On Designing of the Main Elements of a Hybrid-Electric Vehicle Driving System

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Abstract

The paper deals with the designing of an electric drive system used for hybrid electric vehicles. The driving system is realized with an induction motor and a voltage source inverter. Specifically, the application is for a series hybrid vehicle powered by electric storage batteries charged by solar batteries. In the first part of the paper the designing of the electric storage batteries and of the photoelectric system is presented. In the second part of the paper some aspects regarding the designing of the induction motor are presented. Then some aspects concerning the voltage source inverter designing are exposed.

Keywords

Hybrid Electric Vehicle; Drive System; Designing; Electric Storage Batteries; Photoelectric System; Induction Motor; Voltage Source Inverter

1. Introduction

At present, the main problems facing humanity are pollution, as that produced by industrial activities and that produced by motor vehicles, providing food for all mankind, as well as finding new solutions for the production of energy, because conventional sources (non-renewable) and crude oil are running low.

According to [1-3], oil is a limited source of energy, and at the current rate of exploitation of oil resources around the globe is expected to use this resource still about 46 years [4-5]. A possible solution to reduce the consumption of oil could be the use of alternative drive systems as hybrid electric vehicles that use electric storage batteries [6-7].

The ever increasing traffic volume has produced high levels of carbon dioxide emissions from the conventional gasoline and diesel-fueled vehicles, which will contribute to a substantial increase of pollution in the major cities all over the world, causing heavy consequences to the communities [8-11].

It has been recognized that hybrid electric vehicles are the only viable solution in order to reduce air pollution, in particular, in large urban areas. In a hybrid electric vehicle, the electric propulsion system is intended to provide advantages over conventional vehicles equipped with an internal combustion engine. With the help of the electric drive, the life of the internal combustion engine can be optimized, which often means low fuel consumption and low emissions.

In this context the induction motor offers weight and efficiency advantages over the more conventional DC motors, besides its traditional advantages of robustness, low cost and well established manufacturing techniques. These motors have comparable torque and efficiency, along with a rugged, durable design. They don’t have a drag loss when the motor turns on and they don’t lose their efficiency during high speed or low torque conditions. This makes them well suited for hybrid electric vehicles.

This work presents the design of a propulsion system for a series hybrid electric vehicle powered by an induction motor. For the operation of the hybrid electric vehicle, electric storage batteries charged by solar batteries are used.

The used block diagram of the hybrid electric vehicle is depicted in Figure 1 [12]. The parameters of the chosen hybrid electric vehicle are:

- Rated power: $P_n = 60 \text{ kW}$;
- Range: $L = 75 \text{ km}$;
- Induction motor pole pairs: $p_1 = 1$;
- Vehicle speed: $v = 75 \text{ km/h}$.

2. Sizing of the Electric Storage Batteries

For the operation of the hybrid electric vehicle are used electric storage batteries charged by solar batteries [13]. Hybrid electric vehicle running time to a speed of 50 km/h and at a distance of 160 km is:

$$t = \frac{L}{v} = 1 \text{ h}$$

(1)

The energy required to operate the hybrid electric vehicle at a power of 8 kW and with a running time of 1 h is:

$$E_s = P \cdot t = 216 \text{ MJ}$$

(2)

To have this energy it can be used electric accumulators. To do this, one chooses an accumulator that has a capacity $C$ of 150 Ah:

$$C = 150 \text{ Ah} = 150 \cdot 1 = 150 \cdot 3600 = 54 \cdot 10^4 \text{ As}$$

(3)

The energy stored in the accumulator is:

$$E_{AE} = U \cdot I \cdot t = 648 \cdot 10^4 \text{ J}$$

(4)

The number of electric accumulators is:

$$N_{AE} = \frac{E_s}{E_{AE}} = 30$$

(5)
The energy of a battery is:

\[ E_{AE} = \frac{E_0}{N_{AE}} = 7.2 \text{ MJ} \]  

(6)

The Ag-Zn electric storage batteries disposal is depicted in Figure 2 [14].

3. Photoelectric System Sizing

Charging of the electric storage batteries is made from a solar cells system. These batteries will not give the same energy throughout the day [15]. The surface of the solar battery for charging the electric storage batteries is \( S = 20 \text{ m}^2 \). For a system of fixed and mobile solar panels, the power can be calculated as:

\[ P = U \cdot I \cdot \text{no.hours} \cdot \eta \]  

(7)

For the fixed system the efficiency is \( \eta = 0.4 \) and for the mobile system \( \eta = 1 \).

The coordinates of the operation points from the operation characteristic of the batteries (Figure 3) are calculated as follows:

\[
\begin{align*}
P_i &= 20 \cdot 10^3 \cdot 0.4 = 8000 \text{ W} \\
P_i \cdot U_i &= 100 \text{ V} \quad \Rightarrow \quad P_i(100, 80) \\
I_i &= \frac{P_i}{U_i} = 80 \text{ A}
\end{align*}
\]

(8)

Figure 2. Electric storage batteries disposal.

Figure 3. The operation characteristic of the batteries.
The energy given by the mobile system is:
\[ E = E_1 + E_2 + E_3 = 80 \cdot 100 \cdot 6 \cdot 3600 + 71.11 \cdot 90 \cdot 2 \cdot 3600 + 70 \cdot 80 \cdot 1 \cdot 3600 = 239 \text{ MJ} \] (11)

The energy of the fixed system is:
\[ E = 239 \cdot 0.45 = 107.55 \text{ MJ} \] (12)

From these calculations it is observed that the mobile system provides more energy, because this system follows the sun and provides the maximum energy in the range of given hours.

4. Aspects Concerning Induction Motor Designing

The induction motor was designed considering the following rated data:
- Rated power: \( P_n = 60 \text{ kW} \);
- Rated voltage: \( U_n = 230 / 400 \text{ V} \);
- Speed: \( n_N = 2985 \text{ rot/min} \);
- Number of pole pairs: \( p_1 = 1 \).

Further in the paper, the most representative parameters and results yielded from the induction motor designing algorithm are exposed.

The rated current is given by:
\[ 3 \cdot U_N \cdot I_N \cdot \cos \phi \cdot \eta = P_N \] (13)
where \( \cos \phi = 0.85 \) and \( \eta = 0.91 \). In this case \( I_N = 112 \text{ A} \).

Next, one determines the induction motor parameters. These are: the resistances \( R_1 \) and \( R_2 \), the inductances \( L_1 \) and \( L_2 \), the coupling inductance \( M \), and the idling current \( I_0 \) [16].

Determination of the internal resistance of the motor is calculated considering the power losses as:
\[ 0.1 \cdot P_N = 3 \cdot (R_1 + R_2) \cdot I_N \] (14)

It results that: \( R_1 = R_2 = 0.08 \text{ \Omega} \).

The idle current is given by:
\[ I_0 = 0.3 \cdot I_N = 33.6 \text{ A} \] (15)

The inductance is determined as:
\[ L = \frac{U_N}{I_0 \cdot \omega_1} \] (16)
where \( \omega_1 = 314 \text{ rad/s} \). In this case, \( L = 0.021 \text{ H} \).

The coupling inductance is:
\[ M = 0.9 \cdot L \] (17)

In our case \( M = 0.0189 \text{ H} \).

Steady state equations of the induction motor are:
\[ U_1 = R \cdot I_s - \omega_1 \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_\phi) \] (18)
\[ U_2 = R \cdot I_q + \omega_1 \cdot (L \cdot I_s + M \cdot I_s) \] (19)
\[ 0 = R \cdot I_\phi - (\omega_1 - \omega) \cdot (L \cdot I_\phi + M \cdot I_s) \] (20)
\[ 0 = R \cdot I_d + (\omega - \omega) \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_d) \]  
\[ (21) \]

Control of the algorithm takes into account the electromagnetic torque function in the form:
\[ M_{elmg} = p_1 \cdot M \cdot (I_{dr} \cdot I_q - I_d \cdot I_{qr}) \]  
\[ (22) \]

The maximum of the function is analyzed by considering the method of Lagrange multipliers. One imposes a maximum stator current:
\[ I_d^2 + I_q^2 = I_N^2 = 16,307.2 \, A^2 \]  
\[ (23) \]

For the stator flux \( \Psi_s \) one imposing a value closes to the magnetic saturation (\( \Psi_s = 1.3 \, \text{Wb} \)) [17]:
\[ \Psi_s^2 = (L \cdot I_d + M \cdot I_{qr})^2 + (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_{dr})^2 \]  
\[ (24) \]

For the induction motor starting, the voltages \( U_d \) and \( U_q \) are written as:
\[ U_d = R \cdot I_d - \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_{qr}) \]  
\[ U_q = R \cdot I_q + \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_d + M \cdot I_{dr}) \]  
\[ (25) \]
\[ (26) \]

and the following values are obtained: \( \omega_1 = 8.21 \, \text{rad/s}; \) \( U_d = 0.064 \, \text{V}; \) \( U_q = 9.626 \, \text{V}. \)

Hybrid electric vehicle operation at rated speed is given by:
\[ \begin{align*}
400 & = R \cdot I_d - \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_{qr}) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_q + \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_d + M \cdot I_{dr}) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_{dr} - (\omega - \omega_N) \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_q) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_{qr} + (\omega - \omega_N) \cdot (L \cdot I_{dr} + M \cdot I_d) \\
M_N & = M \cdot (I_q \cdot I_{dr} - I_d \cdot I_{qr}) \\
\omega_N & = (2 \cdot \pi \cdot n_N / 60) \cdot 3
\end{align*} \]  
\[ (27) \]

and has the next results: \( I_d = -31.409 \, \text{A}; \) \( I_q = 298.02 \, \text{A}; \) \( I_{qr} = -328.49 \, \text{A}; \) \( I_{dr} = 32.253 \, \text{A}; \) \( M_N = 13.331 \, \text{Nm}; \) \( \omega_N = 312.4 \, \text{rad/s}. \)

The obtained voltages are: \( U_d = 15.17 \, \text{V}; \) \( U_q = 25.36 \, \text{V}. \)

Regenerative braking of the hybrid electric vehicle is given by:
\[ \begin{align*}
400 & = R \cdot I_d - \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_{qr}) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_q + \omega \cdot (L \cdot I_d + M \cdot I_{dr}) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_{dr} - (\omega - \omega_N) \cdot (L \cdot I_q + M \cdot I_q) \\
0 & = R \cdot I_{qr} + (\omega - \omega_N) \cdot (L \cdot I_{dr} + M \cdot I_d) \\
M_f & = M \cdot (I_q \cdot I_{dr} - I_d \cdot I_{qr})
\end{align*} \]  
\[ (28) \]

The obtained results are:
\[ \begin{align*}
I_d & = 7.557 \, \text{A} \\
I_q & = -306.76 \, \text{A} \\
I_{qr} & = 273.54 \, \text{A} \\
I_{dr} & = -4.262 \, \text{A} \\
M_f & = -14.36 \, \text{Nm}
\end{align*} \]  
\[ (29) \]

5. Designing of the Voltage Source Inverter

5.1. Choosing the Power Electronics for the Converter

The designing of the VSI was performed in a MATLAB module and is based on the following rated data:
- Rotor AC line voltage: \( U_{act, line} = 400 \, \text{V}; \)
• Rotor rated current: \( I_{\text{rot}} = 112 \text{ A} \);
• Fundamental frequency: \( f = 25 \text{ Hz} \);
• Effective value of the rectified output voltage: \( U_{\text{p}} = 653.2 \text{ V} \);
• Rated current amplitude for the rotor: \( I_{\text{n}} = \sqrt{2} \cdot I_{\text{rot}} = 158.4 \text{ A} \);
• Rated average current: \( I_{\text{med}} = 0.9 \cdot I_{\text{med}} = 100.8 \text{ A} \);
• Ripple current, considering a peak of 5%: \( I_{\text{ripple}} = 0.05 \cdot I_{\text{n}} = 7.91 \text{ A} \).

5.2. Characteristic Parameters of the Voltage Source Inverter

The designing method is used for a wide range of engines and voltages. The sizing of the voltage source inverter was made for a traction motor with the power of 60 kW and a voltage of 400 V_{AC}. The maximum voltage that the voltage source inverter can supply for the motor is determined by the main supply voltage.

Characteristic and functional parameters, from which the sizing of the voltage source inverter was performed, are the following:
• Supplying voltage: \( U_a = 110 \text{ V} (-30\% \div +20\%) \);
• Input filter parameters: \( C_f = 1000 \text{ μF}; L_f = 3.96 \text{ mH} \);
• Operating frequency: \( f_L = 2 \text{ kHz} \);
• Induction motor rated current: \( I_{\text{n}} = 112 \text{ A} \).

The simplified diagram of the inverter is depicted in Figure 4.

5.3. Calculation of the Conduction Time

Full conduction time \( t_1 \) is determined from the condition that the average voltage at the motor terminals not to exceed its rated voltage, respectively \( U_{\text{n}} = 400 \text{ V} \).

For the switching period \( T = 1 / f_L = 0.0005 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s} \) and the supplying voltage \( U_a = 110 \text{ V} \), results:

\[
t_1 = \frac{T \cdot U_a}{U_{\text{n}}} = 0.0037 \cdot 10^{-3} \text{ s}
\] (30)

Changing of the voltage average value is achieved by changing the time length of the conduction, while maintaining a constant switching period (corresponding to an operating frequency of 2 kHz).

5.4. Calculation of the Average Current through the IGBT

The average current through the static contactor is a fundamental criterion for choosing it. The average current value is computed by mediation instantaneous values corresponding to a period:

\[
I_{\text{med}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T i_a \, dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{\pi} I_{\text{n}} \sin(\omega t) \, d\omega
\] (31)

The current through the IGBT \( I_{\text{igbt}} \) is obtained with:

\[
I_{\text{igbt}} = \frac{\sqrt{2} \cdot I_{\text{n}}}{\pi}
\] (32)

In this case, \( I_{\text{igbt}} = 38.98 \text{ A} \).

Since the induction motor is 60 kW/480 V, then the maximum current of the motor \( I_{\text{max}} \) is given by:

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\[\text{Figure 4. Voltage source inverter diagram.}\]
\[ I_{\text{max}} = 1.5 \cdot I_n. \] (33)

In our case \( I_{\text{max}} = 129.90 \, \text{A}. \)

The average value corresponding to the maximum motor current is:

\[ I_{\text{med}} = \frac{\sqrt{2} \cdot I_{\max}}{\pi} \] (34)

In this case, \( I_{\text{med}} = 58.47 \, \text{A}. \)

5.5. Network Filter Sizing

The network filter limits to a very large extent the switching surges and protects the equipment against network’s short duration voltage variations. Short-term variations of the voltage applied to the equipment are largely caused by instability of the galvanic connection between the sensors and the contact line [18].

Natural frequency of resonance \((f_0)\) for the filter is given by:

\[ f_0 = \frac{1}{2 \cdot \pi \sqrt{L \cdot C}} \] (35)

In this case, \( f_0 = 79.97 \, \text{Hz}. \)

In order not to fall into the spectrum \( f_n \) of the harmonics produced by the inverter, \( f_0 \) must be lower than the lowest operating frequency of the inverter, meaning \( f_0 < f_{\text{min}} \). Because \( f_{\text{min}} = f = 2 \, \text{kHz} \) and \( f_0 = 79.97 \, \text{Hz} \), the above condition is satisfied.

5.6. Choosing the Switching Transistors

Depending on the parameters \( I_{\text{max}} \) and the rated voltage imposed, from the catalog of SEMIKRON manufacturer of electronic components was chosen the following IGBT model: SKM900GA12E4 (SEMITRANS), which satisfies the conditions [19-20]:

\[ I_{\text{max}} \leq I_{\text{max, catalog}} = 900 \, \text{A} \] (36)

\[ U_n \leq U_{\text{scat, catalog}} = 1200 \, \text{V} \] (37)

5.7. Choosing and Verification of the Cooling System

The dissipation of the heat that is generated in the semiconductor during conduction is made via an aluminum radiator that is cooled with forced air flow. Radiator sizing criteria is that the semiconductor junction temperature does not exceed the limit specified by the manufacturer, namely \( 175 \, ^\circ\text{C} \) under long-term.

The radiator is a subset of the equipment, with the aim of maintaining the temperature within limits for the proper functioning of the equipment, especially IGBT.

The thermal effects of the electric current peak by conduction state represent the worst case during operation. Other important computed parameters are:

- Switching losses of the transistor:

\[ P_{\text{conT}} = (E_{\text{on}} + E_{\text{off}}) \cdot \frac{I_{\text{med}}}{I_{\text{cref}}} \cdot f_{\text{con}} = 52.37 \, \text{W} \] (38)

- Conduction losses of the transistor:

\[ P_{\text{condT}} = \frac{t}{T} \cdot U_{\text{ceat}} \cdot I_{\text{med}} = 216.48 \, \text{W} \] (39)

- Average current through the antiparallel diode:

\[ I_{\text{med}} = \frac{1}{T} \int_0^T i_d \, dt = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^{2\pi} I_n \cdot \sin(\omega t) \, d\omega \] (40)
\[ I_{med} = \frac{\sqrt{2} \cdot 3 \cdot I_n}{4\pi} = 60.42 \, A \]  

- Antiparallel diode switching losses:
\[ P_{\text{comD}} = (E_{\text{on}} + E_{\text{off}}) \cdot I_{\text{medD}} \cdot f_{\text{com}} = 8.73 \, W \]  

One used data catalog for voltage drops at saturation. The total average power generated inside the case by a module is:
\[ P = P_\text{z} + P_\text{D} = 257.92 \, W \]  

Total losses on all three phases [21]:
\[ P_{\text{phase}} = 3 \cdot P = 737.77 \, W \]  

Was made the preliminary selection of the radiator type P16_300_16B, with the technical characteristics specified in the catalog tab, cooled by an air flow produced by the fan type SK-Heat Sink P16_300_16B, with the technical characteristics specified in the catalog of the manufacturer.

Junction over-temperature corresponding to the average power previously computed is checked within the chosen cooling conditions:
\[ \Delta T = T_j - T_0 = P \cdot \sum R_{th} \]  

The absolute temperature of the junction depends on the maximum ambient temperature specific to the temperate climate: \[ T_0 = 40^\circ C \].

The thermal resistances involved in this calculation are specified in the power transistor catalog, respectively the radiator catalog:
- Thermal resistance junction—capsule for IGBT:
\[ R_{\text{thjcT}} = 0.035 \, K/W; \]
- Thermal resistance junction—capsule for diode:
\[ R_{\text{thjcD}} = 0.041 \, K/W; \]
- Thermal resistance capsule—radiator:
\[ R_{\text{thcr}} = 0.038 \, K/W; \]
- Thermal resistance of the radiator, at forced cooling with an air flow of 295 m\(^3\)/h:
\[ R_{\text{dcr}} = 0.031^\circ C/W. \]

The average temperature of the junction is computed both for IGBT, and for antiparallel diode located in the same capsule.

The general relation for calculating the junction temperature is:
\[ T_j = T_0 + P \cdot (R_{\text{thjc}} + R_{\text{thcr}} + R_{\text{dcr}}) \]  

Junction temperature for IGBT is obtained with:
\[ T_{jT} = T_0 + (P_{\text{comT}} + P_{\text{condT}}) \cdot (R_{\text{thjcT}} + R_{\text{thcr}} + R_{\text{dcr}}) \]
\[ = 341.11 \, K < 448.15 \, K \]  

In this case \( T_{jT} = (341.11 - 273.15) = 67.96^\circ C \).

For the antiparallel diode, the junction temperature is computed with:
\[ T_{jD} = T_0 + (P_{\text{comD}} + P_{\text{condD}}) \cdot (R_{\text{thjcD}} + R_{\text{thcr}} + R_{\text{dcr}}) \]
\[ = 320.12 \, K < 448.15 \, K. \]  

In this case: \( T_{jD} = 320.12 - 273.15 = 46.97^\circ C \).

The results show that the cooling condition is fulfilled, namely:
\[ T_j \leq T_{jad} = 175^\circ C \, (or \, 448.15 \, K) \]
Results a factor of safety in heating of $67.96/175 = 0.388$, which shows that the sizing of cooling conditions has been rigorously made, without large reserves and so without undue consumption of materials and within a minimum possible size.

For reliability an IGBT transistor was chosen with rated data higher than those considered to be adequate to the rated data of the induction motor.

Evaluating the results obtained by the sizing methods is observed that an optimal configuration was used [22].

6. Conclusions

The paper was intended for a study on hybrid electric vehicle driving systems and on electric storage batteries they use. The advantages of the electric drive system with the induction motor and voltage source inverter revealed that it satisfies the requirements of the present application. The drive systems based on the induction motor will eliminate the most disadvantages of DC drive systems.

The results obtained from the designing algorithm of the induction motor show that an optimal configuration was used.

In the paper was also presented a sizing algorithm for the power components of the voltage source inverter. Choosing of the power semiconductor devices was made from the data catalog of a producer of electronic components and the results obtained by computing were in good agreement with those from the catalog.

One can conclude that is possible to design propulsion system for a hybrid electric vehicle with the given rated data for the specified application and the required performance.

Given that the conventional means of transport (with internal combustion engine) are the main source of chemical and noise pollution on the planet, hybrid electric transportation systems are a more viable alternative for transporting people and goods.

References

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