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Electrical Parameter Estimation Method for Surface-Mounted Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motors Considering Voltage Source Inverter Nonlinearity

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ABSTRACT This paper proposes an electrical parameter estimation method for permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) considering the voltage source inverter (VSI) nonlinearity. Accurate parameters are essential for high-performance control of PMSMs. Therefore, numerous studies have been conducted to obtain accurate parameters. However, the VSI nonlinearity causes voltage distortion, which causes parameter-estimation errors. To address this problem, this paper presents a solution using the double-frequency double-amplitude (DFDA) injection method based on the high-frequency (HF) injection method. The proposed method is a practical and novel method using simple mathematical calculations that takes into account VSI nonlinearity without using nonlinearity-compensation methods. It increases the accuracy and reduces the resistance-estimation step by simultaneously estimating the stator resistance and inductance. To demonstrate the efficacy and practicability of the proposed method, it was experimentally verified on a 400 W surface-mounted PMSM. The proposed method can simultaneously estimate the stator resistance and inductance with high accuracy within a short time and can, therefore, be applied to PMSM drives in various industries, such as robotics.

INDEX TERMS Dead time, parameter estimation, permanent magnet synchronous motor, self-commissioning, voltage source inverter nonlinearity.

I. INTRODUCTION

Permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) are widely used in various fields owing to their high efficiency, energy density, and torque density [1]–[3]. Determination of PMSM parameters is essential for almost all types of control, such as current control based on vector control, and accurate PMSM parameters are required for high-performance control [4]–[6]. Additionally, the parameters are useful for fault detection [7]. The effect of parameter inaccuracy when controlling the current based on vector control has been analytically observed to be detrimental [2][8][9], particularly in sensorless control [10][11].

Various parameter estimation methods have been proposed in previous studies to obtain accurate parameters, both online and offline. Generally, offline estimation

methods can only be implemented in dedicated laboratories because they require high-performance measurement or specialized equipment. Performing online estimation in actual industrial-field applications is challenging because of the complexity of the algorithms used to control and estimate the PMSM parameters in real time [12][13].

Self-commissioning is a subcategory of offline estimation methods. It is used to accurately identify parameters under limited conditions, such as the unlocked rotor, while using available sensors within a short time, without using additional hardware. Consequently, the self-commissioning method is becoming increasingly important for parameter estimation [12].

The parameter estimation method based on the voltage equation is commonly employed for electrical parameter estimation [14]. The reference voltage is commonly used for parameter estimation because directly measuring the terminal voltage of a motor is difficult. However, owing to the voltage source inverter (VSI) nonlinearity, distortion occurs in the reference and actual voltage applied to the motor [15].

The voltage distortion varies based on the current direction, thereby limiting the generality of the estimation method. These adverse conditions can cause estimation errors [13].

Voltage distortion can be compensated using a sign function to account for the estimation error caused by the VSI nonlinearity [16]. Errors have been considered using model-based compensation [17]. Additionally, a compensation measure using a self-learning method based on the Hermite interpolation method has been developed [18]. However, the VSI nonlinearity cannot be accurately compensated for using only the sign function. Although self-learning can accurately compensate for voltage distortion, its implementation in industrial applications is challenging because it requires additional processes and learning time. In summary, estimation errors caused by VSI nonlinearity are a significant problem that require an immediate solution in the parameter estimation method based on the voltage equation [19].

The signal injection method is effective for parameter estimation [18]. In [20], an inductance and initial position are estimated using the voltage pulse injection method, and stator resistance is estimated using the DC voltage injection method.

The high-frequency (HF) injection method, which is a subcategory of signal injection methods, is the most widely used method for estimating inductance [18]. In [18], inductance estimation using the hysteresis control-based HF injection method considering the VSI nonlinearity is proposed. In [21], an inductance and initial position are estimated through a spatial inductance mapping algorithm using the HF injection method. In [22], an inductance is estimated using the HF injection method. Interturn short-circuit fault detection is performed using the estimated inductance. As presented in previous studies, HF injection methods are a good solution for inductance estimation.

This paper proposes the double-frequency double-amplitude (DFDA) injection method based on the HF injection method to estimate the PMSM parameters, as a practical and novel solution to the parameter estimation method. The proposed method increases the accuracy by estimating the parameters considering the VSI nonlinearity. Furthermore, the stator resistance and inductance are simultaneously estimated to reduce the resistance estimation step. Furthermore, the proposed method is a self-commissioning method and estimates the parameters without additional hardware.

The contribution of this study is that the error due to the voltage distortion effect is reduced considering the VSI nonlinearity using a simple equation, without using a

nonlinearity-compensation method. Moreover, the stator resistance and inductance are simultaneously estimated; therefore, the resistance estimation step is reduced to identify parameters in a short time.

The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. Section II describes the mathematical PMSM modeling. Section III describes the current control system and current-control gain-selection method. Section IV introduces the parameter estimation method. Section V presents the results of the parameter estimation and transient response characteristics experiments and Section VI presents the experimental results. Lastly, Section VII presents the conclusions of this study.

II. PMSM MODELING

The d- and q-axis equivalent circuits of a PMSM, ignoring iron loss and saturation, are illustrated in Fig. 1. The rotor reference voltage equations are expressed as [23][24]

$$v_{ds}^r = R_s i_{ds}^r + L_{ds} \frac{di_{ds}^r}{dt} - \omega_e L_{qs} i_{qs}^r, \quad (1)$$

$$v_{qs}^r = R_s i_{qs}^r + L_{qs} \frac{di_{qs}^r}{dt} + \omega_e L_{ds} i_{ds}^r + \omega_e \lambda_m, \quad (2)$$

where v_{ds}^r and v_{qs}^r represent the d- and q-axis voltages, respectively; i_{ds}^r and i_{qs}^r indicate the d- and q-axis currents, respectively; R_s denotes the stator resistance; L_{ds} and L_{qs} represent the d- and q-axis inductances, respectively; ω_e represents the electrical rotor speed; and λ_m represents the permanent magnet flux.

For a surface-mounted permanent magnet synchronous motor (SPMSM), $L_s = L_{ds} = L_{qs}$; L_{ds} is equivalent to L_{qs} owing to its structural characteristics. Therefore, (1) and (2) can be expressed as (3) and (4), respectively.

$$v_{ds}^r = R_s i_{ds}^r + L_s \frac{di_{ds}^r}{dt} - \omega_e L_{qs} i_{qs}^r, \quad (3)$$

$$v_{qs}^r = R_s i_{qs}^r + L_s \frac{di_{qs}^r}{dt} + \omega_e L_{ds} i_{ds}^r + \omega_e \lambda_m. \quad (4)$$

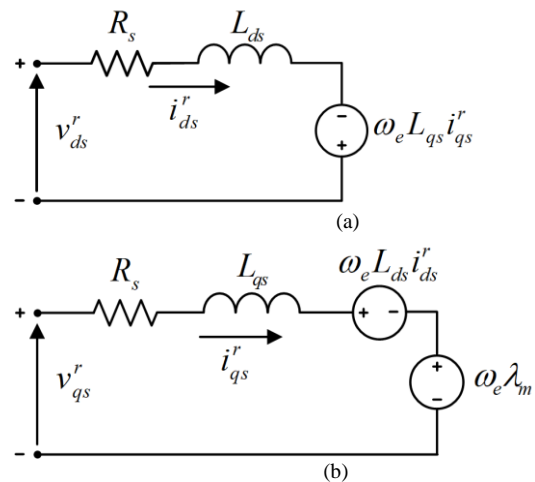


FIGURE 1. d- and q-axis equivalent circuits of a PMSM. (a) d-axis equivalent circuit; (b) q-axis equivalent circuit.

III. CURRENT CONTROL SYSTEM

The schematic of a general current controller of a PMSM is depicted in Fig. 2. The controller comprises a proportional–integral (PI) controller and a feedforward term. Combined with the impedance model of an SPMSM, the q-axis closed-loop transfer function $G_{cc}(s)$ can be expressed as (5) [25]

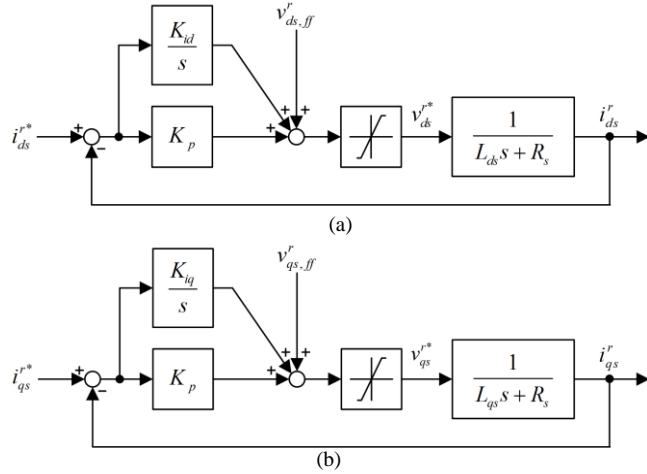


FIGURE 2. Schematic of a current controller of the PMSM. (a) d-axis current controller; (b) q-axis current controller.

$$G_{cc}(s) = \frac{i_{qs}^r(s)}{i_{qs}^*(s)} = \frac{K_p s + K_i}{(L_s s + R_s)s + (K_p s + K_i)}, \quad (5)$$

where $v_{ds,ff}^r$ and $v_{qs,ff}^r$ represent the d- and q-axis feedforward terms, respectively; i_{ds}^* and i_{qs}^* denote the d- and q-axis current commands, respectively; K_p and K_i indicate the proportional and integral gains, respectively; and s represents the Laplace operator.

For convenience, the gains of the PI controller are set as expressed in (6) and (7) to design the transfer function of the current controller in the form of a first-order low-pass filter as shown in (8).

$$K_p = L_s \omega_{cc}, \quad (6)$$

$$K_i = R_s \omega_{cc}, \quad (7)$$

$$G_{cc}(s) = \frac{\omega_{cc}}{s + \omega_{cc}}, \quad (8)$$

where ω_{cc} denotes the cutoff frequency of the current controller and F_{cc} represents the cutoff frequency of the current controller in Hz ($\omega_{cc} = 2\pi \cdot F_{cc}$).

Furthermore, as expressed in (1) and (2), the decoupled inductance and magnetic-flux-interlinkage values are required for the feedforward terms. The feedforward terms are presented in (9) and (10).

Therefore, accurate values of R_s , L_s , and λ_m are

required to achieve the target current-control performance of the PMSM.

$$v_{ds,ff}^r = \omega_e L_{qs} i_{qs}^r, \quad (9)$$

$$v_{qs,ff}^r = \omega_e L_{ds} i_{ds}^r + \omega_e \lambda_m. \quad (10)$$

IV. ELECTRICAL PARAMETER ESTIMATION METHOD

A. EXISTING INDUCTANCE ESTIMATION METHOD

The HF injection method is the most commonly used method to estimate the inductance [18].

Assuming that the output of the VSI ideally does not exhibit nonlinearity, as expressed in (11), where the d-axis current flows according to (12), the impedance can be expressed as in (13).

$$v_{ds}^r = V_{ac} \sin(\omega_h t), \quad (11)$$

$$i_{ds}^r = I_{ac} \sin(\omega_h t + \phi), \quad (12)$$

$$Z_s = \sqrt{R_s^2 + L_s^2 \omega_h^2}, \quad (13)$$

where ω_h denotes the injected frequency, V_{ac} indicates the amplitude of the injected HF voltage, I_{ac} denotes the amplitude of the induced HF current, and Z_s represents the impedance at ω_h .

In the HF injection method, if the resistance component is ignored, assuming that the reactance component resulting from the inductance has a large resistance component, the inductance can be calculated as in (14) [21].

$$L_s = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\omega_h^2} [Z_s^2 - R_s^2]} \approx \frac{1}{\omega_h} Z_s = \frac{V_{ac}}{I_{ac} \omega_h}. \quad (14)$$

However, the VSI nonlinearity distorts the output voltage of the actual inverter. Thus, the inductance expressed as (15)

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{L}_s &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{\omega_h^2} \left[(\hat{Z}_s)^2 - R_s^2 \right]} = \sqrt{\frac{1}{\omega_h^2} \left[\left(\frac{V_{ac}^*}{I_{ac}} \right)^2 - R_s^2 \right]} \\ &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{\omega_h^2} \left[\left(\frac{V_{ac}^*}{V_{ac}^* - \Delta V} Z_s \right)^2 - R_s^2 \right]}, \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

where \hat{L}_s denotes the estimated inductance, \hat{Z}_s represents the estimated impedance at ω_h , V_{ac}^* represents the amplitude of the injected HF voltage command, and ΔV indicates the voltage distortion owing to the VSI nonlinearity.

If the resistance component is ignored, the inductance is estimated as in (16). This causes an estimation error, and the desired control performance is not achieved.

$$\hat{L}_s = \frac{1}{\omega_h} \frac{V_{ac}^*}{V_{ac}^* - \Delta V} Z_s. \quad (16)$$

Furthermore, as shown in Section III, the identification of both the inductance and resistance is necessary to configure a current controller. Therefore, additional steps are required to estimate the resistance.

B. PROPOSED SIMULTANEOUS PARAMETER ESTIMATION METHOD

This study presents the simultaneous parameter estimation method to overcome the problem faced by the existing inductance estimation method. The VSI nonlinearity is considered through two voltage signals having different amplitudes. In addition, the combined HF signal is injected to simultaneously estimate the stator resistance and inductance.

The voltage-signal application waveform of the proposed parameter estimation method is illustrated in Fig. 3.

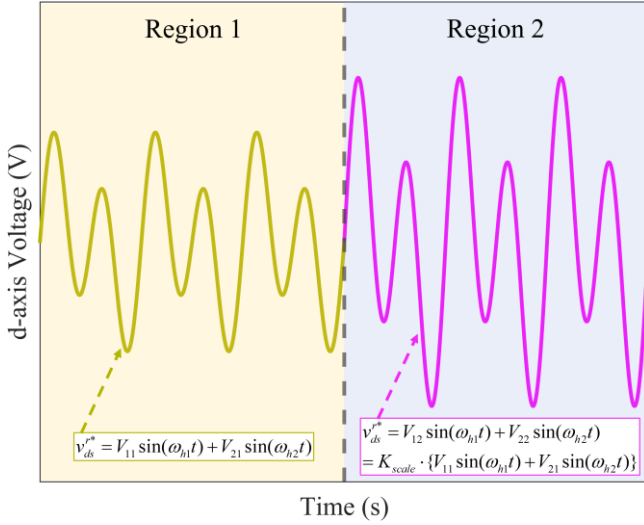


FIGURE 3. Voltage-signal waveform of the proposed estimation method.

The actual voltage applied to the motor by injecting two HF's can be expressed as (17)

$$v_{ds}^* = V_{1j}^* \sin(\omega_{h1}t) + V_{2j}^* \sin(\omega_{h2}t) \quad (17)$$

$$= (V_{1j}^* - \Delta V_{1j}) \cdot \sin(\omega_{h1}t) + (V_{2j}^* - \Delta V_{2j}) \cdot \sin(\omega_{h2}t),$$

where ω_{hj} denotes the injected HF, v_{ds}^* denotes the d-axis voltage command, V_{ij}^* indicates the amplitude of the injected HF voltage command, ΔV_{ij} denotes the voltage distortion owing to VSI nonlinearity, and i and j represent the injected levels of the injected frequency and test region, respectively ($i, j = 1$ or 2). However, the power factor remains identical if the amplitude of the voltage (V_{ij}^*) at each frequency increases at the same ratio without a change in frequency. Assuming that the voltage distortion owing to the VSI nonlinearity saturates above a certain current level, the voltage distortions in regions 1 (ΔV_{i1}) and 2 (ΔV_{i2}) are identical [18]. Therefore, if $\Delta V_i = \Delta V_{i1} = \Delta V_{i2}$, the impedance at each frequency can be estimated as follows (18):

$$\hat{Z}_i = \frac{V_{i2}^* - V_{i1}^*}{I_{i2} - I_{i1}} = \frac{V_{i2}^* - V_{i1}^*}{V_{i2}^* - \Delta V_i - (V_{i1}^* - \Delta V_i)} Z_i = Z_i, \quad (18)$$

where \hat{Z}_i denotes the estimated impedance considering the VSI nonlinearity at ω_{hi} through DFDA. Therefore, the inductance and resistance can be estimated using the impedances at the two frequencies, as shown below.

$$\hat{L}_s = \sqrt{\frac{\hat{Z}_2^2 - \hat{Z}_1^2}{\omega_{h2}^2 - \omega_{h1}^2}}, \quad (19)$$

$$\hat{R}_s = \sqrt{\hat{Z}_i^2 - (\omega_{hi} \hat{L}_s)^2}, \quad (20)$$

where \hat{R}_s denotes the estimated resistance considering the VSI nonlinearity through DFDA, A_i indicates the amplitude of the injected HF voltage command in the test region, T_{smp}

represents the sampling time, and ΔI_{ij} and ΔY_{ij} represent the magnitudes of the changes in the current and estimated admittance, respectively, from previous results. Further, I_{th} , \hat{Y}_{th} , and t_{th} , are selected to improve the accuracy of the proposed estimation method; they represent the reference points of current, admittance, and sensing time, respectively. \hat{Z}_{ij} denotes the estimated impedance for the test region and frequency. The flowchart of the proposed electrical parameter estimation method is depicted in Fig. 4.

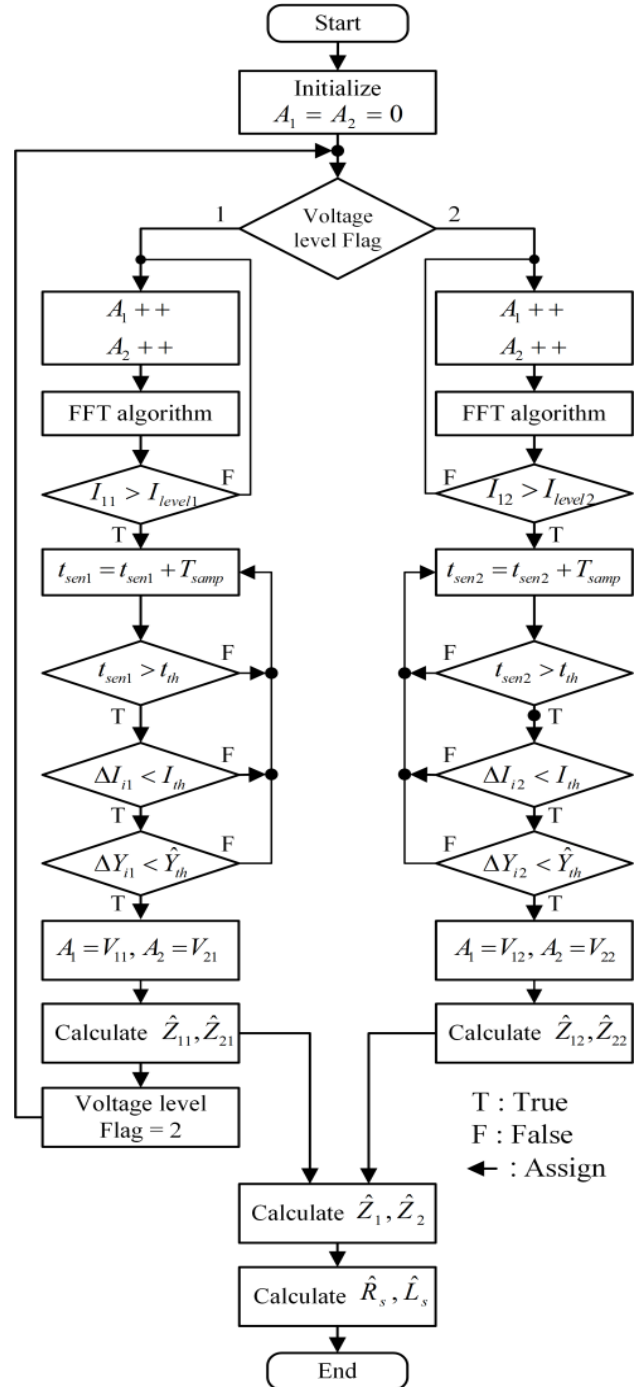


FIGURE 4. Flowchart of the proposed electrical parameter estimation method.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

The performance of the proposed electrical parameter estimation method was experimentally verified using a 400 W SPMSM. Additionally, the proposed method performs parameter estimation with minimum information such as rated voltage, rated current, and number of poles. The experimental platform is shown in Fig. 5, and the parameters of the PMSM used in the experiment are shown in Table 1. The block diagram of the parameter estimation method is presented in Fig. 6. In the experimental analysis, the alignment of the PMSM was completed before implementing the parameter estimation method.

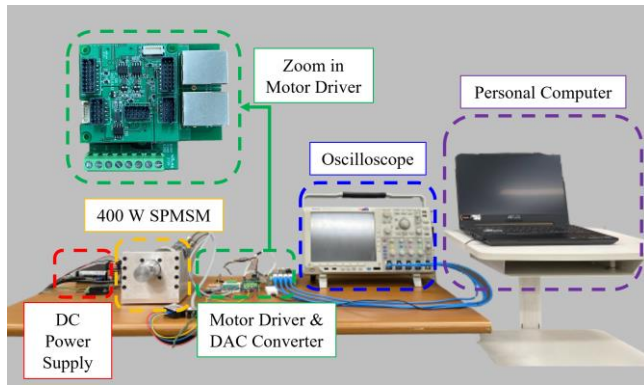


FIGURE 5. Experimental platform of the 400 W SPMSM.

TABLE I
PARAMETERS OF THE PMSM

Parameters	Value
Rated power (W)	400
DC link voltage (V)	48
Rated Current (A)	5.9
Rated Speed (RPM)	2680
R_s (Ω)	0.68
L_s (μ H)	550
Number of poles	2

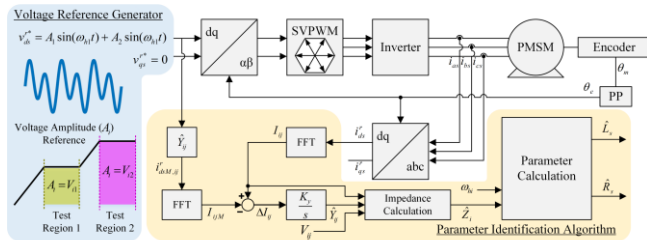


FIGURE 6. Block diagram of the parameter estimation method.

A. EXPERIMENTS USING THE PROPOSED ESTIMATION METHOD

The PMSM or the inverter can malfunction owing to the sudden application of a voltage command. Therefore, the proposed method gradually increases the voltage command and estimates electrical parameters based on voltage and

current information at the selected current levels I_{level1} and I_{level2} . I_{level2} and I_{level1} were set at 25% and 30% of the rated current, and the injected frequencies F_{h1} and F_{h2} are set at 250 Hz and 500 Hz, respectively. F_{h2} used a multiple of F_{h1} for the convenience of the fast Fourier transform calculation. The switching frequency was 10 kHz. The experiment was conducted by changing the dead time from 1 μ s to 5 μ s in increments of 1 μ s to analyze the effect of the VSI nonlinearity due to the dead time.

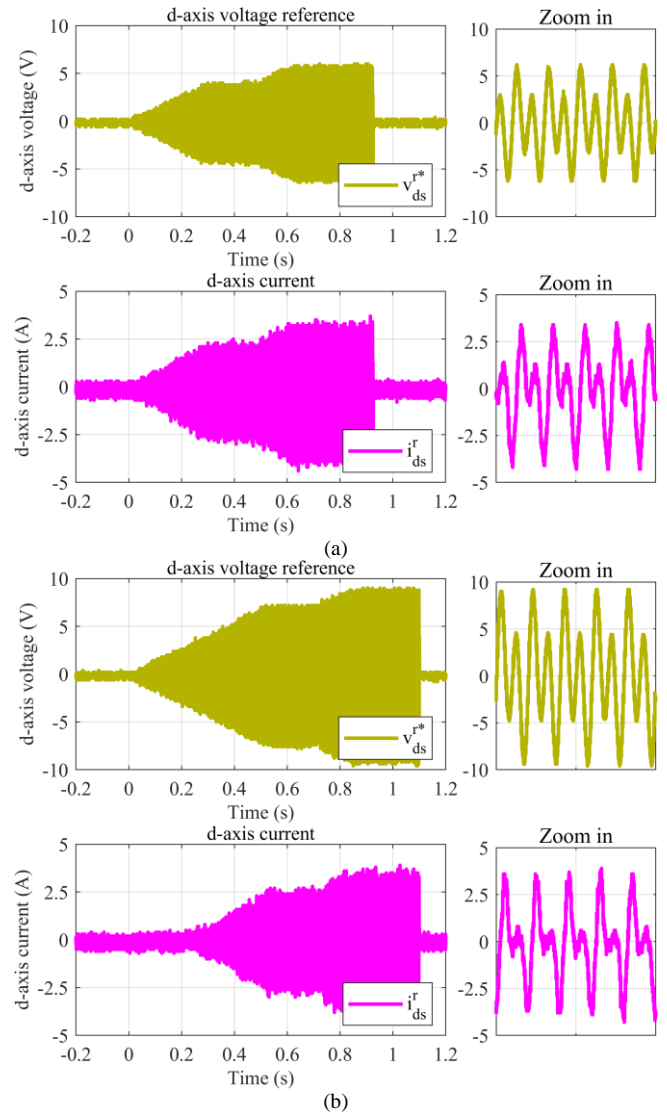


FIGURE 7. Output waveforms of the proposed estimation method based on the dead time. (a) Dead time = 1 μ s; (b) Dead time = 5 μ s.

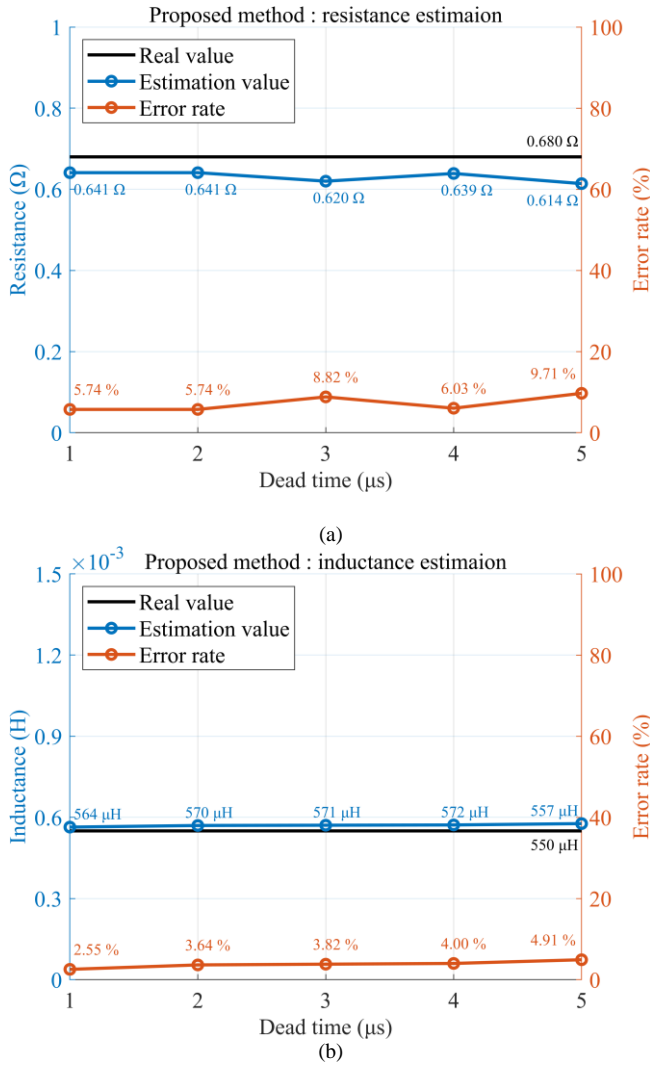


FIGURE 8. Parameter-estimation results of the proposed method. (a) Resistance estimation of the proposed method; (b) Inductance estimation of the proposed method.

The output waveform of the proposed method, where the stator resistance and inductance are simultaneously estimated using DFDA injection, is illustrated in Fig. 7. The results and error rates of the proposed parameter estimation method are presented in Fig. 8. The estimation results of the stator resistance and inductance according to dead time are presented in Figs. 8(a) and 8(b), respectively. The stator resistance was estimated with an error rate of 5.74%–9.71%, regardless of the change in dead time, as shown in Fig. 8(a). The inductance was estimated with an error rate of 2.55%–4.91%, regardless of the change in dead time, as shown in Fig. 8(b). Moreover, the proposed method simultaneously estimated the resistance and inductance within a short time (1.1 s) based on the settings.

B. EXPERIMENTS USING THE EXISTING ESTIMATION METHOD

To compare the results of the proposed method with that of the existing method, the same voltage as the effective

voltage command value of the proposed method was applied to the existing method. The frequency was set to 500 Hz, which is equivalent to F_{h2} of the proposed method.

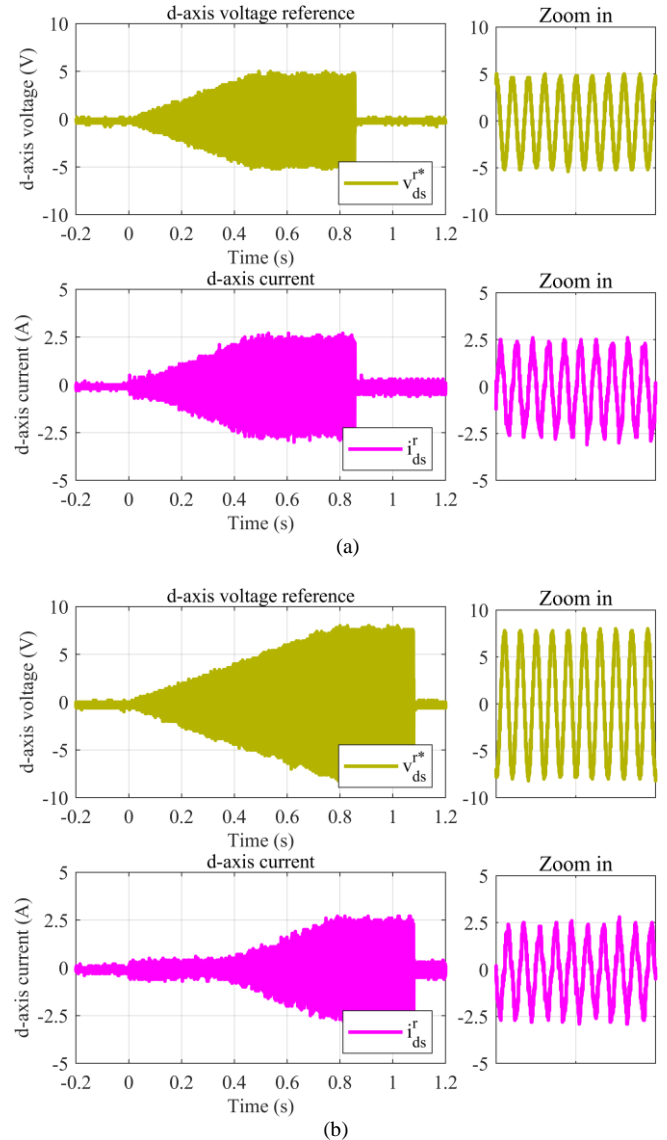


FIGURE 9. Output waveforms of the existing estimation method based on dead time. (a) Dead time = 1 μs; (b) Dead time = 5 μs.

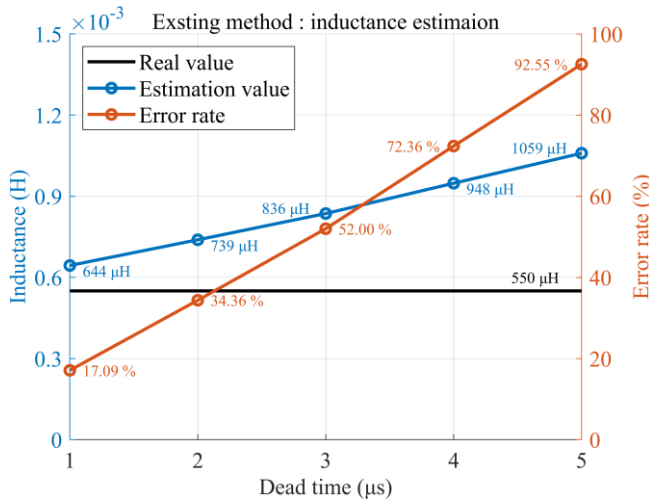


FIGURE 10. Parameter estimation results of the existing method

The output waveform of the existing method and inductance estimation through HF injection are shown in Fig. 9, and the results and error rates of the existing parameter estimation method are illustrated in Fig. 10. The existing parameter estimation method ignores resistance components through HF injection; therefore, it is used only for inductance estimation, and the inductance-estimation error rate increases from 17.09% to 92.55% as the dead time increases.

For the existing method, the estimated inductance value gradually increases as the dead time increases, as shown in Figs. 9 and 10. Conversely, the proposed method has almost constant inductance and resistance values when estimated considering the dead-time variation. Further, its variation width is also smaller than that of the existing method. Thus, the parameter estimation method proposed using the experimental results effectively resolved the estimation error problem caused by the VSI nonlinearity.

C. STEP RESPONSE EXPERIMENT

The current step response experiment was performed to verify the parameters obtained using the proposed method. Using these parameters, the current-controller gains are evaluated as shown in (6) and (7), and the d- and q-axis current step response experiments were performed by compensating for the feedforward terms, as shown in (9) and (10). The PI gains of the current controller are tuned using the electrical parameters obtained using the proposed method at a dead time of 1 μs, as shown in (6) and (7). The experiment was conducted by changing the cutoff frequency of the current controller from 100 Hz to 500 Hz in increments of 100 Hz. The d- and q-axis experiment results are shown in Figs. 11 and 12, respectively. The time constant was measured based on the current step response using the curve fitting of the measured d- and q-axis current signals. The curve-fitting results of the current response according to F_{cc} are shown in Figs. 11(b) and 12(b).

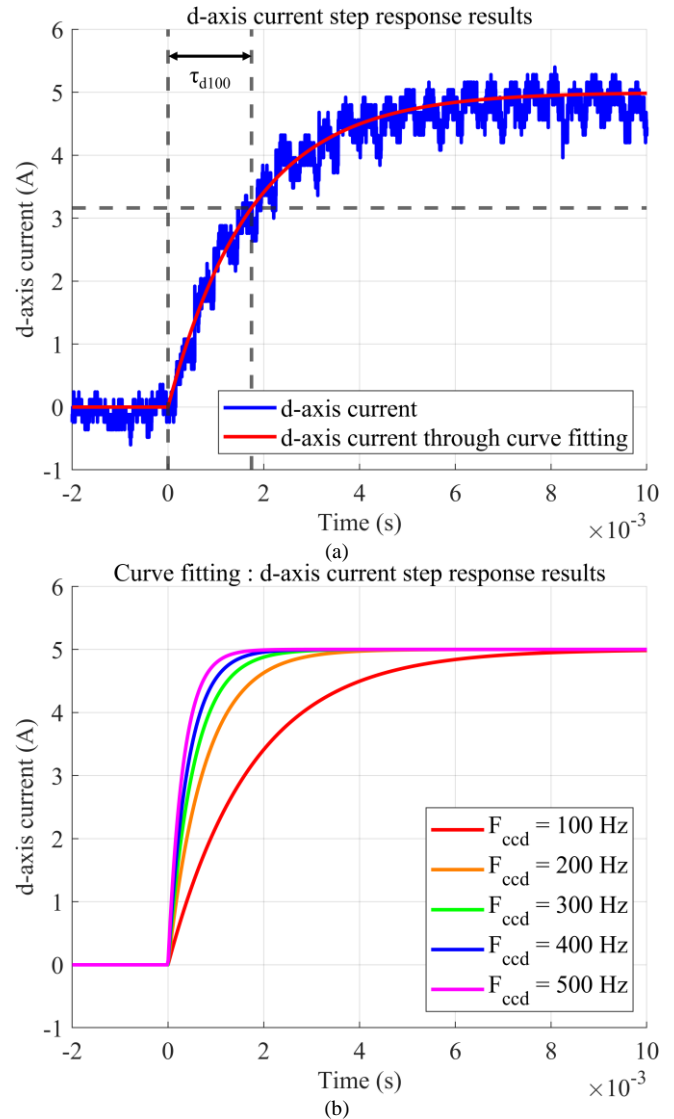


FIGURE 11. d-axis current step response experiments. (a) d-axis current step response experimental results for $F_{cc} = 100$ Hz and curve-fitting result; (b) d-axis current step response curve-fitting results according to the changes in the cutoff frequency.

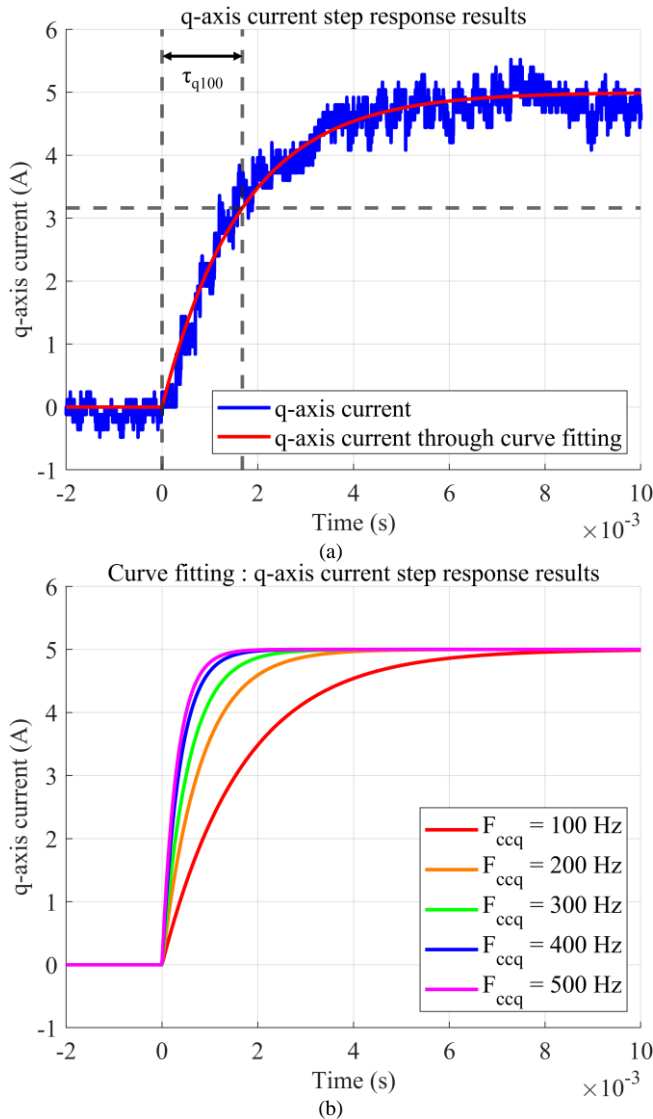


FIGURE 12. q-axis current step response experiments. (a) Experimental results of the d-axis current step response when $F_{cc} = 100$ Hz and curve-fitting result; (b) curve-fitting results of the d-axis current step response according to the changes in cutoff frequency.

The error rate of the transient response characteristics of the d- and q-axis current step responses of the current controller, which were tuned using the proposed parameter estimation method, ranged from 0.1% to 8.74%, as shown in Fig. 13. Consequently, the parameters estimated using the proposed method exhibit excellent transient-response characteristics of less than 9%. Thus, the estimation accuracy of the electrical parameters is verified.

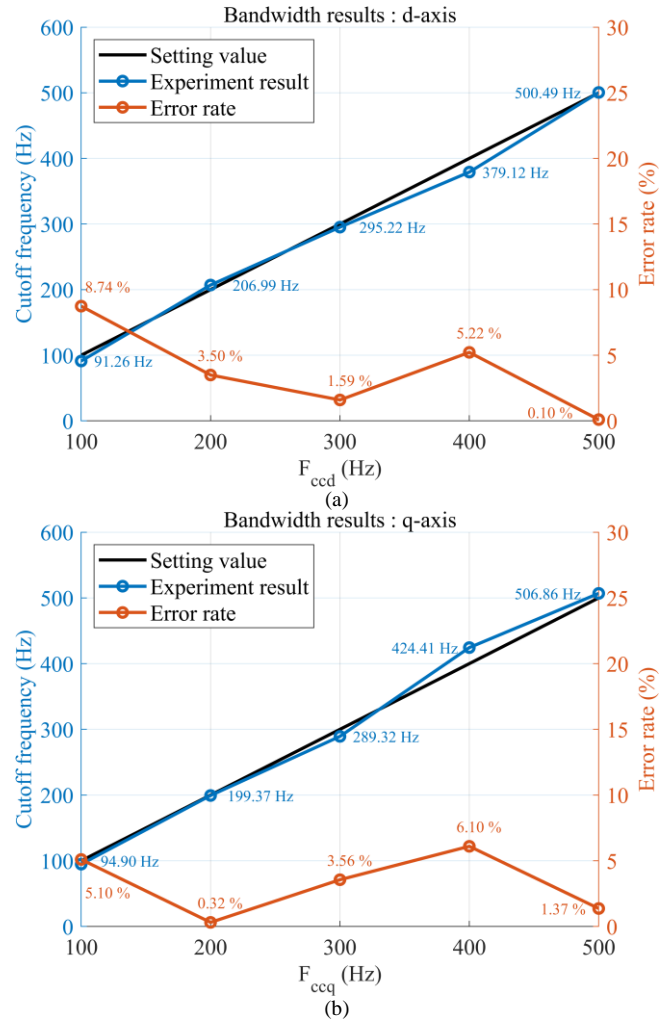


FIGURE 13. Bandwidth experimental results according to the current step response. (a) Experimental results of d-axis current step response; (b) Experimental results of q-axis current step response.

VI. DISCUSSION

In the existing method, the parameter estimation error increases with the increase in the dead time. However, the proposed method presented a parameter estimation error of less than 10%, regardless of the change in the dead time. Furthermore, the desired transient response characteristics can be achieved by tuning the gains of the current controller using the parameters obtained through the proposed method. The experimental results of the current step response demonstrated that the proposed parameter estimation method can accurately estimate the parameters; it obtained transient response characteristics with an error within 9%. Moreover, the procedure of the proposed electrical parameter estimation method can be completed within 1.1 s, depending on the setting, such as the slope of the applied voltage.

The proposed method is highly effective for low-capacity PMSMs having relatively high stator resistances. Therefore, it is suitable for applications that use PMSMs in relatively

small capacities, such as robots and servo control. However, one major limitation of the method is that it is not highly effective when used at low resistances. This can be attributed to the fact that when the resistance is relatively low, inductance accounts for most of the impedance, increasing the difficulty of estimating the resistance using the HF injection-based method.

In the future, the estimation of electrical parameters applicable to PMSMs with a relatively small stator resistance and the estimation of mechanical parameters required to tune the speed and position controllers should be considered.

VII. CONCLUSION

This study proposed a simultaneous estimation method for stator resistance and inductance considering the VSI nonlinearity. To achieve this, two HF voltage signals were combined and injected. Accordingly, the parameter estimation time was shortened by reducing the resistance estimation step. In addition, using a simple mathematical equation without nonlinearity-compensation method, the estimation of accuracy considering the VSI nonlinearity increased.

The accuracy of the estimated parameters was verified from the parameter estimation results and transient response characteristics. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the proposed method was verified by comparing it with the existing method. Therefore, it can be applied to PMSM drives in various industries, such as robotics.

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