

Harmonic Intensity Reduction Technique for Single Phase Switched Reluctance Motor Drives Using a New Random PWM Scheme

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Abstract

This paper proposes a new random switching strategy using a DSP TMS320F2812 to reduce the harmonics spectra of single phase switched reluctance motors. The proposed method combines the random turn-on/off angle technique and the random pulse width modulation technique. A harmonic spread factor (HSF) is used to evaluate the random modulation scheme. In order to confirm the effectiveness of the proposed method an experiment was conducted. The experimental results show that the harmonic intensity of the output voltage for the proposed method is better than that for conventional methods.

Key Words: HSF (Harmonic spread factor), Random PWM scheme, Single phase 6/6 SRM

I. INTRODUCTION

Switched reluctance machines (SRMs), because of their simple construction and low manufacturing cost, are gaining importance in consideration for automotive applications. The inherent nature of an SRM is both rugged and fault tolerant. Recently, SRMs have been considered as a propulsion motor in electric and hybrid vehicle applications due to their high efficiency, high reliability and robustness in operation [1]–[3]. However, there are several disadvantages to these machines. The primary disadvantages of an SRM are the emitted acoustic noise, the higher torque ripple and the vibration when compared to other motors. The emitted acoustic noise in SRMs is due to triggering mechanical resonances. It has been shown that the dominant source of vibration and acoustic noise in an SRM is the radial vibration of the stator [4]. These vibrations are caused by a radial magnetic force, which acts to decrease the gap separation between the rotor and the stator as their poles approach alignment.

Recently, several papers have been presented to characterize SRM acoustic noise as shown in [5-10]. Unfortunately, only a few control approaches have been presented to lower SRM acoustic noise. The presented method in [5] is to randomly vary the turn-on/off angle within 1° - 3° which is useful in

the whole operating area of an SRM. However, this method only gives a small reduction in the acoustic noise emission. Another method is to use a switching frequency higher than 18 kHz. However, it has the drawback of high switching losses in power inverters. A recent method to reduce acoustic noise is to use the random pulse width modulation (PWM) technique that is useful for induction motors [11]–[13]. This random PWM scheme based on the use of random number generation has been proposed for comparison with the fundamental sinusoidal waveform in order to generate a random PWM waveform. Recent reports as shown in [11-13] have confirmed that the random pulse width modulation (RPWM) approach offers advantages such as reduced radio interference from converter equipment and improved acoustic and vibration effects in electronic drive systems.

In this paper, we propose a simple and effective method using the random modulated strategy and the random PWM technique for a 6/6 SRM. This technique plays an essential role in a significant reduction of acoustic noise by combining the varying turn-on/off angle and the random PWM scheme. While the aim of the random turn-on/off angle technique is to decrease the amplitude of the fundamental harmonics, the random PWM technique is used to provide harmonic spectra intensity that is flatter than that obtained by conventional methods. This combination will help avoid triggering mechanical resonances. Thus, the harmonic spectra of the output voltage in an SRM are reduced significantly. The experimental results obtained from a laboratory system show that the harmonic intensity of the output voltage for the proposed method is

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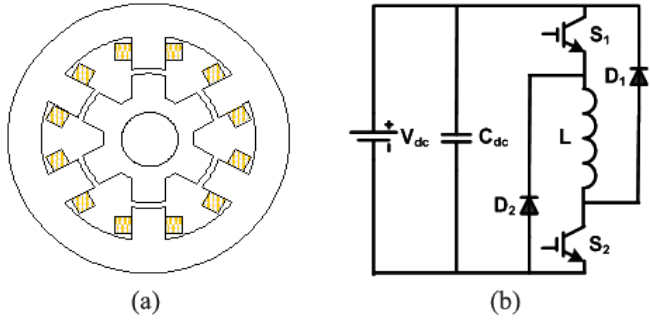


Fig. 1. Single phase 6/6 SRM. (a) Cross-section profile; (b) Converter topology.

better than that for conventional methods.

II. THE SINGLE PHASE 6/6 SRM STRUCTURE

In a single phase asymmetric bridge exciting power converter, there are two main switches and two flywheel diodes in each phase circuit. Fig. 1 shows the cross section profile and converter topology used for the drive, respectively. An elementary equivalent circuit for SRMs can be derived neglecting the mutual inductance between the phases as follows. The voltage across the phase winding is equal to the sum of the resistive voltage drop and the rate of the flux linkages and is given by [1]:

$$v = R_s i + \frac{d\lambda(\theta, i)}{dt} \quad (1)$$

where v is the phase voltage, i is the current, R_s is the phase resistance and λ is the flux linkage given by:

$$\lambda = L(\theta, i) i \quad (2)$$

where L is the phase inductance dependent on the rotor position and phase current. The phase voltage equation is then:

$$v = R_s i + L(\theta, i) \frac{di}{dt} + \frac{dL(\theta, i)}{d\theta} \omega_m i \quad (3)$$

where ω_m is the rotor angular velocity and θ is the rotor position.

The instantaneous electric power which is a product of the phase voltage and current is as follows:

$$p = vi = R_s i^2 + L(\theta, i) i \frac{di}{dt} + i^2 \frac{dL(\theta, i)}{dt} \quad (4)$$

The instantaneous electro-magnetic torque is given by the following equations:

$$T = \frac{1}{2} i^2 \frac{dL(\theta, i)}{d\theta} \quad (5)$$

III. CONVENTIONAL AND PROPOSED METHODS

In an SRM the turn-on angle α_{on} and turn-off angle α_{off} can be controlled as well as the duty-cycle D [5]. The duty-cycle is normally controlled at a low speed in order to reduce the current flow in the SRM. At higher speeds the current is limited by the back-emf and there is no need to use different duty-cycles. Instead the turn-on/off angle is controlled. Several

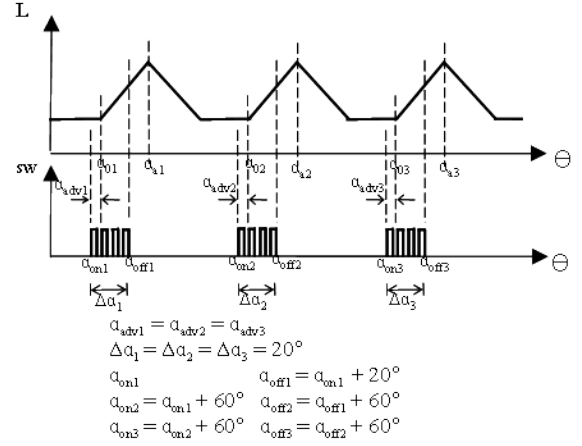


Fig. 2. Conventional method with chopping mode.

methods have been proposed to reduce the acoustic noise in SRMs by the modulation technique. The first method is to vary the switching frequency randomly. The second one is to change between lagging edge and leading edge modulation. The other method is to randomly vary the turn-on angle α_{on} and the turn-off angle α_{off} within 1° - 3° as shown in [5]. However, these methods only give a small reduction in the acoustic noise emission.

The proposed method is a combination of the random PWM scheme and varying the turn-on/off angle. This combination will help avoid triggering mechanical resonances. As a result, the acoustic noise in an SRM will be reduced significantly. In this section, PWM strategies are shown and discussed for various methods.

A. Conventional Methods

The conventional method, as shown in Fig. 2, is using the PWM technique with a fixed turn-on/off angle. In Fig. 2 the angle α_0 is the angle where the rotor and stator pole start overlapping physically; α_a is the aligned angle where the rotor is totally overlapped by the stator; α_{adv} is the advance angle (α_{adv} is negative if α_{on} is smaller than α_0 and conversely α_{adv} is positive and $\Delta\alpha_i$ $\{i = 1, 2, 3\}$ is the total conduction angle). $\alpha = 0^\circ$ is when the rotor and stator are completely unaligned. This is the conventional control method for SRMs. Its disadvantages are the emitted acoustic noise and the higher torque ripple.

Another method that can reduce acoustic noise is shown in Fig. 3. This method employs the random PWM technique while the turn-on/off angles are fixed. This technique is useful for induction motors to reduce acoustic noise [11]–[13].

B. Proposed Method

The proposed method is a combination of the random PWM technique and a varying of the turn-on/off angle.

The random strategy is used to vary the turn-on angle α_{on} and turn-off angle α_{off} randomly according to α_0 and α_a within $\Delta\alpha_r = 2^\circ$ while $\Delta\alpha_i$ ($i = 1, 2, 3$) is kept constant. $\Delta\alpha_r$ is an interval for turn-on/off angle control. The basic

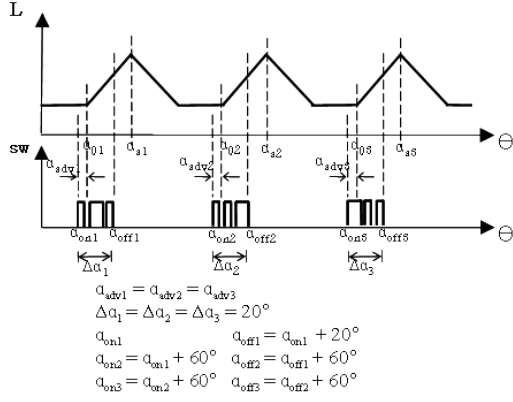


Fig. 3. Conventional method with RPWM technique.

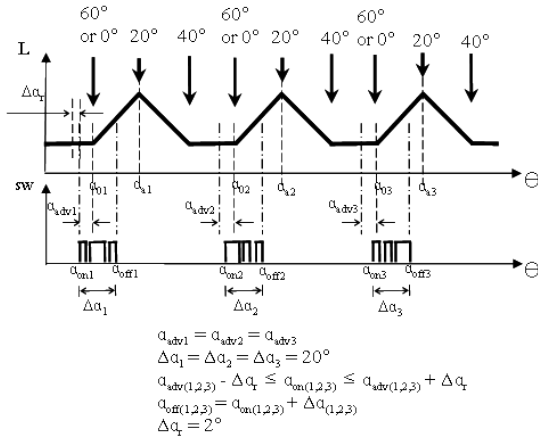


Fig. 4. Proposed method.

principle of the strategy is shown in Fig. 4. In this case, α_{on} is not the same as α_{adv} but varies according to $\Delta\alpha_r$ while they are the same angle in the conventional method. Fig. 5 shows practical cases for the combination of random turn-on angle α_{on} , turn-off angle α_{off} and RPWM. In Fig. 5, modes 1, 2, 3 and 4 are practical cases for the proposed method; r_j ($j = 1, 2, 3, 4$) is the random angle which is the difference between α_{adv} and α_{on} while its absolute value is within the range from 0° to 2° . The advantage of this new method is to reduce acoustic noise significantly.

A random number is generated by a linear congruential generator (LCG) algorithm [12] using the random pulse position (RPP) scheme. A positive integer random number f_{ran} within the range $[0, i_m]$ can be generated by:

$$f_{ran+1} = (f_{ran} \cdot i_a + i_c) \% i_m \quad (6)$$

And a floating point random number ran in the range from 0 to 1 is generated by:

$$ran = (float)f_{ran}/(float)i_m \quad (7)$$

In (6)-(7), i_a , i_c and i_m are the selected coefficients. They are the multiplier, the increment and the modulus, respectively.

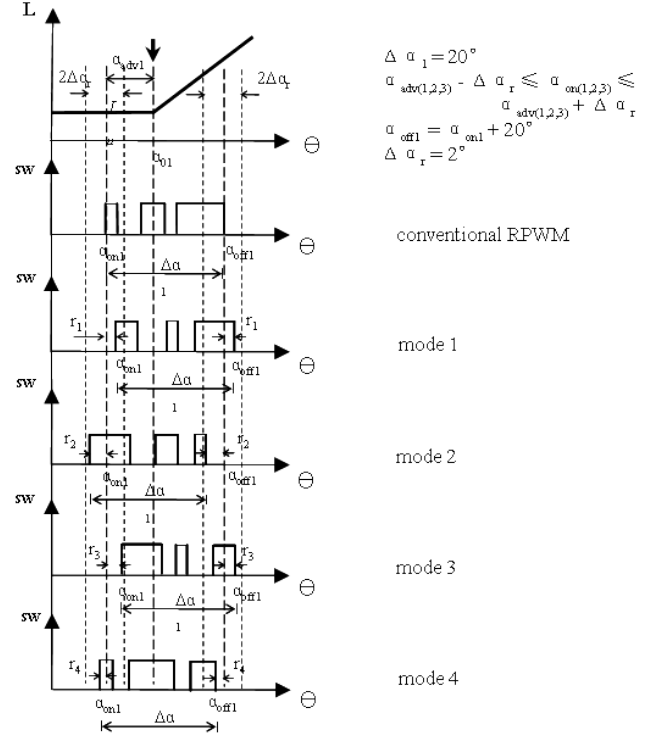


Fig. 5. Practical cases for combination of random the turn-on/off angle and RPWM.

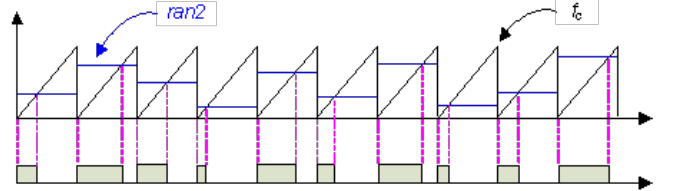


Fig. 6. Procedure of RPP generation.

The control system requires two separate random number generators: $ran1$ and $ran2$. $ran1$ is used to generate the random turn-on angle while $ran2$ is used to generate the random PWM. Fig. 6 shows the procedure for random pulse position (RPP) generation. An asymmetric carrier (f_c) with an amplitude of 1 at 6 kHz is used to compare with a $ran2$ value from 0 to 1.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL SETUP

Fig. 7 shows the block of an SRM drive system. As shown in Fig. 7, the rotor position θ is calculated by the encoder through the rotor position calculation block; $ran1$ and $ran2$ are generated by the random number generator block. A fully digital PI current regulator is implemented for regulating the phase current of the SRM [14], [15]. The selection of the PI gains is a trade off between the minimum and maximum incremental inductance in one electrical cycle. Large PI gains have good performance with a large incremental inductance. However, they may reach a point in the electrical cycle where the system is not stable due to a small incremental inductance. The PI gains have to be selected so that there is a good balance in current regulation during the entire electrical cycle. The resulting overshoot is partially due to the response

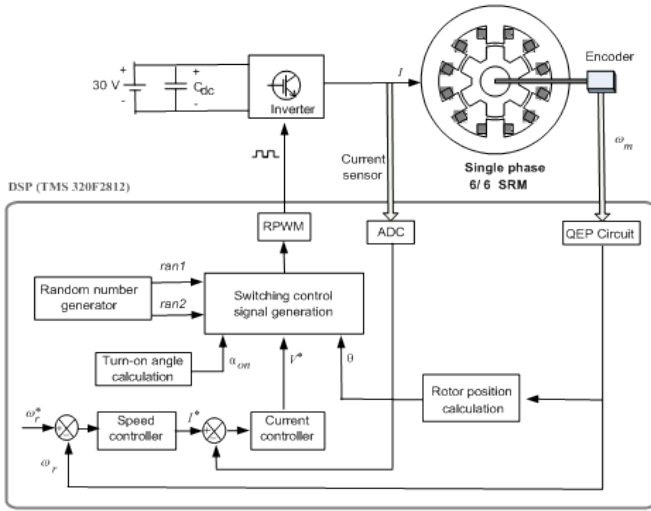


Fig. 7. Block diagram of the SRM drive system.

characteristics of a PI regulation to a step command. As a note; an improvement in performance could be obtained through gain scheduling and feedforward control concepts.

The switching control signal generation block controls the turn-on/off angle randomly. The flowchart of this random turn-on/off angle control program is shown in Fig. 8. As shown in Fig. 8, the angle $\Delta\alpha_r$ is a constant that is chosen for the best performance operation of the system. The turn-on angle α_{on} is calculated by the input values α_{adv} , $\Delta\alpha_r$ and $ran1$ so as to guarantee the turn-on angle is triggered in the interval $[\alpha_{adv} - \Delta\alpha_r, \alpha_{adv} + \Delta\alpha_r]$. This value is compared with the rotor position to trigger on the IGBT gates S_1 and S_2 . If the $\theta \geq 60 - \alpha_{on}$, $flag$ is set and switches S_1 and S_2 are turned on, that is the turn-on angle position. After that, S_1 and S_2 are turned on/off according to the random PWM scheme until $\theta = 20 + \alpha_{on}$. Then, when the $\theta \geq 20 - \alpha_{on}$, $flag$ is reset and S_1 and S_2 are turned off, the turn-off angle is set based on the following formula:

$$\alpha_{off} = \alpha_{on} + 20^\circ \quad (8)$$

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

In this section, the experimental results are presented and compared to the various strategies. The overall experimental system is illustrated in Fig. 7. It includes a TMS320F2812 DSP controller, a DC bus voltage, a voltage source IGBT inverter and the single-phase 6/6 SRM as shown in Fig. 9. The inverter has two IGBT type power transistors and two power diodes. The input signals of the inverter are PWM signals from the DSP chip. The DC bus voltage is 30V; the interval $\Delta\alpha_r$ is 2 degrees; and the switching frequency (f_{sw}) is 6 kHz. The parameters for the experimental conditions are listed in Table 1. In Fig. 7, the current control scheme, the speed control scheme, the random PWM generation, the A/D conversions, the coordinate transformation, the QEP detection and the random number generation are all realized with the software in the DSP chip. The experimental results show that a combination of the random turn-on/off angle technique with

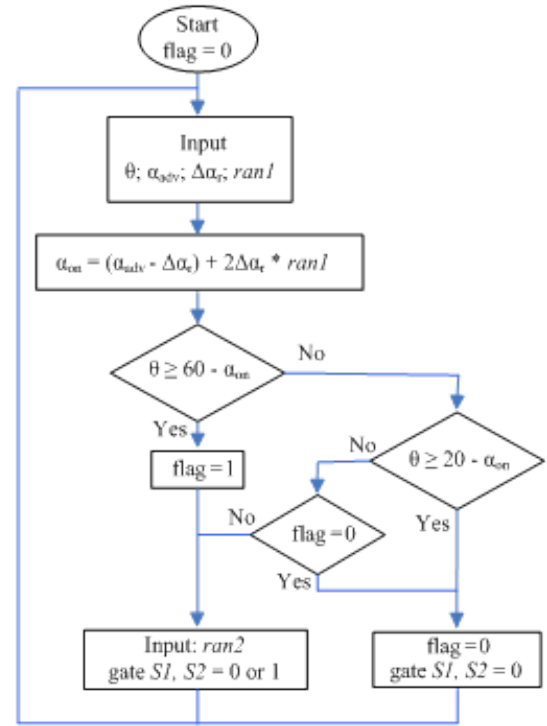


Fig. 8. Flowchart of random turn-on/off angle control program.

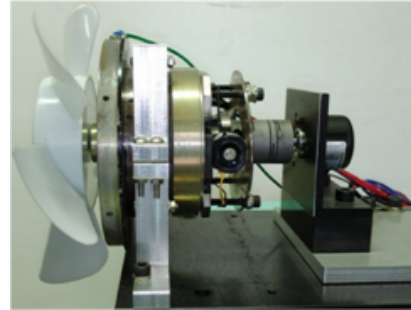
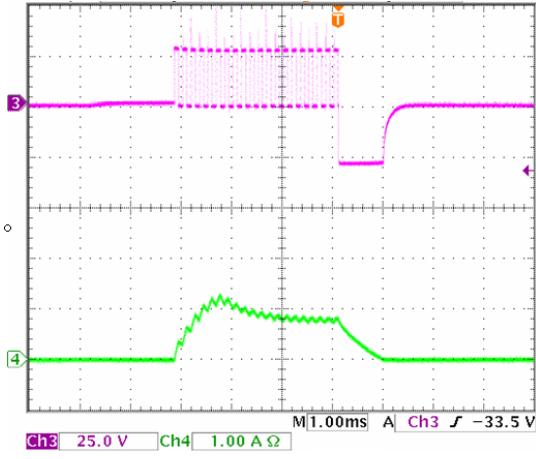


Fig. 9. Single-phase 6/6 SRM for experiment.

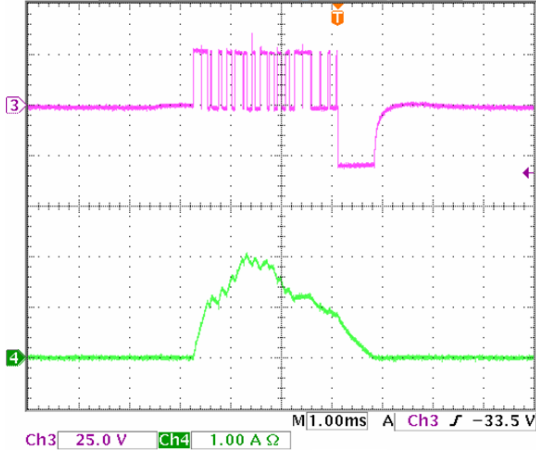
the random PWM technique reduces the harmonics spectra significantly.

Fig. 10 shows the experimental results for the motor voltage waveform and the motor current waveform at a switching frequency (f_{sw}) of 6 kHz for each method. To fully explore the merits of the new method, Fig. 11 shows the power spectra of the motor voltage. As shown in Fig. 11a, for the conventional method, the amplitude of all the components is more dominant than that shown in Fig. 11c for the proposed method. The sub-harmonics in area (a) of Fig. 11c are smaller than those of Fig. 11a and 11b. In addition, in Fig. 11c for the proposed method, the dominant components in area (b) are more flat than those obtained by the conventional method.

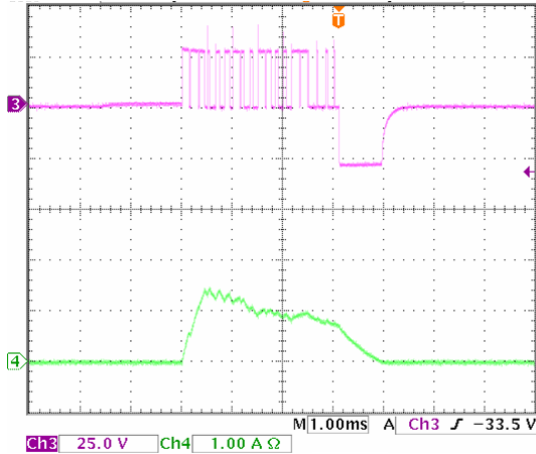
For evaluating the random PWM technique, a simple indicator of the quality of the voltage spectra would be useful. For this purpose, the concept of statistical deviation can be employed and the harmonics spread factor (HSF) [12], [16] is defined as:



(a) Conventional method with chopping mode



(b) Conventional method with RPWM technique



(c) Proposed method

Fig. 10. Measured output voltage and current at 1000 rpm. Voltage (top): 25V/div.; Current (bottom): 1A/div.

$$HSF = \sqrt{\frac{1}{N} \sum_{j>1}^N (H_j - H_0)^2} \quad (9)$$

where N denotes the total number of frequency components considered, H_j is the amplitude of the j^{th} component and H_0 is the average value of all components given by:

TABLE I
SRM PARAMETERS FOR EXPERIMENTAL CONDITION

Parameter	Value	
DC bus voltage	30 [V]	
PWM Switching frequency	6 [kHz]	
$\Delta\alpha_r$	2 [degree]	
SRM	Stack Length	34 [mm]
	Diameter of Stator	100 [mm]
	Diameter of Rotor	54 [mm]
	No. of Stator Pole	6
	No. of Rotor Pole	6
Air Gap	0.3 [mm]	

TABLE II
COMPARISONS OF HSF FOR VARIOUS PWM SCHEMES

PWM types	Fixed chopping mode	Conventional RPWM	Proposed method ($\Delta\alpha_r = 2^\circ$)
HSF [%]	40.03	18.31	16.29

$$H_0 = \frac{1}{N} \sum_{j>1}^N H_j \quad (10)$$

The HSF quantifies the spread spectra effect of the random PWM scheme and it should be small. For ideally flat spectra of white noise, the HSF would be zero. Table 2 gives the output voltage HSF for various PWM schemes. The HSF of the proposed method reaches 16.29% which is lower than those of the conventional methods (18.31%). The random PWM control and the random turn-on/off angle control in the proposed method can be easily combined with the C-language program. Therefore, a two percent HSF improvement is quite worthwhile for the additional efforts. For the proposed method, Table 3 gives the output voltage HSF for various $\Delta\alpha_r$. As shown in Table 3, the angle $\Delta\alpha_r = 2^\circ$ is the best performance operation system because it archives a lower HSF value.

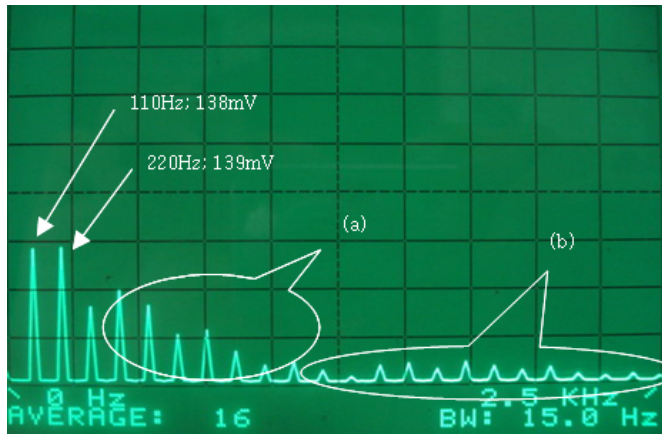
Fig. 12 shows the voltage spectra in the whole operation area of the 6/6 SRM for different switching frequencies. In comparing these results, we can observe that harmonic spectra are reduced significantly when using random modulation. It is clear that, as expected, the proposed strategy results in a significant improvement in acoustic noise reduction relative to other strategies.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

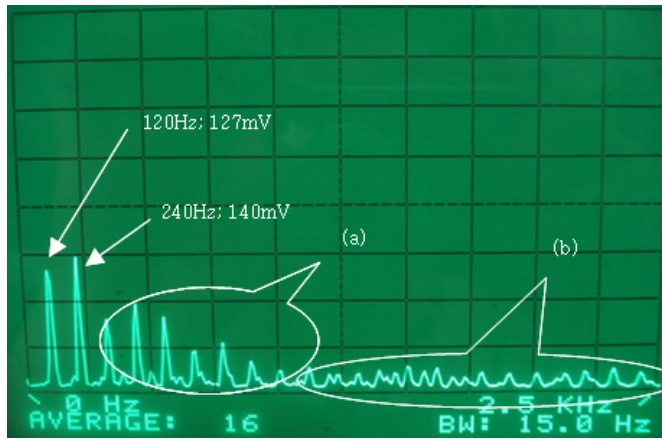
This paper has discussed the implementation techniques for various random PWM and random turn-on/off angle strategies in a single-phase 6/6 SRM. While the target of the random turn-on/off angle technique is to decrease the amplitude of the fundamental harmonics, the random PWM technique is used to provide harmonic spectra intensity flatter than that obtained by conventional methods. The proposed random technique has been compared with the conventional methods, to analyze their influence on harmonic spectra reduction. The HSF is used to

TABLE III
COMPARISONS OF HSF FOR VARIOUS $\Delta\alpha_r$ FOR PROPOSED METHOD

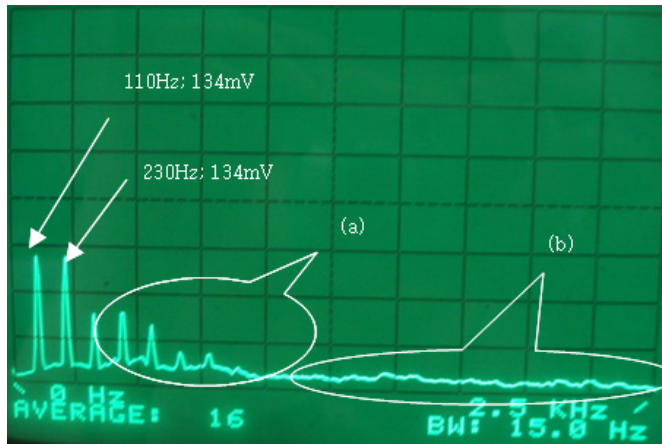
$\Delta\alpha_r$ [degree]	1	2	3	4
HSF[%]	17.13	16.29	17.07	19.01



(a) Conventional method with chopping mode (HSF = 40.03%)



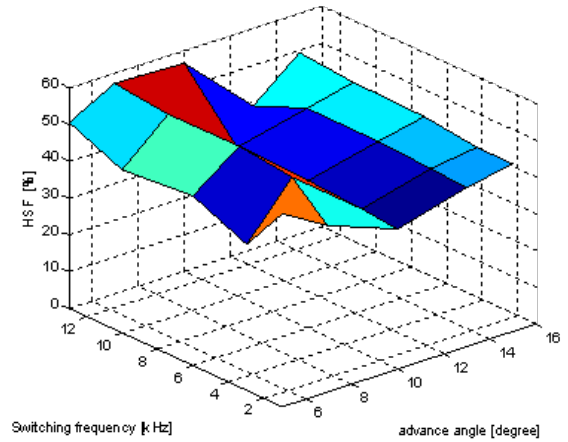
(b) Conventional method with RPWM technique (HSF=18.31%)



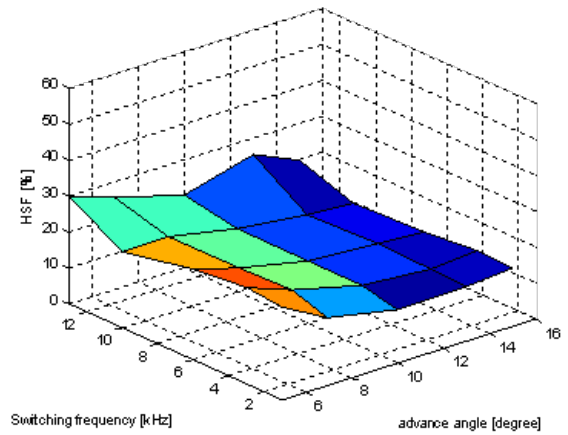
(c) Proposed method (HSF = 16.29%)

Fig. 11. Measured output voltage spectra. (x-axis: 250Hz/div.; y-axis: 50mv/div.)

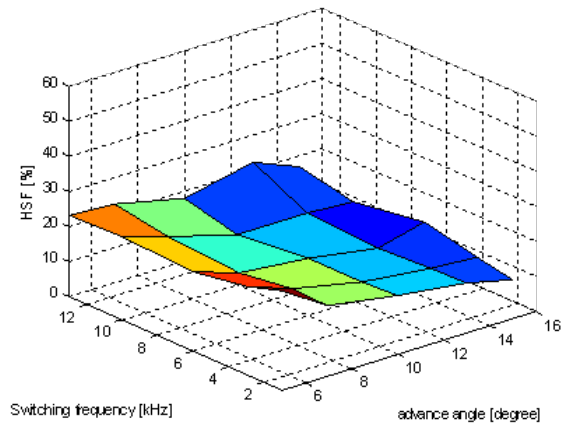
evaluate the random PWM technique. The experimental results demonstrate that the new proposed strategy provides better harmonic spectra performance than conventional strategies in spreading the harmonic power over a wide frequency range. This method can be applied for all SRMs including three-phase and two-phase SRMs without the modification of certain parameters.



(a) Conventional method with chopping mode



(b) (Conventional method with RPWM technique



(c) Proposed method

Fig. 12. Voltage spectra for different switching frequency.

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