

# High-Performance Sensorless Operation of Motor-Generator Set With an Improved Torque-Ripple Minimization Strategy

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# **OPEN ACCESS**

#### Edited by:

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#### Specialty section:

This article was submitted to Sustainable Energy Systems and Policies, a section of the journal Frontiers in Energy Research

Received: 07 February 2022 Accepted: 19 April 2022 Published: 30 May 2022

#### Citation:

Hussien MG, Salem Elbarbary ZM and Hassan AE-W (2022) High-Performance Sensorless Operation of Motor-Generator Set With an Improved Torque-Ripple Minimization Strategy. Front. Energy Res. 10:870850. doi: 10.3389/fenrg.2022.870850 This paper aims at minimizing the torque ripples using variable switching frequency technique of PWM (VSFPWM) of the surface-mounted permanent magnet synchronous motor (SPMSM) for a high-performance operation of a motor-generator set. The proposed system was employed to drive the promising brushless doubly-fed reluctance generator (BDFRG) with a sensorless vector-control topology. Validity of the rotor-position/speed estimation critically affects most of the sensorless control strategies. Therefore, a simple estimation method is proposed for the positioning of rotor of the generator. The presented control strategies are confirmed with some of the obtained results to assure its controllability.

Keywords: SPMSM, ripple prediction of torque, VSFPWM, BDFRG, sensorless vector-control

# INTRODUCTION

The surface-mounted permanent magnet synchronous motor (SPMSM) is very attractive type nowadays in drive systems for its numerous advantages such as, high efficiency, high torque to inertia ratio, high power density, reliability, and long life (Pandav et al., 2017a). In addition, the surfacemounted PMSM is preferred than the other type interior permanent magnet synchronous motor (IPMSM) because of its lower cost due to its simple rotor design (the permanent magnet (PM) material in SPMSM is mounted on the rotor, not inside the rotor as in the case of IPMSM). The motor-generator set is very spreading in most applications such as elevators, hybrid vehicles, and high-frequency machines (Hussien and Hassan, 2019). In the context of electric power generation and large fixed electrical power systems, a motor-generator consists of an electric motor mechanically coupled to an electric generator (or alternator) (Chokkalingam et al., 2019; Bharatiraja et al., 2017). The motor runs on the electrical input current while the generator creates the electrical output current, with power flowing between the two machines as a mechanical torque; this provides electrical isolation and some buffering of the power between the two electrical systems (Pandav et al., 2017b; Sanjeevikumar et al., 2016). In this paper, the motorgenerator set can be arranged as using the SPMSM as the prime mover for a generator with doublyfed type. For the motor side, the SPMSM is supplied with a voltage-source inverter (VSI) as given in Figure 1.

Power electronic converter acts as an interface between the electric generator and the utility grid to adjust the generator speed of the turbine. Hence, the converter rating has to be as same



as that of the generator which consequently increases the overall system cost. In order to reduce the converter rating, the slip recovery machines can be used. The converter of these machines processes only the slip power in the rotor circuit resulting in a significant cost reduction compared to the fullcapacity generating systems. These features have made the doubly-fed induction generators widely popular and attracting great attention from researchers (Xu et al., 2021).

Recently, Brushless Doubly-Fed Induction Machine (BDFIM) and the Brushless Doubly-Fed Reluctance Machine (BDFRM) have gained attention from researchers due to their self-cascaded arrangements (Xu et al., 2020). Although, both machines have common merits, the efficiency of the BDFRM is better than that of the BDFIM because of absence of rotor copper loss. Therefore, the Brushless Doubly-Fed Reluctance Generator (BDFRG) is preferable for variable-speed generating systems. Usually, BDFRG has two isolated windings arranged in the same fixed frame, i.e. the power winding (PW) and the control winding (CW). The PW is considered as the primary winding with a direct connection to the load/grid side. Furthermore, the CW is considered as the secondary winding which is generally connected through a bi-directional power electronic converter with the load/grid side (Chinthamalla et al., 2016; Hussien et al., 2022).

Different control techniques such as scalar control, vector control, and direct torque control are proposed for BDFRG. Out of various control strategies, the vector-control technique is preferred for high performance operation. The different techniques of vector control are mainly focused on the BDFRG rotor-position measurement aided with a rotorposition/speed encoder (Mousa et al., 2018). The required rotor position signal is needed to realize the desired angle of frame transformation for CW-side variables. The rotorposition/speed encoder increases cost and reliability problems which makes it undesirable in most drive systems. In recent years, sensorless vector-control strategies are adopted for estimation of rotor position/



speed from the currents and voltages of the machine (Boldea et al., 2021; Kumar et al., 2019; Kumar and Das, 2018).

For an efficient operation of the adopted motor-generator set, this paper aims to apply the variable switching frequency PWM (VSFPWM) method for torque ripple control of the motor side (SPMSM). In addition, for the generator side (BDFRG), a new sensorless vector-control is applied and investigated for a high performance of the presented motorgenerator system.

# TORQUE RIPPLES MINIMIZATION CONTROL FOR SPMSM

### **Prediction of Current Ripple**

The prediction of ripple in current is described as follows (Fei Wang and Wang, 2014; Hussien et al., 2020; Jiang and Wang, 2013).

$$\begin{bmatrix} v_{a_s} \\ v_{b_s} \\ v_{c_s} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} d'_a \\ d'_b \\ d'_c \end{bmatrix} \cdot \frac{V_{dc-Link}}{2}$$
(1)

Aided with the SVPWM, **Figure 2**, the current ripple changes in each one cycle will considered as in **Figure 3**.

As shown in **Figure 4**, the slope of phase-A current is derived, during different zones, as



$$\frac{di_{a_s}}{dx} = \frac{2}{3L_s} \left( \frac{v_{b_s} + v_{c_s}}{2} - v_{a_s} \right)$$
(2)

$$\frac{di_{a_s}}{dx} = \frac{V_{dc-Link}}{3L_s} \left( \frac{d'_b + d'_c}{2} - d'_a \right)$$
(3)

$$\frac{di_{a_s}}{dx} = \frac{2V_{dc-Link}}{3L_s} \left( 1 + \frac{d'_b + d'_c}{4} - \frac{d'_a}{2} \right)$$
(4)

$$\frac{di_{a_s}}{dx} = \frac{2V_{dc-Link}}{3L_s} \left(\frac{1}{2} + \frac{d'_b + d'_c}{4} - \frac{d'_a}{2}\right)$$
(5)

$$\frac{di_{a_s}}{dx} = \frac{V_{dc-Link}}{3L_s} \left( \frac{d'_b + d'_c}{2} - d'_a \right)$$
(6)

With the same principles, the slope of ripples for all phase currents can be given as in **Table 1** (Hussien et al., 2020). The peak level of the slope can be given as in **Eq. 7** with the values x and y to be plus or minus signs.

$$\begin{cases} x = k_1 \cdot \frac{t_o}{4} \\ y = k_1 \cdot \frac{t_o}{4} + k_2 \cdot \frac{t_1}{2} \end{cases}$$
(7)

# **Prediction of Torque Ripple**

The relationship between current ripple and PWM torque ripple is given as (Fei Wang and Wang, 2014).



Vector	Phase_A	Phase_B	Phase_C
000	$V_{dc-link} 3L_s (d'_{b} + d'_{a}/2 - d'_{a})$	$V_{d_{r-1}ink}/3L_{s}(d'_{a}+d'_{a}/2-d'_{b})$	$V_{d_{c}-l,ink}/3L_{s}(d'_{b}+d'_{a}/2-d'_{a})$
100	$2V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(1+d'_{b}+d'_{c}/4-d'_{a}/2)$	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{a}+d'_{c}/2-1-d'_{b})$	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{b}+d'_{a}/2-1-d'_{c})$
110	$2V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(1/2+d'_{b}+d'_{c}/4-d'_{o}/2)$	$2V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(1/2+d'_{a}+d'_{c}/4-d'_{b}/2)$	$2V_{dc-link}/3L_s(d'_b + d'_2/4 - 1 - d'_2/2)$
111	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{b}+d'_{c}/2-d'_{a})$	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{a}+d'_{c}/2-d'_{b})$	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{b}+d'_{a}/2-d'_{c})$
001	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{b}+d'_{c}/2-1-d'_{s})$	$V_{dc-link}/3L_{s}(d'_{a}+d'_{c}/2-1-d'_{b})$	$2V_{dc-link}/3L_s(1+d'_b+d'_a/4-d'_c/2)$
010	$V_{dc-Link}/3L_s (d'_b + d'_c/2 - 1 - d'_a)$	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(1+d'_a+d'_c/4-d'_b/2)$	$V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(d'_b + d'_a/2 - 1 - d'_c)$
011	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(d'_b+d'_c/4-1-d'_a/2)$	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(1/2+d'_a+d'_c/4-d'_b/2)$	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(1/2+d'_b+d'_a/4-d'_c/2)$
101	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(1/2+d'_b+d'_c/4-d'_a/2)$	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(d'_a+d'_c/4-1-d'_b/2)$	$2V_{dc-Link}/3L_s(1/2+d'_b+d'_a/4-d'_c/2)$



TABLE 1 | Slope of current ripple for the three phases (Hussien et al., 2020).

$$\begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_{d\_ripple} \\ \Delta i_{q\_ripple} \end{bmatrix} = C_{abc-dq} \begin{bmatrix} \Delta i_{a\_ripple} \\ \Delta i_{b\_ripple} \\ \Delta i_{c\_ripple} \end{bmatrix}$$
(8)

where,

$$C_{abc-dq} = \frac{2}{3} \begin{bmatrix} \cos\theta & \cos\left(\theta - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) & \cos\left(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \\ -\sin\theta & -\sin\left(\theta - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) & -\sin\left(\theta + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \end{bmatrix}$$

where  $\Delta i_{a\_ripple}$ ,  $\Delta i_{b\_ripple}$  and  $\Delta i_{c\_ripple}$  are a real-time current ripple in *abc* coordinate,  $\Delta i_{d\_ripple}$  and  $\Delta i_{q\_ripple}$  are the d-q components. The angle,  $\theta$  indicates the d-axis position.

The PWM torque ripple is obtained as

$$T_{ripple} = \frac{3}{2} p \psi_f \cdot \Delta i_{q\_ripple} \tag{9}$$

Then, the variable switching frequency PWM (VSFPWM) is attained based on the prediction process of torque ripple.

### **Torque Ripple Control-Based VSFPWM**

The criteria of torque ripple minimization used in this paper is specified in **Figure 5**. The switching period can be updated according to the following relation (Hussien et al., 2020).

$$T_s = T_{sN} \cdot \frac{\Delta T_{require}}{\Delta T_{predict}}$$
(10)

To assure the effectiveness of the proposed VSFPWM methodology for torque ripple minimization of the SPMSM drive system, some results are given in **Figures 6–8**.

The results ensure the controllability of the presented strategy to minimize the ripples of torque using VSFPWM for the SPMSM drives.

# A NEW SENSOLRESS VECTOR-CONTROL STRATEGY OF BDFIG DRIVE SYSTEMS

# **Dynamic Model of Generator**

The complete modeling of BDFRG is presented in literature (Mousa et al., 2018) and briefly described as follows:

The power and control windings' voltage equations in dq-axis and its flux linkage relations can be expressed as:

where

where

$$\begin{aligned} & \omega = P_p \, \omega_f \\ & \omega_r = \left( P_p + P_c \right) \omega_{rm} \end{aligned}$$
 (12)

$$\lambda_{d_p} = L_p i_{d_p} + L_{pc} i_{d_c} \lambda_{q_p} = L_p i_{q_p} - L_{pc} i_{q_c} \lambda_{d_c} = L_c i_{d_c} + L_{pc} i_{d_p} \lambda_{q_c} = L_c i_{q_c} - L_{pc} i_{q_p}$$

$$(13)$$

 $L_{p} = L_{lp} + \frac{3}{2}L_{mp}$   $L_{c} = L_{lc} + \frac{3}{2}L_{mc}$   $L_{pc} = \frac{3}{2}L_{pc_{max}}$  (14)











$$T_e = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \left(\frac{L_{pc}}{L_p}\right) \left(P_p + P_c\right) \left(\lambda_{d_p} i_{q_c} + \lambda_{q_p} i_{d_c}\right) \tag{15}$$

# Vector-Control Based PW Field-Orientation Method

The principle advantage of the BDFRG vector-control strategy is the resultant decoupling effect between the electromagnetic torque and  $Q_{\text{power}}$  (Mousa et al., 2018). BDFRG vector control is based on the position of total power-winding's flux vector,  $\lambda_p$ with its d-axis. In other words, the d-axis component and total of the power-winding flux are equal i.e.,  $(\lambda_{d_p} = \lambda_p)$  and the q-axis component,  $\lambda_{q_p}$  = zero. The relationship between the phase-axis of BDFRG of the proposed flux orientation of PW is shown in **Figure 9**.

The block diagram of Phase-Locked Loop method used to estimate the flux vector magnitude of power-winding,  $\lambda_p$  and its angle  $\theta_p$  is shown in **Figure 10** and the procedure can be summarized as follows:

Primarily, angle  $\theta_p$  is initiated from summing of output signal from PI-controller and grid angular-frequency as shown in **Figure 10**. Then, angle  $\theta_p$  is provided as input to the abc-dq transformation matrix to obtain voltage and current components of power-winding,  $V_{dq}$  and  $I_{dq}$  respectively in the power-winding synchronous reference frame (Mousa et al., 2018). Then the output signal is aided with **Eq. 31** to obtain the dq-axis components of  $\lambda_p$  as follows:

$$\lambda_{d_p} = \left( v_{q_p} - r_p \, i_{q_p} \right) / \omega_p$$

$$\lambda_{q_p} = \left( -v_{d_p} + r_p \, i_{d_p} \right) / \omega_p$$

$$(16)$$

The angular frequency,  $\omega_p$  and the angle,  $\theta_p$  is obtained by providing  $\lambda_{q_p}$  as a feedback signal, as shown in **Figure 10**. In addition, magnitude of  $\lambda_p$  is obtained directly from its d-axis



component, as  $\lambda_p = \lambda_{d_p}$ . The "*Trial and error*" process is implemented for choosing PI-controller gains in order to obtain the required flux orientation at which  $\lambda_{q_p} = 0$ .

The torque and reactive power can be easily obtained from the proposed flux orientation of power-winding.

$$T_e = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \left(\frac{L_{pc}}{L_p}\right) \left(P_p + P_c\right) \lambda_p \, i_{q_c} \tag{17}$$

$$Q_{Power} = \left(\frac{3}{2}\right) \left(\frac{\omega_p}{L_p}\right) \lambda_p \left(\lambda_p - L_{pc} i_{d_c}\right)$$
(18)

From **Eqs. 17**, **18**, it is evident that, instantaneous electromagnetic torque and reactive-power control can be simply realized by controlling  $i_{q_c} \otimes i_{d_c}$  respectively.

# Design Procedure of the Proposed Rotor Position Observer

BDFRG rotor position can be estimated using the following relation [21]:

$$\theta_{r_{est}} = tan^{-1} \frac{Imaj[(\lambda_{p_s} - L_p i_{p_s})i_{c_s}]}{Real[(\lambda_{p_s} - L_p i_{p_s})i_{c_s}]}$$
(19)

where,  $i_{p_s}$ ,  $i_{c_s}$  and  $\lambda_{p_s}$  are the currents of the power and control winding and space-vector flux linkage respectively.

In (Mousa et al., 2018),  $\lambda_{p_s}$  is obtained aided with the threephase power-winding flux linkages which are determined as:

$$\lambda_{abc_p} = \int \left( V_{abc_p} - R_p \, i_{abc_p} \right) dt \tag{20}$$

The main issue of this rotor-position estimation method is the integration of three-phase power-winding voltages to obtain the flux linkage using **Eq. 20**. This considers the main problem of the most sensorless drive systems especially at low speed conditions. In this paper, voltageintegration problem has been overcome by the proposed simple rotor-position estimation method which is outlined as:

Aided with the dq-axis components of the power-winding flux and its angle,  $\theta_p$ , the corresponding power-winding flux linkages in  $\alpha\beta$ -axis can be estimated as:





$$\begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{\alpha_p} \\ \lambda_{\beta_p} \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} \cos \theta_p & -\sin \theta_p \\ \sin \theta_p & \cos \theta_p \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} \lambda_{d_p} \\ \lambda_{q_p} \end{pmatrix}$$
(21)

Then, the space-vector flux linkage is given by:

$$\lambda_{p_s} = \lambda_{\alpha_p} + j \lambda_{\beta_p} \tag{22}$$

where the symbol "j" denotes the imaginary unit.

Based on **Eq. 22**, the space-vector power-winding flux linkage is estimated without voltage-integration. Hence, it can be simply used to estimate the BDFRG rotor-position using **Eq. 19**.

# Stability Analysis of Proposed Position Observer

In this subsection, stability confirmation of proposed control system is clearly satisfied. Assuming that the proposed procedure initializes with an error between the position which is predicted,  $\theta_{r\_est}$ , and actual position,  $\theta_r$ . Therefore, the actual *d*-*q* frame assigned on the  $\alpha\beta$ -axis PW stationary reference frame, used to obtain  $i_{c_s}$  referred to PW side, cannot be localized. Hence, an imaginary reference frame d' q' is employed as shown in **Figure 11**.

The rotor position's estimation error is determined as  $\varphi = (\theta_{r\_est} - \theta_r)$ . Coupling component  $\Delta i_c^{PW}$  will be obtained in the q-axis as a result of position error. Consequently, this term can be neglected by representing the  $\varphi = 0$ .

Based on the imaginary reference frame d' q' shown in Figure 11,

$$\Delta i_c^{PW} = \left(e^{j\theta_{r_{est}}} - e^{j\theta_r}\right) \left(i_{c_s}\right)^{conj} \tag{23}$$

$$\Delta i_c^{PW} = \left(e^{j\varphi} - 1\right)e^{j\theta_r} \left(i_{c_s}\right)^{conj} \tag{24}$$

Therefore, aided with Eq. 19

$$\Delta i_c^{pW} = \frac{\lambda_{p_s} - L_p i_{p_s}}{L_{pc}} \left( e^{j\varphi} - 1 \right) \tag{25}$$

The speed estimation error is considered to be

$$\Delta\omega_{rm} = K_o \left( \Delta i_c^{PW} + \frac{1}{K_i} \int \Delta i_c^{PW} dt \right)$$
(26)

Then, derivative of position estimation error is as follows:

$$\frac{d}{dt}\varphi = \left(p_p + p_c\right)K_o\left(\Delta i_c^{pW} + \frac{1}{K_i}\int\Delta i_c^{pW}dt\right)$$
(27)







where  $K_o$  and  $K_i$  are the adopted sensorless system's control parameters

$$\frac{d}{dt} \begin{bmatrix} \sigma \\ \varphi \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & G_1 f(\varphi) \\ G_2 \\ \overline{K_i} & G_2 G_1 f(\varphi) \end{bmatrix} \cdot \begin{bmatrix} \sigma \\ \varphi \end{bmatrix}$$
(28)

where

$$G_1 = \left(\frac{\lambda_{p_s} - L_p i_{p_s}}{L_{pc}}\right) \quad , \quad G_2 = \left(p_p + p_c\right) K_o$$

with  $\sigma = \int \Delta i_c^{PW} dt$  and

$$f(\varphi) = \frac{e^{j\varphi} - 1}{\varphi} \tag{29}$$

It is dedicated that  $f(\varphi)$  is a continuous even function and f(0) = 1. Hence, the stability domain of **Eq. 29** is projected to be symmetric at desired operating point,  $\varphi = 0$ . Stability of large system signal is verified by using the multimodel to represent Eq. 29 as

$$\dot{x} = \left[\mu_1(\varphi) \cdot H_1 + \mu_2(\varphi) \cdot H_2\right] \cdot x \tag{30}$$

For  $0 \le absolute(\varphi) \le \varphi_{max}$  with  $x = [\sigma \quad \varphi]^t$ 

$$\mu_{1}(\varphi) = \frac{f(\varphi) - f(\varphi_{max})}{1 - f(\varphi_{max})}$$

$$\mu_{2}(\varphi) = \frac{1 - f(\varphi)}{1 - f(\varphi_{max})}$$

$$H_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & G_{1} \\ \frac{G_{2}}{K_{i}} & G_{2}.G_{1} \end{bmatrix}, H_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} 0 & G_{1}f(\varphi_{max}) \\ \frac{G_{2}}{K_{i}} & G_{2}G_{1}f(\varphi_{max}) \end{bmatrix}$$

$$(31)$$

From Eqs. 29, 30, it is evident that they are totally equivalent: approximation, linearization and simplification are not made. Also, considering that

$$\begin{array}{c} \mu_{1}(\varphi) + \mu_{2}(\varphi) = 1 \\ \mu_{1}(\varphi) \ge 0 \\ \mu_{2}(\varphi) \ge 0 \end{array} \right\}$$
(32)

The quadratic Lyapunov function is determined in order to validate the stability analysis **Eq. 30**, as

$$\begin{cases} V(x) = x^t \cdot N \cdot x \\ N = N^t > 0 \end{cases}$$
 (33)

From the analysis, it is evident that the proposed control system, both (29) and (30), is stable by obtaining a symmetric matrix, N, attaining as follows

$$\begin{cases} N > 0 \\ (H_1^t \cdot N + N \cdot H_1) > 0 \\ (H_2^t \cdot N + N \cdot H_2) > 0 \end{cases}$$
(34)

The convergence domain is obtained from maximum position error,  $\varphi_{max}$ , related to linear matrix inequalities found in **Eq. 34**. From above relations, it is evident that the estimation of convergence domain can be concluded as  $0 \le absolute(\varphi) \le$ 90. This proves that the theoretical convergence domain is the largest possible which validates the stability of the proposed sensorless position observer.

# **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

A sample of results is presented in this section to validate the proposed control technique. The analysis obtained are based on a six/two-pole, 4.5 kW BDFRG prototype. The overall system parameters are listed in (Mousa et al., 2018).

Initially up to 3 s, BDFRG is freely run with short-circuited CW terminals for the purpose of soft starting. Then, the partially power-rating converter is switched into the CW. The response of the CW phase-current during different periods corresponding to various wind speed is depicted in **Figure 12**. It is evident, that the over-current of converter is entirely prevented using the soft-starting method.

**Figure 13** shows the response of dq-axis PW flux components. It is evident, that the q-axis component,  $\lambda_{q_p}$  is maintained constant at zero. This ensures the efficacy of the proposed control strategy to estimate the precise position of the PW flux,  $\theta_p$  for the required power-winding flux orientation.

In addition, Figure 14 depicts the BDFRG estimated rotorposition and the corresponding actual value. It is evident that

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there is a close correlation between the estimated and actual rotor-position of the generator which validates the rotor-position estimation method of the proposed sensorless control technique.

Also, the dynamic response of active and reactive power of PW is depicted in **Figure 15**. It evident that the reactive power is maintained constant at zero which ensures a unity power-factor operation.

## CONCLUSION

This paper has handled an effective method for reducing the ripples of torque using VSFPWM technique for the applications of SPMSM drives. In addition, a sensorless vector-control technique for BDFRG is proposed in this paper. The results have confirmed the controllability of the prediction process for torque ripple. Moreover, the proposed VSFPWM technique has achieved a good performance for the minimization target of torque ripple. In addition, a close correlation between the generator's estimated and actual rotor-speed proves the efficacy of the proposed rotor-position/speed estimation method. Furthermore, the obtained results have assured the simplicity and capability of the presented simple sensorless observer of the adopted generator system.

## DATA AVAILABILITY STATEMENT

The original contributions presented in the study are included in the article/Supplementary Material, further inquiries can be directed to the corresponding author.

# AUTHOR CONTRIBUTIONS

All authors listed have made a substantial, direct, and intellectual contribution to the work and approved it for publication.

# ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The authors extend their appreciation to the Deanship of Scientific Research at King Khalid University for funding this work through General Research Project under Grant number (RGP.1/133/43).

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