Design of Drives for Inverter-Assisted Induction Generators

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Abstract - The paper investigates the control of power generation using two-phase squirrel-cage induction machines, where the load is connected to one stator winding, and the load voltage is controlled through the other winding. The concept can be applied to three-phase machines as well. A state-space model of the machine is used to identify suitable operating regions. Then, two types of control algorithms are proposed: the first type regulates the frequency and the magnitude of the generated voltage and is suitable for stand-alone operation. The second type also regulates the phase of the voltages, enabling grid synchronization. Experimental results are presented for each of the control algorithms. The closed-loop systems are found able to track the desired reference and to reject disturbances caused by significant changes in load and speed.

Index Terms – Power generation, motor drives, induction machines, adaptive control, renewable energy.

I. NOMENCLATURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$v_{SA}$, $v_{SB}$, $v_{RX}$, $v_{RY}$</td>
<td>Stator and rotor voltages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$i_{SA}$, $i_{SB}$, $i_{RX}$, $i_{RY}$</td>
<td>Stator and rotor currents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R_A$, $R_B$, $R_R$</td>
<td>Stator and rotor resistances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$L_A$, $L_B$, $L_R$</td>
<td>Stator and rotor inductances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$M_A$, $M_B$</td>
<td>Mutual inductances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$n_p$</td>
<td>Number of pole-pairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\theta$</td>
<td>Rotor position</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\omega$</td>
<td>Rotor velocity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$\omega_e$</td>
<td>Electrical frequency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$R_L$</td>
<td>Load resistance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$C$</td>
<td>Load capacitance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscript $A$</td>
<td>Auxiliary winding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscript $B$</td>
<td>Main winding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subscript $R$</td>
<td>Rotor</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

II. INTRODUCTION

Squirrel-cage induction machines are inexpensive, low-maintenance, and lightweight, which makes them attractive for power generation from renewable sources such as wind and hydro. Recent concerns over the availability of rare-earth materials add to the benefits of induction machines, compared to permanent-magnet generators. In this paper, we consider the use of off-the-shelf squirrel-cage induction motors for power generation. At the low power level considered here, split-phase induction motors are typical. At higher power levels, three-phase machines dominate.

Induction machines can be used for power generation in multiple ways. Wound-rotor induction machines are the most flexible, and their ability to operate over a wide range of speeds makes them attractive for wind power. However, their cost is prohibitive at lower power levels. The generation of power using squirrel-cage induction generators operating on a DC bus with a voltage source inverter was proposed in [1]. Power generation is also possible in the self-excited mode [2], that is, without any external power source. However, it is difficult to exploit due to the inherent instability and non-linearity of the self-excitation phenomenon [3].

An interesting alternative to generating power with squirrel-cage induction machines was proposed in [5]. The principle is shown in Fig. 1, and the scheme is usually referred to as an inverter-assisted induction generator. Fig. 1 shows the example of a split-phase induction machine, where an inverter controls the auxiliary winding (labeled A), and power is generated on the main winding (labeled B). A capacitor is placed in parallel with the main winding to provide the reactive power needed (thereby reducing the current in the auxiliary winding). A control law regulates the voltage and frequency on the load through proper adjustment of the inverter signals.

The approach presents several interesting features:
- With sinusoidal excitation, the frequency of the voltage on the load is the same as the frequency of the voltage applied by the inverter.
- A constant frequency can be applied to the load for some range of speeds (asynchronous operation).
- The amplitude of the voltage on the load is approximately proportional to the voltage applied to the inverter, so that regulation of the load voltage is possible.
The harmonic content of the voltage applied to the load is smaller than the harmonic content applied to the auxiliary winding, due to the filtering provided by the machine.

Only one inverter is needed to generate power from two windings.

The effect of different loadings on the generator’s performance was explored in [6], and the effect of more advanced modulation schemes was studied in [7]-[9]. The inverter-generator topology was used to identify the performance was explored in [6], and the effect of more uncertainties in the system was shown in [11]. An interesting contribution of the paper is to show that several controllers can be successfully adapted to uncertainties in the system as well. Experimental results show that several controllers can be successfully designed in parallel with the generator, the system (1) can be expressed as

\[
E \frac{d}{dt}(x) = Fx + Gu
\]

where

\[
E = \begin{pmatrix}
L_A & 0 & M_A & 0 & 0 \\
0 & L_B & 0 & M_B & 0 \\
M_A & 0 & L_R & 0 & 0 \\
0 & M_B & 0 & L_R & 0 \\
0 & 0 & 0 & C & 0
\end{pmatrix},
\]

\[
x = \begin{pmatrix}
i_{SA} \\
i_{SB} \\
i_{RA} \\
i_{RB} \\
v_{SA} - R_A i_{SA} \\
v_{SB} - R_B i_{SB} \\
-R_R i_{RA} - n_p \omega (L_R i_{RB} + M_B i_{SB}) \\
-R_R i_{RB} + n_p \omega (L_R i_{RA} + M_A i_{SA})
\end{pmatrix}
\]

Using a novel method based on a least-squares algorithm, the following parameters were determined for the capacitor-start induction-run machine used in this paper (see the section on experimental results for more details).

### TABLE 1. PARAMETERS OBTAINED FROM AUXILIARY EXCITATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R_a</th>
<th>L_a</th>
<th>R_a/L_a</th>
<th>M_a^2/L_a</th>
<th>M_aM_b/L_a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.38 Ω</td>
<td>0.199 H</td>
<td>0.103 Ω/H</td>
<td>0.177 H</td>
<td>0.098 H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### TABLE 2. PARAMETERS OBTAINED FROM MAIN EXCITATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>R_a</th>
<th>L_a</th>
<th>R_a/L_a</th>
<th>M_a^2/L_a</th>
<th>M_aM_b/L_a</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.34 Ω</td>
<td>0.122 H</td>
<td>0.136 Ω/H</td>
<td>0.113 H</td>
<td>0.096 H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Considering the operation with a resistive load \( R \) and a capacitor \( C \) connected in parallel with the generator, the system (1) can be expressed as

\[
E \frac{d}{dt}(x) = Fx + Gu
\]

where

\[
G = \begin{pmatrix}
1 \\
0 \\
0 \\
0
\end{pmatrix}, u = v_{SA}
\]

In the Laplace domain, the vector transfer function \( H(s) \) from \( V_{SA}(s) \) to \( x(s) \) is given by

\[
H(s) = (ES - F)^{-1}G
\]

In particular, the scalar transfer function from \( V_{SA}(s) \) to \( I_{SA}(s) \) is
\[
\frac{i_{SA}(s)}{v_{SA}(s)} = H_1(s)
\]  

where \(H_1(s)\) is the first element of the vector \(H(s)\). Similar relationships apply for the other elements of the state vector.

IV. DETERMINATION OF OPERATING CONDITIONS

A. Viable Region Estimation

The next step of the study was to identify viable operating regions. A region is considered viable if more electrical power is produced than consumed. The size of the viable region is determined by several factors, including load, capacitance, and mechanical frequency. Once a viable region is identified, an operating point within the region may be selected. Operating points could be chosen to provide maximum power, to provide optimum efficiency, or to satisfy other design requirements.

The transfer function defined in (4) can be used to compute the power generated by the machine. Assuming a sinusoidal voltage is applied to winding A,

\[
v_{SA}(t) = A\sin(\omega_e t)
\]  

(6)

The steady-state current in winding A is given by

\[
i_{SA}(t) = A \Re[H_1(j\omega_e)]\sin(\omega_e t) + A \Im[H_1(j\omega_e)]\cos(\omega_e t)
\]  

(7)

Therefore, the active power absorbed by winding A is given by

\[
P_A = \frac{A^2}{2} \Re[H_1(j\omega_e)]
\]  

(8)

Similarly, the following power variables can be computed

\[
Q_A = \frac{A^2}{2} \Im[H_1(j\omega_e)]
\]  

(9)

\[
P_B = \frac{A^2}{2} \Re[H_2(j\omega_e)H_S(-j\omega_e)]
\]  

(10)

\[
Q_B = \frac{A^2}{2} \Im[H_2(j\omega_e)H_S(-j\omega_e)]
\]  

(11)

The transfer functions involved are dependent on the electrical frequency, the mechanical frequency, the load resistance, and the capacitance. In order to restrict the design space, the electrical frequency was selected to be 60 Hz. This enables conventional consumer electronics to operate without the need for special power converters. The load resistance was chosen to be \(R_l = 100\ \Omega\), which corresponds approximately to the nominal power level of the machine at 110Vrms (note, however, that the voltage on the load was later reduced to 110Vpk due to limitations of the testbed). A capacitance \(C = 200\ \mu\text{F}\) was selected based on an estimate of the reactive power requirements of the generating phase.

These choices left the mechanical frequency \(\omega\) as the only free parameter.

Values of \(P_A, Q_A, P_B,\) and \(Q_B\) (absorbed by the machine) were calculated for a range of \(\omega\), using the machine parameters from Tables 1 and 2. The computation predicted a viable region just above the synchronous speed of the generator at 188.5 rad/sec. The region was approximately 30 rad/sec wide and peak power was delivered at approximately 207 rad/sec.

Experiments were then performed where phase A (auxiliary winding) of the induction generator was connected to the grid via a variac. The load was connected to phase B (main winding), and the voltage across the main winding was adjusted using the variac to 110 Vpk. The mechanical frequency of the machine was manually set using a laser tachometer, and the procedure was performed for ten speeds above the synchronous speed of the motor. At each point, the power consumption of the machine was measured using a Volttech PM1000 Power Analyzer.

The experimental data is plotted along with the predicted values on Fig. 3. The total power generated by both phases of the machine, as computed by the formula, is shown as a solid curve. The region above 200 rad/s exceeded the ratings of the testbed and is not shown. The measured values are shown on Fig. 3 as + signs. The agreement between the computation and the data is very good.

The active and reactive powers absorbed by the excited phase (auxiliary winding) are shown in Fig. 4. It is important to note that the computation predicts that power can be either consumed or generated by the excited phase while the total power generated is positive.

B. Selection of Operation Point

Once the feasible region was identified, the next step was to choose an operating point within the region. As shown in Fig. 4, the point \(P_A = 0\) appears within the range of viable
speeds at approximately $\omega = 193.25$ rad/sec. This setting was considered an attractive operating point because the excited phase did not consume or produce any real power and the amplifier used in the experiments was non-regenerative. In general, the mechanical speed can be adjusted below this nominal operating point to draw additional power from the battery supplying the inverter, or above, to generate more power and recharge the battery by using a bi-directional inverter in place of a power amplifier as used in the experiment.

It was decided to explore the feasibility of relatively simple control laws that did not require a 5th order observer for the system (3). Four controllers were considered: an open-loop controller, two adaptive controllers, and a PI controller. The first three controllers are designed to match the amplitude and phase of a reference signal. The ability to track both the amplitude and the phase is useful in order to synchronize the generator to the grid (synchronization would need to be manual for the open-loop controller). The PI controller is designed to only regulate the amplitude of the sinusoidal voltage (not the phase). This method is applicable to systems operating as stand-alone generators where phase is not a consideration.

The four methods are discussed in detail below, and all are based on the steady-state sinusoidal response of the system. The plant is thus represented by the frequency response $H_5(j\omega)$. The dynamics of the rotor are neglected, and the load and the speed are assumed constant. However, all closed-loop methods provide a certain degree of robustness to changes in these variables. In particular, one of the adaptive control laws estimates in real-time the frequency response $H_5(j\omega)$.

A. Open-Loop Control

The system is assumed to be described by

$$y(t) = P(s)[u(t)]$$ (12)

where $y(t)$ is the plant output, $u(t)$ is the control input, and $P(s)[\cdot]$ denotes the time-domain output of the plant with transfer function $P(s)$. In this context, $u$ is the voltage applied to the auxiliary phase ($v_{SB}$) and $y$ is the voltage at the main phase ($v_{QA}$). The plant $P(s) = H_5(s)$ is assumed to be stable. The objective is for the plant output to track a sinusoidal reference signal

$$r(t) = r_c \cos(\omega_e t) + r_s \sin(\omega_e t)$$ (13)

where $r_c$, $r_s$ are reference parameters determining the magnitude and phase of the reference signal, and $\omega_e$ is the frequency of the reference signal. Specifically, $\sqrt{(r_s^2 + r_c^2)} = 110$ V and $\omega_e = 2\pi 60$ (for 110 V pk and 60 Hz).

The control signal is chosen to be

$$u(t) = u_c \cos(\omega_e t) + u_s \sin(\omega_e t)$$ (14)

where $u_c$, $u_s$ are control parameters to be determined. For fixed control parameters, the steady-state output of the plant is

$$y_{ss} = P_R(u_c \cos(\omega_e t) + u_s \sin(\omega_e t)) + P_I(-u_c \sin(\omega_e t) + u_s \cos(\omega_e t))$$ (15)

where $P_R$, $P_I$ are the real and imaginary parts of the plant’s frequency response evaluated at $\omega_e$. It follows that $y_{ss}(t) = r(t)$ for all $t$ if $u_c$, $u_s$ are equal to the so-called nominal control parameters

$$\begin{pmatrix} u_c^* \\ u_s^* \end{pmatrix} = G^*^{-1} \begin{pmatrix} r_c \\ r_s \end{pmatrix}$$ (16)

where $G^*$ is given by

$$G^* = \begin{pmatrix} P_R & P_I \\ -P_I & P_R \end{pmatrix}$$ (17)
In practice, equation (16) is implemented as
\[
\begin{pmatrix}
U_v \\
U_s
\end{pmatrix} = G^{-1} \begin{pmatrix}
T_c \\
T_s
\end{pmatrix}
\]
(18)
where \(G\) is an estimate of the matrix \(G^*\). Estimates of \(P_r\) and \(P_l\) can be computed from the model (3)-(4), but depend on the speed and the load parameters.

Practically, this method consists simply in computing the gain and phase of the frequency response from \(v_{SP}\) to \(v_{SB}\), and adjusting the magnitude and phase of the voltage applied to the auxiliary winding so that the magnitude and phase of the voltage on the main winding take the desired value. No measurement of the voltage on the main winding is taken, so that this purely open-loop method is highly vulnerable to errors in the plant model.

**B. Adaptive Algorithm for Known Plant**

A closed-loop, adaptive algorithm is proposed to reduce the effect of uncertainties in the matrix \(G\) (including variations due to load and speed changes). The algorithm is the inverse-\(G\) adaptive algorithm of [13], which is a special case of the filtered-X LMS algorithm of signal processing. The method searches for control parameters that minimize the error between the reference signal and the plant output. For this purpose, it is convenient to define
\[
r_v = \begin{pmatrix} T_c \\ T_s \end{pmatrix}, \ u_v = \begin{pmatrix} U_v \\ U_s \end{pmatrix}, w(t) = \begin{pmatrix} \cos(\omega_c t) \\ \sin(\omega_c t) \end{pmatrix}
\]
(19)
so that, in steady-state,
\[
r(t) = w^T(t)r_v, u(t) = w^T(t)u_v
\]
(20)
The adaptive algorithm for \(u_v\) is then defined as
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(u_v(t)) = 2gG^{-1}w(t)(r(t) - y(t))
\]
(21)
where \(g > 0\) is an arbitrary adaptation gain to be adjusted for optimal performance.

A motivation for (21) can be found using the theory of averaging. A simplified explanation follows. Approximating \(y\) by its steady-state value for fixed control parameters
\[
r(t) - y(t) \approx w^T(t)(r_v - G^*u_v)
\]
(22)
Neglecting sinusoidal terms of frequency \(2\omega_c\) (to be “averaged” by the differential equation for \(u_v\), one has
\[
2w(t)w^T(t) \approx I
\]
(23)
where \(I\) is the identity matrix. Therefore
\[
2w(t)(r(t) - y(t)) \approx r_v - G^*u_v
\]
(24)

With these approximations
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(u_v(t)) = gG^{-1}G^*(u_v^* - u_v)
\]
(25)
In ideal conditions \((G = G^*)\),
\[
\frac{d}{dt}(u_v(t)) = g(u_v^* - u_v)
\]
(26)
so that the control vector converges to the nominal vector with the dynamics of two first-order systems with poles at \(s = -g\).

An advantage of the algorithm is that convergence to the nominal vector still occurs if \(G \neq G^*\), as long as stability is preserved. In general, the stability of the system is determined by the roots of
\[
det(sI - gG^{-1}G^*) = 0
\]
(27)
which remain in the open left-half plane if \(G\) is sufficiently close to \(G^*\). In other words, the method assumes a known plant \((i.e., known matrix G)\), but tolerates uncertainties in \(G\) (as opposed to the open-loop method that does not).

In summary, the algorithm is defined by (19)-(21). The matrix \(G\) is obtained from the model (3)-(4) and the estimated parameters (as well as a nominal value of the speed). The free parameter \(g\) can be adjusted to place the poles of the approximate system at \(s = -g\).

**C. Adaptive Algorithm with Plant Adaptation**

The second adaptive algorithm is designed to identify the plant parameters, rather than to be robust to uncertainties in their estimates. It is a simplified form of the algorithm of [14], which is a periodic disturbance rejection algorithm. Simplification occurs because the reference parameters \(r_v, r_s\) are known, as opposed to the disturbance rejection case. The algorithm is obtained by defining a vector of plant parameter estimates \(x\), whose nominal value is
\[
x^* = \begin{pmatrix} P_r \\ P_l \end{pmatrix}
\]
(28)
The control law is defined from the parameter estimates as if they were the nominal parameters, \(i.e.,\)
\[
u_v = G^{-1}r_v
\]
(29)
with
\[
G = \begin{pmatrix} x_1 & x_2 \\ -x_2 & x_1 \end{pmatrix}
\]
(30)
Then, (24) can be rewritten as
\[
2w(t)(r(t) - y(t)) \approx r_v - Wx^*
\]
(31)
where

\[
W = \begin{pmatrix}
    u_c & u_s \\
    -u_s & u_c
  \end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
= \frac{1}{x_1^2 + x_2^2} \begin{pmatrix}
    x_1 r_c - x_2 r_s & x_1 r_s + x_2 r_c \\
    x_1 r_c + x_2 r_s & x_1 r_s - x_2 r_c
  \end{pmatrix}
\]

(32)

Next, define the error signal

\[
e_a = Wx - r_v + 2w(t)(r(t) - y(t))
\]

(33)

Within approximations made earlier, the error signal is equal to

\[
e_a = W(x - x^*)
\]

(34)

so that the error vector \(e_a\) is related linearly to the parameter error, and standard gradient or least-squares algorithms can be used for parameter estimation [15]. For example, a gradient algorithm is given by

\[
\frac{d}{dt}(x) = -gW^T e_a
\]

(35)

where \(g > 0\) is an adaptation gain to be selected arbitrarily. The algorithm is nonlinear because \(W\) is a function of \(x\). However, it is guaranteed to be stable because

\[
\frac{d}{dt}||x - x^*||^2 = -2g(x - x^*)^T W^T e_a
\]

\[
= -2g(W(x - x^*)^T W(x - x^*))
\]

\[
= -2g||W(x - x^*)||^2
\]

\[
\leq 0
\]

(36)

Further, the parameter error and the tracking error converge to zero if \(W\) is nonsingular, which requires that \(r_c\) or \(r_s \neq 0\). There is a potential problem in the computation of \(u\) if \(x_1^2 + x_2^2 = 0\), but it can be avoided by replacing the computation of \(u\) by

\[
u_v = \frac{1}{\max\{x_1^2 + x_2^2\}} \begin{pmatrix}
    x_1 r_c - x_2 r_s \\
    x_1 r_s + x_2 r_c
  \end{pmatrix}
\]

\[
(37)
\]

where \(\varepsilon\) is a small positive number such that \(\varepsilon < x_1^* + x_2^*\).

Unfortunately, this method does not give a simple way to relate the parameter \(g\) to the poles of the system, so that the parameter must be tuned experimentally.

D. PI Control

The previous three controllers tracked the magnitude and phase of a reference sinusoid. A different controller design can be obtained when the phase is unimportant. A straightforward approach is to calculate the difference between the measured amplitude and the reference amplitude, and to apply the error to a PI controller.

The concept assumes that a measurement of the amplitude of the generated voltage is available. A typical way to estimate the amplitude of a generated voltage is envelope detection. This method introduces a delay and a nonlinearity in the system. [11] uses an RMS detector with providing any detail of the algorithm. We propose a simple and effective method that exploits the fact that the voltage on the main winding is produced by the excitation voltage, whose frequency and phase are known exactly.

An estimate of the generated voltage is defined as

\[
\hat{y}(t) = y_c \cos(\omega_c t) + y_s \sin(\omega_c t)
\]

(38)

where the values of \(y_c\) and \(y_s\) are updated with

\[
\frac{d}{dt}(y_c) = g(y(t) - \hat{y}(t)) \cos(\omega_c t)
\]

(39)

\[
\frac{d}{dt}(y_s) = g(y(t) - \hat{y}(t)) \sin(\omega_c t)
\]

(40)

and \(g > 0\) is an adjustable gain (the gains \(g\) of this paper are all adjustable gains that have similar purposes but can take different values). The algorithm can be analyzed as the algorithm of section V.B., and its averaged approximation is composed of two first-order systems with poles at \(s = -g\). The estimate of the amplitude is simply \(\hat{y} = \sqrt{y_c^2 + y_s^2}\).

Even with a good amplitude detector, the design of a PI control law is not obvious, because there is not a linear time-invariant system description relating the amplitude of the input sinusoid to the amplitude of the output. Thus, the gains of the PI controller were tuned experimentally.

VI. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A. Experimental Setup

An experimental testbed was assembled to test the control methods described in section V. The testbed consisted of a 2-pole induction motor connected to a 4-pole generator via a spider coupling. Both machines were manufactured by the Worldwide Electric Corporation. The prime mover had the following nameplate data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE 3. NAMEPLATE DATA OF PRIME MOVER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Power</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2 HP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The three-phase voltage required by the prime mover was provided by a GE 300 Mini adjustable frequency drive. The 300 Mini is a V/f drive and therefore the speed of the motor was not regulated under varying torque. Fig. 5 shows the speed response due to a 110 Vpk step in the generated voltage. The measurements were obtained using a Compact
Instruments laser tachometer. The data was filtered using a six-pole Butterworth low-pass filter with a 40 Hz cutoff frequency. The variation of speed of the prime mover shown in Fig. 5 was not considered in the control development and represents an uncertainty to which the algorithms should be proved to be robust.

The generator under test was a split-phase motor with the following nameplate data.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power</th>
<th>Speed</th>
<th>Phases</th>
<th>Hz</th>
<th>Voltage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/3 HP</td>
<td>1725 rpm</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60 Hz</td>
<td>115/230 V</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The start capacitor was removed in order to provide access to the auxiliary phase of the machine. Both machines were fastened to a heavy metal plate for stability. The setup is shown in Fig. 6.

The excitation signal was generated using the digital-to-analog converter of a dSPACE DS1104 controller board and passed to a power amplifier. The generated voltage was measured using an analog-to-digital converter on the DS1104. The reference was set to $r_e = 110$, $r_i = 0$. Recall that the desired $110V_{\text{rms}}$ voltage was scaled back to $110V_{\text{pk}}$ due to limitations of the power amplifier used in the experiment.

### B. Open-Loop Control

The open-loop control method was implemented first. The results of the experiment are shown in Fig. 7. An estimate of the amplitude of the generated voltage, $Y$, is included in the plot. The estimate was calculated using (39) and (40), but was not used in the control law. Note that the model predicts an overdamped behavior in this operating condition, but the system exhibits slightly underdamped responses. This behavior is due to oscillations in the speed of the generator-motor system shown in Fig. 5.

Next, the adaptive method for known plant was coded in C and loaded on the dSPACE system. The adaptation gain was set to $g = 3$. The results are shown in Fig. 8. The experiment was repeated at a slower speed to obtain the response shown in Fig. 9. The response at lower speed is less oscillatory. Larger gains were found to improve the transient response of the generator, but introduce steady-state oscillations to the output.

It is also informative to examine the response of the algorithm to variations in the plant parameters. The generator was started and allowed to reach steady-state at a speed of 1800 rpm. The mechanical frequency was increased to 2160 rpm and the system was allowed to return to the steady state. The resulting transients are shown in Fig. 10 and were found to be small. The maximum voltage deviation is five percent.
D. Adaptive Algorithm with Plant Adaptation

The third experiment implemented on the system was the adaptive algorithm for an unknown plant. The adaptation gain was set to $g = 0.0001$. The initial values of the parameters $x_1$ and $x_2$ were estimated using the real and imaginary parts of the frequency response. The response of the controller to a step reference is shown in Fig. 11. The peak voltage is approximately 148 V and is too high.

The adaptive action of this method is apparent in Fig. 12. The estimates of the plant transfer function converge to $x_1 = -0.54$, $x_2 = -0.77$. A larger adaptive gain causes these estimates to converge quicker, but introduces more overshoot to the system.

The experiments were repeated at a slower speed to reduce drive dynamics. The step response of the controller is shown in Fig. 13. The overshoot is reduced to approximately five percent.

The controller’s response to a step change in plant parameters was also tested by increasing the speed of the generator from 30 Hz to 36 Hz. The results are shown in Fig. 14.

Fig. 8: Response of the adaptive algorithm for known plant to a step change in voltage.

Fig. 9: Response of the adaptive algorithm for known plant to a step change in voltage at a slower speed. Transients introduced by the drive are reduced.

Fig. 10: Response of the adaptive algorithm for known plant to a disturbance in rotor velocity.

Fig. 11: Response of the adaptive algorithm with plant adaptation to a step change in voltage.
E. PI Control

The PI control method was implemented in a similar fashion. The gain used in the amplitude estimator was chosen to be \( g = 150 \). The feedback gains were selected to be \( k_p = 0.5 \) and \( k_i = 6.5 \). The results of the experiment are shown in Fig. 15. Large gains were found to cause steady-state oscillations in the output voltage. Once again, the experiment was repeated at a slower speed. The results of the slower experiment are shown in Fig. 16. As in previous experiments, a slower speed reduces the oscillations.

The response of the PI controller to a change in the plant parameters was also investigated. Fig. 17 shows the response of the system to a twenty percent increase in speed at \( t = 1.5 \) sec. Since the action of the controller is faster than the acceleration of the prime mover, there is no significant change in the generated voltage.

A final experiment was performed to examine the behavior of the generator under different loading conditions. The 100 \( \Omega \) load resistor was replaced with a universal motor, which also requires reactive power. Fig. 18 shows the response of the system initialized from zero. The response with this load is improved, because the load increased gradually, eliminating some of the overshoot. The same gains were used for each of these experiments.

Fig. 12: Parameter adaptation due to a step change in voltage.

Fig. 13: Response of the adaptive algorithm with plant adaptation to a step voltage at slower speed. Transients introduced by the drive are reduced.

Fig. 14: Response of the adaptive algorithm with plant adaptation to a disturbance in speed.

Fig. 15: Response of the PI controller to a step change in voltage.
VII. CONCLUSIONS

The paper examined the problem of producing a controlled voltage from a squirrel-cage induction machine using the inverter-assisted topology. The state-space model of a non-symmetric two-phase machine was presented, including an RC load connected across the main winding. Identified parameters were used to estimate viable operating regions, and it was concluded that power could be produced in a limited region above the synchronous speed of the motor. Power was produced by both phases of the machine in most of the operating region, but was absorbed by the auxiliary winding in the low end of the speed range. The point with zero auxiliary power was arbitrarily chosen as the operating point for the experiments, considering experimental constraints.

Four control methods were investigated. The open-loop control method exhibited oscillations and could not track a reference voltage. The three closed-loop algorithms were able to track a specified reference, and were robust to 20 percent increases in speed. However, overshoot and oscillations were observed in some cases, and were found to be reduced at lower speed. In situations where phase is not a consideration, the PI control method was found preferable. It responded faster than either adaptive method.

In all cases, the variation of the speed of the prime mover was a limiting factor of the transient performance. The induction motor and V/f drive used as a prime mover in the experiments provided no speed tracking, and little damping. Improvements could be obtained by regulating the speed or perhaps simply by increasing the inertia of the system. Further research could also focus on methods to improve the transient response of the motor-generator set by using a model of the prime mover in the control law and a speed measurement. However, such methods would be significantly more complicated than the algorithms presented in this paper.

VIII. REFERENCES


