

A New Detection Method of IGBTs Open-Circuit Faults in an Induction Motor Drive

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Abstract: Due to the growing demand for the reliability and safety of industrial systems such as induction motor drives (IMDs), it is mandatory to detect all types of potential faults as early as possible to implement a fault-tolerant operation that minimizes the degradation of the performances and avoids dangerous situations. This paper presents a new fault detection and identification (FDI) method applied to an induction motor drive in the case of open IGBTs faults of a three-phase voltage source inverter (VSI). The diagnosis method of the open switch faults proposed in this work is based on the average absolute values of the normalized phase currents. This diagnosis method has some advantages in terms of fast fault detection time, robustness against transients, and it does not require extra hardware and sensors. The effectiveness of the proposed FDI method is verified through computer simulation using MATLAB-SIMULINK software.

Keywords: Induction motor drive, Field-oriented control, Fault diagnosis, Open switch fault, Voltage source inverter.

1. Introduction

At present, reliability, safety, and service continuity are major concerns in the field of AC variable speed drives. The induction motors (IMs) are now broadly used in different industrial and commercial applications. The reason for its massive use can mainly be attributed to its high reliability and durability, simplicity in design, cost-effectiveness, and operation at wide speed ranges. Such motors are being used in several applications, including nuclear power plants, the petroleum industry, water cooling systems, and the mining industry (Saad et al., 2018).

Despite their numerous advantages, the components of induction motor drive IMD are subjected to various types of faults during their operation which can lead to total damage of machine, which paralyzes the industrial process and therefore affects production. Some of them are related to the electrical machine including electrical fault either in the stator or wound rotor in the form of winding open or short circuit (Jannati et al., 2014), (Toma et al., 2013), broken bar fault in squirrel-cage rotor (Guellout et al., 2020), (Fernandez-Cavero et al., 2021), and mechanical failures, such as rotor bearing fault (Rezig et al., 2013), (Muthukumaran et al., 2021), air-gap eccentricity fault (Bagheri et al., 2020), (Zhou et al., 2021), faults related to mechanical or electrical sensors (Liu et al., 2019), (Azzoug et al., 2021). Finally, failures occur in inverter power devices (Jian-Jian et al., 2019), (Cherif et al., 2019). Figure 1 provides a simple classification of different faults that can affect the components of an AC motor drive.

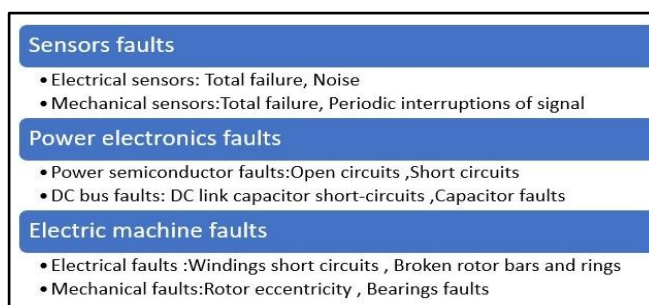


Figure.1. Classification of faults occurring in AC motor drive (Klimkowski & Dybkowski, 2016).

According to the statistics, the power converter faults cover about 80% of the different types of faults in electric motor drive applications (Orłowska-Kowalska et al., 2017). In (Chen et al., 2021), it is mentioned that the power converters faults are distributed as follows (see Figure 2): a power semiconductor device (21%), DC-link capacitor (30%), printed circuit boards (PCB) (26%), solder (13%), and others.

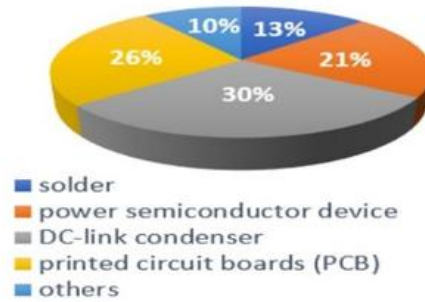


Figure.2.Faults distribution among power converter components.

Most voltage source inverters (VSI's) feeding AC motors use insulated gate bipolar transistors (IGBT's) as the power devices which offer high switching frequency, high voltage, and current ratings, and high ability to handle short-circuit currents for periods exceeding 10 microseconds (Zdiri et al., 2019). Electrical fault types that may happen in IGBTs power devices can be categorized into Short Circuit Fault (SCF) and Open Switch Fault (OSF). This latter is not as dangerous as a short circuit fault and does not lead to the shutdown of the drive system and may remain undetected for an extended period of time. On the other hand, it may cause a secondary failure in the other components of the drive (Jorge Oliveira Estima, 2012). In this work, only OSF has been taken into consideration.

The diagnosis of the open-circuit faults of inverter power switches has become an important research topic. A variety of OSF diagnosis methods have been discussed in the literature for AC motor drives. These fault detection FD approaches have several classifications such as signal-based (FDSM) and model-based (FDMM) methods (Maamouri et al., 2018). A general block diagram of diagnostic methods for open switch failures is shown in Figure 3 (Salehifar, 2014).

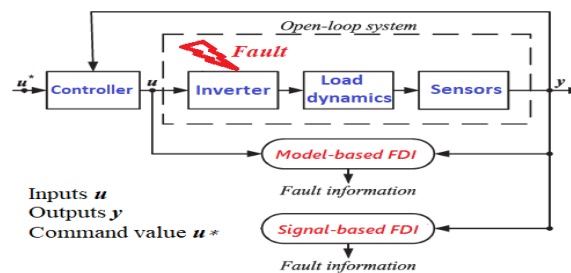


Figure.3.A general block diagram of the diagnostic methods for inverter open-transistor faults.

As regards the signal-based methods, current or voltage signals of the VSI are used to find the fault detection FD index. These methods offer fast fault detection and are independent of the system parameters (Chen et al., 2021). Many studies have been conducted on the implementation of signal-based diagnosis methods that concern open switch failures. In what follows, a review of some signal-based methods is presented.

Regarding the current-signal-based methods, an approach called Park's vector Method was suggested in (Mendes & Cardoso, 1999), its fault diagnosis process is achieved by computing the average value of the Park's vector currents in the complex ($\alpha\beta$) plan and the phase-angle. One drawback of this method is the load dependence. To make the fault detection algorithm independent from the load, another method called a Normalized DC Current Method was investigated in (Rothenhagen & Fuchs, 2005), (Rothenhagen & Fuchs, 2004) with the current fundamental component value being normalization quantity. As mentioned in (Rothenhagen & Fuchs, 2004), this method has some drawbacks in the case of closed-loop control systems. As a result, a Modified Normalized DC Current Method was proposed (Rothenhagen & Fuchs, 2005), (Rothenhagen & Fuchs, 2004). This latter uses the same algorithms as the Normalized DC Current method but employs a less restrictive way to locate the faulty switch. The same authors also proposed another version called "Simple Direct Current Method" that uses the mean phase current value for fault detection. Estima et al. proposed in (Jorge O. Estima & Cardoso, 2011) a new open switch fault detection method for PMSM drive based on average absolute values of phase currents, which allows for the diagnosis of single and multiple open-switch failures, also it is robust against false alarms. This approach has been later enhanced in (Zdiri et al., 2019) by adding other diagnostic variables. Another fault diagnosis method was discussed in (Jorge O. Estima & Marques Cardoso, 2013) in which the motor phase currents and their references were utilized to detect multiple open switch faults. In (Yan et al., 2018), the method based on average absolute values of phase currents is combined with a fuzzy logic approach to detect and locate single, multiple, and intermittent open circuit faults in power switches.

The open switch failures OSF diagnosis can also be performed by use of voltage. These methods have some good performances such as faster diagnosis speed, stronger independence of the load, and high robustness. However, as major weaknesses, they often require additional voltage sensors or extra hardware, so the implementation cost is high. Some examples of these methods are reported in (Sun et al., 2011),(Karimi et al., 2009),(Salehifar, 2014).

In this paper, we propose a novel fault detection and identification FDI method for vector controller of induction motor (IM) drive in the case of open-switch faults occurring in voltage source inverter. The faultdiagnosis process is only applied when the following faults appear: an opened phase fault and a single IGBT open-circuit fault. The rest of this paper is organized as follows. Section 2 describes the modeling and vector control strategy of a three-phase induction motor drive. The diagnosis method for an open switch faults OSF is detailed in Section 3. Simulation results for healthy and faulty operations are presented and discussed in Section 4. Finally, the conclusion is presented in Section 5.

2. Mathematical Model and Field-Oriented Controller of Induction Motor Drive

2.1 Induction Motor Mathematical Modelling

This section focuses on the mathematical analysis of the field-oriented controller (FOC) of a three-phase induction machine drive. Firstly, the mathematical model of a three-phase induction motor in dq reference frame fixed to the rotating magnetic field is expressed in vector form as follows(Zahraoui et al., 2016):

$$\frac{d}{dt}[X] = [A][X] + [B][U] \tag{1}$$

Where: $[X]$ stands for the state-variables vector, $[U]$ stands for the input vector. The components of each matrix are:

$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\gamma & \omega_s & \frac{k}{T_r} & kp\Omega \\ \omega_s & -\gamma & -kp\Omega & \frac{k}{T_r} \\ \frac{M}{T_r} & 0 & -\frac{1}{T_r} & (\omega_s - p\Omega) \\ 0 & \frac{M}{T_r} & -(\omega_s - p\Omega) & -\frac{1}{T_r} \end{bmatrix}; B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{1}{\sigma L_s} & 0 \\ 0 & \frac{1}{\sigma L_s} \\ 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}; [X] = [i_{sd} \ i_{sq} \ \psi_{rd} \ \psi_{rq}]^t, [U] = [u_{sd} \ u_{sq}]^t$$

Where: $T_r = \frac{L_r}{R_r}$; $\sigma = 1 - \frac{M^2}{L_s L_r}$; $\gamma = \frac{R_s}{\sigma L_s} + \frac{1 - \sigma}{\sigma T_r}$; $k = \frac{1 - \sigma}{\sigma M}$

The quantities i_{sd} , i_{sq} , u_{sd} , u_{sq} , R_s , L_s , M correspond to stator direct axis current, stator quadrature axis current, stator direct axis voltage stator, stator quadrature axis voltage, stator resistance, stator self-inductance, and magnetizing inductance, respectively. Also, ψ_{rd} , ψ_{rq} , R_r , L_r are direct axis rotor flux linkage, quadrature axis rotor flux linkage, rotor resistance, and rotor self-inductance, respectively.

The electromechanical torque developed by IM is given by the following expression:

$$T_{em} = \frac{3}{2} p \frac{M}{L_r} (i_{sq} \psi_{rd} - i_{sd} \psi_{rq}) \tag{2}$$

2.2 Induction Motor Control Strategy

The three-phase induction motor drive is controlled using the indirect field-oriented control (IFOC) strategy as shown in Figure 4. The inputs of the IFOC block are, the reference torque T_e^* generated by the PI speed controller, and the flux command ψ_{rd}^* considered constant. The outputs of IFOC are given by the following expressions:

- Sleep frequency ω_{sl} :

$$\omega_{sl} = \frac{M}{T_r} \frac{i_{sq}^*}{\psi_{rd}^*} \tag{3}$$

- The references stator currents in dq reference frame are as follows:

$$i_{sd}^* = \frac{\psi_{rd}^*}{M}, \quad i_{sq}^* = \frac{L_r T_e^*}{pM \psi_{rd}^*} \tag{4}$$

- The synchronous frequency ω_s and the rotor flux θ_s angle are given from:

different trajectories of the phase current according to the faulty switch is illustrated in Figure 6(b)(Orlowska-Kowalska & Sobański, 2015).

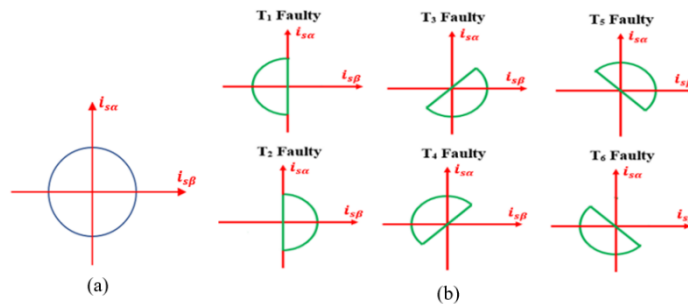


Figure.6. Current vector trajectory according to faulty switches in the 2-level VSI (a)Normal condition, (b) Faulty condition.

3.2 Diagnosis of Open-Switch Faults

The main idea of the proposed diagnostic approach is to use the measured stator currents (i_{sa}, i_{sb}, i_{sc}) as inputs signals for FDI unit. These currents are also used in the vector control algorithm (see Figure 4) which leads to avoiding the use of additional sensors, decreases the cost of the hardware system, and increases the reliability of the system. Generally, when one of the IGBT does not turn ON, in the case of motor operation, current in that phase is zero for a half cycle, either positive half cycle or negative half depending on whether it is upper IGBT $T_i(i=1,3,5)$ or lower IGBT $T_j(j=2,4,6)$. This information will be used to construct the diagnostic method discussed below.

Figure 7 illustrates a block diagram of the FDI algorithm. The inputs of this block are the $i_{sk}(k = a, b, c)$ that represents the a - phase, b - phase, and c - phase measured currents, and the output is the faulty switch $T_i^f (i = 1:6)$.

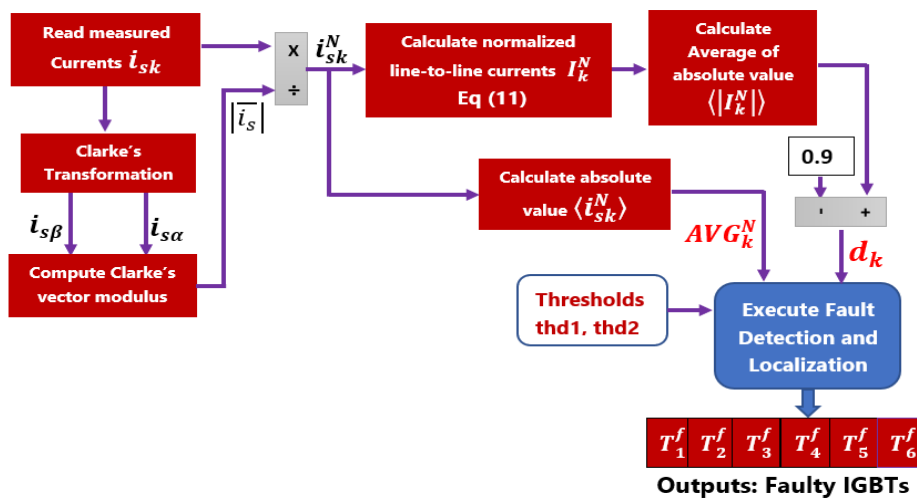


Figure.7. Block diagram of the proposed open switch fault diagnosis (FDI) method.

According to Figure 7, the proposed fault diagnosis method consists of two steps. The first one concerns the detection of the leg, which contains the faulty switch, it is based on the computing of the average of the absolute value of normalized line to line currents. In the next step, the identification of faulted switch (T_i^f) is achieved by using the average of the absolute value of normalized phase currents.

A. Detection of An Open Switch Fault

When the induction motor is powered by a healthy voltage source inverter VSI, the three-phase symmetrical current waveforms are defined by the following equations:

$$\begin{cases} i_{sa}(t) = I_m \sin(\omega_s t) \\ i_{sb}(t) = I_m \sin\left(\omega_s t - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \\ i_{sc}(t) = I_m \sin\left(\omega_s t + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

where I_m is the three-phase current amplitude, ω_s is the angular frequency.

In faulty operation, assuming an open circuit fault occurs in the bottom IGBT of leg- b , the current of phase- b during one fundamental period can be given by:

$$i_{sb}(t) = \begin{cases} I_m \sin\left(\omega_s t - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) & \text{if } \frac{2\pi}{3\omega_s} < t \leq \frac{5\pi}{3\omega_s} \\ 0 & \text{if } \frac{5\pi}{3\omega_s} < t \leq \frac{8\pi}{3\omega_s} \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

In order to make the FDI algorithm overcome the impact of load change, the current of each phase is normalized using Clarke's vector modulus defined as follows:

$$|\bar{i}_s| = \sqrt{i_{s\alpha}^2 + i_{s\beta}^2} = I_m \sqrt{\frac{3}{2}} \quad (9)$$

Where the currents ($i_{s\alpha}, i_{s\beta}$) in a fixed ($\alpha\beta$) two-axis frame are predefined in (6):

Through Clarke's vector modulus given in (9), the normalized currents (i_{sk}^N) are given by the following formulas:

$$i_{sk}^N = \frac{i_{sk}}{|\bar{i}_s|} = \begin{cases} i_{sa}^N = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \sin(\omega_s t) \\ i_{sb}^N = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \sin\left(\omega_s t - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \\ i_{sc}^N = \sqrt{\frac{2}{3}} \sin\left(\omega_s t + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

According to (10), the normalized currents i_{sk}^N ($k=a,b,c$) are balanced sinusoidal currents and take values within the range of ± 0.8165 .

Now, we define new quantities, which are the normalized line-to-line currents expressed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} I_a^N = i_{sb}^N - i_{sc}^N = -\sqrt{2} \cos(\omega_s t) \\ I_b^N = i_{sc}^N - i_{sa}^N = +\sqrt{2} \cos\left(\omega_s t + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \\ I_c^N = i_{sa}^N - i_{sb}^N = +\sqrt{2} \cos\left(\omega_s t - \frac{\pi}{3}\right) \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

The average absolute values of the three normalized line-to-line currents $\langle |I_k^N| \rangle$ under no-fault operation are given by:

$$\langle |I_k^N| \rangle = \frac{\omega_s}{\pi} \int_0^{\frac{\pi}{\omega_s}} \sqrt{2} \cos\left(\omega_s t + \frac{\pi}{3}\right) dt \approx 0.9 \quad (12)$$

where $\langle \rangle$ is signal average value at fundamental frequency.

The approximate values of $\langle |I_k^N| \rangle$ in the case of a single open switch or an open-circuit fault of leg- k ($k=a,b,c$) are listed in **Table 1**:

Table.1. Average absolute values of the three normalized line-to-line currents under a single open switch and open phase faults.

Average absolute values	Faulty Switches								
	T1	T2	T3	T4	T5	T6	T1, T2	T3, T4	T5, T6
$\langle I_a^N \rangle$	1.15	1.15	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.4	0.7	0.7
$\langle I_b^N \rangle$	0.8	0.8	1.15	1.15	0.8	0.8	0.7	1.4	0.7
$\langle I_c^N \rangle$	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.15	1.15	0.7	0.7	1.4

Based on the above analysis, we define the first fault indicator named the detection variables d_k as follows:

$$d_k = \langle |I_k^N| \rangle - 0.9 \tag{13}$$

The behavior of the detection variables varies according to the VSI state. When the drive works normally, all the detection variables d_k are close to zero. However, if an OSF fault happens in the upper or lower IGBT of leg- k , the corresponding fault detection variable is near to 0.25, whereas it is close to -0.1 for the healthy legs. In addition, d_k increases immediately to the value 0.5 when an open-circuit fault occurs in leg- k . By the combination of the diagnostic variables d_k and the fault detection thresholds ($thd1$, $thd2$), the detection of a single open switch fault or leg open-circuit fault is performed using the following algorithm:

$$D_k |_{k=a,b,c} = \begin{cases} N & \text{if } d_k < 0 \\ 0 & \text{if } d_k = 0 \\ P & \text{if } th_{d1} \leq d_k < th_{d2} \\ PP & \text{if } d_k \geq th_{d2} \end{cases} \tag{14}$$

When $D_k = 0$, it means the healthy operation mode. However, when D_k takes a positive value P there is an open switch fault in the leg- k , and if D_k takes a value PP , it is the case of a leg- k open-circuit fault.

B. Identification of an Open Switch Fault

The variable D_k does not allow the localization of a faulty switch, it just carries information about the affected leg, so we will define an identification variable AVG_k^N based on the calculation of the average value of the normalized three-phase currents (Yan et al., 2018). The fault identification variables can be formulated according to the following relationship:

$$AVG_k^N |_{k=a,b,c} = \begin{cases} L & \text{if } \langle i_k^N \rangle < 0 \text{ upper switch fault} \\ H & \text{if } \langle i_k^N \rangle > 0 \text{ lower switch fault} \end{cases} \tag{15}$$

Under healthy VSI conditions, all identifications variables AVG_k^N are approximately equal to zero. However, when an OSF occurs in leg- k , if the corresponding identification variable is negative ‘ L ’ then the upper switch $T_i (i=1,3,5)$ is the faulty component. Otherwise, the lower switch $T_j (j=2,4,6)$ is the faulty component. In addition, if the absolute average value is equal to zero during one period, the fault type is the open phase.

Finally, by using together with the detection variables D_k defined in (14) and the identification ones AVG_k^N given in (15), the localization of the faulted IGBTs (upper, lower, or for two IGBTs in the same leg) is achieved through the fault identification flags F_k described as follows:

$$F_k |_{k=a,b,c} = \begin{cases} 1 & OSF T_i \\ -1 & OSF T_{i+1} \\ 2 & OSF T_i \& T_{i+1} \end{cases} |_{i=1,3,5} \tag{16}$$

The fault flags F_k are 1, -1, and 2 in the case of upper switch fault, lower switch fault, and open-phase fault, respectively.

Based on the above analysis, by using the fault detection variables D_k , fault identification variables AVG_k , and fault identification flags $F_k (k = a, b, c)$ the detection and location of either an open-switch fault or an open phase fault is shown in **Table 2**.

Table.2. The relationship between diagnosis variables and faulty switches.

Fault type	Faulty switch	Diagnosis variables $i=1,2,3$ and $k=a,b,c$		
		D_k	AVG_k^N	F_k
Single open switch	Normal	0	0	0
	T_i	P	L	1
	T_{i+1}	P	H	-1
Open phase	T_i and T_{i+1}	PP	0	2

4. Simulation Results and Comments

In this section, we provide a series of computer simulations using MATLAB/Simulink environment to verify the effectiveness of the suggested FDI method. The IM was controlled by the field-oriented vector control strategy. The parameters of the induction motor and the VSI are stated in **Table 3**.

Table.3. The induction motor and VSI parameters

Induction motor	
Rated speed N_n	1400 rpm
Rated power P_n	1.5 kW
Voltage V	380 V
Line current	6.3 A
Phase current	3.6 A
Rated frequency f	50 Hz
Stator inductance L_s	0.39 H
Mutual inductance M	0.47 H
Rotor inductance L_r	0.61 H
Stator resistance R_s	5.43 Ω
Rotor resistance R_r	3.59 Ω
Moment of inertia J	0.027 kg.m ²
Pole pairs p	2
Voltage source inverter VSI	
DC-link voltage V_{dc}	540 V
PWM switching frequency f_s	1650 Hz

4.1 IM Drive Under IGBT Open Circuit Fault

The simulation of an OSF is achieved by setting the gate drive signals to null as shown in Figure 8:

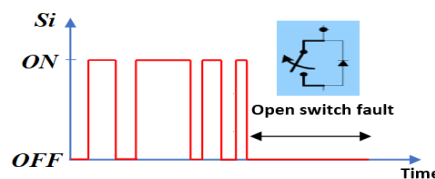


Figure.8. Simulation of an IGBT open circuit fault.

- Fault 1: An OSF occurs in the upper switch T1 of leg-a at $t_f=0.7$ sec for a speed reference of 700 rpm and under 50% of the motor rated torque applied at $t_L = 0.4$ sec.
- Fault 2: Faults occur in the switches T3 and T4 of leg-b simultaneously at $t_f=0.7$ sec where the speed reference is set to 1200 rpm and under 70% of the motor rated torque applied at $t_L = 0.4$ sec.

Figures 9 and 10 indicate the responses of the IM-drive in terms of phase currents, motor speed, and torque for the two cases of fault. Firstly, from Figures 9(a) and 10(a), when the IM-drive operates under healthy conditions, the phase currents have sinusoidal waveforms. Once the fault occurs at $t_f=0.7$ sec in T1, the current of phase-a is limited to flow only in the negative direction. Regarding fault 2, the control signals are removed from both switches (T3, T4) at $t_f=0.7$ sec, which leads to an opening-circuit fault of the phase-b.

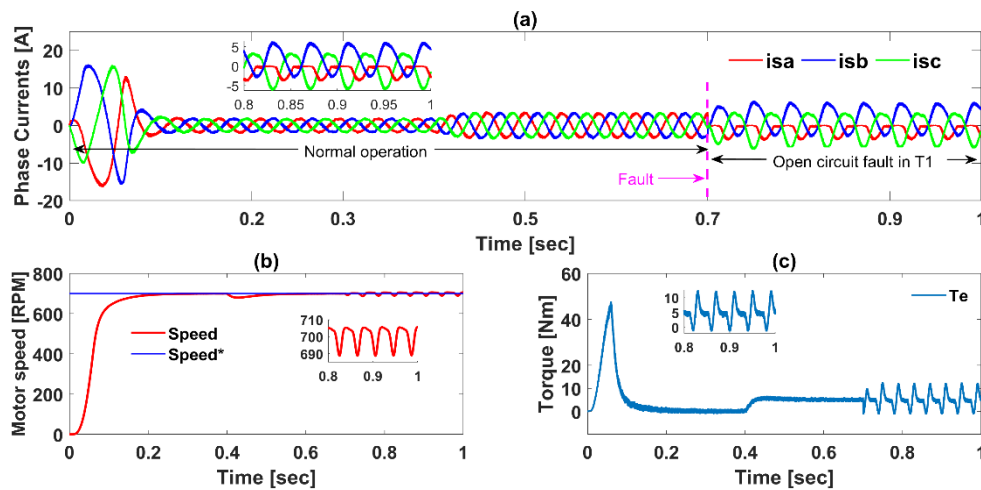


Figure.9. Simulation results of an open circuit fault in T1 of phase-a (Fault 1) with 700 rpm and 50% of load torque. (a) Phase currents (b) Mechanical Speed (c) Torque.

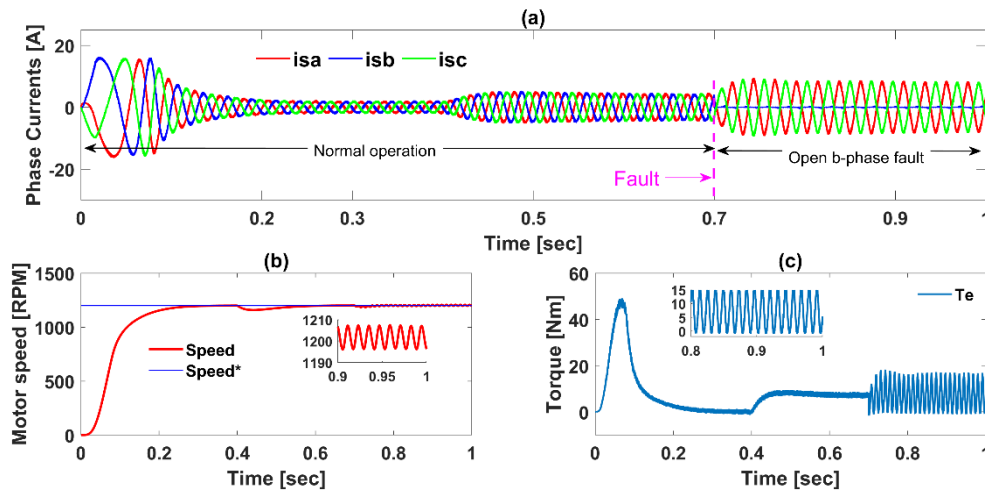


Figure.10. Simulation results for a fault in T3 and T4 of phase-b (Fault 2) with 1200 rpm and 70% of load torque. (a) Phase currents (b) Mechanical Speed (c) Torque.

Figures 9(b,c), and 10(b,c) show the time-domain variations of motor speed and torque. It is possible to observe that the speed and torque are affected, and exhibit ripples as soon as a fault occurs. In the event of fault 2, the motor will be supplied only by two phases, which causes fast ripples in speed and electromagnetic torque.

4.2 Fault Detection and Identification Variables

In this section, the simulation results are achieved to verify the proposed FDI algorithm against either an open circuit switch fault (upper switch T3 and, lower switch T2) or an open c -phase fault. The fault diagnosis results are presented in Figures 11,12 and 13. For both healthy and faulty operating conditions, a speed reference has been taken equal to 1000 rpm and considering a load torque equal to 50% of the rated one. The OSF detection threshold values $thd1$ and $thd2$ for (14) are set to be equal to 0.2 and 0.23 respectively.

From Figures 11,12 and 13, under normal operation of IM-drive, it is observed that the phase-currents have sinusoidal waveforms, which gets a null value for the diagnostic variables Dk , $AVGk$, and flags Fk .

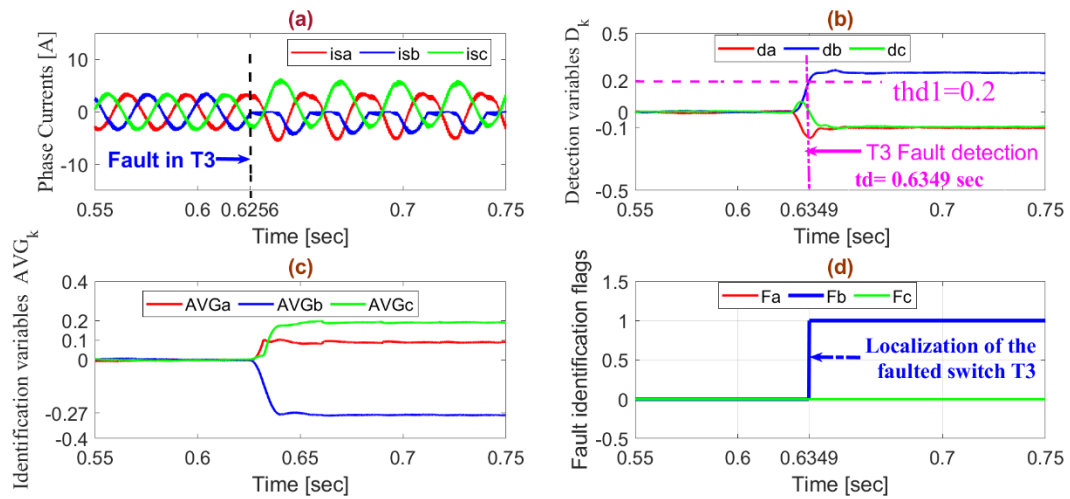


Figure.11. Diagnosis results for an OSF fault in T3 under 5 Nm load torque and for a reference speed of 1000 rpm. (a) Phase currents (b) Fault detection variables (c) Identification variables (d) Identification flags.

Concerning results in Figure 11, after an open-circuit fault happens in T3 at $t_f=0.6256$ sec, the positive half-wave of the b-phase current becomes equal to zero. As a result, the detection variable db increases to converge approximately to near 0.25, exceeding the threshold $thd1$ at the instant $td= 0.6349$ sec, and ones related to the healthy phases da and dc decrease to reach the value of about -0.1 as indicated in Figure 11(b). In addition, as shown in Figure 11(d), the identification flag Fb becomes equal to +1 (whereas $Fa= 0, Fc = 0$) under the fault operation, allowing for the identification of the faulty switch T3. According to **Table.2** and equations (14)-(16), the open switch fault of T3 is detected and identified at time $td= 0.6349$ sec, which gives a detection speed equivalent to 31.13 % of the phase currents fundamental period.

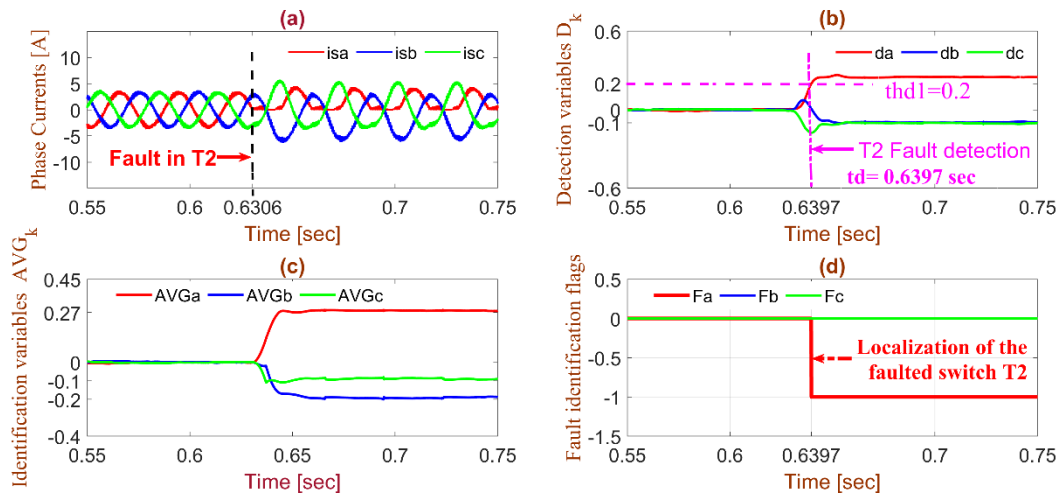


Figure.12. Diagnosis results for an OSF fault in T2 under 5 Nm load torque and for a reference speed of 1000 rpm. (a) Phase currents (b) Fault detection variables (c) Identification variables (d) Identification flags.

Other diagnostic results are shown in Figure 12 where an open-circuit fault in the lower IGBT T2 of the second inverter-leg is applied at $t_f=0.6306$ sec. Before the fault occurrence, concerning the currents and the diagnostic variables, the same remarks as in the previous case were observed. After the fault occurs, the detection variable related to faulted phase da quickly changes and breaks through the threshold $thd1$ at 0.6397 sec. As a result, the identification flag Fa decreases immediately from 0 to -1 at 0.6397 sec (and $Fb = 0, Fc = 0$) allowing for the identification of the faulty switch T2 as indicated in Figure 12(d). So, from the above information, the detection and localization of the faulty IGBT T2 are achieved after approximately 9msec of the fault occurrence, which corresponds approximately to 30.43 % of the phase currents fundamental period.

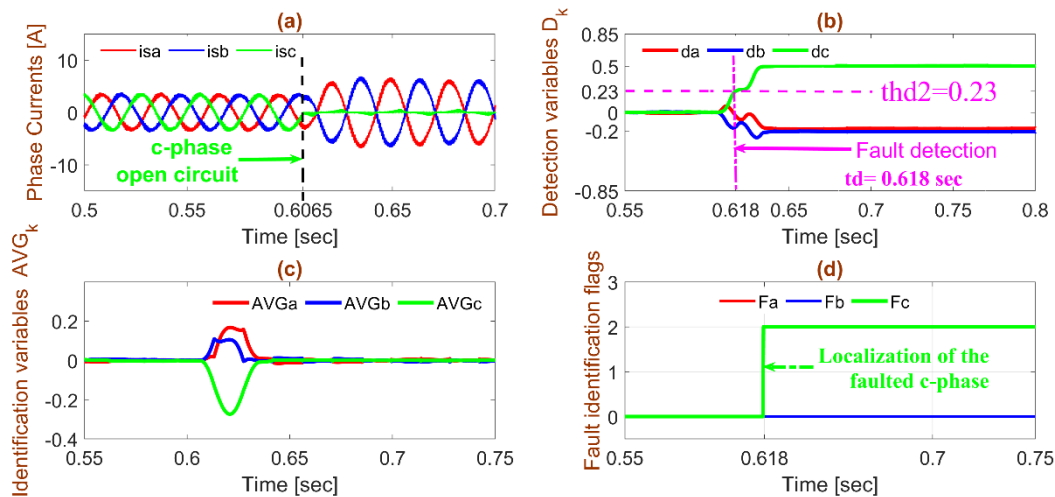


Figure.13. Diagnosis results when T5 and T6 are under open-circuit fault. (a) Phase currents (b) Fault detection variables (c) Identification variables (d) Identification flags.

Next, the fault diagnosis process is also applied for an open phase fault as shown in Fig. 13. The switching signals of IGBTs T5 and T6 have been removed simultaneously at $t_f=0.6065$ sec. When the detection variable dc corresponding to the affected phase exceeds the predefined threshold value $thd2$ at $td=0.618$ sec, the fault identification flags ($Fa Fb Fc$) change from (000) to (001), as shown in Figure 13(b) and Figure 13(d). As a result, the diagnosis method for this kind of fault (open phase fault) takes about 37 % of the fundamental current period to identify the faulted phase.

4.3 FDI Robustness Against Speed and Load Torque Transients

The precise selection of fault detection thresholds ($thd1, thd2$) is an important task because it has a significant impact on the diagnosis method’s robustness and immunity in healthy operation (Gmati et al., 2021). In this work, the threshold value is selected by studying the behavior of the detection variables D_k for normal and All faulty operations of IM-drive. A trade-off between a quick diagnosis process and robustness against false alarms is also considered. A higher threshold value increases the fault detection time while making the FDI scheme even more robust against transients. On the contrary, a lower threshold value makes the detection method vulnerable to false alarms.

To check the robustness of the proposed FDI algorithm against speed and load torque variations, two transient states were applied to the FDI block. Figure 14 shows the simulation results of the time-domain waveforms of the motor phase currents together with the fault detection variables during transients caused by the change in mechanical load and motor speed. A speed and load variations versus time are as follows:

- The reference speed is set to 700 rpm in $t = 0 - 0.6$ sec, and then it is increased to 1000 rpm at $t = 0.6$ sec and finally increases to 1300 rpm at $t = 0.8$ sec.
- At $t = 0.3$ sec the load torque increase from 2 to 8 Nm (20% to 80% of the rated torque), and then it is increased to 10 Nm (100% of the rated torque) at $t = 0.5$ sec.

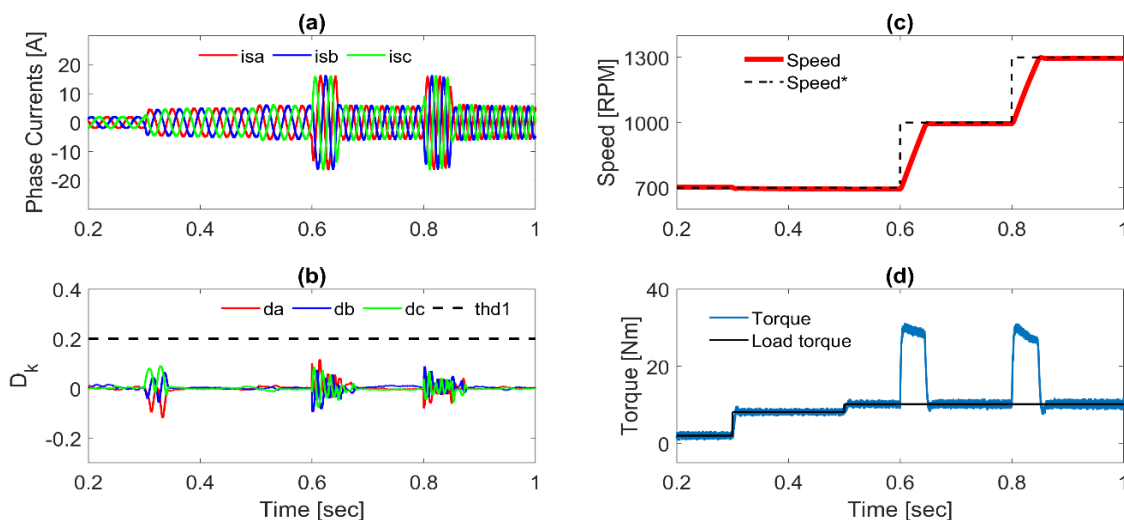


Figure.14. Simulation results under load and speed changes.

(a) phase currents (b) detection variables (c) speed (d) torque.

It can be seen from these results that during this change in mechanical load and speed, the detection variables undergo a light deformation, but it does not exceed the thresholds $thd1=0.2$ and $thd2=0.23$. As a result, there are no false alarms generated in the FDI process.

5. Conclusion

This paper proposes a new FDI signal-based method concerning open switch faults of a three-phase inverter feeding an induction motor controlled by field-oriented control FOC strategy. The FDI algorithm uses phase currents as diagnostic signals already used in the vector controller algorithm, which leads to avoiding the use of additional sensors. Thus, it is a cost-effective method. Firstly, the absolute average value of the normalized line to line currents is used to determine the fault detection variables. After that, the identification of the faulty IGBT is achieved by calculating the average value of the normalized phase currents.

The simulation results show that the proposed diagnosis algorithm presents interesting performances in terms of fast fault detection time, robustness against transients caused by variations in speed and load torque.

Concerning the fault detection time, less than half of the fundamental period is required to locate the fault; about 30.5-31.5% and 36-37% of an electrical period for an open switch fault and an open phase fault respectively. The performance improvement of this method as well as its experimental validation will be our future work.

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