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Position Estimation of a PMSM in an Electric Propulsion Ship System Based on High-Frequency Injection

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Abstract: To improve the operating performance of electric propulsion ships, the permanent magnet synchronous motor is commonly used as the propulsion motor. Additionally, position estimation without sensors can further improve the application range of the propulsion motor and the estimated results can represent the redundancy of measured values from mechanical sensors. In this paper, the high-frequency (HF) injection algorithm combined with the second-order generalized integrator (SOGI) is presented on the basis of analyzing the structure of the electric propulsion ship and the vector control of the motors. The position and rotor speed were estimated accurately by the approximate calculation of q -axis currents directly related to the rotor position. Moreover, the harmonics in the estimated position were effectively reduced by the introduction of the second-order generalized integrator. Then, the rotor position estimation algorithm was verified in MATLAB/Simulink by choosing different low speeds including speed reversal, increasing speed, and increasing load torque. Finally, the correctness of the proposed improved high-frequency injection algorithm based on the second-order generalized integrator was verified by the experimental propulsion permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) system at low speed.

Keywords: electrical propulsion ship system; permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM); high-frequency (HF) injection algorithm; second-order generalized integrator (SOGI); at low speed

1. Introduction

The electric propulsion ship has the advantages of compactness, environmental emission reduction, economic fuel consumption, and superior reliability, which constitute an important developing trend of the green ship in the future. The selection of propulsion motor and control method, which are key technologies in the electric propulsion ship system, is considerable [1]. Currently, the propulsion motors used on electric propulsion ships are mainly the direct-current motor, the asynchronous motor, and the synchronous motor. The permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) has been widely used in the electric propulsion ship system due to its small volume, high efficiency, high power density, and fast dynamic response [2].

The propulsion motor works in harsh environments with high humidity, high salt, high temperature, and vibration. These rough sea conditions can affect the ship's heel and trim and cause traditional mechanical position sensors on the motor shaft to exhibit low reliability, a short life, and low accuracy [3]. However, accurate rotor position must be obtained in real time to achieve closed-loop control during motor operation. Therefore, the PMSM's position sensorless technology in the propulsion motor control system is necessary [4].

Up until now, many position sensorless methods, such as direct calculation [5], back electromotive force (back-EMF) [6], extended Kalman filter (EKF) [7], the model reference adaptive system (MRAS) [8],

and the sliding mode observer (SMO) method [9], have been widely used to estimate the rotor position of the PMSM. However, the above algorithms were all based on the motor's fundamental waves and could only be used to estimate the rotor position at medium and high speeds [10]. At low and zero speed, fewer fundamental waves make the estimated position unavailable or showing low accuracy [11]. At present, the high-frequency (HF) injection algorithm is the main method to estimate rotor positions according to the physical salient pole of its physical structures or the salient pole formed by saturate inductance [12]. In the PMSM, the HF injection algorithm is insensitive to motor parameter changes and can obtain accurate rotor position and speed at low and zero speed [13]. However, the HF injection algorithm's information process is very complex at medium and high speeds [14]. Therefore, at present, the HF injection algorithm can only be used to estimate the rotor position of the PMSM at low and zero speed [15].

During the position estimation based on the HF injection method, the low-pass filter is applied to filter out the HF signals. However, in the actual system, the nonlinearity and digital control of inverters introduce many harmonics. The low-order digital filter has a poor filtering effect and the high-order filter causes a large deviation in the phase angle of the obtained signal. The application of the digital filter increases the calculation and the complexity of the system [16]. Therefore, the second-order generalized integrator (SOGI) technology began to develop. The SOGI is a tool used to select or eliminate specific frequency harmonics, and it can work as both a band-pass filter and a band-stop filter. It is used in different axes with different roles to eliminate the position estimation errors [17]. In [18], the SOGI was applied to estimate a motor's medium-to-high speed and it has been successfully applied in the nonlinear compensation of inverters. An improved self-sensing control strategy of a surface PMSM based on HF pulsating current injection using SOGIs was presented in [19], and it was verified in the 1.5 kW surface PMSM self-sensing drive, but the motor was not used experimentally in the whole control system. Although SOGI use has not been discussed much for low speed, the SOGI could be considered for application in the HF injection method by referring to the medium-to-high speed estimated method.

The sensorless control technology has been developed for the single motor, but studies on any applications to whole control systems in electric propulsion ships are limited. Therefore, we took the three-phase PMSM commonly used in electric propulsion ships as an example and analyzed the HF injection sensorless control method at low speed by combining the structures of the electric propulsion ship system with the basic principle of motor vector control. The improved HF voltage injection algorithm based on the SOGI was adopted to obtain accurate rotor position and speed by estimating q -axis currents. Moreover, the introduction of the SOGI reduced the harmonics during the estimation. The algorithm was verified in MATLAB/Simulink by simulation. Finally, an experimental PMSM setup in an electric propulsion ship system was built to verify the validity of the proposed position sensorless control strategy.

2. Model of the Electric Propulsion Ship System

2.1. System Description

The PMSM was used as the prime motor to drive the propeller in the electric propulsion ship system. The propeller propels the ship forward by the ship hull; this principle is shown in Figure 1. It can be seen that the propeller input is motor speed and ship velocity, and the load of propulsion is the ship hull driven by the propeller and the load is impacted by the ocean environment [20].

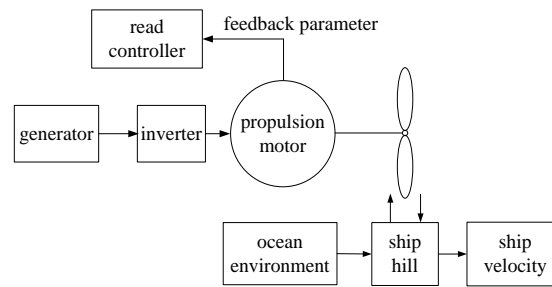


Figure 1. Relationship of ship, motor, and propeller.

The thrust P and torque T_L of the propeller can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P = K_P \rho n^2 D^4 \\ T_L = K_M \rho n^2 D^5 \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

where ρ is the sea-water density and $\rho = 1025 \text{ kg/m}^3$; D is the diameter of the propeller and the unit is meter; n is the speed of the propeller and the unit is r/s; and K_P and K_M are thrust coefficient and torque coefficient, respectively, and they are both the function of the advance ratio J . After the completion of the ship construction, the relationship between J and K_P , K_M can be determined by the open water experiment of the ship.

During the operation of the ship, due to the interaction between the hull and water, a wake is generated, which makes the difference between the advance velocity of propeller v_p and the actual forward velocity of the ship v_s . Therefore, the effective thrust P_e and torque T_L after considering the increase of the resistance caused by the water absorption of the propeller can be expressed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P_e = (1 - t) K'_P \rho n^2 D^4 \\ T_L = K'_M \rho n^2 D^5 \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where t is the thrust deduction coefficient and $t = \frac{\Delta P}{P}$.

When the ship is in motion, the motion equation of its propeller system can be expressed as follows:

$$(M + \Delta M) \frac{dv_s}{dt} = P_e - R \quad (3)$$

where M is the mass of the ship and the unit is kilogram and ΔM is the mass of the water attached to the ship moving with the ship during movement and usually 5%-15% of the total mass of the hull is taken as the value.

The main factors affecting ship resistance are ship speed, ship type, and environmental conditions (wind, wave, current, etc.) during the operation [21]. When the ship type is determined, the resistance of the ship is only related to the speed of the ship under certain external navigation conditions. The expression is as follows:

$$R = r v_s^z \quad (4)$$

where r is the resistance coefficient and z is the index, and when the ship speed is low, $z = 2$.

2.2. System Mathematical Model

The PMSM is the main power supply in the electric propulsion ship system, whose performance determines the stability and safety of the whole ship system. We took the three-phase PMSM as propulsion motor, and the mathematical model in the d - q coordinate system is as follows [22].

The equations of stator voltage are the following:

$$\begin{cases} u_d = R_s i_d + \frac{d\psi_d}{dt} - \omega \psi_q \\ u_q = R_s i_q + \frac{d\psi_q}{dt} + \omega \psi_d \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

The equations of stator flux linkage are the following:

$$\begin{cases} \psi_d = \psi_f + L_d i_d \\ \psi_q = L_q i_q \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The equation of electromagnetic torque is the following:

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2} n_p (\psi_d i_q - \psi_q i_d) = \frac{3}{2} n_p [\psi_m i_q + (L_d - L_q) i_d i_q] \quad (7)$$

The dynamic equilibrium equation is the following:

$$T_e - T_L - B\omega = \frac{J}{n_p} \frac{d\omega}{dt} \quad (8)$$

where u is voltage; i is current; L is inductance; ψ is flux and the subscripts d and q represent d -axis and q -axis; T_e is electromagnetic torque; ψ_m is flux produced by the permanent magnet; n_p is pole pair number; R_s is stator resistance; B is damping coefficient; J is moment of inertia; and ω is mechanical angular velocity.

3. Principle of the High-Frequency Voltage Injection Algorithm Based on the SOGI

The PMSM's vector control principle is shown in Figure 2. In the traditional motor control, the closed-loop speed control can be achieved by mechanical sensors on the motor shaft to obtain the rotor speed and position. On the other hand, in the position sensorless control system, the rotor speed and position are obtained by calculation and the mechanical sensors are cancelled. The HF voltage injection algorithm means injecting the HF voltage into the input voltage port of the motors, where the frequency is 0.5~2k Hz far above the fundamental frequency of motors. Then, the currents are detected and processed to obtain the rotor salient-pole position and speed.

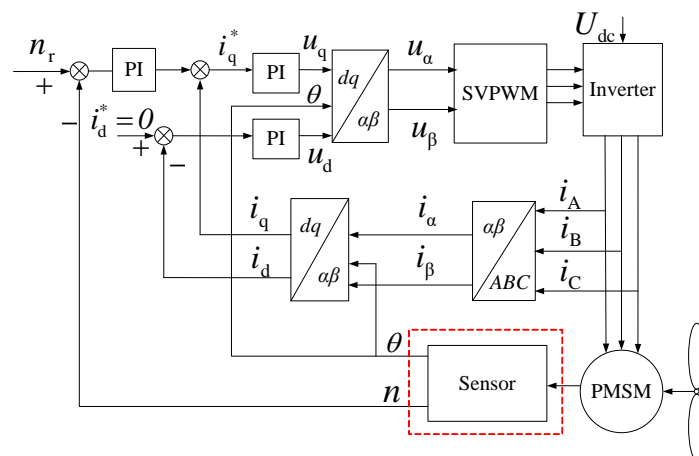


Figure 2. Vector control system of a permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) applied in ships.

Thus, Equation (5) can be rewritten as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_d \\ u_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_s + L_d p & -\omega L_q \\ \omega L_d & R_s + L_q p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} + \begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ \omega \psi_m \end{bmatrix} \quad (9)$$

where p is the differential operator.

Figure 3 shows the relationships among the different coordinates. It can be seen that $\alpha - \beta$ is a two-phase static coordinate system; $d - q$ is a two-phase rotary coordinate system; $\hat{d} - \hat{q}$ is the estimated two-phase rotary coordinate system; θ_r is the actual rotor position; $\hat{\theta}_r$ is the estimated rotor position and the deviation is $\Delta\theta = \theta_r - \hat{\theta}_r$.

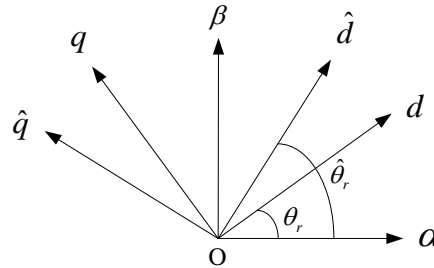


Figure 3. Relationship between the three coordinate systems.

After injecting the HF voltage, which is far above the fundamental frequency, the impact of the permanent magnet flux linkage on HF voltage can be ignored. Thus, Equation (9) can be changed as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_d \\ u_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_s + L_d p & 0 \\ 0 & R_s + L_q p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} Z_d & 0 \\ 0 & Z_q \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (10)$$

From Figure 3, the transformation matrix from the $d - q$ coordinate system to the $\hat{d} - \hat{q}$ coordinate system can be expressed as follows:

$$T(\Delta\theta) = \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\Delta\theta) & \sin(\Delta\theta) \\ -\sin(\Delta\theta) & \cos(\Delta\theta) \end{bmatrix} \quad (11)$$

Thus, the estimated voltages are as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{u}_d \\ \hat{u}_q \end{bmatrix} = T(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} u_d \\ u_q \end{bmatrix} = T(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} Z_d & 0 \\ 0 & Z_q \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_d \\ i_q \end{bmatrix} = T(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} Z_d & 0 \\ 0 & Z_q \end{bmatrix} T^{-1}(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} \hat{i}_d \\ \hat{i}_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (12)$$

Equation (12) can be transformed and the estimated currents can be obtained as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{i}_d \\ \hat{i}_q \end{bmatrix} = T(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{Z_d} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{Z_q} \end{bmatrix} T^{-1}(\Delta\theta) \begin{bmatrix} \hat{u}_d \\ \hat{u}_q \end{bmatrix} = \frac{2}{Z^2 - \Delta Z^2} \begin{bmatrix} Z - \Delta Z \cos(2\theta) & \Delta Z \sin(2\theta) \\ \Delta Z \sin(2\theta) & Z + \Delta Z \cos(2\theta) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} \hat{u}_d \\ \hat{u}_q \end{bmatrix} \quad (13)$$

The injected HF voltage is as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \hat{u}_d \\ \hat{u}_q \end{bmatrix} = U_m \begin{bmatrix} \cos(\omega_i t) \\ 0 \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

The estimated currents in $\hat{d} - \hat{q}$ coordinate are as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{i}_d = \frac{2(Z - \Delta Z \cos(2\Delta\theta))}{Z^2 - \Delta Z^2} U_m \cos(\omega_i t) \\ \hat{i}_q = \frac{2\Delta Z \sin(2\Delta\theta)}{Z^2 - \Delta Z^2} U_m \cos(\omega_i t) \end{cases} \quad (15)$$

where $Z = Z_d + Z_q$, $\Delta Z = Z_d - Z_q$.

For the HF inductance, the resistance is small enough and can be cancelled. Thus, Equation (15) can be simplified as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \hat{i}_d = \frac{2(\omega_i L - \omega_i \Delta L \cos(2\Delta\theta))}{(\omega_i L)^2 - (\omega_i \Delta L)^2} u_i \sin(\omega_i t) = \frac{u_i \sin(\omega_i t)}{\omega_i (L^2 - \Delta L^2)} (L - \Delta L \cos(2\Delta\theta)) \\ \hat{i}_q = \frac{2\omega_i \Delta L \sin(2\Delta\theta)}{(\omega_i L)^2 - (\omega_i \Delta L)^2} u_i \sin(\omega_i t) = \frac{u_i \sin(\omega_i t)}{\omega_i (L^2 - \Delta L^2)} \Delta L \sin(2\Delta\theta) \end{cases} \quad (16)$$

when $\Delta\theta = 0$, there is a deviation value in \hat{i}_d . It can be seen from the property of the sine function, $\hat{i}_q \propto \Delta\theta$, and if $\Delta\theta \rightarrow 0$, $\hat{i}_q \rightarrow 0$. Therefore, the estimated rotor position can be converged to the real value by processing the \hat{q} -axis currents [23]. Then, the d -axis and q -axis estimated currents can be transformed by three-phase currents. The HF components of the q -axis estimated currents are obtained by bandwidth filters and are then multiplied by the modulating signal $\sin(\omega_i t)$. The input of the regulator can be obtained by low-pass filter, which is shown in Figure 4. When $\Delta\theta$ is small enough, $\sin(2\Delta\theta) = 2\Delta\theta$, and

$$\hat{F}(\Delta\theta) = \frac{u_{ih} \Delta L}{\omega_i (L^2 - \Delta L^2)} \sin(2\Delta\theta) \approx \frac{u_{ih} \Delta L}{\omega_i (L^2 - \Delta L^2)} 2\Delta\theta \quad (17)$$

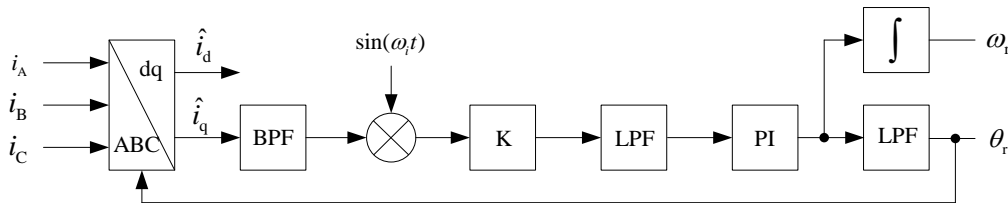


Figure 4. Estimation process of rotor position.

The basic structure of the SOGI is shown in Figure 5. It can be seen that the SOGI is formed by two second-order generalized integrators, which can have output signals that are orthogonal to each other and do not delay [24]. Equation (18) shows the transfer functions of the three system outputs, y_1 , y_2 , and y_3 . Among them, the role of y_1 is to eliminate the harmonics of frequency ω , the role of y_2 is to extract the harmonics of frequency ω , and the frequency of y_3 is ω and it is orthogonal to y_2 [25].

$$\begin{cases} \frac{y_1}{x} = \frac{s^2 + \omega^2}{s^2 + k\omega s + \omega^2} \\ \frac{y_2}{x} = \frac{k\omega s}{s^2 + k\omega s + \omega^2} \\ \frac{y_3}{x} = \frac{k\omega^2}{s^2 + k\omega s + \omega^2} \end{cases} \quad (18)$$

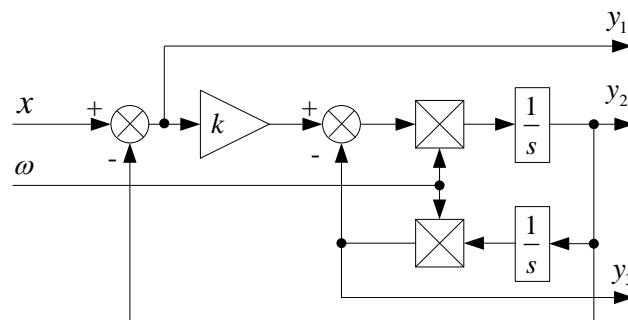


Figure 5. Basic structure of the second-order generalized integrator (SOGI).

The improved position observer structure combining the SOGI and HF injection is shown in Figure 6. The rotor position observer includes two components, I and II. The input of part I is the estimated q -axis voltage. The output y_2 is the HF voltage component in the estimated q -axis, which is

used to extract the HF component in the input q -axis voltage. ω_{e1} is the frequency of the HF signal to be extracted. When the HF component \hat{u}_{qh} is multiplied by the HF cosine modulation signal $\cos(\omega_h t)$ of the same phase, it enters part II. The input of the modulated value u' is the value after modulation \hat{u}_{qh} and $\cos(\omega_h t)$, and the output y_1 is the rotor position error information $f_c(\Delta\theta)$, which is used to suppress the harmonic of a specific frequency, so as to extract the rotor position information accurately. In the control, the filtering effect and response speed should be weighed to determine the parameter values.

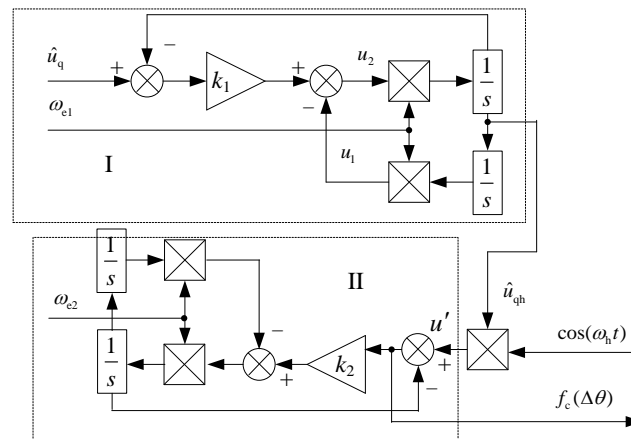


Figure 6. Principle of the improved position observer structure.

4. Simulation Analysis

The theoretical speed range that the HF injection algorithm with the SOGI can estimate accurately is 10 r/min to 300 r/min. Therefore, we chose different speeds to verify in the simulation. The rotor position estimation model of the PMSM and the whole electric propulsion ship system were built in MATLAB/Simulink according to the vector control principle and the HF voltage injection algorithm with the SOGI. The required motor simulation parameters are shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Parameters of the PMSM.

| Symbol | Quantity | Values |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| n_p | number of pole pairs | 2 |
| R | stator resistance | 1.51 Ω |
| L_d | winding inductance | 0.0048 mH |
| L_q | winding inductance | 0.0134 mH |
| J | rotational inertia | 0.000244 kg.m ² |
| B | damping coefficient | 0.0002517 |
| Ψ_f | rotor flux | 0.1073 Wb |
| U_{dc} | direct voltage | 380 V |
| P | rated power | 1 kW |

The motor starts with $T_N = 2$ Nm and the initial speed $n = 50$ r/min. At $t = 1$ s, the speed jumps to 100 r/min; at $t = 1.5$ s, the speed jumps to 150 r/min; and at $t = 1.75$ s, the speed reverses to -150 r/min. At $n = 150$ r/min, the given load jumps to 4 Nm at $t = 0.5$ s in the second simulation. The simulation waveforms are shown in Figures 7–9.

Figure 7 gives the waveforms of the d -axis and q -axis currents. The q -axis currents are related to the torque and estimated rotor position and they fluctuate with the changes of speed from Figure 7b. It can be seen in Figure 7d that the changes of the q -axis currents agree with the changes of the torque, which conforms to theoretical analysis. In addition, the current on the d -axis is near zero from Figure 7a,c.

Figure 8 displays the waveforms of rotor speed. It can be seen from Figure 8a,b that actual speed and estimated speed are very close during the steady operation. There are large deviations only at the

start, at the moment of load change and speed change. As seen in Figure 8c, the deviations are close to zero. Furthermore, at $n = 50$ r/min, the ripples are at 0.4%, at $n = 100$ r/min, the ripples are at 0.5%, at $n = 150$ r/min, the ripples are at 0.53%, and at $n = -150$ r/min, the ripples are at 0.67%. In the second simulation with torque changes, the speed can also be estimated accurately from Figure 8d–f.

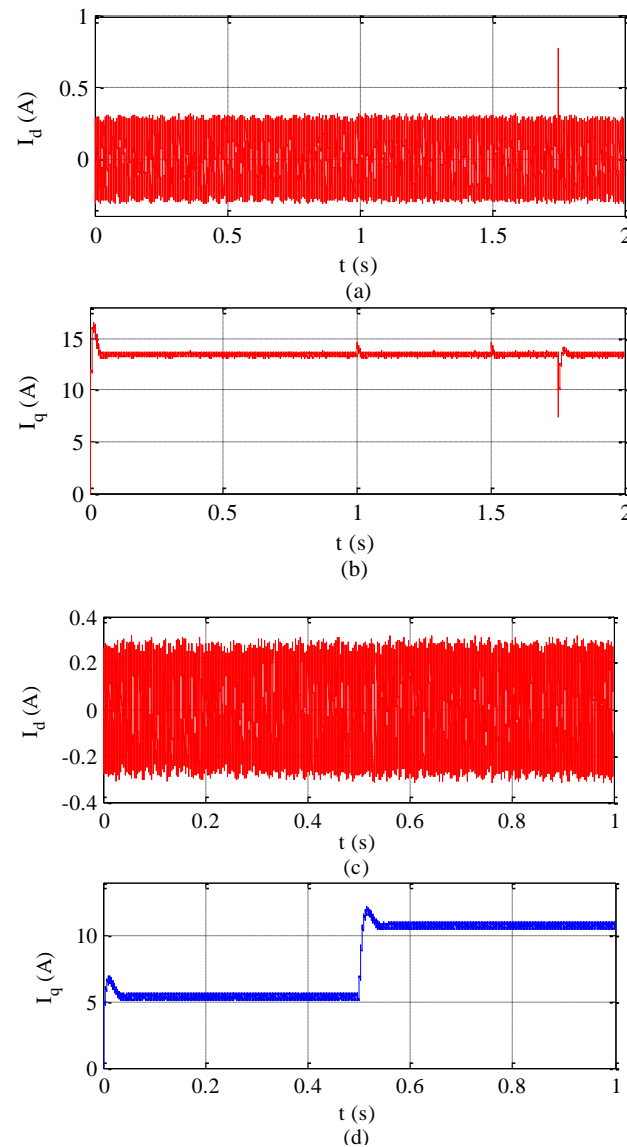


Figure 7. Waveforms of currents in d -axis and q -axis: (a) d -axis current with speed changes; (b) q -axis current with speed changes; (c) d -axis current with torque changes; (d) q -axis current with torque changes.

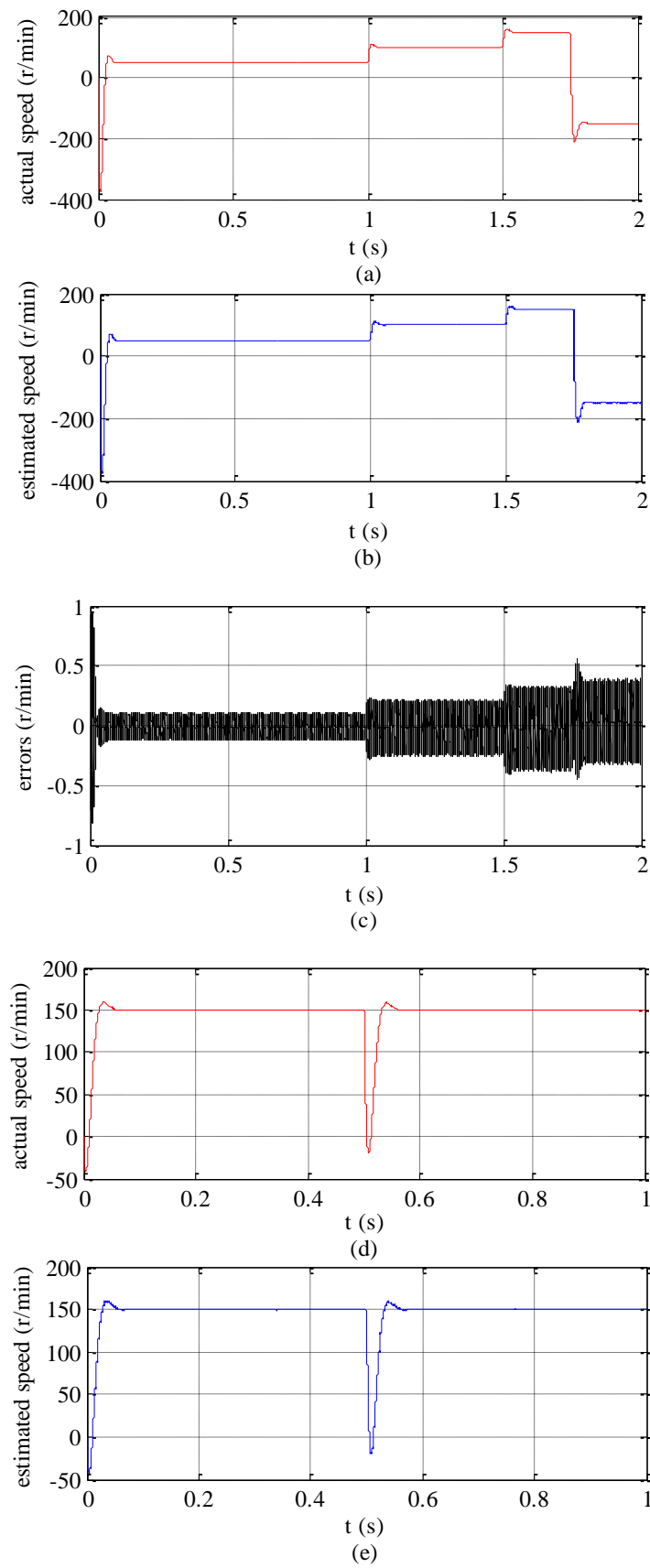


Figure 8. Cont.

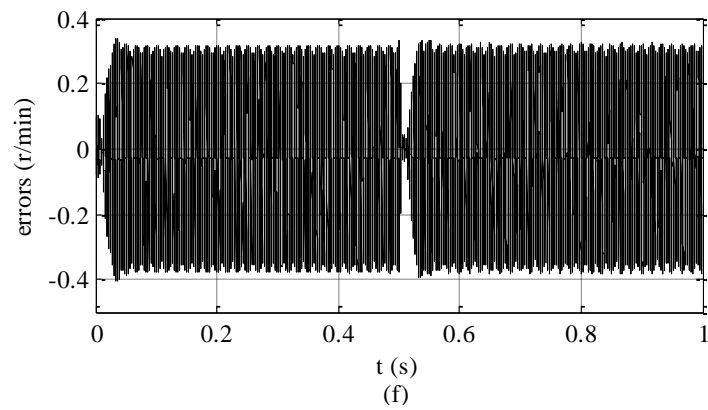


Figure 8. Waveforms of rotor speed: (a) actual rotor speed with speed changes; (b) estimated rotor speed with speed changes; (c) errors between actual rotor speed and estimated rotor speed with speed changes; (d) actual rotor speed with torque changes; (e) estimated rotor speed with torque changes; (f) errors between actual rotor speed and estimated rotor speed with torque changes.

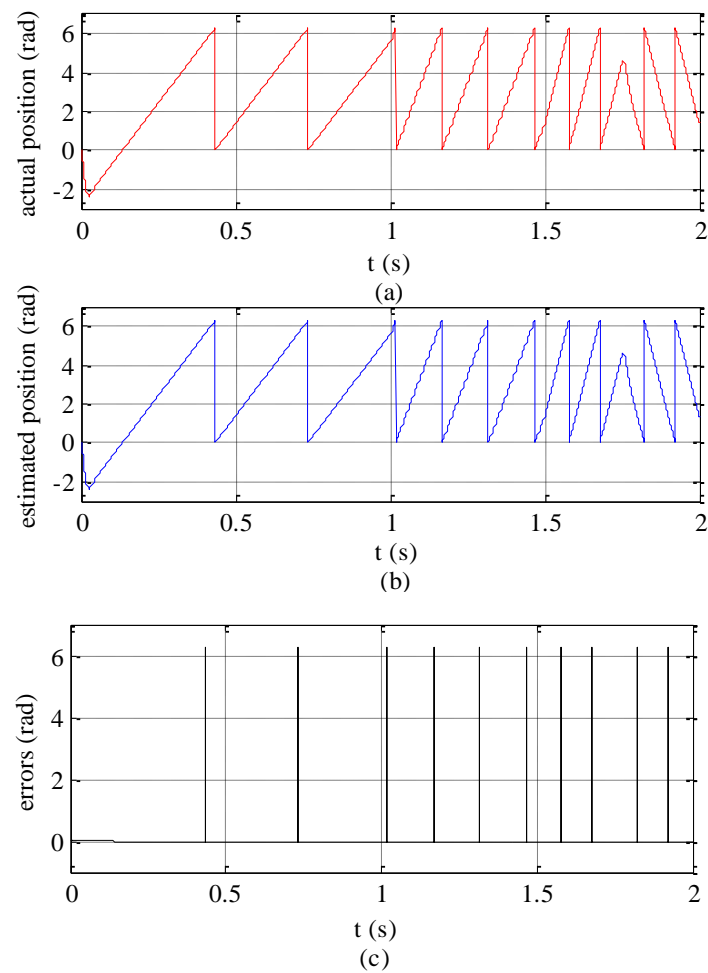


Figure 9. Cont.

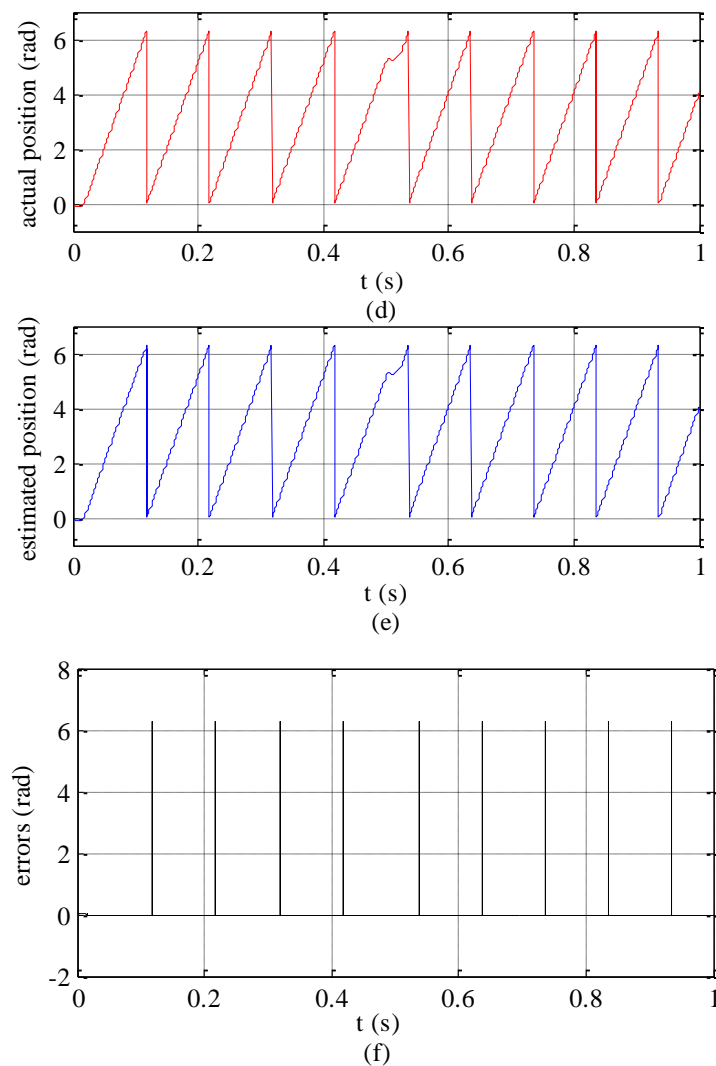


Figure 9. Waveforms of rotor position: (a) actual rotor position with speed changes; (b) estimated rotor position with speed changes; (c) errors between actual rotor position and estimated rotor position with speed changes; (d) actual rotor position with torque changes; (e) estimated rotor position with torque changes; (f) errors between actual rotor position and estimated rotor position with torque changes.

Figure 9 are the waveforms of rotor position. It can be seen that actual position and estimated position are very close and the estimated position slightly lags behind the actual position from Figure 9a,b,d,e, and there is a large deviation only when the rotor runs a full circle, which is shown in Figure 9c,f. In the other operation stages, the errors are in the range of 0.05 rad to 0.2 rad from Figure 9c,f.

A comprehensive simulation model of the electric propulsion ship system is constructed by taking the output torque of the propeller model as the load torque of the PMSM and the motor speed as the input of the propeller model. When the propulsion motor is started, the given speed is 100 r/min. At $t = 3$ s, the speed jumps to 170 r/min. The estimated rotor position and speed are taken as feedback signals during operation and the waveforms of the propulsion motor speed and torque are shown in Figure 10. At the beginning, the motor is in an accelerated state, and the output torque of the propeller model, namely the load torque of the propulsion motor, increases with the increase of the rotating speed. After about 0.5 s, the speed stabilizes at 100 r/min. At that time, the load torque of the motor starts to decrease and gradually stabilizes. After 3 s, with the re-acceleration of the motor, the load torque also begins to increase. Until the propulsion motor runs stably at 170 r/min, the load torque

began to decrease and finally stabilizes. The results show that the HF injection position estimation strategy can be applied to the whole ship system.

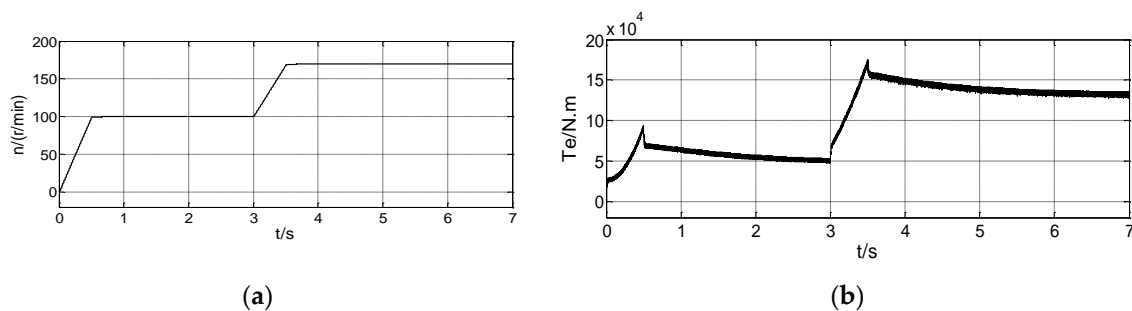


Figure 10. Waveforms of propulsion motor speed and torque: (a) propulsion motor speed; (b) propulsion motor torque.

From the above simulation waveforms, it can be seen that the HF injection algorithm based on the SOGI can estimate the rotor speed accurately within acceptable deviations. Furthermore, the whole electric propulsion ship system can also operate normally with the sensorless control strategy.

5. Experimental Analysis

To further verify the accuracy of the proposed HF injection algorithm based on the SOGI, the diagram of the system hardware structure and the experimental setup of the electric propulsion ship in the laboratory are shown in Figure 11, in which the TMS320F28335 DSP was adopted as the digital controller. The experimental motor parameters are the same as the simulation parameters. The speed is obtained by speed sensors; the currents are obtained by the current probe and displayed on the oscilloscope; the torque is calculated according to the measured currents.

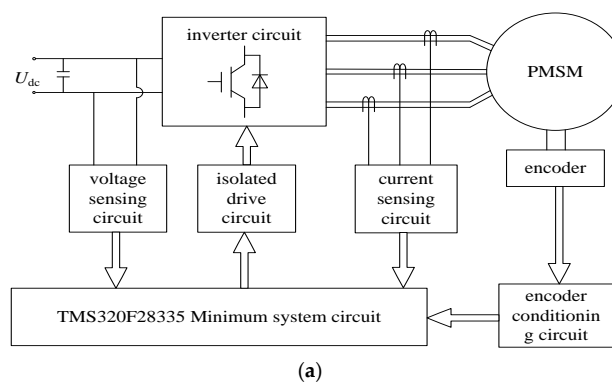


Figure 11. Cont.

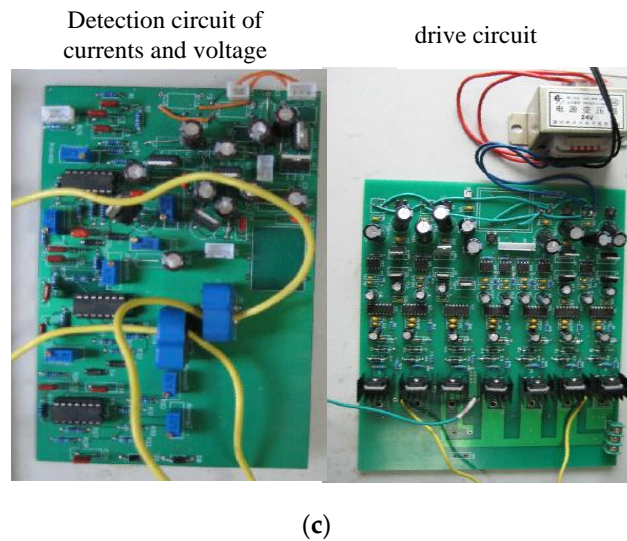


Figure 11. Experimental setup of the PMSM: (a) system hardware structure; (b) experimental PMSM; (c) control circuit.

The experimental waveforms of rotor position and speed are shown in Figure 12. The actual position is measured by mechanical sensor and the estimated rotor position is obtained using the calculation from the HF injection algorithm with the SOGI. It can be seen that the estimated values fluctuate within a certain range around the actual value.

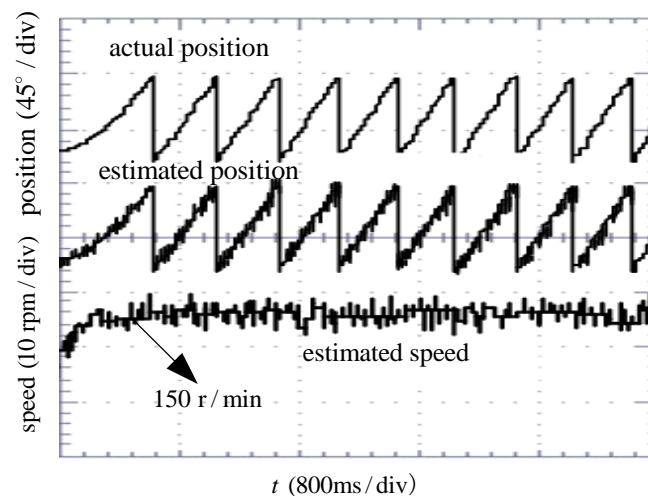


Figure 12. Experimental results of rotor position and speed.

To sum up, the HF injection algorithm based on the SOGI can estimate the rotor position and speed accurately at low speed in the experimental PMSM and it is applicable in the PMSM system.

6. Conclusions

It is inevitable that the electric propulsion ship will replace the traditional diesel engine propulsion ship, and it is significant to study the control method of the propulsion PMSM in the electric propulsion ship system. The HF injection position estimation algorithm based on the SOGI is proposed on the basis of analyzing the structure of the electric propulsion ship system and the vector control of the PMSM. The algorithm can be used to estimate the rotor position and speed at low speed in the electric propulsion ship system within acceptable deviations. In fact, the position sensorless control technology can represent the redundancy of the control system with sensors. Subsequently, when there is a fault in

the mechanical sensors, the control system can switch to the sensorless operating control mode, which can further improve the reliability of the electric propulsion ship system.

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Conflicts of Interest: The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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