


## Article

# Model-Free Adaptive Direct Torque Control for the Speed Regulation of Asynchronous Motors

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**Abstract:** In this paper, a model-free adaptive direct torque control (MFADTC) method for the speed regulation of asynchronous motors is proposed to solve the problems of modeling difficulties and poor anti-disturbance ability of the asynchronous motor. The designed model-free adaptive direct torque control (MFADTC) method depends merely on the input and the output data of the asynchronous motor. Numerical simulations are provided to show that this method has significantly improved the system's anti-disturbance ability.

**Keywords:** model-free adaptive control; nonlinear system; asynchronous motor; speed regulation

## 1. Introduction

In 1985, Professor Denpenbrock of the Ruhr University in Germany first proposed the direct torque control technology of asynchronous motor. This method has been favored by people since its birth for its simple control structure, novel control idea, and excellent control performance. After nearly decades of development, direct torque control has been widely used as AC motor variable frequency speed regulation [1]. The performance of a traditional direct torque control system is seriously affected by parameter changes, external disturbances, and various uncertainties. Therefore, the performance optimization for the speed regulation of asynchronous motors has been a hot topic for domestic and foreign scholars.

In recent years, model reference adaptive control is combined with a genetic algorithm and fuzzy control to solve the uncertainty of rotor resistance and improve the stability and control accuracy [2–5]. In addition, the membership function and fuzzy rules are designed to adjust proportional-integral (PI) parameters instead of fixed PI parameters to improve the control performance of the speed loop [6]. The adaptive sliding mode velocity observer is applied to the direct torque control system and the stability of the motor speed estimation is ensured by the Lyapunov theory [7]. The Tornmabe control method is introduced by Li to address the speed regulation of asynchronous motors. The uncertainty of the asynchronous motor is considered as an extended state, and the extended state estimation is applied in the control scheme design to enhance the robustness of the system [8].

In summary, the majority of existing direct torque control methods are model based. In practical applications, the accurate model of an asynchronous motor is hard to be established due to the complexity of the system. Therefore, the model based speed control system may lead to motor performance degradation in practical applications. Data-driven control (DDC) relies on input/output (I/O) data of control systems and does not require the mechanism model of the controlled system. A model-free adaptive control (MFAC) is one of the DDC methods, and it builds a virtual equivalent dynamic linearized data model by using a dynamic linearization technique [9]. The time-varying

parameters can be estimated by learning algorithms, such as an error minimized regularized online sequential extreme learning machine [10].

In recent years, MFAC has attracted more and more attention, and its application has been involved in various fields. Wang et al. proposed a method based on MFAC to reduce the influence of temperature change on the resistance of the stator rotor [11]. Guo et al. designed a MFAC based controller which forms feedforward compensation with the original system, effectively reduces torque ripple, and improves the stator current waveform [12]. Zeng et al. applied multiple input and multiple output (MIMO)-based MFAC to a two-dimensional linear motor and improved the tracking accuracy [13]. Song et al. combines MFAC with a remotely operated vehicles (ROV) depth determination control to improve the anti-interference capability of the system [14]. Yu and Zhang applied MFAC to the quadrotor attitude control [15,16]. Hu et al. applied a MFAC-based fault-tolerant control to the drive and steering control system of distributed electric vehicles [17,18]. Zhu et al. proposed a pattern search optimization-based MFAC method and applied it to a boiler water circulation system [19]. Duan et al. applied the model-free adaptive predictive control to the path tracking in driverless cars [20]. In addition, the typical application areas of MFAC also include image recognition [21] and sewage treatment [22].

At present, there is no DTC method of an asynchronous motor based on MFAC. In this paper, the full-format dynamic linearization data model of an induction motor and the estimation method of its pseudo-gradient parameters are given, and then a model-free adaptive direct torque control method based on the full-format dynamic linearization data model (FFDL-MFADTC) is designed. The proposed method guarantees the stability of the closed loop system. Finally, the control effects of MFADTC and proportional-integral-derivative (PID) are compared by numerical simulation, and the effectiveness of the proposed control method is verified.

This paper is organized as follows: in Section 2, the problem formulation of a direct torque control (DTC) system is introduced. In Section 3, the designed method of the full-format dynamic linearization based MFADTC is presented for asynchronous motors. In Section 4, the simulation comparison between MFADTC and PID is carried out. Conclusions are given in Section 5.

## 2. Problem Formulation

### 2.1. Asynchronous Motor

The AC asynchronous motor is a high-order, nonlinear, strong-coupling multivariable system. Therefore, it is necessary to simplify the mathematical model by a coordinate transformation method. In the process of transformation, some assumptions must be made, such as uniform air gap, linear magnetic circuit, symmetrical three-phase winding of stator and rotor, sinusoidal distribution of effective conductor along air gap space, and neglecting hysteresis loss. The simplified motor model can be expressed by Equation (1) [23].

$$\begin{bmatrix} u_{s\alpha} \\ u_{s\beta} \\ u_{r\alpha} \\ u_{r\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} R_s + L_s p & 0 & L_m p & 0 \\ 0 & R_s + L_s p & 0 & L_m p \\ L_m p & \omega_r L_m & R_s + L_r p & \omega_r L_r \\ -\omega_r L_m & L_m p & -\omega_r L_r & R_s + L_r p \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{s\alpha} \\ i_{s\beta} \\ i_{r\alpha} \\ i_{r\beta} \end{bmatrix}. \quad (1)$$

The flux is calculated by Equation (2) as follows:

$$\begin{bmatrix} \psi_{s\alpha} \\ \psi_{s\beta} \\ \psi_{r\alpha} \\ \psi_{r\beta} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} L_s & 0 & L_m & 0 \\ 0 & L_s & 0 & L_m \\ L_m & 0 & L_r & 0 \\ 0 & L_m & 0 & L_r \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} i_{s\alpha} \\ i_{s\beta} \\ i_{r\alpha} \\ i_{r\beta} \end{bmatrix}, \quad (2)$$

where  $u_{s\alpha}, u_{s\beta}, i_{s\alpha}, i_{s\beta}, \psi_{s\alpha}, \psi_{s\beta}$  are the components of stator voltage, current, and flux on the  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  axis, respectively.  $u_{r\alpha}, u_{r\beta}, i_{r\alpha}, i_{r\beta}, \psi_{r\alpha}, \psi_{r\beta}$  are the components of rotor voltage, current, and flux on the  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  axis, respectively.  $L_s$  is stator self-inductance,  $L_r$  is rotor self-inductance,  $L_m$  is mutual inductance,  $R_s$  is stator resistance,  $R_r$  is rotor resistance,  $\omega_r$  is rotor angular velocity, and  $p = d/dt$  is a differential operator.

Substitute (2) into (1) and write it in the following vector form

$$\vec{u}_s = R_s \vec{i}_s + \frac{d\vec{\psi}_s}{dt}, \quad (3)$$

$$R \vec{i}_r - \frac{d\vec{\psi}_r}{dt} + j\omega \vec{\psi}_r = 0, \quad (4)$$

where  $\vec{\psi}_s = [\psi_{s\alpha}, \psi_{s\beta}]^T$  is the stator flux space vector and  $\vec{\psi}_r = [\psi_{r\alpha}, \psi_{r\beta}]^T$  is the rotor flux space vector.  $\vec{u}_s = [u_{s\alpha}, u_{s\beta}]^T$ ,  $\vec{i}_s = [i_{s\alpha}, i_{s\beta}]^T$ ,  $\vec{i}_r = [i_{r\alpha}, i_{r\beta}]^T$ .

In the two-phase  $\alpha$ - $\beta$  stationary coordinate system, the torque  $T_e$  is calculated by Equation (5) as follows:

$$T_e = p_n \frac{3}{2} \|\vec{\psi}_s\| \|\vec{\psi}_r\| \sin \theta, \quad (5)$$

where  $T_e$  is electromagnetic torque,  $p_n$  is the motor pole logarithm, and  $\theta$  is the magnetic flux angle.

## 2.2. Direct Torque Control System for the Asynchronous Motor

The direct torque control system, as shown in Figure 1, consists of a motor part, control part, and inverter part. The motor part is a three-phase asynchronous motor. The control part includes a flux chain and torque observer, flux hysteresis comparator, torque hysteresis comparator, sector judgement unit, and a speed regulator. The flux and torque observer transforms the three-phase current and voltage into two-phase current and voltage, and then calculates the flux and torque. The functions of the flux hysteresis comparator and torque hysteresis comparator are to set the allowable error range of the flux and torque. The actual value is compared with the given value, and the corresponding switch control signal is output when the difference value is greater than the maximum allowable error or within the error range. The sector judgement unit uses the control signals of the flux hysteresis comparator, torque hysteresis comparator, and the stator flux position to judge the signal and select the appropriate switching state sequence to control the on/off state of the inverter. The speed regulator is used to adjust the actual speed so that it can track the given speed. The inverter part is an inverter with three sets of bridge arms. The switching state of the inverter produces eight voltage space vectors. Different voltage space vectors adjust stator flux and stator torque to obtain hexagonal flux trajectory.

In the direct torque control system of an asynchronous motor, the system input is a given stator flux and given torque, and the system output is the pulse width modulation (PWM) signal, which controls the operation of the asynchronous motor. The output torque and speed of the motor are compared with the given value to form a closed-loop control system, which is a nonlinear system. In the direct torque control system, the uncertainty of the inverter switch will cause torque pulsation, and the stator resistance will change with the temperature, speed, and other working conditions. In addition, there is a coupling between torque control and flux control. Thus, the accurate mechanism model of the controlled system is difficult to be established. Aiming at this problem, a novel full-format dynamic linearization-based model-free adaptive direct torque control (FFDL-MFADTC) method with anti-interference ability is proposed to improve the speed regulation of the asynchronous motor.



### 3.2. Design of Model-Free Adaptive Direct Torque Controller

#### 3.2.1. Control Algorithm

The criterion function for the control input is presented as Equation (10)

$$J(T_e^*(k)) = \|\omega_r^*(k+1) - \omega_r(k+1)\|_2 + \lambda \|T_e^*(k) - T_e^*(k-1)\|_2, \quad (10)$$

where  $\lambda > 0$  is the weight factor.

Optimizing criterion function (10), we have

$$T_e^*(k) = T_e^*(k-1) + \frac{\rho_{L_y+1} \hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k) (\omega_r^*(k+1) - \omega_r(k))}{\lambda + \|\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k)\|^2} - \frac{\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k) \sum_{i=1}^{L_y} \rho_i \hat{\phi}_i(k) \Delta \omega_r(k-i+1)}{\lambda + \|\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k)\|^2} - \frac{\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k) \sum_{i=L_y+2}^{L_y+L_u} \rho_i \hat{\phi}_i(k) \Delta T_e^*(k+L_y-i+1)}{\lambda + \|\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k)\|^2} \quad (11)$$

The step size factor  $\rho_i > 0, i = 1, 2, \dots, L_y + L_u$  in Equation (11) is added to make the design of the control algorithm more flexible.

#### 3.2.2. Pseudo-Gradient Estimation Algorithm

The criterion function of the pseudo-gradient vector is expressed as Equation (12):

$$J(\phi_{f,L_y,L_u}(k)) = \|\omega_r(k) - \omega_r(k-1) - \phi_{f,L_y,L_u}^T(k) \Delta H_{L_y,L_u}(k-1)\|_2 + \mu \|\phi_{f,L_y,L_u}(k) - \hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k-1)\|^2, \quad (12)$$

where  $\mu > 0$  is the weight factor.

According to (12) and the inverse lemma of matrix, the estimated pseudo-gradient value is calculated by Equation (13) as follows

$$\hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k) = \hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k-1) + \frac{\eta \Delta H_{L_y,L_u}(k-1) (\omega_r(k) - \omega_r(k-1) - \hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}^T(k-1) \Delta H_{L_y,L_u}(k-1))}{\mu + \|\Delta H_{L_y,L_u}(k-1)\|^2}, \quad (13)$$

where the step size factor  $\eta \in (0, 2]$ .  $\hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k)$  is the estimated pseudo-gradient value of  $\phi_{f,L_y,L_u}(k)$ .

In order to make the pseudo partial derivative (PPD) estimation algorithm (13) have stronger tracking ability for time-varying parameters, the reset mechanism (14) is introduced as follows:

$$\hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k) = \hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(1), \text{ if } \|\hat{\phi}_{f,L_y,L_u}(k)\| \leq \varepsilon \text{ or } \|\Delta H_{L_y,L_u}(k-1)\| \leq \varepsilon \text{ or } \text{sign}(\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(k)) \neq \text{sign}(\hat{\phi}_{L_y+1}(1)). \quad (14)$$

**Assumption 3.** The sign  $\phi_{L_y+1}(k)$  is assumed to be known and unchanged.

**Theorem 2.** If the system (1) satisfying Assumptions 1–3 is controlled by FFDL-MFADTC schemes (11), (13), and (14) with the desired signal  $\omega_r^*(k) = \omega_r^* = \text{const.}$ , then there exists a  $\lambda_{\min}$  such that, when  $\lambda > \lambda_{\min}$ , the closed-loop control system guarantees output tracking error converges to zero asymptotically and bounded-input bounded-output (BIBO) stability.

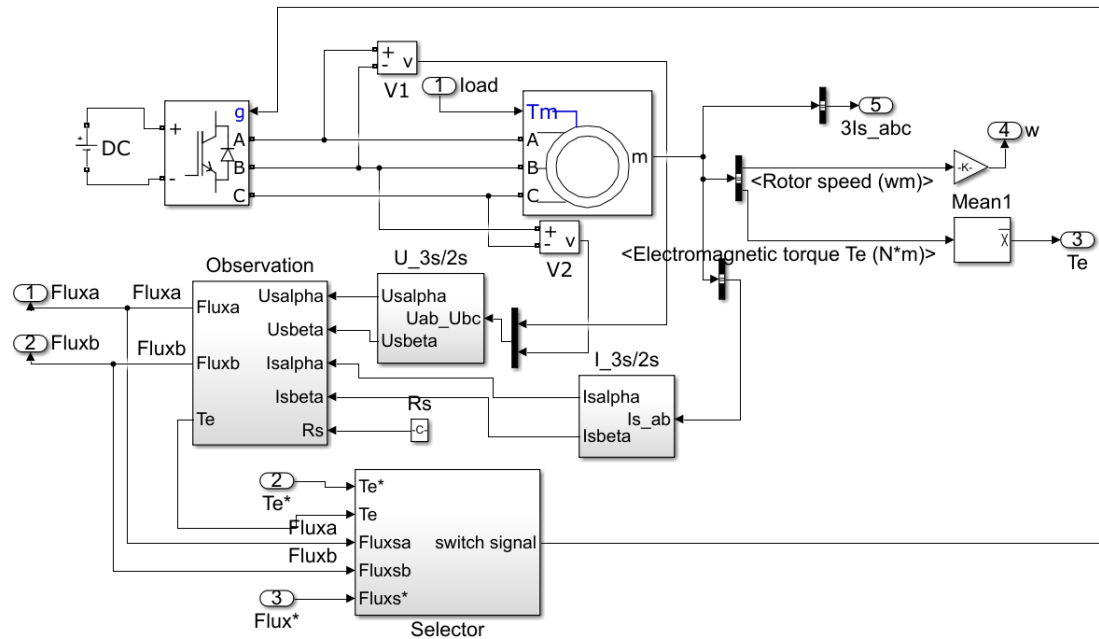
**Remark 1.** Please refer to [24] for the detailed proof of Theorem 2.

## 4. Simulation Studies

In order to verify the effectiveness of the proposed MFADTC method of an asynchronous motor, the method was compared with the PID algorithm by numerical simulation. The motor models (1) and

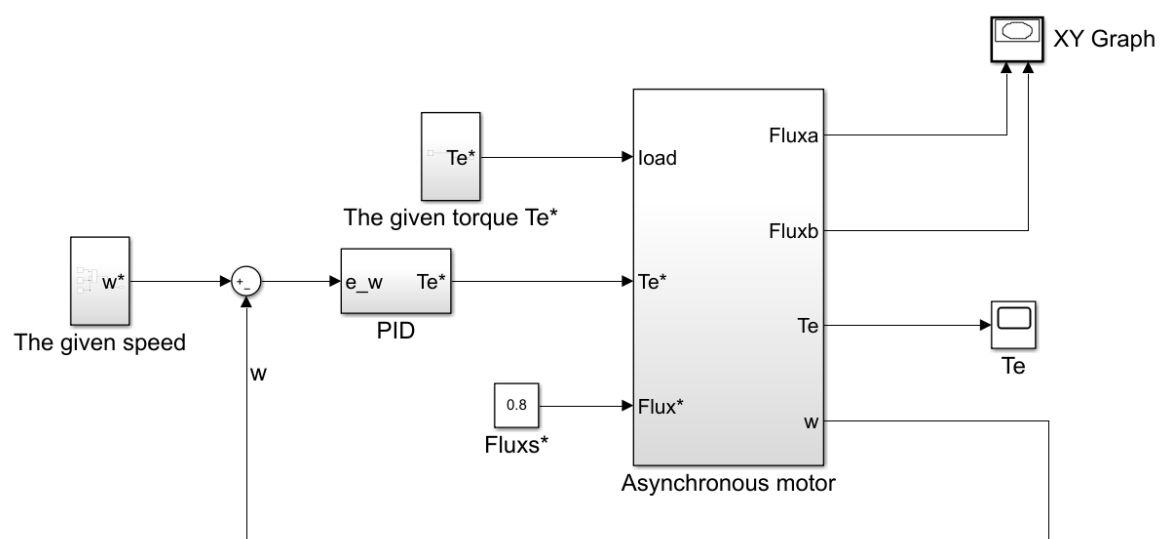
(2) were only used to generate the I/O data for the simulation, and no model information was utilized for the MFADTC design.

The motor simulation parameters were selected as follows: stator resistance was  $R_s = 0.2147 \Omega$ , rotor resistance was  $R_r = 0.2205 \Omega$ , stator inductance  $L_s$  and rotor Inductance  $L_r$  were  $0.0009 \text{ H}$ , mutual inductance was  $L_m = 0.0642 \text{ H}$ , and polar logarithm was  $p_n = 2$ . The DC power supply was set to  $308 \text{ V}$ . The simulation model of the asynchronous motor is shown in Figure 2.



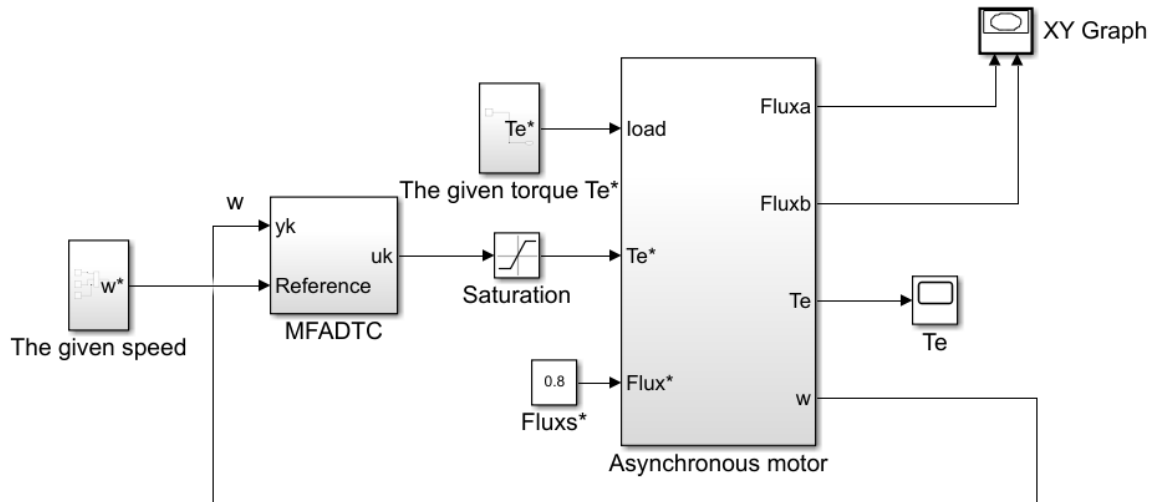
**Figure 2.** Simulation model of the asynchronous motor direct torque control system.  $Te^*$  is the control input and  $Flux^*$  is the given flux

The simulation model of the asynchronous motor direct torque control system under PID control is shown in Figure 3. Through the debugging of PID parameters for many times, a group of parameters was selected to make the motor speed tracking effect better, and the parameters were  $K_p = 3$ ,  $K_i = 8$ ,  $K_d = 0$ .



**Figure 3.** Simulation model of the asynchronous motor direct torque control system based on PID.

The simulation model of the asynchronous motor direct torque control system under MFADTC control is shown in Figure 4. Through multiple debugging, the controller parameters for MFADTC were set to  $\mu = 1$ ,  $\eta = 10^{-6}$ ,  $\rho_1 = 2$ ,  $\rho_2 = 0.35 \times 10^{-5}$ ,  $\varepsilon = 10^{-4}$ ,  $\lambda = 10^{-6}$ . Sampling time was  $t_s = 2 \times 10^{-5}$  s.  $L_y = 1$ ,  $L_u = 1$ .



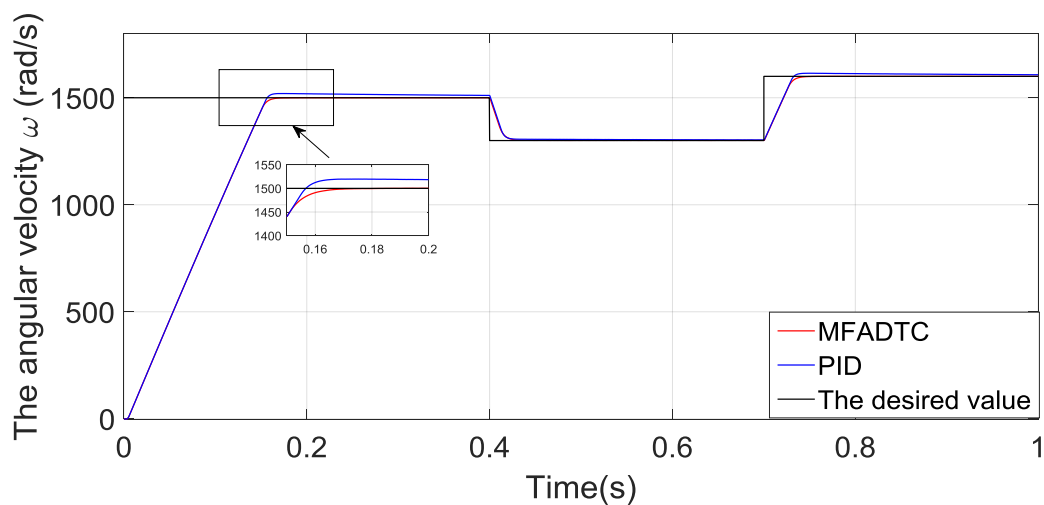
**Figure 4.** Simulation model of the asynchronous motor direct torque control system based on a model-free adaptive direct torque control (MFADTC).

The control effects of MFADTC and PID were quantitatively evaluated by Mean Square Error (MSE). The MSE was calculated by Equation (15) as follows:

$$MSE = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{t/t_s} (\varphi(i) - \varphi^*(i))^2}{t/t_s}, \quad (15)$$

#### 4.1. Simulation Result without Disturbance

The initial target speed was 1500 rad/s, at 0.4 s it mutated to 1100 rad/s, and at 0.7 s, it mutated to 1300 rad/s. The speed tracking performance is shown in Figure 5.



**Figure 5.** Comparison of tracking and adaptive capabilities between PID and MFADTC.

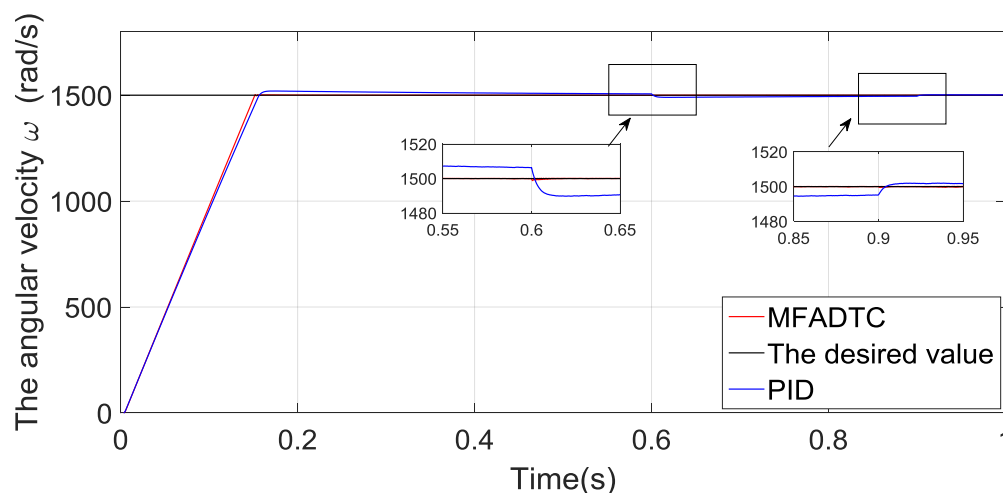
It can be clearly seen from Figure 5 that both MFADTC and PID algorithm have the speed tracking ability, but PID has a steady-state error and overshoot. The proposed MFADTC has no steady state error and overshoot. When the target value changes, the position tracking results of both kinds of control are ideal. It is noted that the proposed MFADTC is an adaptive control algorithm, which automatically updates parameters online. Therefore, its performance and adaptive ability are superior to those of PID control algorithm. The MSE indices from Table 1 show that the tracking performance of MFADTC is better than that of PID.

**Table 1.** Mean Square Error (MSE) indices without disturbance.

Index	MSE-PID	MSE-MFADTC
Speed	123376	122871

#### 4.2. Simulation Result with Disturbance

Disturbance was added by changing the load at 0.6 s and 0.9 s, the torque was changed from 10 N·m to 60 N·m and then from 60 N·m to 40 N·m. The response curves of PID algorithm and MFADTC algorithm in the case of sudden load were observed, respectively. The simulation results are shown in the Figure 6.



**Figure 6.** Comparison of speed anti-jamming ability between PID and MFADTC.

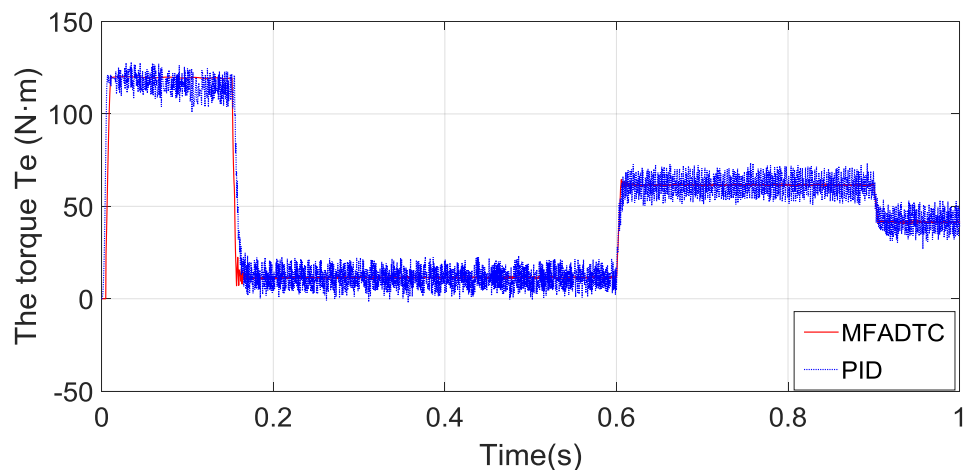
It can be seen from the response curve that the speed tracking curve of PID algorithm fluctuated obviously at 0.6 s and 0.9 s, and it needed a long time to track the target curve again. However, the MFADTC algorithm had no obvious fluctuation at 0.6 s and 0.9 s, so it was able to quickly restore the stable state, indicating that it has good anti-interference ability and can keep the final output of the system in a stable state. This conclusion can be illustrated by the MSE indices in Table 2.

**Table 2.** MSE indices with disturbance.

Index	MSE-PID	MSE-MFADTC
Speed	122126	119977
Torque	1751	1692

MFADTC algorithm also reduced torque ripple obviously, especially at low speed, the torque pulse was significantly reduced. Compared with PID algorithm, the anti-interference ability was significantly improved, which is further confirmed by the MSE index in Table 2. The simulation results are shown in the Figure 7.





**Figure 7.** Comparison of torque pulse between PID and MFADTC.

## 5. Conclusions

In this paper, the FFDL-MFADTC method of an asynchronous motor is designed, which can realize the speed tracking of an asynchronous motor with only input and output data. Simulation results show that the control performance of the MFADTC method is better than the PID method in both interference and non-interference.

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