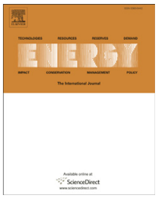
Energy 65 (2014) 511–516

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Energy

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/energy



Coupling induction motors to improve the energy conversion process during balanced and unbalanced operation

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ARTICLE INFO

Article history:
Received 29 July 2013
Received in revised form
10 November 2013
Accepted 12 November 2013
Available online 11 December 2013

Keywords:
Induction motor
DC motor
Electromagnetic torque
Voltage unbalance
Energy conversion

ABSTRACT

This paper assesses the steady-state performance of cascaded IMs (induction motors) operating under voltage unbalance. Small sizes induction motors are connected in cascade instead of one big size induction motor to improve the electromagnetic system and to make the energy conversion process more efficient during both balanced and unbalanced operation. The two mechanically coupled induction motors could have the same ratings or different ratings. The paper analyzes the coupled machines system using the method of symmetrical components and MATLAB/Simulink software. The definition of the voltage unbalance using CVUF (complex voltage unbalance factor) is used. Coupling of induction motors with DC (direct current) motors is examined to investigate the effect of cascading on the electromagnetic torque of the entire set. A comparison of the effect of the unbalanced voltage on single and cascaded machines is illustrated. The purpose of such comparison is to determine which one has the best performance during the balanced and unbalanced operations. Furthermore, this paper assesses the impact of connecting induction motors in cascade on the energy conversion process.

1. Introduction

The induction motor is as considered one of the most popular motors in the industry; it should be used properly to save the energy consumed and to improve the performance [1,2]. Thus, this paper studies the use of cascading small sizes induction motors instead of one big size induction motor to improve the electromagnetic system and the energy conversion process [3]. The electromagnetic forces act between the rotor and the stator where the magnetic flux density is different in the big size induction motors than the small sizes induction motors connected in cascade wherein the rating summation thereof is the same rating of the big size induction motor [4].

The cascaded induction motors herein, deemed to be two coupled induction motors, are cascaded on the same shaft and feed the same load. The machine coupling is either a magnetic coupling or electrical coupling. Although the same torque is transferred to the load, the energy conversion process is changed and the efficiency is different.

Voltage unbalance is a power quality problem, it is a common phenomenon found in a three-phase power system. Although the three-phase voltage supply is balanced in both magnitude and phase-angle at the generation and transmission level, the voltage at the load terminal and utilization side could become unbalanced [5–7]. It is practically impossible to obviate such unbalance due to the uneven distribution of single-phase loads in the three-phase supply system, asymmetric transmission line and transformer winding impedances. Such condition has severe impacts on the performance of an induction motor [8]. This motor can tolerate a low degree of voltage unbalance, so the unbalance should be derated if it is excessive [9]. The voltage unbalance can increase stator and rotor losses in the induction motor, rise windings temperature, reduce the insulation life caused by overheating, and derate its output horsepower, so it cannot tolerate the extra heating arising from the unbalanced voltage supply. It is worth mentioning that the unbalanced conditions are two cases; at over-voltage and at under-voltage [10]. From this point of view, the paper studies replacing one big size induction motor with small size induction motors to reach the best performance throughout the unbalanced operation.

2. Definition of CVUF (complex voltage unbalance factor)

VU (voltage unbalance) has been examined by some researches explained in Ref. [11]. In most previous studies, the method of evaluating the degree of unbalanced voltage is based on either NEMA (National Electrical Manufactures Association) standard or IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) definition. Both

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http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.energy.2013.11.039

List of symbols

CVUF	complex voltage unbalance factor
V_{ab}, V_{bc}, V_{ca}	stator line voltages
V_a, V_b, V_c	stator phase voltages
kv	magnitude
θ_u	angle of the CVUF
V_{s1}	positive sequence voltage
V_{s2}	negative sequence voltage

the NEMA and the IEC definitions are only considering the magnitude of the voltage unbalance to describe the degree of unbalanced voltage. The three-phase voltage supply has not only magnitude but also phase-angle that gives contribution to the voltage unbalance. Hence, both the definitions lead to a comparatively large error in predicting the performance of the induction motor.

A more precise approach in predicting the performance of an induction motor operation with unbalanced three-phase voltage is by using the complex quantity to specify the degree of voltage unbalance. This definition was recently known as the complex unbalance voltage factor and is used as CVUF in the most recent literature [11]. So, the CVUF is an extension of the IEC definition which consists of magnitude and angle of the voltage unbalance.

Analysis of inductions motor operating with unbalanced voltage supply using are done in this paper by using symmetrical component approach and by MATLAB/Simulink modeling program.

2.1. Analysis of the induction motor which operates with unbalanced voltage supply

The analysis is done using the symmetrical component approach that requires positive and negative sequence equivalent circuits

$$V_{ab} = V_a - V_b \tag{1}$$

$$V_{bc} = V_b - V_c \tag{2}$$

$$V_{ca} = V_c - V_a \tag{3}$$

$$V_{s1} = \frac{1}{3}*\left(V_{ab} + a*\ \mathrm{V}_{bc} + a^2*V_{ca}\right) \tag{4}$$

$$V_{s2} = \frac{1}{3}*\left(V_{ab} + a^2*V_{bc} + a*V_{ca}\right) \tag{5}$$

The CVUF is defined as shown Eq (6), where K_u is the magnitude and θ_u is the angle of the CVUF.

$$K_u = \frac{V_{s2}}{V_{s1}} = K_u < \theta_u \tag{6}$$

In contrary, the line voltages can be obtained from their positive and negative sequence.

$$\begin{aligned} V_{ab} &= V_{s1} + V_{s2} \\ V_{bc} &= a^2 \times V_{s1} + a \times V_{s2} \\ V_{ca} &= a \times V_{s1} + a^2 \times V_{s2} \end{aligned} \tag{7}$$

If the ratio of line-voltages is defined by:

$$V_{ab} : V_{bc} : V_{ca} = 1 : X : Y \tag{8}$$

Then, the relation between (K_u, θ_u) and (X, Y) is:

$$X = \frac{1 + K_u}{a^2 + a*K_u} \tag{9}$$

$$Y = \frac{a + a^2*K_u}{a^2 + a*K_u} \tag{10}$$

where K_u and θ_u are the magnitude and angle of CVUF of the phase voltage respectively. The angle, θ_u indicates the angle by which V_{s2} leads the V_{s1}, and it is an important parameter to decide the pattern of voltage under different condition of unbalance, whereas k_u is the measurement of the intensity of severity. Normally the V_{s1} is very close to unity in per unit k_u will be very close to V_{s2}.

Assume three phase voltage source balanced with 460 V_{L-L} supplied three phase induction motor the values of X and Y for different K_u and θ_u are illustrated in Tables 1 and 2.

Fig. 1(a) illustrates the positive and negative sequence equivalent circuit for the induction motor supplied by unbalanced supply and Fig. 1(b) illustrates the complex voltage unbalance factor (CVUF) diagram.

Fig. 1(b) was obtained from using Eqs (9) and (10). The relation between (K_u, θ_u) and (X, Y) with constant K_u and varies θ_u from (0–360), the loci shown in $(X - Y)$ plane looks like ellipse. Using the relation between (K_u, θ_u) and (X, Y) with constant θ_u and varies K_u the loci shown in $(X - Y)$ plane looks like straight line.

3. Torque/slip characteristic for 50 hp (37,300 W) induction motor at balanced and unbalanced supply voltage

The symmetrical component theory approach is used to analyze the operation of induction motor under such conditions. MATLAB/Simulink program is employed for computer simulation [11–14].

Fig. 2 illustrates the difference between the torque/slip characteristic for 50 hp (37,300 W) induction motor. The impact of the balanced and unbalanced supply voltage is shown. It is noted that the torque decreases for different values of the unbalanced voltage that can be explained by the unbalance voltage produce negative sequence torque decreases the resultant torque.

4. Torque/slip characteristic for the standalone and two coupled motors in balanced and unbalanced cases

In this section, two induction motors are connected in cascade either through mechanical coupling or electrical coupling. The

Table 1
Data of (X, Y) for different values of K_u.

$K_u = 1.69\%$		$K_u = 3.45\%$		$K_u = 5.26\%$		$K_u = 7\%$	
X	Y	X	Y	X	Y	X	Y
0.98	0.98	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	0.90	0.90
0.97	0.99	0.94	0.97	0.91	0.96	0.89	0.94
0.97	1.00	0.95	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.90	1.00
0.99	1.01	0.97	1.02	0.95	1.04	0.94	1.06
1.00	1.03	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.08	1.00	1.11
1.01	1.03	1.03	1.06	1.05	1.10	1.07	1.13
1.03	1.03	1.05	1.05	1.08	1.08	1.11	1.11
1.03	1.01	1.06	1.03	1.10	1.05	1.13	1.07
1.03	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.08	1.00	1.11	1.00
1.01	0.99	1.02	0.97	1.04	0.95	1.06	0.94
1.00	0.97	1.0	0.95	1.00	0.92	1.00	0.90
0.99	0.97	0.97	0.94	0.96	0.91	0.94	0.89
0.98	0.98	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	0.90	0.90