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Comparative Study of BLDC Motor Drives with Different Approaches: FCS-Model Predictive Control and Hysteresis Current Control

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Abstract: The control techniques of the brushless DC (BLDC) motor have gained a large amount of interest in recent years, with their use being implemented in order to achieve a high-performance drive, including quick transient response and high-quality waveforms at the steady state. This paper provides a comparative study between three control schemes of BLDC motors: the direct power control scheme using a finite control set model predictive control (FCS-MPC) approach, the stator current controlled scheme using an FCS-MPC approach, and the stator current controlled scheme using ON-OFF hysteresis current controllers. The three systems were studied and investigated under the same operating conditions. The comparative study included investigating the performance of the BLDC drive in both steady state and transient operations. Qualitative and quantitative analyses were performed on the results obtained with each control scheme. The obtained results demonstrate the validity and effectiveness of the three investigated schemes in controlling the motor speed to the desired value under sudden load changes and achieving satisfactory quick transient responses. However, the results indicate the superiority of the direct power control scheme using an FCS-MPC approach over the others in terms of its minimum torque ripple, lowest torque and speed pulsations, minimum active and reactive power ripples, and high-quality waveforms of the stator currents drawn by the motor with minimum THD.

Keywords: BLDC motor; model predictive control; hysteresis current controller; direct power control



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1. Introduction

In recent years, the utilization of brushless DC (BLDC) motors has spread to many industrial applications and become the preferred choice in the electric vehicles (EVs) industry due to the noticeable advantages compared to many conventional motors [1,2]. The BLDC motor is characterized by simple construction and high power-to-volume ratio. In addition, it offers good torque–speed characteristics over a wide speed range [3–5]. Practically, the successful operation of a BLDC motor requires the instantaneous detection of the rotor position to generate the correct commutation logic sequence [6]. Accordingly, three Hall sensors are usually mounted inside the motor structure to perform this function [3,7]. However, phase delay errors and errors associated with the rotor position detection result in undesired torque pulsations [8–10]. Thus, considerable efforts have been exerted to improve the performance of BLDC motor drives: by compensating for the commutation error [8–14]; by Hall sensor adjustment methods [15,16], and the utilization of a single sensor [17]; by minimizing the torque ripple [18–23]; or through the development of high-speed sensorless BLDC drives [24–27].

Fortunately, the existence of high-speed digital signal processors (DSPs) and various hardware-in-the loop (HIL) control boards permit the development and implementation of sophisticated control algorithms for electric motor drives. Thus, many control schemes have been developed to control the operation of BLDC motor drives. One such modern

scheme is the finite control set model predictive control approach (FCS-MPC) [28–40]. In the FCS-MPC technique, the future behavior of the system is predicted for a finite time frame [41,42]. Accordingly, the optimum future control action is applied to the system to satisfy a customized goal function [37], where the FCS-MPC algorithm is repeated at every sampling period. Thus, the integrated FCS-MPC control algorithms of motor drives can involve several functions and options in addition to the main task of speed regulation, such as the minimization of the inverter switching frequency [38–40].

However, a current controlled scheme using hysteresis current controllers is still one of the most applicable techniques, with profound applications in conventional motor drives, such as induction and synchronous motors, due to the technique's ease of implementation and relatively low cost [43–45]. In [46], the authors combine the model predictive control approach (as the speed controller) and the hysteresis current controllers (for stator current control). A robust discrete-time full-state feedback control law is employed in [47] to achieve a fast dynamic response with reduced overshoot for variable speed BLDC motor drives.

The main objective of this paper is to investigate three control schemes of the BLDC motor drive and provide a comparative study based on qualitative and quantitative analyses. The investigated schemes were studied under various operating conditions, including steady state and transient operations. The transient response included step changes in reference speed and sudden load variations. Qualitative and quantitative analyses of steady state and transient responses were undertaken and addressed. The results indicate the validity and effectiveness of the investigated schemes for achieving quick transient responses and satisfactory steady state operation. However, of the three control schemes, the direct power control with an FCS-MPC approach exhibited superior steady state performance. The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 provides an overview of the BLDC mathematical model. Section 3 describes the three investigated systems including block diagrams, governing equations, the computation of motor voltages and currents in stationary (α – β) reference frames, the computation of power components (P and Q), and the formulation of the cost function. Selected simulation results are presented and discussed in Section 4 for the steady state and transient operations. In addition, qualitative and quantitative assessments of the results are also provided. Conclusions are summarized in Section 5. The main contribution of this paper is the achievement and provision of comprehensive performance analysis, including the qualitative and quantitative assessment of three control schemes of BLDC motor drives, which are: the direct active and reactive power control FCS-MPC scheme, the current controlled FCS-MPC scheme, and the conventional scheme using hysteresis current controllers.

2. Mathematical Model of the BLDC Motor

The simplified equivalent circuit of the BLDC motor is shown in Figure 1, where the per-phase stator winding is represented by a resistance (R_s) and the equivalent inductance (L_s). The per-phase back-EMFs (e_{an} , e_{bn} , and e_{cn}) are sinusoidal waveforms in the case of a BLAC motor, but trapezoidal in the case of the BLDC. The back-EMFs are displaced 120 electrical degrees from each other. The motor is driven by a three-phase inverter, where the position of the rotor magnetic field should be detected instantaneously for proper switching commutation with the aid of three Hall sensors installed inside the BLDC motor on the stator frame [48].

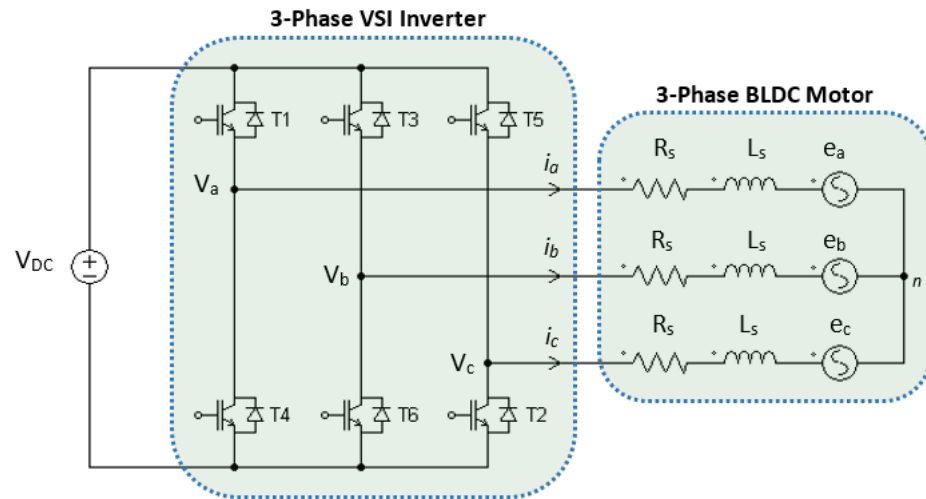


Figure 1. Simplified equivalent circuit of BLDC motor driven by a 3- Φ full bridge inverter.

In this paper, the mathematical model parameters of the BLDC motor are given using the PSIM[®] package. However, the motor parameters can be identified using the methodology presented in [49].

The following set of equations can be utilized to construct the mathematical model of the BLDC motor in the case of trapezoidal EMFs. Firstly, the terminal voltages are given by Equations (1)–(3) for the three phases a, b, and c, respectively:

$$v_{an} = R_a i_a + \frac{d}{dt}(L_a i_a + M_{ab} i_b + M_{ac} i_c) + e_{an} \quad (1)$$

$$v_{bn} = R_b i_b + \frac{d}{dt}(L_b i_b + M_{ba} i_a + M_{bc} i_c) + e_{bn} \quad (2)$$

$$v_{cn} = R_c i_c + \frac{d}{dt}(L_c i_c + M_{ca} i_a + M_{cb} i_b) + e_{cn} \quad (3)$$

As the three-phase stator windings are symmetrical, the windings' self-inductances are equal. Similarly, the mutual inductances are also equal. Accordingly, Relations (4), (5), and (6) are valid:

$$R_a = R_b = R_c = R_s \quad (4)$$

$$L_a = L_b = L_c = L \quad (5)$$

$$M_{ab} = M_{ba} = M_{ac} = M_{ca} = M_{bc} = M_{cb} = M \quad (6)$$

Substituting these values into Equations (1)–(3) yields the following relations [50,51]:

$$v_{an} = R_s i_a + (L - M) \frac{d}{dt} i_a + e_{an} \quad (7)$$

$$v_{bn} = R_s i_b + (L - M) \frac{d}{dt} i_b + e_{bn} \quad (8)$$

$$v_{cn} = R_s i_c + (L - M) \frac{d}{dt} i_c + e_{cn} \quad (9)$$

where L is the self-inductance, M is the mutual inductance and $(L_s = L - M)$ is the equivalent phase inductance. For trapezoidal back-EMFs, the following relations can be utilized to represent the induced EMFs in the BLDC motor:

$$e_a = K_e \omega_m f_a(\theta_e) \quad (10)$$

$$e_b = K_e \omega_m f_b(\theta_e) \quad (11)$$

$$e_c = K_e \omega_m f_c(\theta_e) \quad (12)$$

where K_e is the back-EMF constant, ω_m is the mechanical speed in rad/s, and $f_a(\theta_e)$, $f_b(\theta_e)$ and $f_c(\theta_e)$ are three-phase trapezoidal waveforms of unity magnitudes, as explained in Appendix A.

The electromagnetic torque developed by the BLDC motor is given by the following equation [50]:

$$T_{em} = \frac{(e_a i_a + e_b i_b + e_c i_c)}{\omega_m} \quad (13)$$

The electromagnetic torque produced by the BLDC motor is utilized to drive the mechanical load and overcome the mechanical friction and inertia of the motor during speed acceleration, as given by the following equation [36,50]:

$$T_{em} = T_L + J_m \frac{d\omega_m}{dt} + B\omega_m \quad (14)$$

By comparison, the constant current model presented in [52] can be utilized to obtain the transfer function of the BLDC motor, in a way similar to the DC motor.

3. Description of the Three Investigated Systems

3.1. Direct Power Control Scheme (PQ FCS-MPC)

3.1.1. Block Diagram of the Direct Power Control Scheme (PQ FCS-MPC)

The block diagram of the first investigated system, the direct power control (PQ FCS-MPC) scheme, is illustrated in Figure 2. The control system has three main parts: (1) the speed control loop and reference power generation; (2) the calculations of stator, back-EMFs, stator voltage, and currents in the stationary reference frame; and (3) the FCS-MPC algorithm. The closed loop control of the BLDC motor is developed by a PI controller whose output is limited to upper and lower values. The optimum gains of the PI controller are determined off-line using evolutionary search algorithms (the tuning of PI controllers is beyond the scope of this paper). The output of the speed controller is the desired developed torque that should be produced by the BLDC motor. Then, the reference active power (P_{ref}) is calculated by multiplying the motor speed (N_m) with the generated reference torque (T_{ref}). Furthermore, the desired reactive power is set to zero to minimize the reactive power consumption. Accordingly, the BLDC motor operates at unity PF. The direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme of the BLDC motor requires determination (measurements or computations) of motor back-EMFs, stator voltages, and currents in the stationary (α - β) reference frame. These signals are determined and fed to the FCS-MPC algorithm, which regulates the active and reactive power fed to the motor in accordance with the set points (desired values). As shown in Figure 2, the FCS-MPC algorithm is composed of several blocks and functions, such as the prediction of stator currents one sample ahead, prediction of active and reactive powers one sample ahead, computation of the cost function, and selection of the optimum switching state of the voltage source inverter.

3.1.2. Prediction of Stator Currents One Sample Ahead

The FCS-MPC approach is among the techniques that control the operation of switching power converters. In the FCS-MPC technique, the future behavior of the system is predicted for a finite time frame [40]. The optimum future control action is applied to the system to satisfy a customized goal function [37]. Generally, the FCS-MPC approach results in fast transient responses and can involve many constraints in the control law [42].

Due to Equations (7)–(9), the inverter output phase voltages are written again in Equations (15)–(17):

$$v_{an} = i_a R_S + L_S \frac{di_a}{dt} + e_{an} \quad (15)$$

$$v_{bn} = i_b R_S + L_S \frac{di_b}{dt} + e_{bn} \quad (16)$$

$$v_{cn} = i_c R_s + L_s \frac{di_c}{dt} + e_{cn} \quad (17)$$

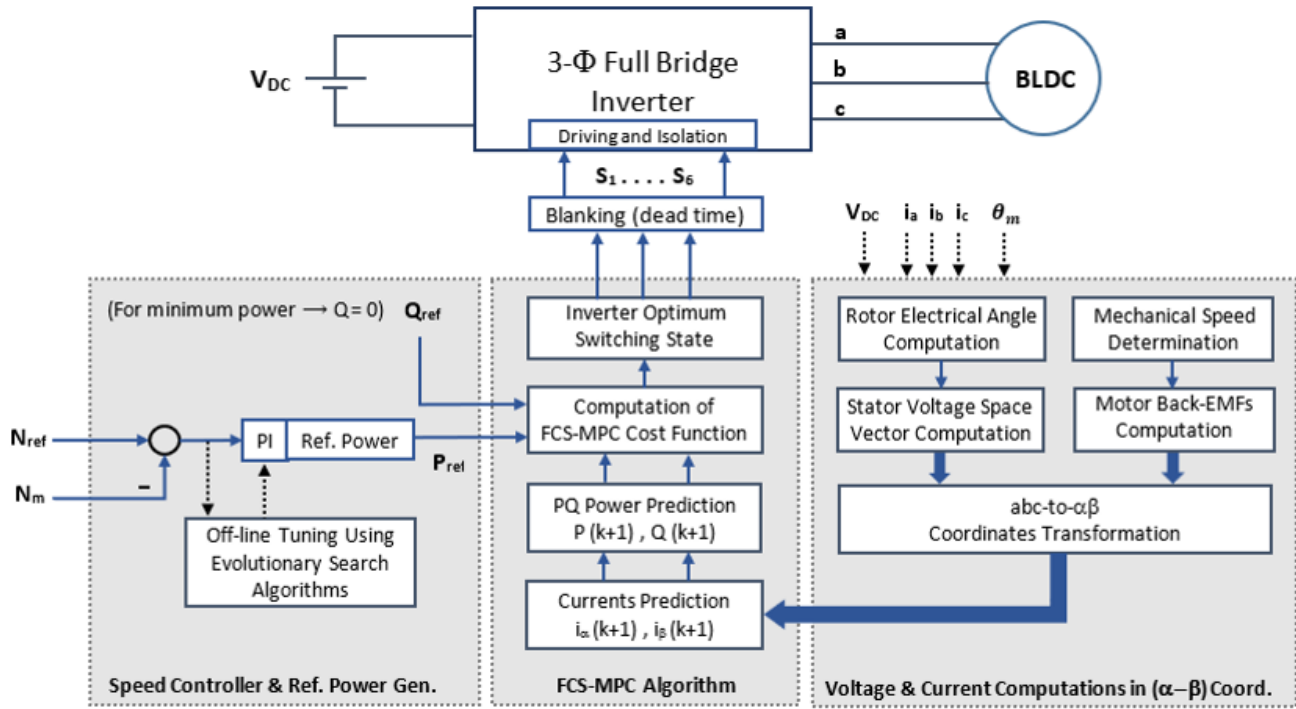


Figure 2. Block diagram of the direct PQ control scheme for the BLDC motor drive using the FCS-MPC approach.

The rates of change in the motor currents $\frac{di_a}{dt}$, $\frac{di_b}{dt}$, and $\frac{di_c}{dt}$ are rearranged as given below:

$$\frac{di_a}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_s} (v_{an} - e_{an}) - i_a \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (18)$$

$$\frac{di_b}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_s} (v_{bn} - e_{bn}) - i_b \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (19)$$

$$\frac{di_c}{dt} = \frac{1}{L_s} (v_{cn} - e_{cn}) - i_c \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (20)$$

Accordingly, the predicted value of the motor phase current i_a at the $(k + 1)$ th sample is determined as follows:

$$\Delta i_a = \frac{\Delta t}{L_s} (v_{an} - e_{an}) - \Delta t i_a \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (21)$$

$$i_a^{k+1} - i_a^k = \frac{T_s}{L_s} (v_{an} - e_{an}) - T_s i_a^k \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (22)$$

$$i_a^{k+1} = i_a^k + \frac{T_s}{L_s} (v_{an} - e_{an}) - T_s i_a^k \frac{R_s}{L_s} \quad (23)$$

$$i_a^{k+1} = i_a^k \left(1 - T_s \frac{R_s}{L_s} \right) + \frac{T_s}{L_s} (v_{an} - e_{an}) \quad (24)$$

where L_s is the equivalent phase inductance of the motor stator winding, R_s is the equivalent phase resistance of the motor stator winding, and T_s is the sampling time. Thus, the

instantaneous stator currents of the other phases, i_b and i_c , at the $(k + 1)$ th sample are predicted in a similar way:

$$i_b^{k+1} = i_b^k \left(1 - T_S \frac{R_S}{L_S} \right) + \frac{T_S}{L_S} (v_{bn} - e_{bn}) \quad (25)$$

$$i_c^{k+1} = i_c^k \left(1 - T_S \frac{R_S}{L_S} \right) + \frac{T_S}{L_S} (v_{cn} - e_{cn}) \quad (26)$$

From (22), (23), and (24), the stator currents of the BLDC motor sample can be predicted at the $(k + 1)$ th sample based on the knowledge of the back-EMFs (e_{an} , e_{bn} , e_{cn}), inverter phase voltages (v_{an} , v_{bn} , v_{cn}), and stator currents i_a , i_b , and i_c at the current k th sample.

3.1.3. Computation of the Stator Voltage Space Vector

The space vector components of the stator voltage in the $(\alpha-\beta)$ frame are required for the FCS-MPC algorithm. The inverter output voltages (v_{an} , v_{bn} , v_{cn}) are usually measured directly by three Hall effect voltage transducers, while their $(\alpha-\beta)$ components in the stationary reference frame are calculated based on Equations (31) and (32), where the voltage space vector $\bar{U}_S$ is described by Equations (27) and (29) [40]:

$$\bar{U}_S = \frac{2}{3} (v_{an} + a v_{bn} + a^2 v_{cn}) \quad (27)$$

$$a = e^{j2\pi/3}; a^2 = e^{j4\pi/3} \quad (28)$$

$$\bar{U}_S = \frac{2}{3} (v_{an} + e^{j2\pi/3} v_{bn} + e^{j4\pi/3} v_{cn}) \quad (29)$$

$$\bar{U}_S = u_\alpha + j u_\beta \quad (30)$$

$$u_\alpha = v_{an} \quad (31)$$

$$u_\beta = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} v_{bc} \quad (32)$$

To reduce the total number of transducers and the overall cost, the motor terminal voltages can be computed (instead of measurements) based on the on-line status of the inverter switching state at the (k) th sample and the direct measurement of the inverter DC link voltage. Accordingly, only one Hall effect voltage transducer is utilized to determine the stator voltage space vector, as indicated by Equations (33)–(35).

$$\bar{U}_S = \frac{2}{3} V_{DC} (S_1 + e^{j2\pi/3} S_3 + e^{j4\pi/3} S_5) \quad (33)$$

Consequently, the voltage space vector $\bar{U}_S$ can be resolved into two orthogonal components (U_α and U_β) in the $(\alpha-\beta)$ reference frame, where their equivalent values are calculated by (34) and (35) as given below:

$$u_\alpha = \frac{2}{3} V_{DC} \left(S_1 - \frac{1}{2} S_3 - \frac{1}{2} S_5 \right) \quad (34)$$

$$u_\beta = \frac{2}{3} V_{DC} \left(\frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} S_3 - \frac{\sqrt{3}}{2} S_5 \right) \quad (35)$$

3.1.4. Computation of the Motor Back-EMFs in $(\alpha-\beta)$ Coordinates

For trapezoidal back-EMFs, the corresponding components of back-EMFs in the $(\alpha-\beta)$ stationary reference frame, e_α and e_β , can be calculated using Equations (36) and (37):

$$e_\alpha = e_{an} \quad (36)$$

$$e_{\beta} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} e_{bc} \quad (37)$$

where the motor back-EMFs are previously described by Equations (38)–(40):

$$e_a = K_e \omega_m f_a(\theta_e); e_b = K_e \omega_m f_b(\theta_e); \text{ and } e_c = K_e \omega_m f_c(\theta_e)$$

3.1.5. Prediction of Active and Reactive Power

Based on the PQ theory, the instantaneous active and reactive powers (P and Q) fed to the BLDC motor are computed using Equations (38) and (39), respectively, [34,35]:

$$P = (e_{\alpha} i_{\alpha} + e_{\beta} i_{\beta}) \quad (38)$$

$$Q = (e_{\beta} i_{\alpha} - e_{\alpha} i_{\beta}) \quad (39)$$

Transforming Equations (24)–(26) into the equivalent (α – β) components leads to the prediction of the currents i_{α} and i_{β} at the $(k+1)$ th sample using Equations (40) and (41):

$$i_{\alpha}^{k+1} = i_{\alpha}^k \left(1 - T_s \frac{R_s}{L_s} \right) + \frac{T_s}{L_s} (u_{\alpha} - e_{\alpha}) \quad (40)$$

$$i_{\beta}^{k+1} = i_{\beta}^k \left(1 - T_s \frac{R_s}{L_s} \right) + \frac{T_s}{L_s} (u_{\beta} - e_{\beta}) \quad (41)$$

where u_{α} and u_{β} are determined using either Equations (31) and (32) or by Formulas (34) and (35), while e_{α} and e_{β} are determined using Equations (36) and (37). Thus, from Equations (38), (39), (40), and (41), the instantaneous active and reactive powers fed to the BLDC motor are predicted at the $(k+1)$ th sample using Equations (42) and (43):

$$P^{k+1} = (e_{\alpha}^{k+1} i_{\alpha}^{k+1} + e_{\beta}^{k+1} i_{\beta}^{k+1}) \quad (42)$$

$$Q^{k+1} = (e_{\beta}^{k+1} i_{\alpha}^{k+1} - e_{\alpha}^{k+1} i_{\beta}^{k+1}) \quad (43)$$

Since the back-EMFs have relatively slow variation compared to the sampling and switching frequencies, the back-EMF components e_{α} and e_{β} can be considered constant during the sampling period, i.e., $(e_{\alpha}^{k+1} = e_{\alpha}^k)$ and $(e_{\beta}^{k+1} = e_{\beta}^k)$ [41,42].

3.1.6. Formulation of the Cost Function

The cost function of the direct PQ FCS-MPC algorithm is formulated to account for active and reactive powers fed to the BLDC motor as given by Equation (44):

$$J_{pq} = (P_{ref} - P^{k+1})^2 + (Q_{ref} - Q^{k+1})^2 \quad (44)$$

where P_{ref} and Q_{ref} are the reference (desired) values of the active and reactive powers to be fed to the BLDC motor from the DC source through the 3- Φ VSI inverter. Due to Equation (44), the first term of the cost function aims to minimize the active power ripple, whereas the second term aims to minimize the reactive power ripple.

Both terms have the same degree of importance. For minimum reactive power fed to the motor, its reference value is set to zero ($Q_{ref} = 0$). In the direct PQ FCS-MPC approach, the cost function J_{pq} in Equation (44) is computed for all inverter switching states. Then, the switching state number i , which results in the lowest possible value of the cost function ($J_i = J_{pq \min}$), is selected and considered as the optimum state to be applied to the transistors of the VSI during the next sample. In this manner, the cost function is instantaneously optimized for every sampling period, and the corresponding optimum switching state is determined and applied to the VSI inverter, driving the BLDC motor to the desired operating point.

3.2. Stator Current Controlled Scheme (CC FCS-MPC)

3.2.1. Block Diagram of the Stator Current Controlled Scheme (CC FCS-MPC)

The block diagram of the second investigated system, the current controlled FCS-MPC scheme of the BLDC motor, is illustrated in Figure 3. The control system is composed of three main parts: (1) the speed control loop and generation of the reference amplitude of stator currents; (2) the computations of stator voltage, currents, and back-EMFs in the stationary reference frame; and (3) the FCS-MPC algorithm. The closed loop control of the BLDC motor is developed by a PI controller with limited output. The optimum gains of the controller's parameters are determined off-line using evolutionary search algorithms (the tuning of PI parameters is beyond the scope of this paper). The output of the speed controller represents the amplitude (peak value) of the stator current to satisfy the motor operation.

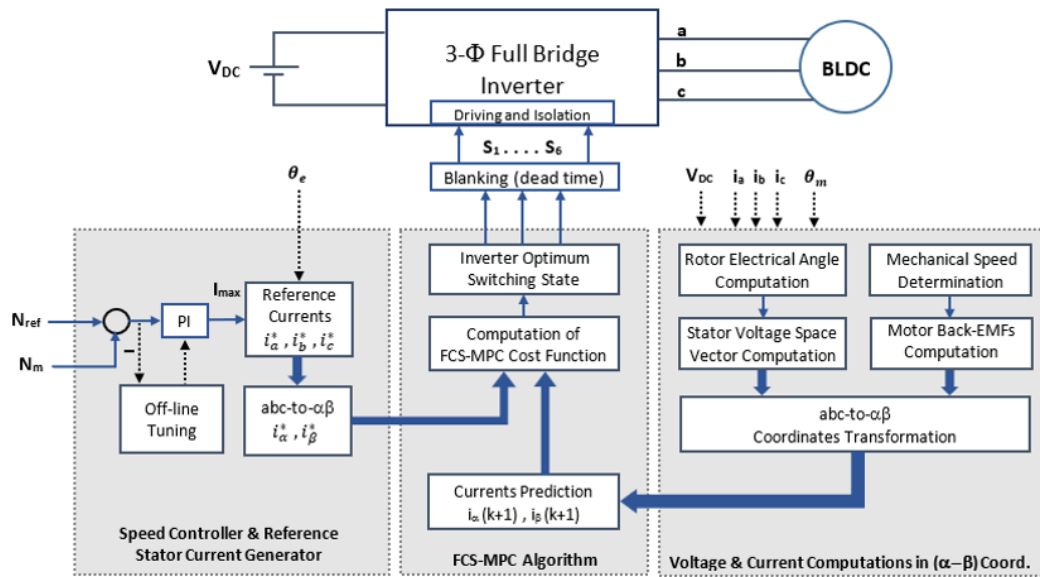


Figure 3. Block diagram of the current controlled FCS-MPC scheme of the BLDC motor drive.

The reference quasi-square waves of the stator currents are generated with the aid of the electrical angle, computed from the knowledge of the mechanical rotor position and the number of poles of the BLDC motor, as given by Equation (45).

$$\theta_e = \frac{P}{2} \theta_m \quad (45)$$

where P is the number of rotor poles and θ_m is the rotor mechanical position. The prediction of the stator currents one sample ahead is similar to that explained in Section 3.1.2. In addition, the computation of the stator voltage space vector and the computation of the motor back-EMFs in $(\alpha-\beta)$ coordinates are similar to those presented in Sections 3.1.3 and 3.1.4, respectively. Thus, these equations and their explanations are not repeated.

3.2.2. Formulation of the Cost Function

The cost function of the current-controlled FCS-MPC algorithm is formulated in Equation (46). The cost function aims to minimize the absolute error between the reference and actual stator current components in $(\alpha-\beta)$ coordinates.

$$J_{cc} = |i_{\alpha}^* - i_{\alpha}| + |i_{\beta}^* - i_{\beta}| \quad (46)$$

where i_{α}^* and i_{β}^* are the reference (desired) values of the stator current components in $(\alpha-\beta)$ coordinates, and i_{α} and i_{β} are the corresponding actual values. In the current controlled FCS-MPC approach, the cost function J_{cc} in Equation (46) is computed for all inverter

switching states. Then, the switching state number i , which results in the lowest possible value of the cost function ($J_i = J_{cc \min}$), is selected to be the optimum state that should be applied to the transistors of the VSI during the next sample. Thus, the cost function is instantaneously optimized for every sampling period, and the corresponding optimum switching state is determined and applied to the inverter, driving the BLDC motor to the desired operating point.

3.3. Stator Current Controlled Scheme with Hysteresis Current Controllers (Hysteresis CC)

The third investigated scheme of the BLDC motor is illustrated in Figure 4. In this scheme, the motor speed is regulated by a PI-type speed controller. The output of the speed controller represents the amplitude of the reference (desired) 3- Φ stator currents (I_{max}), whereas the waveforms of the reference stator currents (quasi-square waves of 120° mode) are generated with the aid of a commutation logic decoder, which converts the status of the three Hall sensors into 3- Φ signals displaced 120 electrical degrees from each other. The stator currents are controlled by three hysteresis current controllers with a certain tolerance band. The outputs of the ON–OFF current controllers are employed to generate the switching signals of the transistors of the 3- Φ VSI inverter.

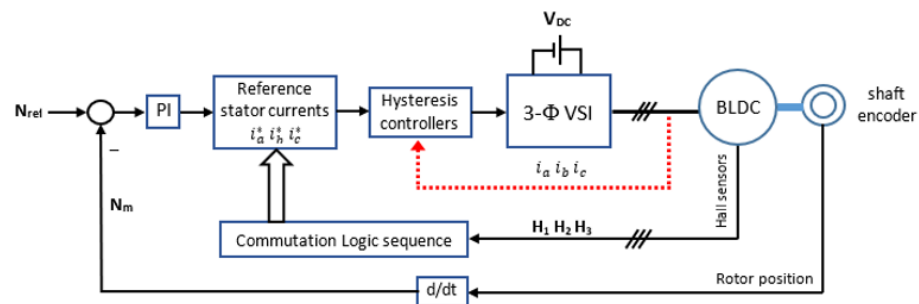


Figure 4. Conventional control scheme of the BLDC motor: stator current control with hysteresis current controllers.

4. Selected Simulation Results of the Investigated Systems

The three studied systems of the BLDC motor drive were modeled and investigated in the PSIM® software. The simulation parameters are summarized in Table 1. In this section, some simulation results are presented and discussed. The illustrated results are categorized into two main groups: (1) the steady state performance of the elaborated schemes, and (2) the transient response of the investigated systems. Both result groups include quantitative assessments. In the first group of results, various steady state waveforms are illustrated for qualitative comparison. The corresponding harmonic spectra are also addressed graphically. In the second group, the transient responses of the investigated systems under both step variations in the reference speed and step changes in the load are presented.

Table 1. Simulation parameters.

Parameter	Value
Simulation Platform	PSIM
MPC Sampling time T_s	10–20 μ s
Motor phase resistance R_s	10 Ω
Equivalent phase inductance L_s	6 mH
Back-EMF constant	0.2 V/rpm
Motor poles	8
Moment of inertia	0.0005 kgm ²

4.1. Steady State Performance

4.1.1. Time-Domain Waveforms

The three systems were operated under the same conditions, where the reference speed was set to 1000 RPM and the load torque was set to 2.5 N.m.

The steady state waveforms of the mechanical speed, stator currents, electromagnetic torque developed by the motor, active power consumed by the motor, reactive power supplied to the motor, stator current components in the $(\alpha-\beta)$ reference frame, back-EMF, and stator current of the same phase are illustrated in Figures 5–11, respectively. The obtained results indicate that the motor mechanical speed was well controlled to the desired value, with negligible ripples in all three systems. The stator current was of better quality with the direct PQ FCS-MPC than with the other schemes. Moreover, the lowest peak-to-peak ripple torque was achieved with the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme. The peak-to-peak ripple in active and reactive power were also at minimum values in the case of the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme.

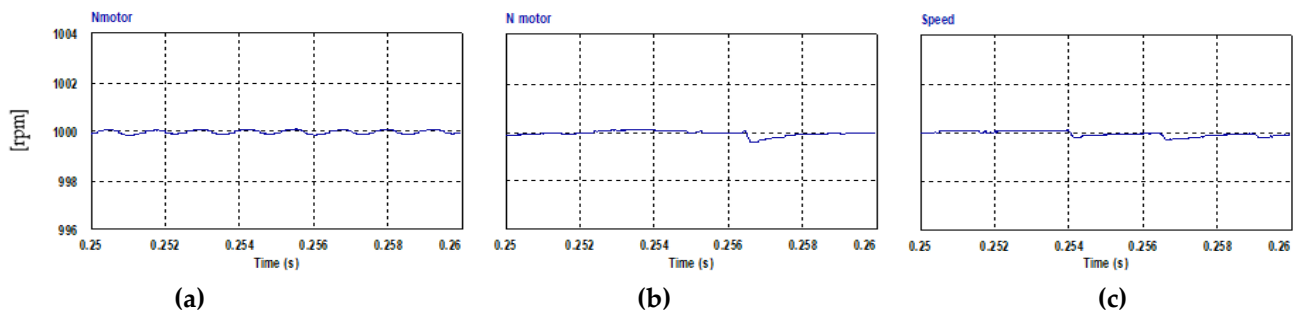


Figure 5. Motor mechanical speed at steady state ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

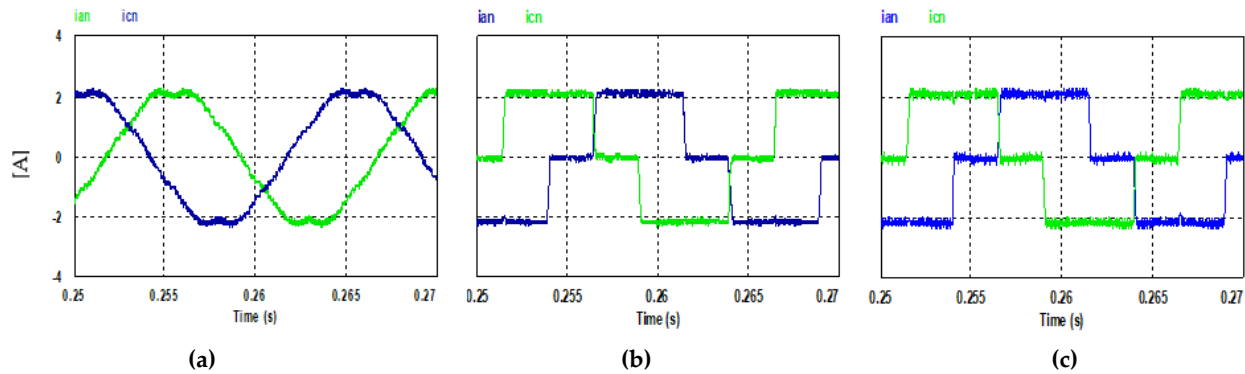


Figure 6. Steady state stator currents i_a and i_c ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

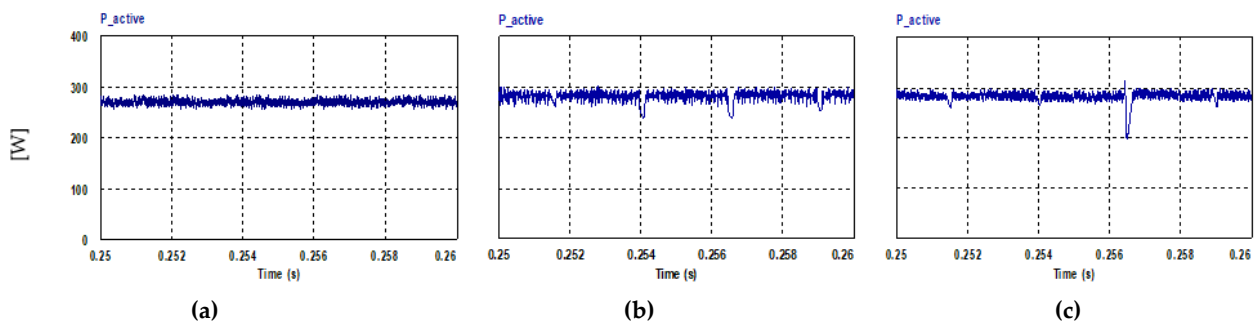


Figure 7. Steady state active power consumed by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

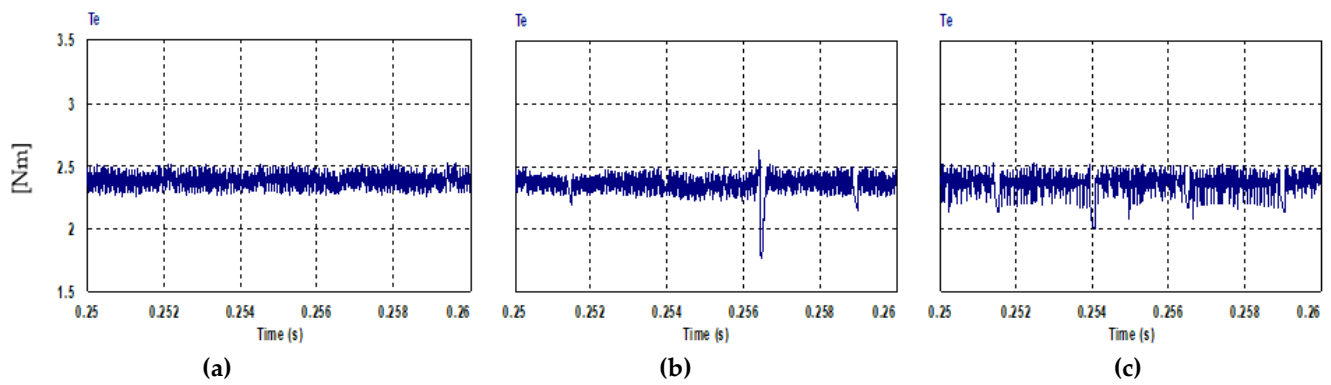


Figure 8. Steady state electromagnetic torque at ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

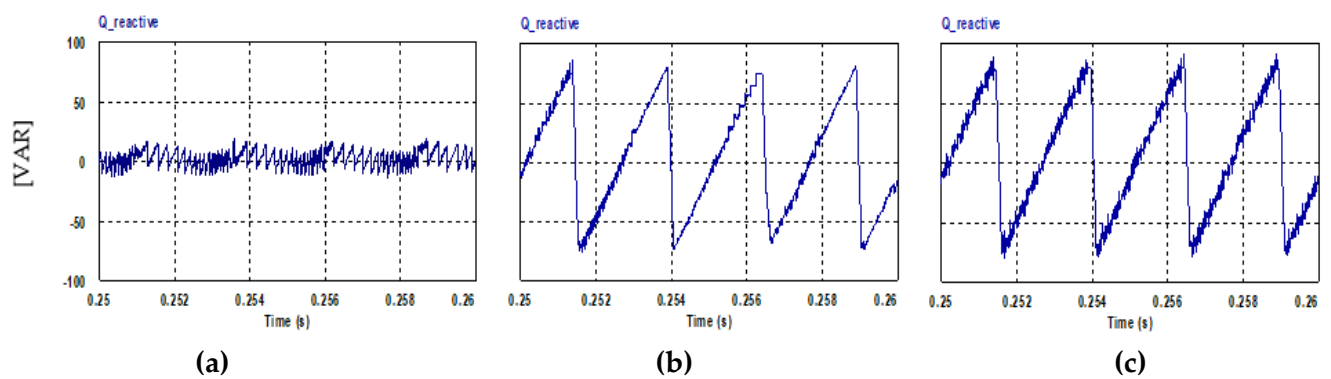


Figure 9. Steady state reactive power drawn by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

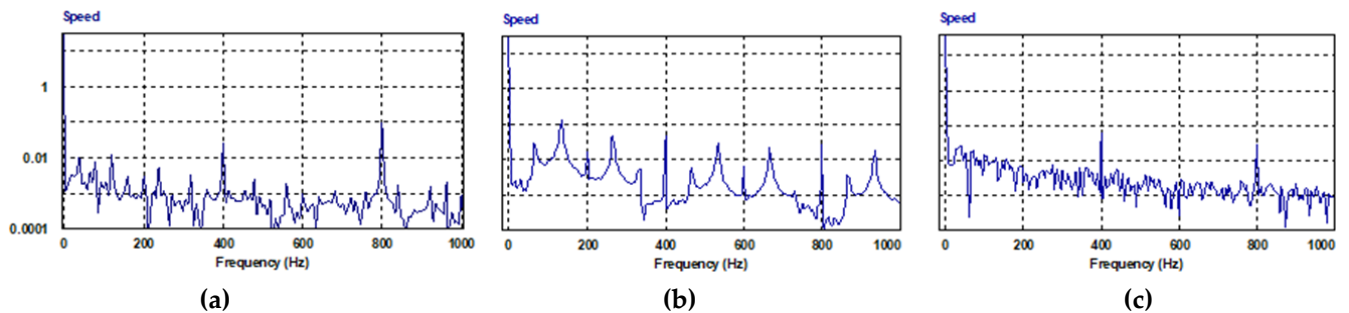


Figure 10. Harmonic spectrum of mechanical speed ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

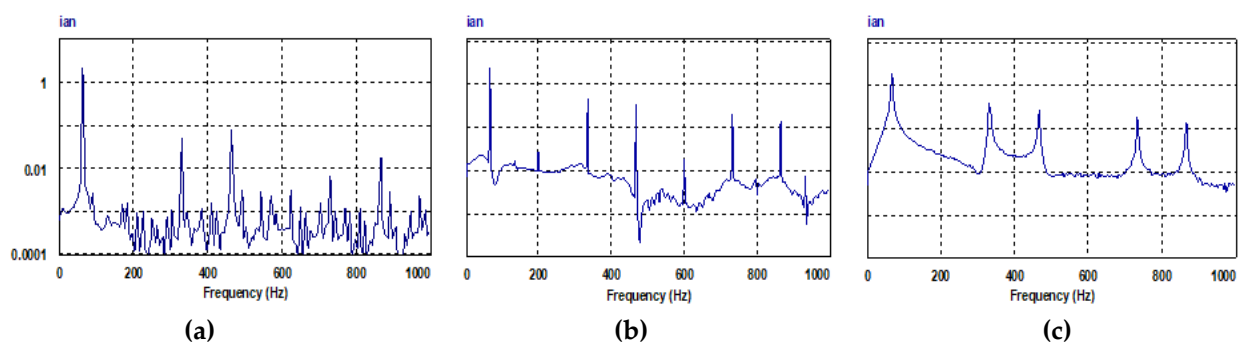


Figure 11. Harmonic spectrum of stator current ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

The other two schemes, the CC FCS-MPC scheme and the current control with hysteresis current controllers, resulted in low frequency pulsations in torque and active power waveforms. In addition, the reactive power had high ripples compared to the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme. The worst quality of stator currents was obtained with the scheme using hysteresis current controllers. The quantitative assessment is presented in detail in Table 2. According to the results obtained, the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme resulted in the relatively best steady state performance.

Table 2. Quantitative assessment of steady state performance: ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm; $T_L = 2.5$ N.m).

Item	Parameter		Value		
			DPC FCS-MPC	CC FCS-MPC	Hysteresis CC
Motor Speed [RPM]	Reference Value	N_{ref}	1000	1000	1000
	Worst values	Max. N_{max}	1000.16	1000.22	1000.19
		Min. N_{min}	999.84	999.53	999.72
	Average	N_{avg}	1000	999.99	999.99
	% Speed Error	$100 \times (N_{max} - N_{min})/N_{ref}$	0.032	0.069	0.047
Developed Torque [N.m]	Average Torque	T_{ag}	2.58	2.69	2.70
	Worst values	Max. T_{max}	2.72	2.98	2.89
		Min. T_{min}	2.44	1.82	2.27
	% Peak-Peak Ripple	$100 \times (T_{max} - T_{min})/T_{avg}$	10.85	43.12	22.96
Active Power [W]	Average Power	P_{avg}	270.51	282.39	282.86
	Worst values	Max. P_{max}	285.29	313.03	303.33
		Min. P_{min}	255.68	190.32	238.18
	% Peak-Peak ripple	$100 \times (P_{max} - P_{min})/P_{avg}$	10.94	43.45	23.03
Reactive Power [VAR]	Average Value	Q_{AVG}	2.39	8.21	12.33
	Worst Values	Max. Q_{max}	19.93	171.56	183.94
		Min. Q_{min}	−14.44	−151.26	−158.50
	Peak-Peak Ripple	$\Delta Q = (Q_{max} - Q_{min})$	34.37	322.82	342.44
Stator Current [A]	RMS Value	I_{rms}	1.586	1.721	1.733
	Peak of 1st Harmonic	$I_{1 peak}$	1.869	1.937	1.938
	% Total Harm. Dist.	THD	9.09	28.98	30.60

4.1.2. Harmonic Spectra

The harmonic spectra corresponding to the previously sketched waveforms in Figures 5–9 were determined and are sketched in Figures 10–14. In Figure 10, the harmonic spectra of the motor speed for the three schemes are presented. The results indicate that the dominant low order harmonics are the 6th and 12th components. However, their magnitudes are negligible (<0.06% in the worst case, the hysteresis current controller) (see quantitative assessment results of Table 3). The harmonic spectra of the stator current (Figure 11) had low order harmonics (5th, 7th, and 11th) in all systems. However, the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme had the best harmonic content compared to the other schemes; the THD of the stator current was 9%, and it reached 30% in the hysteresis current controller scheme.

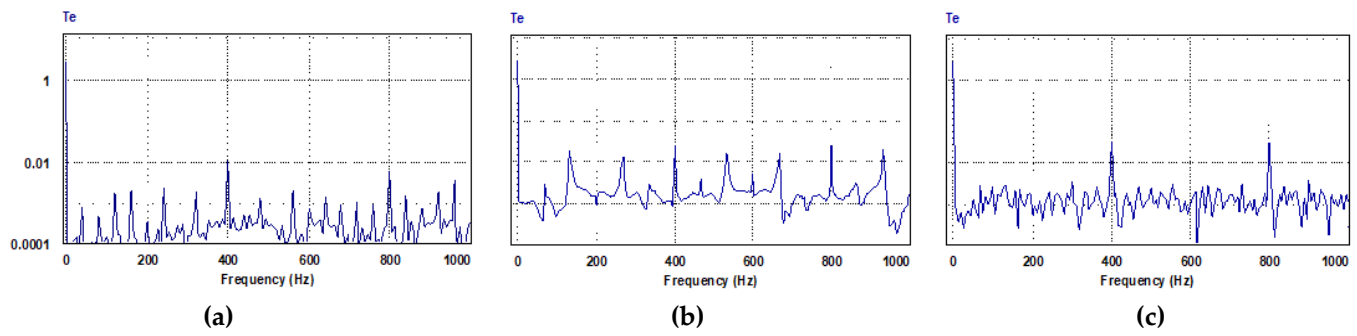


Figure 12. Harmonic spectrum of developed torque ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

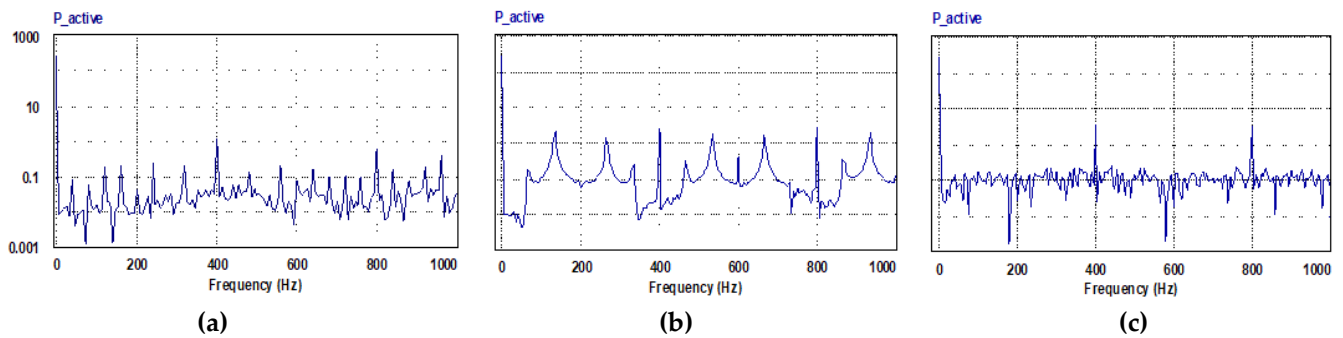


Figure 13. Harmonic spectrum of active power consumed by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

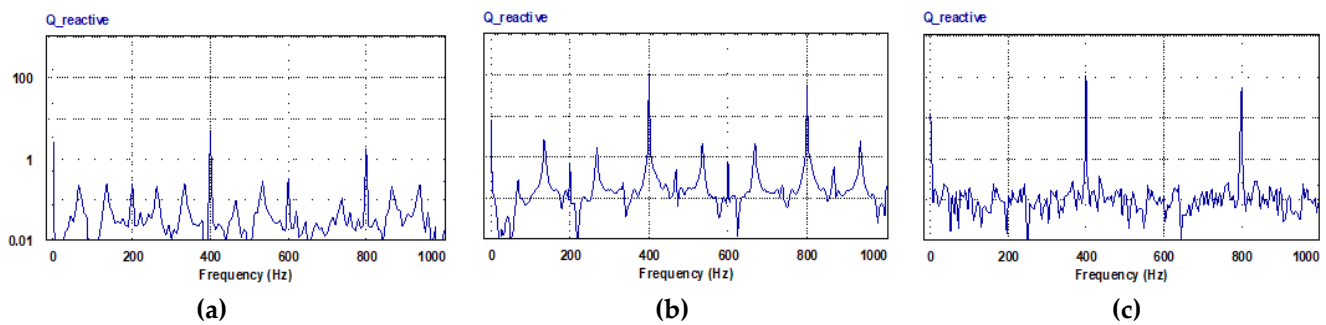


Figure 14. Harmonic spectrum of reactive power drawn by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

Furthermore, the harmonic spectra of the electromagnetic signal of Figure 12 have dominant low order harmonics (6th and 12th order components). At the same time, in the CC FCS-MPC scheme, second order harmonics also exist.

In addition, the active power waveforms of Figure 13 have low order harmonics (6th and 12th) that do not exceed 3.6% in the worst case (hysteresis current controller scheme). However, the CC FCS-MPC scheme resulted in the worst harmonic content in terms of the existence of second order harmonics in the active power waveforms, as indicated in Table 3. Moreover, the harmonic spectra of the reactive power shown in Figure 14 indicate that there are low order harmonics at orders 6th and 12th. The worst values of the low order harmonics were obtained by the CC FCS-MPC scheme followed by the hysteresis current controller scheme.

Table 3. Quantitative assessment of harmonic spectra: ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm; $T_L = 2.5$ N.m).

Item	Parameter		Value		
			DPC FCS-MPC	CC FCS-MPC	Hysteresis CC
Motor Speed [rpm]	Reference Value	N_{ref}	1000	1000	1000
	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	2nd order	—	0.135	—
		4th	—	0.0466	—
		6th order	0.0256	0.0468	0.064
Line-Line voltage [V]	Amplitude of 1st harmonic	1st order	214.23	215.88	210.91
	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	5th order	32.71	23.73	21.12
		7th order	26.06	17.48	17.98
		11th order	12.97	23.84	27.89
Developed Torque [N.m]	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	2nd order	—	0.02	—
		4th order	—	0.014	—
		6th order	0.0105	0.027	0.0348
		12th order	0.0062	0.025	0.0317
Active Power [W]	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	2nd order	—	2.21	—
		4th order	—	1.43	—
		6th order	1.10	2.87	3.64
		8th order	—	1.84	—
Reactive Power [VAR]	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	12th order	0.632	2.66	3.32
		6th order	4.37	106.41	110.03
		12th order	1.25	49.03	51.69
Stator Current [A]	RMS Value	I_{rms}	1.586	1.721	1.733
		Amplitude of 1st harmonic	1.869	1.937	1.938
	% Total Harmonic Distor.	THD	9.09	28.98	30.60
	Amplitudes of the worst low order harmonics	5th order	0.050	0.392	0.40
		7th order	0.069	0.268	0.28
		11th order	0.0058	0.175	0.186

4.1.3. Quantitative Analysis of the Steady State Results

The quantitative analysis of the steady state performance of the BLDC motor drive was conducted for the three elaborated schemes. The results are presented in Table 2. The results indicate that the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme achieved the relatively best performance among the examined schemes in terms of the lowest ripples in mechanical speed, developed torque, active power, reactive power, and stator current waveforms. In addition, the quantitative analysis of the corresponding harmonic spectra summarized in Table 3 demonstrates the superiority of the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme over the other schemes in terms of the minimum magnitudes of undesired low order harmonics and the best harmonic content in the investigated frequency range.

4.2. Transient Response

The transient response of the three elaborated BLDC systems were investigated for two different cases. The first is the transient response of the BLDC motor when it is subjected

to a step change in the desired (reference) speed signal (from -1000 rpm to $+1000$ rpm). The second investigated case is the BLDC motor transient performance for a step change in the mechanical load. In each case, time domain waveforms are plotted for the three investigated schemes. In addition, qualitative analysis was undertaken on the obtained results. The results are summarized in Table 4.

Table 4. Quantitative assessment of transient performance.

Mode of Operation	Parameter	Value		
		DPC FCS-MPC	CC FCS-MPC	Hysteresis CC
Step change in mechanical load ($T_{Load} = 0 \rightarrow 2.5$ N.m) ($N_o = 1000$ rpm)	Load rejection time [ms]	35	31	32
	Max dip in speed [rpm]	19	21.1	21
	Percentage of speed dip [%]	1.91	2.11	2.1
Step change in reference speed ($-1000 \rightarrow 1000$ RPM)	Settling time [ms]	32.5	40.4	39.9
	Peak overshoot [rpm]	2	14.3	6.2

4.2.1. Step Change in the Reference Signal

As shown in Figure 15, the three investigated systems succeeded in controlling the motor speed to the set point. When the reference speed signal experienced a step change from -1000 rpm to $+1000$ rpm, the settling time was between 32.5 and 40.4 ms for the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme and the CC FCS-MPC scheme, respectively. The current control scheme with the hysteresis current controller resulted in a settling time of 39.9 ms (see Table 4). The best peak overshoot was achieved with the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme: 2 rpm (0.2%); whereas the worst peak overshoot was produced with the CC FCS-MPC scheme: 14.3 rpm (1.43%) (see Table 4).

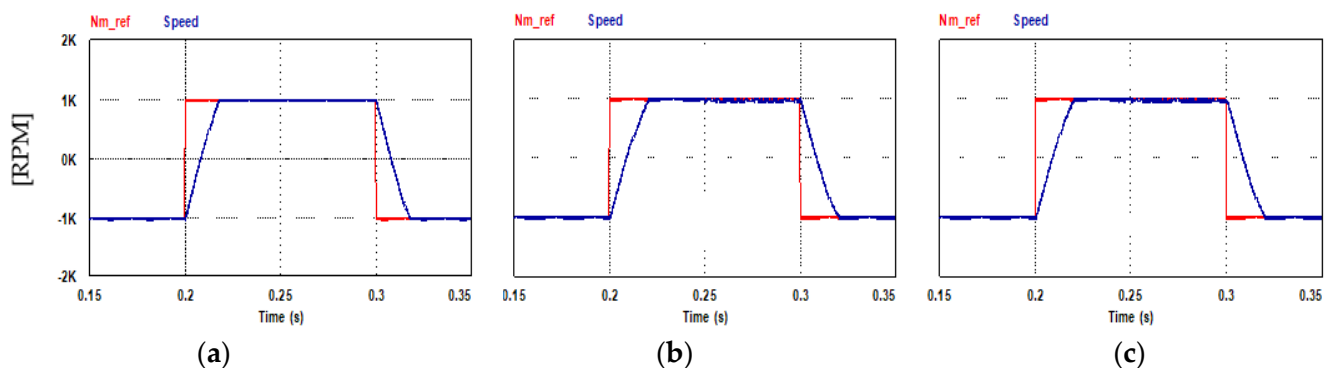


Figure 15. Speed response to the step change in the reference signal motor ($N_{ref} = \pm 1000$ rpm square wave, $T_L = 1$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

4.2.2. Sudden Load Variation (Step Change)

As illustrated in Figure 16, the motor was subjected to a sudden load change (step change) at time ($t = 0.2$ s). The three BLDC systems succeeded in returning the speed to the set point (1000 rpm); this occurred after approximately 35 ms in the case of the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme, 31 ms in the case of the CC FCS-MPC scheme, and 32 ms in the case of the hysteresis current controller scheme. However, the dip speed was between 19 and 21.1 rpm in the case of the direct PQ FCS-MPC and CC FCS-MPC schemes, respectively. In the case of the hysteresis current controller, the dip speed was 21 rpm. The corresponding waveforms for the electromagnetic torque, active power, reactive power, and stator currents are presented in Figures 17–20, respectively.

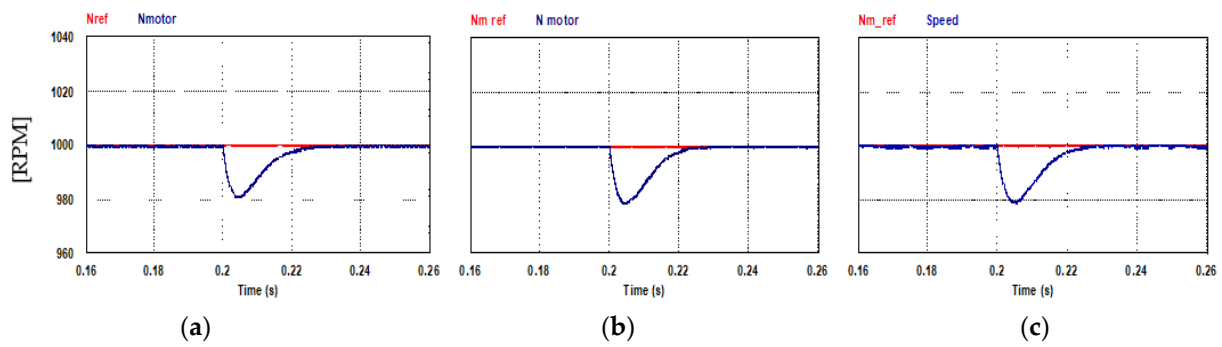


Figure 16. Speed response under sudden load variation ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

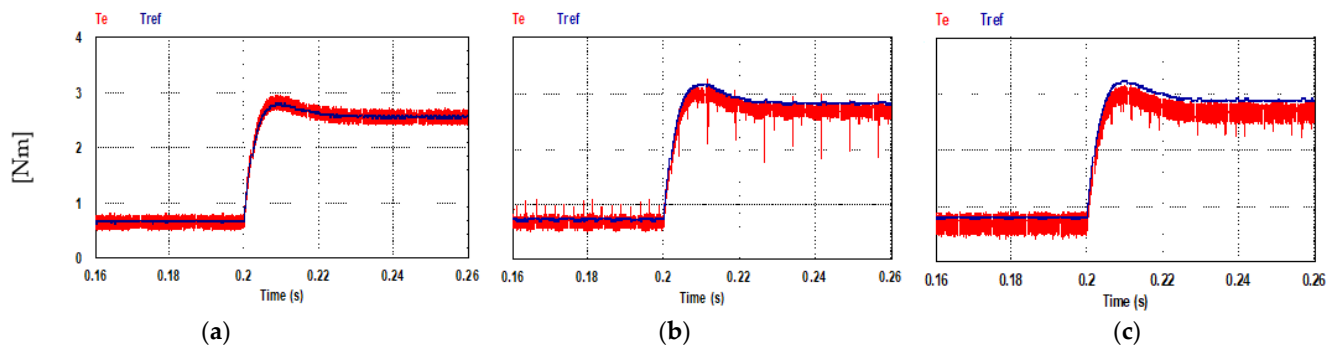


Figure 17. Developed torque under sudden load variation ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m, $J_L = 0.002$ kg m²): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

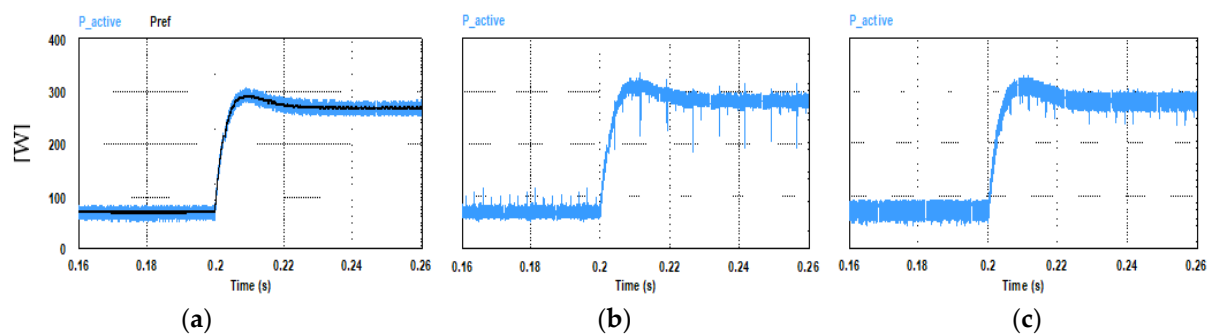


Figure 18. Corresponding active power consumed by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m, $J_L = 0.002$ kg m²): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

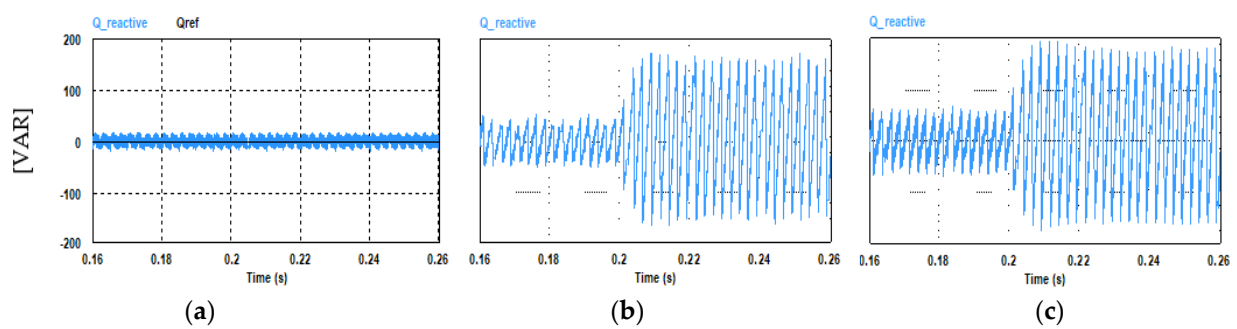


Figure 19. Corresponding reactive power fed to the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m, $J_L = 0.002$ kg m²): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

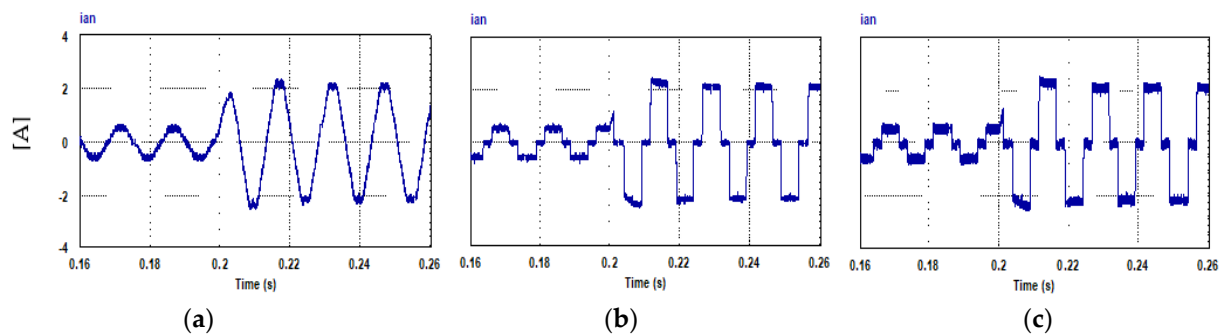


Figure 20. Corresponding stator current i_a drawn by the motor ($N_{ref} = 1000$ rpm, $T_L = 2.5$ N.m, $J_L = 0.002$ kg m²): (a) PQ controlled FCS-MPC; (b) current controlled FCS-MPC; (c) hysteresis current controller.

In Figure 17, it can be observed that the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme resulted in minimum peak-to-peak ripples in the torque waveform, whereas the CC FCS-MPC scheme produced the worst waveform for the electromagnetic torque, with low frequency pulsations superimposed on the electromagnetic waveform. Similarly, the resultant waveforms of the active power consumed by the BLDC motor are plotted in Figure 18. The highest quality waveform was produced by the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme, the power pulsation was produced by the CC FCS-MPC scheme, and the worst peak-to-peak ripple was produced by the hysteresis current control scheme.

One of the noticeable differences between the three systems is the resultant waveform of reactive power fed to the motor as depicted in Figure 19. The best waveform obtained, with minimum possible peak-to-peak ripple, was achieved with the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme, whereas the worst peak-peak ripple was obtained with the hysteresis current controllers scheme followed by the CC FCS-MPC scheme.

The resultant waveforms of the stator currents are plotted in Figure 20. The highest quality waveform was achieved with the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme, whereas the lowest quality waveform was observed in the case of the hysteresis current control scheme.

4.2.3. Quantitative Analysis of the Transient Response

The quantitative analysis of the transient response of the BLDC motor drive with the elaborated schemes is summarized in Table 4.

5. Conclusions

In this paper, the performance of the BLDC motor drive trapezoidal EMFs was studied and assessed under three different control schemes. The first scheme investigated was the direct active and reactive power control using the FCS-MPC approach. This scheme provided a decoupled control of both active and reactive power fed to the motor.

The second scheme investigated was the stator current control using the FCS-MPC approach. In this scheme, the stator current components in the (α - β) coordinates were directly controlled using a finite control set model predictive controller. In the third scheme, however, the stator currents were controlled using hysteresis current controllers. The study included both steady state and transient performances. Furthermore, qualitative and quantitative analyses of the obtained results were performed.

The obtained results indicate that the three schemes can successfully operate the BLDC motor at the desired operating point. However, the direct PQ FCS-MPC scheme exhibited superior performance, especially at the steady state in terms of minimum torque ripple, minimum active and reactive power ripple, and minimum THD of the stator current, where the percentage of the peak-to-peak torque ripple did not exceed 11% of the average value, whereas, in the other schemes, this value was between 22% and 43%.

Moreover, the resultant percentage of the peak-to-peak active power ripple did not exceed 11% of the average value, whereas in the other schemes, this value was between

23% and 43%. The resultant reactive power ripple was only 10% of the corresponding values achieved with the other systems. The resultant THD of the stator current was 9%, which is 30% of the corresponding value obtained with the other schemes. Moreover, the minimum peak overshoot of 2 rpm (0.2% of the reference speed) was achieved with the DPC scheme, whereas, in other schemes, 14 rpm was reached (1.4% of the reference speed).

Furthermore, the current controlled FCS-MPC scheme produced undesired low frequency pulsations in the torque and active power waveforms with a relatively higher value of the THD of the stator current. Although the third scheme, stator current control with hysteresis current controllers, did not contribute a noticeably better performance at steady state, its cost–performance relation makes it an economic choice for low-cost BLDC drives with satisfactory performance.

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Nomenclature

BLDC	Brushless DC Motor
DSP	Digital signal processor
DTC	Direct torque control
EMF	Electromotive force
EV	Electric Vehicles
FOC	Field oriented control
FCS-MPC	Finite control set model predictive control
3- Φ	Three-Phase
HIL	Hardware in the loop
MPC	Model predictive control
PI	Proportional integral controller
SVM	Space vector modulation
THD	Total harmonic distortion
VSI	Voltage source inverter
VAR	Volt-ampere reactive

Appendix A

For the balanced three-phase star-connected stator winding of the BLDC motor illustrated in Figure A1, the sum of stator currents is zero, i.e., ($i_a + i_b + i_c = 0$). Thus:

$$i_b + i_c = -i_a \quad (\text{A1})$$

$$i_a + i_c = -i_b \quad (\text{A2})$$

$$i_a + i_b = -i_c \quad (\text{A3})$$

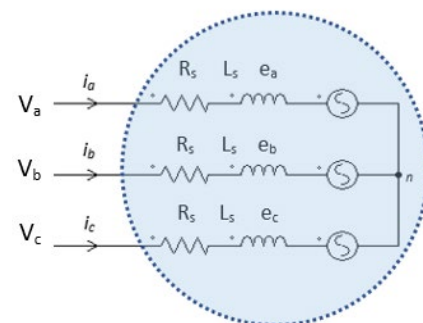


Figure A1. Simplified equivalent circuit of 3- Φ BLDC motor.

Therefore, the stator phase voltages can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{an} \\ v_{bn} \\ v_{cn} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_s & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & R_s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & R_s \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} L_s & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & L_s & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & L_s \end{bmatrix} \frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} i_a \\ i_b \\ i_c \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} e_{an} \\ e_{bn} \\ e_{cn} \end{bmatrix} \quad (\text{A4})$$

For trapezoidal back-EMFs, the following relations can be utilized to describe the induced EMFs in the BLDC motor:

$$e_a = K_e \omega_m f_a(\theta_e) \quad (\text{A5})$$

$$e_b = K_e \omega_m f_b(\theta_e) \quad (\text{A6})$$

$$e_c = K_e \omega_m f_c(\theta_e) \quad (\text{A7})$$

where K_e is the back-EMF constant, ω_m is the mechanical speed in rad/s, and $f_a(\theta_e)$, $f_b(\theta_e)$, and $f_c(\theta_e)$ are three-phase trapezoidal waveforms of unity magnitudes as illustrated in Figure A2.

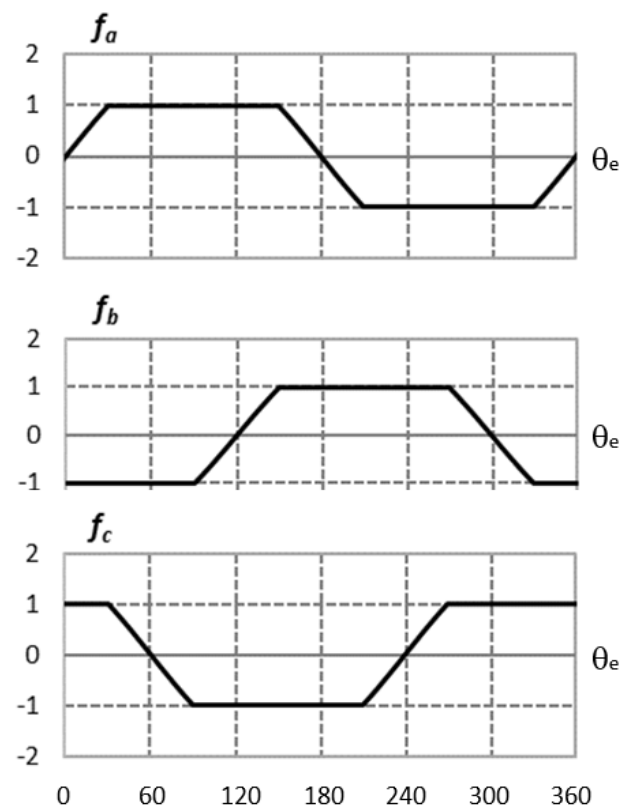


Figure A2. Three-phase unity trapezoidal functions.

The three-phase trapezoidal waveforms of unity magnitudes $f_a(\theta_e)$, $f_b(\theta_e)$, and $f_c(\theta_e)$ can be described by the Formulas (A8)–(A10) [51]:

$$f_a = \begin{cases} \frac{6}{180}\theta_e & \text{For } (0^\circ < \theta_e < 30^\circ) \\ 1 & \text{For } (30^\circ < \theta_e < 150^\circ) \\ \frac{-6}{180}\theta_e + 6 & \text{For } (150^\circ < \theta_e < 210^\circ) \\ -1 & \text{For } (210^\circ < \theta_e < 330^\circ) \\ \frac{6}{180}\theta_e - 12 & \text{For } (330^\circ < \theta_e < 360^\circ) \end{cases} \quad (\text{A8})$$

$$f_b = \begin{cases} -1 & \text{For } (0^\circ < \theta_e < 90^\circ) \\ \frac{6}{180}\theta_e - 4 & \text{For } (90^\circ < \theta_e < 150^\circ) \\ 1 & \text{For } (150^\circ < \theta_e < 270^\circ) \\ \frac{-6}{180}\theta_e + 10 & \text{For } (270^\circ < \theta_e < 330^\circ) \\ -1 & \text{For } (330^\circ < \theta_e < 360^\circ) \end{cases} \quad (\text{A9})$$

$$f_c = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{For } (0^\circ < \theta_e < 30^\circ) \\ \frac{-6}{180}\theta_e + 2 & \text{For } (30^\circ < \theta_e < 90^\circ) \\ -1 & \text{For } (90^\circ < \theta_e < 210^\circ) \\ \frac{6}{180}\theta_e - 8 & \text{For } (210^\circ < \theta_e < 270^\circ) \\ 1 & \text{For } (270^\circ < \theta_e < 360^\circ) \end{cases} \quad (\text{A10})$$

In the case of the BLAC motor, the back-EMFs are sinusoidal waveforms displaced 120 electrical degrees from each other.

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