V _{dc}	-V _{dc}	0	V _{dc} /3	-2V _{dc} /3	V _{dc} /3	V ₆
7	1	1	0	0	V _{dc}	-V _{dc}	V _{dc} /3	V _{dc} /3	-2V _{dc} /3	V ₂
8	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	V ₇

Table 1: Switching Vectors for Inverters

VII. SIMULATION RESULTS

Simulation of Field oriented control of BLDC motor drive as well as PMSM drive is done in Matlab and the torque ripples generated are compared .Torque ripple is calculated using the formula, Torque ripple(%) = (Peak to peak torque/rated torque)*100.The simulation results for both motor drives are shown below.

The Model of field oriented control of the motor is shown in fig.6.

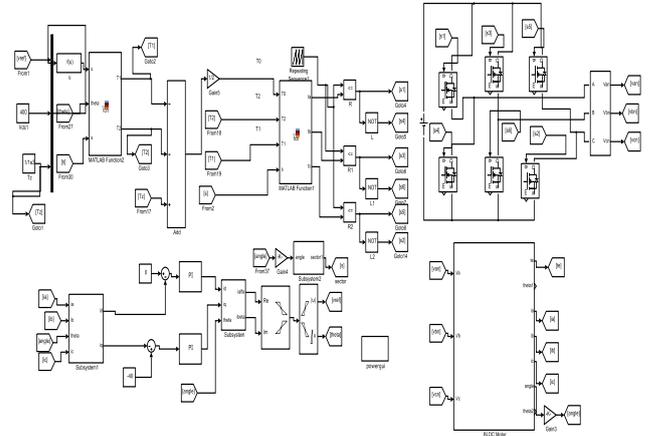


Fig. 6: Simulink FOC Model

The stator current waveforms obtained for BLDC motor drive as well as PMSM drive using FOC is shown in fig.7 and fig.8.

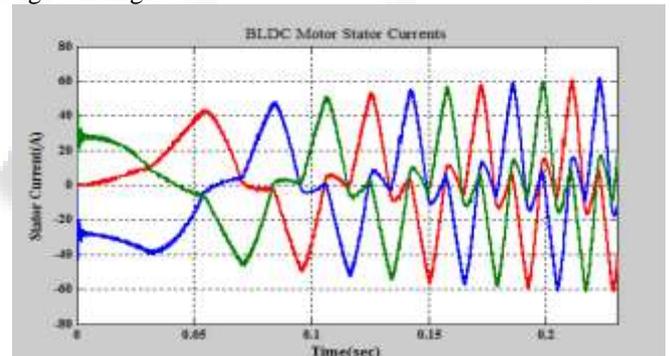


Fig. 7 BLDC Motor Stator current

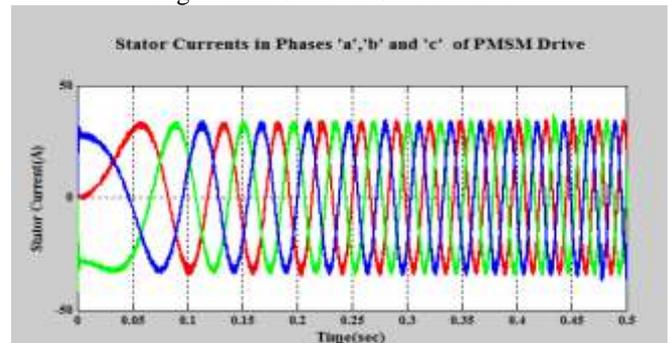


Fig. 8 PMSM Stator Current

It is seen that in the case of PMSM the stator current is sinusoidal which will improve the torque smoothness.

The back emf generated by the BLDC and PMSM motor drives are shown respectively in figures Fig.9 and Fig.10. From this it is clear that the back emf produced by BLDCM is trapezoidal whereas back emf produced by PMSM is purely sinusoidal.

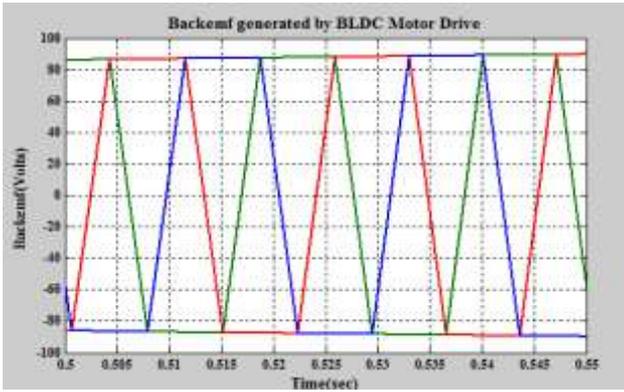


Fig. 9 Back EMF generated by BLDCM

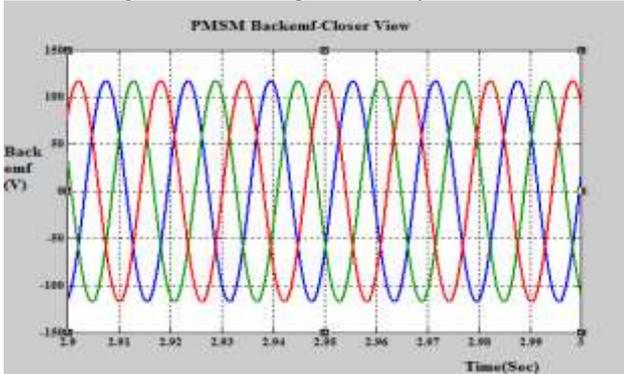


Fig. 10 Back EMF generated by PMSM

Rotor position obtained in the case of both the motors are shown in fig.11 and fig.12

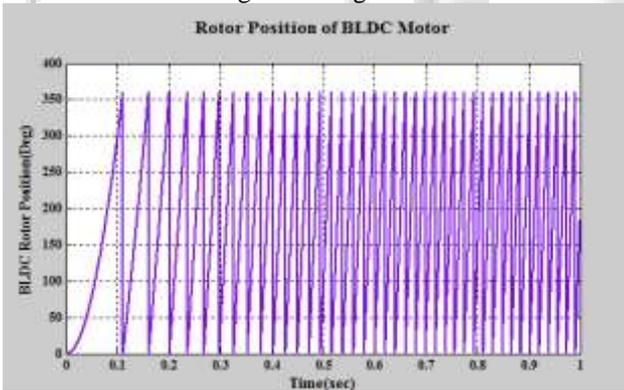


Fig. 11 Rotor position of BLDC

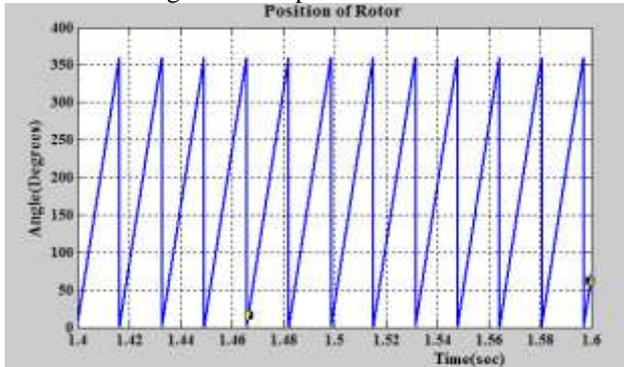


Fig. 12 Rotor position of PMSM

The torque waveform shown in fig.13 and fig.14 indicates that torque ripples are reduced in the case of PMSM drive when compared to BLDC motor drive by using FOC.

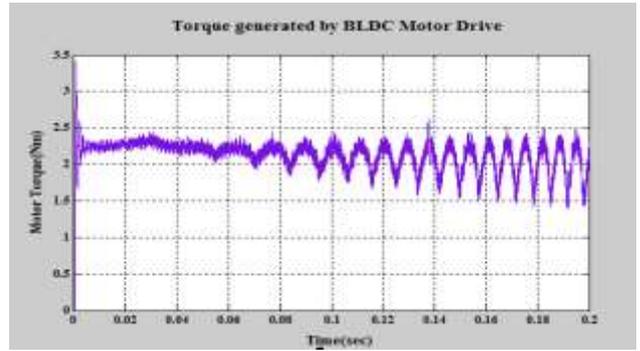


Fig. 13 Torque generated by BLDC Motor

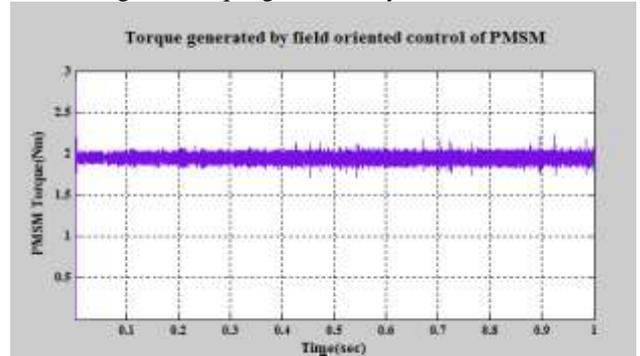


Fig. 14 Torque generated by PMSM

The speed of the BLDCM as well as PMSM attains steady state at 400 rps as shown in fig.15 and fig.16.

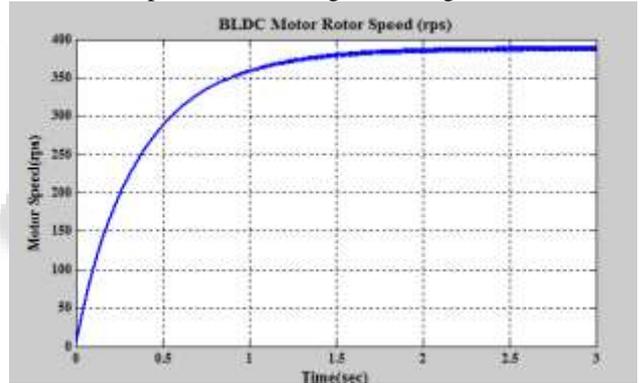


Fig. 15: BLDC Motor speed

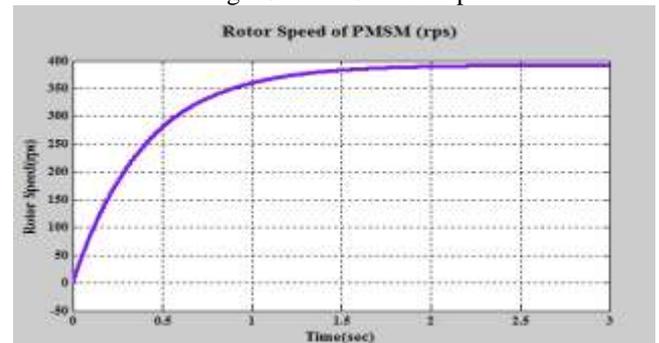


Fig. 16 PMSM Rotor Speed

The comparative results of the Field oriented control of BLDC and PMSM using SVPWM technique are shown in Table.2. Even though the torque developed is more in the case of BLDC when compared to PMSM for slight changes in the design parameters, the torque ripples are reduced significantly in the case of PMSM

Field Oriented Control Using SVPWM	Developed Torque	Torque Ripple Factor(%)
FOC with BLDC Drive	2.2-2.6 Nm	> 30%

FOC with PMSM Drive	2 Nm	< 5%
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Table 2: Comparative results of Torque Ripples

VIII. CONCLUSION

Field oriented control of BLDC Motor Drive and PMSM Drive using SVPWM technique are both simulated in MATLAB and the results obtained are compared as shown in fig.17. The simulated results have shown that when compared to BLDC, the torque ripples are reduced to 5% in PMSM which makes it ideal for space applications.

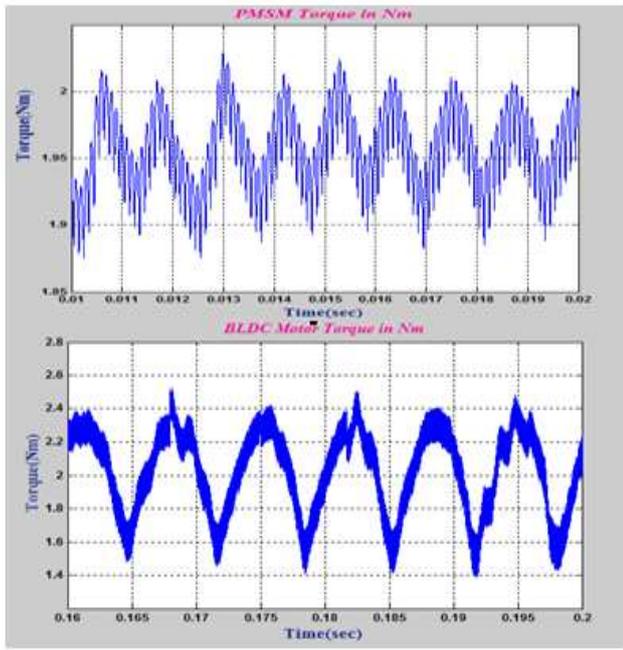


Fig. 17: Torque ripple comparison

APPENDIX

A. Machine Specifications

PARAMETER	MOTOR TYPE	
	PMSM	BLDC MOTOR
Angular Momentum	68 Nms at 6000 rpm	68 Nms at 6000 rpm
Rated Speed	4500 rpm	4500 rpm
DC Voltage	400 V	400 V
Rated Torque	2 Nm	2.2 to 2.6 Nm
Stator Current	30 A	30 A
Torque Constant	0.04	0.04
Back emf Constant	0.3 V/rad/Sec	0.04 V/rad/Sec
Rated Power	942 Watts	1036 Watts
Stator Resistance	0.5 Ohm	0.5 Ohm
Stator Inductance	20e-6 H	20e-6 H
Coefficient of Friction	0.05(N.m.s)	0.0002(N.m.s)
Moment Of Inertia	0.02 Kg/m ²	0.02 Kg/m ²

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