



Article Efficiency Optimization Strategy of Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor for Electric Vehicles Based on Energy Balance

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Abstract: This paper presents an efficiency optimization controller for a permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) of an electric vehicle. A new loss model is obtained based on the permanent magnet synchronous motor's energy balance equation utilizing the theory of the port-controlled Hamiltonian system. Since the energy balance equation is just the power loss of the PMSM, which provides great convenience for us to use the energy method for efficiency optimization. Then, a new loss minimization algorithm (LMA) is designed based on the new loss model by adjusting the ratio of the excitation current in the d–q axis. Moreover, the proposed algorithm is achieved by the principle of the energy shape method of the Hamiltonian system. Simulations are finally presented to verify effectiveness. The main results of these simulations indicate that the dynamic performance of the drive is maintained and the efficiency increase is up to about 7% compared with the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm, and about 4.5% compared with the conventional LMA at a steady operation of a PMSM.

Keywords: electric vehicle; efficiency optimization; permanent magnet synchronous motor; energy balance

1. Introduction

Electric vehicles, a significant part of sustainable transport, have attracted increasing attention [1–3]. An electric vehicle is a complex system that includes a wide range of technologies involving materials, machinery, power electronics, computer technology and other disciplines [4]. Unfortunately, there are many bottlenecks in the development of electric vehicles. EVs have low energy density and long charging times given present batteries. In addition, the optimum design of the motor, selection of a proper drive style and optimal control strategy are the other major factors [5,6]. The motor drive system is the key unit of energy conversion of electric vehicle. A. Haddoun utilized the stator flux as a control variable and proposed a strategy to minimize the losses of an induction motor propelling an electric vehicle [7]. Compared with induction motors, permanent-magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) have many merits, such as high efficiency and high power density [8,9]. Many of the existing commercial electric vehicles are propelled by PMSMs [10,11]. Efficiency is an important index for EV traction systems. Therefore, developing an efficiency optimization strategy of the PMSMs for EVs is very significant [12].

The study of efficiency optimization control of permanent magnet synchronous motor began in the 1980s and has achieved rapid development. In an effort to improve the efficiency of the PMSM, there have been improvements in the materials, design and construction techniques to reduce the mechanical loss and stray loss [13–15]. However, the controllable losses including copper loss and iron loss are still greatly dependent on control strategies [16]. There are mainly three methods of improving motor efficiency, including



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Copyright: © 2022 by the authors. Licensee MDPI, Basel, Switzerland. This article is an open access article distributed under the terms and conditions of the Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY) license (https:// creativecommons.org/licenses/by/ 4.0/). minimum input power strategies [17], maximum torque per ampere control (MTPA) [18] and loss minimization algorithms (LMA) [19].

B. K. Bose had described for the first time a fully operational high-performance drive system using an interior permanent magnet synchronous machine [20]. However, this method requires accurate estimation of the flux linkage and has great dependence on motor parameters. S. Morimotoet et al. proposed a formula calculation method to optimize the efficiency of PMSMs [21]. However, this method is based on the mathematical model of the motor, and relatively complex in its calculation. R. U. Lenke presented a table lookup method [22] that is simple to implement but needs to prepare tables through many experiments in advance and has poor portability. J. M. Kim and S. K. Sul established a current compensation method [23], and, later, researchers achieved desirable results by applying it to different kinds of permanent magnet synchronous motors [24–26]. However, if the current trajectory planning in this method is not reasonable, the actual current cannot track the given current and thus the current is out of control. Above all, in order to simplify the calculation, most minimum input power strategies and the MTPA control method only consider copper loss and ignoring iron loss. Therefore, such research cannot guarantee optimal efficiency in a motor. The loss minimization control method, based on a mathematical model, can achieve global optimal efficiency and has the advantages of a smooth control and fast response; it is widely used for the efficiency optimization control of PMSMs [27,28]. Morimoto S et al. established a loss-model control strategy with consideration of iron loss in a PMSM [29]. J. Hang proposed an improved loss minimization control for IPMSMs using an equivalent conversion method [30]. Unfortunately, their method could not minimize copper loss and iron loss at the same time—only a compromise of minimum loss could be obtained.

This paper puts forward a new loss model utilizing the energy balance equation of the port-controlled Hamiltonian (PCH) theory [31,32]. Due to its nice structural properties with clear physical meaning, the PCH system has been widely used in practical control problems, and many effective controllers have been designed [33,34]. The loss model can be deduced from the energy balance equation of the PMSM. Moreover, the PMSM's energy function, the sum of potential energy and kinetic energy, is a good Lyapunov function candidate for this system. Finally, the proposed algorithm is realized using the methods of interconnection and damping assignment. Compared with traditional control, the proposed Hamilton control in this paper has the advantage of high efficiency, which provides a new method for achieving good performance and high efficiency from PMSM drive systems for electric vehicles.

This paper is organized as follows. Firstly, we give an overview of the optimization control of the PMSMs for EVs. Secondly, we built a PCH model for the PMSM system. The loss model of is deduced based on the energy balance equation of the PCH model. We then proceed to develop the LMA strategy in Section 3. The optimization controller is achieved by the principle of the energy shape method of the PCH system in Section 4. The simulation tests on PMSMs are offered in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 gives some concluding remarks.

2. PMSM Model and Loss Model

The model of the PMSM considering iron loss in a d q frame can be described as follow [29], and the parameters nomenclature in this article is shown in Table 1.

With reference to Figure 1a, the state equations of the dynamic model of a PMSM, also taking into account the iron losses, the d axes can be described as follows:

$$\begin{cases} u_d = L_{ld} \frac{di_d}{dt} + Ri_d + L_{md} \frac{di_{od}}{dt} - n_p \omega L_q i_{oq} \\ L_{md} \frac{di_{od}}{dt} = R_c i_d - R_c i_{od} + n_p \omega L_q i_{oq} \end{cases}$$
(1)

Parameters	Description		
i _d , i _q	direct-axis and quadrature-axis current components		
iod, iog	direct and quadrature axes excitation current components		
i _{cd} , i _{cq}	direct and quadrature axes iron loss current components		
L_d , L_q	direct and quadrature axes inductance components		
L_{ld} , L_{la}	direct and quadrature axes leakage inductance components		
L _{md} , L _{ma}	direct and quadrature axes excitation inductances		
R, R_c	stator resistance and core loss resistances		
I	moment inertia of the motor		
n_v	pole pairs of motor		
ŵ	rotor mechanical angular speed		
u_{d} , u_{a}	direct and quadrature axes voltage		
λ_{PM}	excitation flux of rotor permanent magnet		
T_{L}	load torque		





Similarly, is q axes can be expressed by

$$\begin{cases} u_q = L_{lq} \frac{di_q}{dt} + Ri_q + L_{mq} \frac{di_{oq}}{dt} + n_p \omega L_q i_{oq} + n_p \omega \lambda_{PM} \\ L_{mq} \frac{di_{oq}}{dt} = R_c i_q - R_c i_{oq} - n_p \omega L_d i_{od} - n_p \omega \lambda_{PM} \end{cases}$$
(2)

The mechanical equation is given by:

$$L_{mq}\frac{\mathrm{d}i_{oq}}{\mathrm{d}t} = R_c i_q - R_c i_{oq} - n_p \omega L_d i_{od} - n_p \omega \lambda_{PM} \tag{3}$$

The following equation is derived due to the above

$$\begin{cases} L_{ld} \frac{di_d}{dt} = -(R+R_c)i_d + R_c i_{od} + u_d \\ L_{ld} \frac{di_q}{dt} = -(R+R_c)i_q + R_c i_{oq} + u_q \\ L_{md} \frac{di_{od}}{dt} = R_c i_d - R_c i_{od} + n_p \omega L_q i_{oq} \\ L_{mq} \frac{di_{oq}}{dt} = R_c i_q - R_c i_{oq} - n_p \omega L_d i_{od} - n_p \omega \lambda_{PM} \\ J \frac{d\omega}{dt} = n_p \lambda_{PM} i_{oq} + n_p (L_{md} - L_{mq}) i_{od} i_{oq} - T_L \end{cases}$$

$$(4)$$

Define variable quantities,

$$x = \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & x_2 & x_3 & x_4 & x_5 \end{bmatrix}^T$$

= $\begin{bmatrix} L_{ld}i_d & L_{lq}i_q & L_{md}i_{od} & L_{mq}i_{oq} & J\omega \end{bmatrix}^T$
= $D\begin{bmatrix} i_d & i_q & i_{od} & i_{oq} & \omega \end{bmatrix}^T$ (5)

where, $D = \text{Diag} \begin{bmatrix} L_{ld} & L_{lq} & L_{md} & L_{mq} & J \end{bmatrix}$. Then, we choose the energy function as follows:

 $H(x) = \frac{1}{2}x^{T}D^{-1}x$ (6)

For a surface-mounted PMSM, we have $L_{ld} = L_{lq}$, $L_{md} = L_{mq}$, $L_d = L_q$, then model (4) can be converted to a standard Hamiltonian system

$$\begin{cases} \dot{x} = [J(x) - R(x)]\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + g(x)u\\ y = g^{T}(x)\frac{\partial H}{\partial x} \end{cases}$$
(7)

where J(x) is a skew-symmetric matrix, R(x) is a positive semi-definite matrix, and H(x) is the Hamiltonian function. The output y is given in the standard form of the Hamiltonian system.

Evaluating the change rate of the Hamiltonian function, we can obtain the following energy balance equation

$$\frac{dH}{dt} = \left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\right]^{T} \dot{x}$$

$$= \left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\right]^{T} [J(x) - R(x)] \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + \left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\right]^{T} g(x)u$$

$$= -\left[\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}\right]^{T} R(x) \frac{\partial H}{\partial x} + y^{T}u$$
(9)

From Equation (7), we have

$$y^{T}u = g(x)^{T}\frac{\partial H}{\partial x}u = u_{d}i_{d} + u_{q}i_{q} - \omega T_{L}$$
(10)

When the EV works in a steady state, the electromagnetic torque of the driving motor T_e is equal to the load torque T_L , and the energy balance equation has an equilibrium point, the left side of Equation (9) equals to zero, hence the loss model of the PMSM can be written as

$$P_{loss} = u_{d}i_{d} + u_{q}i_{q} - \omega T_{e}$$

= $u_{d}i_{d} + u_{q}i_{q} - \omega T_{L}$
= $R(i_{d}^{2} + i_{q}^{2}) + R_{c}(i_{cd}^{2} + i_{cq}^{2})$ (11)

where P_{loss} is the power loss of the PMSM.

When ignoring the mechanical and stray loss, the efficiency of the PMSM can be expressed as follow

$$\eta = \frac{\omega T_L}{P_{loss} + \omega T_L} \tag{12}$$

In this paper, we suppose the PMSM works in a steady state, and i_d^* , i_q^* , i_{cd}^* , i_{cq}^* , i_{cq}^* , denote the steady-state current values. Therefore, we can obtain a loss model in a steady state as follows:

$$P_{loss} = R(i_d^{*2} + i_q^{*2}) + R(i_{cd}^{*2} + i_{cq}^{*2})$$
(13)

3. Efficiency Optimization Strategy

Suppose that $i_{od} = Ki_{oq}$, where, *K* is the ratio of direct and quadrature axes excitation current components, then, from Equation (4), we can conclude that

$$i_{oq}^* = \frac{T_L}{n_p \lambda_{PM}} \tag{14}$$

Then, the motor's steady currents can be expressed by speed, resistances, magnetic flux and the ratio *K* as follows

$$\begin{cases}
i_{d}^{*} = Ki_{od}^{*} - \frac{n_{p}\omega L_{d}}{R_{c}}i_{oq}^{*} \\
i_{q}^{*} = i_{oq}^{*} + \frac{n_{p}\omega L_{d}}{R_{c}}Ki_{oq}^{*} + \frac{n_{p}\omega\lambda_{PM}}{R_{c}} \\
i_{cd}^{*} = -\frac{n_{p}\omega L_{d}}{R_{c}}i_{oq}^{*} \\
i_{cq}^{*} = \frac{n_{p}\omega L_{d}}{R_{c}}Ki_{oq}^{*} + \frac{n_{p}\omega\lambda_{PM}}{R_{c}}
\end{cases}$$
(15)

Substituting (15) into the loss model (13), we have

$$P_{loss} = R(i_d^2 + i_q^2) + R_c(i_{cd}^2 + i_{cq}^2)$$

$$= \left(R + \frac{R_1 n_p^2 L_d^2 \omega^2}{R_c^2}\right) i_{oq}^* 2K^2 + \frac{2n_p^2 \omega^2 \lambda_{PM} L_d R_1}{R_c^2} i_{oq}^* K$$

$$+ \frac{2R n_p \omega \lambda_{PM}}{R_c} i_{oq}^* + \left(R + \frac{R_1 n_p^2 L_d^2 \omega^2}{R_c^2}\right) i_{oq}^* 2 + \frac{n_p^2 \omega^2 \lambda_{PM}^2 R_1}{R_c^2}$$
(16)

If Equation (16) reaches its minimum, it implies that $\frac{\partial P_{loss}}{\partial K} = 0$. Differentiating the loss expression (16) with respect to *K*, yields:

$$\left(R + \frac{R_1 n_p^2 L_d^2 \omega^2}{R_c^2}\right) i_{oq}^* K + \frac{n_p^2 \omega^2 \lambda_{PM} L_d R_1}{R_c^2} = 0$$
(17)

From (17), we can conclude that

$$K = -\frac{n_p^3 \omega^2 \lambda_{PM}^2 L_d R_1}{T_L R R_c^2 + T_L R_1 n_p^2 L_d^2 \omega^2}$$
(18)

This result implies that the motor losses reach a minimum when the ratio of excitation current components of the direct axes and quadrature axes satisfies the Equation (18), and *K* is not only related to the parameters of the motor itself, but also to the speed and torque of the motor when it works.

4. Algorithm Realization

According to the above calculation, an energy optimal controller can be designed when the PMSM system runs at a steady state. In order to stabilize the PMSM system in electric vehicle at the minimum loss equilibrium point, a closed-loop expected energy function $H_d(x)$ can be constructed as follows:

$$H_d(x) = H(x^*) + H(x - x^*)$$
(19)

By the feedback control, the energy of the original motor system H(x) is shaped energy on $H_d(x)$, and the original system (4) can be written as

$$\dot{x} = [J_d(x) - R_d(x)] \frac{\partial H_d(x)}{\partial x}$$
(20)

where $J_d(x)$ is the interconnection matrix of a closed-loop system, which is a skewsymmetric matrix, and $R_d(x)$ is a positive semidefinite matrix for the closed-loop system. Hence, we can suppose:

$$\begin{pmatrix} J_d(x) = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & J_{12} & J_{13} & J_{14} & J_{15} \\ -J_{12} & 0 & J_{23} & J_{24} & J_{25} \\ -J_{13} & -J_{23} & 0 & J_{34} & J_{35} \\ -J_{14} & -J_{24} & J & 0 & J_{45} \\ -J_{15} & -J_{25} & -J_{35} & -J_{45} & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} R_{11} & R_{12} & R_{13} & R_{14} & R_{15} \\ R_{12} & R_{1} & 0 & -R_{c} & 0 \\ -R_{c} & 0 & R_{c} & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & -R_{c} & 0 & R_{c} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix},$$

$$(21)$$

And from Equations (7) and (20), we have

$$\dot{x} = [J_d(x) - R_d(x)] \frac{\partial H_d(x)}{\partial x} = [J(x) - R(x)] \frac{\partial H(x)}{\partial x} + g(x)u$$
(22)

Substituting $J_d(x)$ and $R_d(x)$ into (22) we can obtain,

$$\begin{cases} u_d = -r_1(i_d - i_d^*) - R_c i_{od}^* + R_1 i_d^* \\ u_q = -r_2(i_q - i_q^*) - R_c i_{oq}^* + R_1 i_q^* \end{cases}$$
(24)

where, $r_1 > 0$, $r_2 > 0$ are adjustable parameters, which can ensure that $R_d(x)$ is a positive semidefinite matrix.

5. Simulation Results

The efficiency optimization strategy control scheme presented in the previous sections was implemented using Matlab 2019. The main characteristics of the PMSM are listed in Table 2.

Parameters	Values	
rated rotor speed ω (rad/s)	3000	
rated torque T_L (N·m)	5	
pole pairs n_p	6	
stator resistance $R(\Omega)$	2.21	
core loss resistances R_c (Ω)	200	
direct and quadrature inductance L_d , L_q (mH)	14.77	
excitation inductance L_{md} , L_{mq} (mH)	8	
leakage inductance L_{ld} , L_{lq} (mH)	3.77	
moment inertia J (kg·m ²)	0.002	
permanent magnet flux λ_{PM} (Wb)	0.084	

Table 2. Parameters of the PMSM.

The simulations are carried out in the following three conditions:

(1) one condition is that the PMSM runs at a constant speed (with $\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) and torque (with $T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$). This condition shows the control algorithm, where the Hamilton control strategy is employed.

The simulation results are shown in Figure 2a–d. Figure 2a–c shows the direct-axis and quadrature-axis currents, the excitation currents, and the iron loss currents respectively. Notice that the currents can reach the expected values quickly within 0.2 s. Figure 2d shows the rotor speeds with varying parameters (with $r_1 = r_2 = 10$, $r_1 = r_2 = 5$, $r_1 = r_2 = 3$). The rotor speed is an asymptotic convergence to the expected value. Meanwhile, we can see that the greater the value of r_1 and r_2 , the faster the speed of convergence.



Figure 2. The simulation results: (**a**) the direct-axis and quadrature-axis currents ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$, $T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$); (**b**) the excitation currents ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$, $T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$); (**c**) the excitation currents ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$, $T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$); (**d**) the rotor speeds with ($r_1 = r_2 = 10$, $r_1 = r_2 = 5$, $r_1 = r_2 = 3$).

(2) The second condition is that the PMSM runs at varying speed and a constant Torque $(T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m})$, and in the constant torque region, the maximum speed is 4000 rad/s. In this condition, we made some comparisons of the following three algorithms: the proposed LMA, the conventional LMA and the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm. The simulation results are shown in Figure 3. Figure 3a reports the different ratio *K* variations as a function of the rotor speed with the three algorithms at the rated torque of 5 N·m. As seen from Figure 3a, the relationship between parameter K and motor loss is nonlinear. Figure 3b plots the efficiency variations in the above case. Apparently, the proposed control scheme has the highest efficiency.



Figure 3. The simulation results: (a) Comparison of the ratio *K* of rated torque ($T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$) versus the rotor speed with the three algorithms; (b) Comparison of the motor efficiencies at rated load ($T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$) versus the angular speed.

(3) The last condition is that the PMSM runs at a constant speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) and varies torque, and in the constant speed region, the maximum torque is 10 N·m. The simulation results are shown in Figure 4. Figure 4a shows the ratio *K* variations as a function of the mechanical load torque at the rated speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) with the three algorithms. Figure 4b presents the efficiency variations. Figure 4b indicates that the effectiveness of the proposed LMA grows with increasing load, and the proposed control scheme has the highest efficiency compared with the other two algorithms.



Figure 4. The simulation results: (a) Comparison of the ratio *K* at rated rotor speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) versus the load torque; (b) Comparison of the efficiency at rated rotor speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) versus the load torque.

Figure 5 shows the percentage efficiency improvement of the proposed LMA compared with the conventional LMA and the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm. The red dotted curve is the percentage efficiency improvement compared with $i_d = 0$ control algorithm, and the star blue curve is compared with the conventional LMA, and the continuous lines are the fitted curves. These figures indicate that a significant efficiency improvement is reached at high speed, high load as expected. Figure 5a shows the percentage efficiency improvements study as a function of the rotor speed, at a rated load torque ($T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$). These results prove the good performance of the proposed LMA for a low speed range up to high speed. Figure 5b shows the percentage efficiency improvements variation as a function of the mechanical load torque at the rated speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$). By inspection of Figure 5b it is possible to realize that the effectiveness of the proposed LMA grows with increasing load.



Figure 5. The simulation results: (a) Efficiency improvement of the proposed LMA at rated load torque ($T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$) versus the rotor speed; (b) Efficiency improvement of the proposed LMA at rated rotor speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$) versus the load torque.

In order to illustrate the effectiveness of the proposed algorithm more clearly, the efficiency improvement percentage is measured compared to the other two algorithms under different working conditions, the results are shown in the tables below:

Table 3 shows the percentage efficiency improvements of the proposed LMA with respect to the conventional control E_C and the proposed LMA with respect to the control $i_d = 0$ algorithm E_0 , at a rated load torque ($T_L = 5 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$). The efficiency increase is up to 6.26% compared with the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm, and 4.05% compared with the conventional LMA. These results prove the good performance of the proposed LMA for a low speed range up to high speed. Table 4 shows the percentage efficiency improvements at the rated speed ($\omega = 1500 \text{ rad/s}$). By inspection of Table 2 it is possible to realize that the efficiency increase reaches about 7.12% compared with the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm, and about 4.49% compared with the conventional LMA. A significant efficiency improvement is reached at high load and at high speed, as expected.

Table 3. Efficiency improvement percentage under various load torques.

<i>T_L</i> (N.m)	3	5	7	9	10
E _C (%)	3.05	3.19	3.95	4.35	4.49
<i>E</i> ₀ (%)	4.76	5.93	6.71	6.71	7.12

ω (rad/s)	500	900	1500	2000	3000
E _C (%)	2.41	3.09	3.13	3.59	4.05
$E_0(\%)$	2.98	4.26	4.67	5.32	6.26

Table 4. Efficiency improvement percentage under various speeds.

6. Conclusions

A new efficiency optimization strategy of a PMSM propelling electric vehicles has been presented in this paper. A PCH model for the PMSM driving system, taking into account iron loss, has been established. Based on the energy balance equation of the PCH model by adjusting the ratio of the excitation current in the d-q axis, the proposed LMA is developed. The optimal controller is achieved by the principle of the energy shape method of the PCH system. Simulation results in different operating conditions verify the effectiveness of the proposed LMA. Compared to the conventional LMA and the $i_d = 0$ control algorithm, the efficiency of the PMSM with the proposed LMA has been improved by about 4% and 7%, respectively, which is well matched to electric vehicle systems running in complicated and changeable circumstances. Thus, the main contribution of this study lies in offering an energy-based efficiency optimization strategy for the PMSM of an electric vehicle. When the electric vehicle runs smoothly, the driving motor works in a steady state, since the energy balance equation is just the power loss of the PMSM, which is very convenient, in that it allows using the energy method for efficiency optimization. Furthermore, it provides a more fundamental understanding of PCH theory. It should be pointed out that this article supposes that motor parameters are constants. In fact, some motor parameters, such as resistance and inductance vary with temperature. In the future, we will study the efficiency optimization strategy of a PMSM with time-varying parameters. In order to further illustrate the effectiveness of our method, the actual experimental verification is also the keynote of our future work.

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