

# An Extended-State-Observer-Based Sliding-Mode Speed Control for Permanent-Magnet Synchronous Motors

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**Abstract**—To improve the tracking performance of the speed controllers of permanent-magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) drive systems with different disturbances, such as internal parameter variations and external load changes, a novel extended-state-observer-based sliding-mode speed control (ESO-SMSC) scheme for PMSM drives is proposed in this article. First, a fast-response SMSC is designed based on the upper bound of the total disturbance. Then, an ESO is designed to estimate the total disturbance in real time. The parameters of the ESO can be easily designed based on the desired bandwidth of the ESO. The estimated total disturbance is then used to update the control law of the SMSC in real time. The resulting ESO-SMSC has improved speed tracking performance and strong robustness to disturbances while maintaining the fast dynamic response. The stability of the closed-loop PMSM drive system with the proposed ESO-SMSC is proven through the Lyapunov theory. The proposed ESO-SMSC is validated by experimental results for a 200-W salient-pole PMSM drive system.

**Index Terms**—Active disturbance rejection control (ADRC), extended state observer (ESO), permanent-magnet synchronous motor (PMSM), sliding-mode speed control (SMSC).

## I. INTRODUCTION

PERMANENT-MAGNET synchronous motor (PMSM) drives have been widely used in many industrial applications due to their high power density, high efficiency, and high reliability. The closed-loop control schemes of PMSM drives are commonly designed by using the field-oriented control (FOC) technique. If an FOC-based PMSM drive operates in a speed control mode, the outer-loop speed control provides the reference signal for the inner current loop and, therefore, affects the performance of the whole drive system directly. Due to its simplicity, the traditional linear proportional-integral (PI) control method has been widely applied to design the

speed controllers for PMSM drives [1]. However, internal and external uncertain disturbances, such as parameter and load variations, respectively, are always present in practical PMSM drives. It is difficult to mitigate these disturbances rapidly when using the traditional linear PI controller.

To improve the performance of the PMSM drive systems with different uncertain disturbances, many advanced control schemes, such as adaptive control [2], intelligent control [3], predictive control [4], robust predictive control [5], and sliding-mode control (SMC), have been developed for the speed control of PMSM drives. Among these advanced control schemes, the SMC scheme has demonstrated superior tracking performance and robustness to internal parameter variations and external load disturbances in different applications [6], [7]. However, since it is hard to determine the upper bounds of the disturbances, the robustness of the SMC was usually achieved by using a large switching gain, which yielded an undesired chattering problem [8]. To overcome this drawback, combining the SMC with a disturbance observer is an attractive approach. The disturbance observer estimates the total disturbance of the system in real time, which is then compensated timely in the SMC to mitigate its impact [9], [10]. Various disturbance observers have been designed for the speed and current control of PMSM drives [11]–[14]. However, the design of these disturbance observers relied on an accurate model of the drive system.

Recently, the active disturbance rejection control (ADRC) method [15], [16], whose design does not require an accurate system model, has been applied for the disturbance-tolerant control of PMSM drives [17], [18]. In [17], a hybrid sensorless FOC scheme combining an ADRC-based high-frequency (HF) current injection method with another ADRC-based back electromotive force (EMF) method for the rotor position estimations in low- and high-speed regions, respectively, for PMSMs was presented. However, the speed loop was still designed by using the conventional PI controller. In [18], a linear ADRC (LADRC) combined with a load torque observer was proposed to realize a robust speed control for a five-phase PMSM to achieve a reduced overshoot and improved dynamic response when a disturbance occurred. The speed controller was designed by using the simple proportional control method.

This article proposes a novel extended-state-observer-based sliding-model speed controller (ESO-SMSC) for FOC-based PMSM drives to improve their disturbance rejection ability as

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well as steady-state and dynamic speed tracking performance. The disturbances considered include the rotor magnetic flux linkage and load torque variations. The ESO-SMSC combines an SMSC with an ESO, which is a core part of the ADRC. The SMSC is designed to achieve fast speed tracking performance based on the upper bound of the total disturbance, which is estimated in real time by the ESO whose parameter can be simply designed based on the desired bandwidth. The control law of the SMSC is then updated in real time by using the total disturbance estimated by the ESO in the feedforward path to mitigate the influence of the total disturbance on the speed tracking error in both steady-state and transient conditions. Thus, the proposed ESO-SMSC is robust to system disturbances and has fast speed tracking performance. The stability of the closed-loop PMSM drive system with the ESO-SMSC is proven by using the Lyapunov theory.

This article is organized as follows. Section II presents the dynamic motion model of a salient-pole PMSM without considering disturbance and the proposed SMSC. Section III presents the dynamic motion model of the PMSM considering disturbances, the proposed ESO and ESO-SMSC, the speed tracking error dynamic analysis, and the parameter tuning method for the ESO. Experimental results on a salient-pole PMSM drive system are provided in Section IV to show the superiority of the proposed ESO-SMSC over the conventional PI speed controller (PISC), the SMSC without using the ESO, and a disturbance observer-based SMSC (DO-SMSC) [9]. Finally, Section V provides concluding remarks of this article and a brief discussion of the future work.

## II. PROPOSED SMSC FOR PMSM DRIVES

### A. Dynamic Motion Model of a PMSM Without Considering Disturbance

The electromagnetic torque equation of a general salient-pole PMSM in the  $d$ - $q$  reference frame is

$$T_e = \frac{3}{2}n_p[\psi_m i_{sq} + (L_d - L_q)i_{sd}i_{sq}] \quad (1)$$

where  $T_e$  is the electromagnetic torque;  $i_{sd}$  and  $i_{sq}$  are the  $d$ - and  $q$ -axis stator currents, respectively;  $L_d$  and  $L_q$  are the  $d$ - and  $q$ -axis inductances, respectively;  $\psi_m$  is the rotor magnet flux linkage; and  $n_p$  is the number of pole pairs.

The mechanical motion equation of the salient-pole PMSM can be written as

$$J \frac{d\omega_m}{dt} = T_e - T_L - B\omega_m \quad (2)$$

where  $J$  is the moment of inertia;  $B$  is the viscous friction coefficient;  $\omega_m$  is the rotor mechanical angular speed; and  $T_L$  is the load torque.

In this article, the FOC system of the salient-pole PMSM uses the  $i_{sd} = 0$  control method. Since  $\omega_e = n_p \cdot \omega_m$ , according to (1) and (2), the following equation can be obtained:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\omega_e}{dt} &= \frac{1}{J} \left( \frac{3}{2}n_p^2\psi_m i_{sq} - B\omega_e - n_p T_L \right) \\ &= a i_{sq} - b\omega_e - cT_L \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

where  $a = (3/2)(n_p^2\psi_m/J)$ ,  $b = (B/J)$ , and  $c = (n_p/J)$ .

### B. Proposed SMSC for the PMSM

Define the rotor speed error  $e_\omega$  as follows:

$$e_\omega = \omega_e - \omega_{er} \quad (4)$$

where  $\omega_{er}$  is the rotor speed reference. The objective of the SMSC is to control  $e_\omega$  to be zero.

To design the SMSC, the following sliding surface function [7], [9], [19] is chosen due to its simple structure and precise steady-state speed tracking performance

$$\sigma_\omega = e_\omega + c_\omega \int e_\omega \quad (5)$$

where  $c_\omega$  is a positive number that determines the decay rate of the rotor speed error.

Then, a suitable control law is derived such that  $\sigma_\omega$  satisfies the following sliding mode condition:

$$\sigma_\omega \dot{\sigma}_\omega < 0. \quad (6)$$

If (6) is satisfied,  $\sigma_\omega$  will approach zero in finite time. To satisfy (6), the control law of the SMSC can be designed as follows:

$$i_{sqr} = -\gamma \sigma_\omega - \eta \text{sgn}(\sigma_\omega) \quad (7)$$

where  $i_{sqr}$  is the  $q$ -axis current reference;  $\text{sgn}$  is the sign function;  $\gamma$  is a positive number that determines the decay rate of the rotor speed error;  $\eta$  is the switching gain, which guarantees the stability, induces a sliding motion on the sliding surface in finite time, and is defined as follows:

$$\eta = \frac{1}{a}(b|\omega_e| + c\varphi_L + c_\omega|e_\omega|) \quad (8)$$

where  $\varphi_L$  is the bound of the absolute value of the load torque, i.e.,  $|T_L| < \varphi_L$ . Then, the sliding mode condition (6) can be proven to be satisfied as follows:

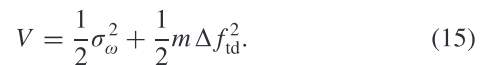
$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_\omega \dot{\sigma}_\omega &= \sigma_\omega (a i_{sq} - b\omega_e - cT_L + c_\omega e_\omega) \\ &= -a\gamma \sigma_\omega^2 - a\eta \sigma_\omega \text{sgn}(\sigma_\omega) + \sigma_\omega (-b\omega_e - cT_L + c_\omega e_\omega) \\ &\leq -a\gamma \sigma_\omega^2 - a\eta |\sigma_\omega| + (b|\omega_e| + c\varphi_L + c_\omega|e_\omega|)|\sigma_\omega| \\ &= -a\gamma \sigma_\omega^2 < 0. \end{aligned} \quad (9)$$

Therefore, the closed-loop speed control system is asymptotically stable [20].

## III. PROPOSED ESO-SMSC FOR PMSM DRIVES

### A. Dynamic Motion Model of a PMSM Considering Disturbances

The SMSC has a certain degree of robustness to system disturbances, including parameter variations and external disturbances. To minimize the effect of the chattering problem, a small switching gain is desired for the SMSC. However, to ensure that the SMSC is robust to large disturbances, a large switching gain is desired, which, however, will lead to the undesired chattering problem. An attractive solution to this dilemma is to make the control law of the SMSC adaptive to the disturbances, which are estimated online by an observer.

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d\omega_e}{dt} &= \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_p^2 \psi_{m0}}{J_0} i_{\text{sq}} - \frac{B_0}{J_0} \omega_e + f_{\text{id}} + f_{\text{ed}} \\ &= a_0 i_{\text{sq}} - b_0 \omega_e + f_{\text{id}} + f_{\text{ed}} \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$
$$\dot{x} = Ax + Bu \quad (11)$$
$$A = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{B_0}{J_0} & 1 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix} \text{ and } B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_p^2 \psi_{m0}}{J_0} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$
$$\begin{cases} e_1 = \hat{\omega}_e - \omega_e \\ \dot{\hat{\omega}}_e = \hat{f}_{td} - \beta_{01}e_1 + a_0i_{sq} - b_0\omega_e \\ \dot{\hat{f}}_{td} = -\beta_{02}e_1 \end{cases} \quad (12)$$
$$i_{\text{sqr}} = -\gamma \sigma_\omega - \eta' \text{sgn}(\sigma_\omega) - \frac{1}{a_0} \hat{f}_{\text{td}} \quad (13)$$
$$\Delta \dot{f}_{\text{Id}} = \dot{f}_{\text{Id}} - \dot{\hat{f}}_{\text{Id}} = -\dot{\hat{f}}_{\text{Id}}. \quad (14)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
\dot{V} &= \sigma_\omega \dot{\sigma}_\omega + m \Delta f_{td} \Delta \dot{f}_{td} \\
&= \sigma_\omega (a_0 i_{sq} - b_0 \omega_e + f_{td} + c_\omega e_\omega) + m \Delta f_{td} \Delta \dot{f}_{td} \\
&= -a_0 \gamma \sigma_\omega^2 - a_0 \eta' \sigma_\omega \text{sgn}(\sigma_\omega) + \sigma_\omega (-b_0 \omega_e + c_\omega e_\omega) \\
&\quad - m \Delta f_{td} \dot{f}_{td} + \sigma_\omega \Delta f_{td} \\
&\leq -a_0 \gamma \sigma_\omega^2 - a_0 \eta' |\sigma_\omega| + (b_0 |\omega_e| + c_\omega |e_\omega|) |\sigma_\omega| \\
&\quad - m \Delta f_{td} \dot{f}_{td} + \sigma_\omega \Delta f_{td} \\
&= -a_0 \gamma \sigma_\omega^2 < 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{16}$$
$$A_m = \begin{bmatrix} -\beta_{01} & 1 \\ -\beta_{02} & 0 \end{bmatrix}$$

$$B_m = B = \begin{bmatrix} \frac{3}{2} \frac{n_p^2 \psi_{m0}}{J_0} & 0 \\ 0 & 0 \end{bmatrix}, \text{ and } C_m = \begin{bmatrix} -\frac{B_0}{J_0} + \beta_{01} & 0 \\ \beta_{02} & 0 \end{bmatrix}.$$



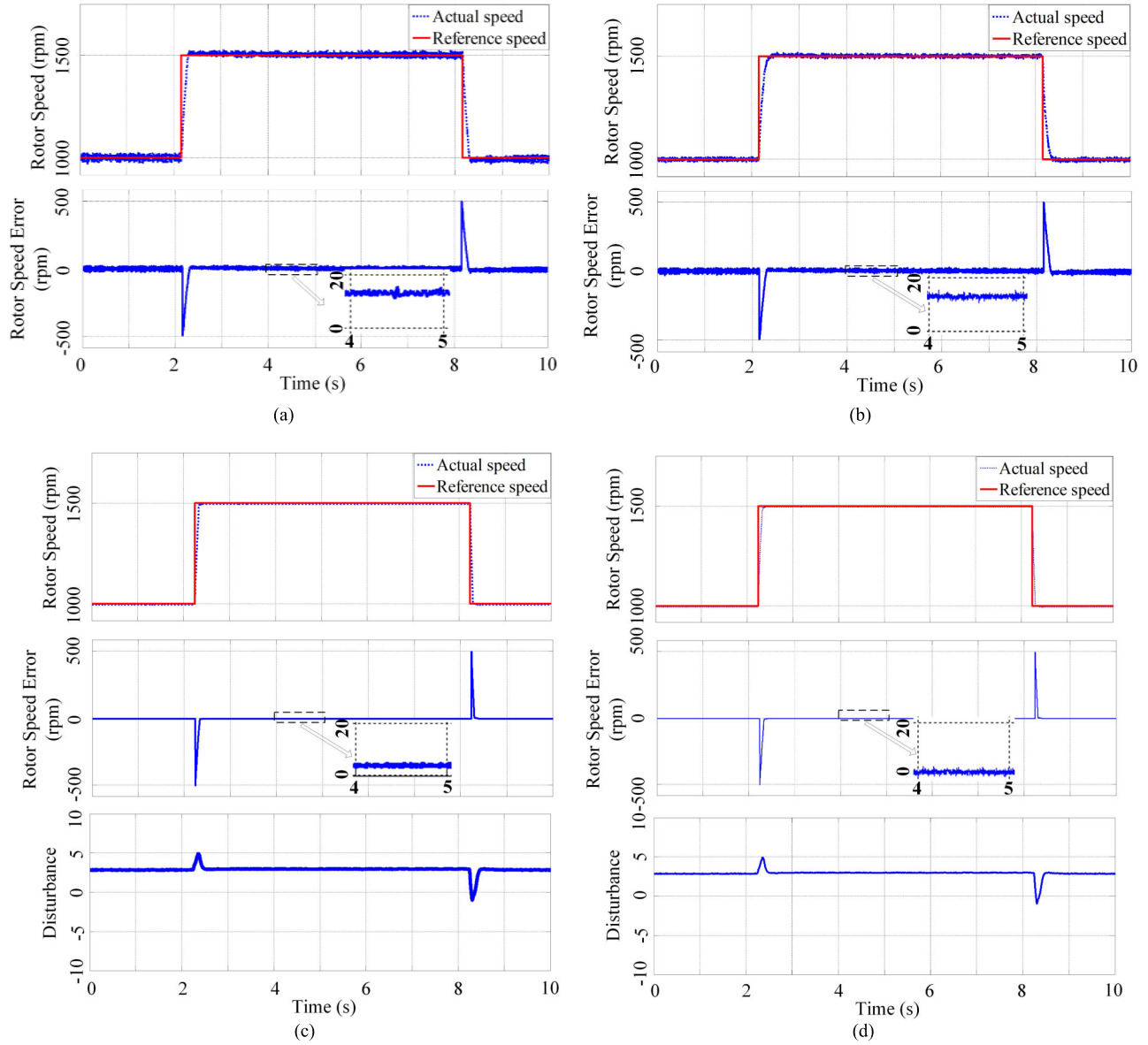


Fig. 4. Experimental results under sudden speed changes. (a) PISC. (b) SMSC. (c) DO-SMSC. (d) Proposed ESO-SMSC.

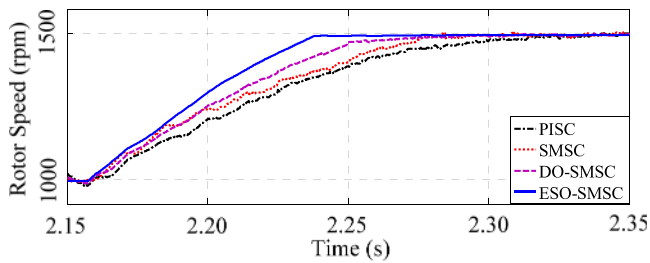


Fig. 5. Comparison of transient responses of the four speed controllers.

of the four speed controllers. Table I provides the comparison of the settling time  $t_s$ , rising time  $t_r$ , and average steady-state tracking error  $e_{ss}$  of the PMSM rotor speed using the four speed controllers after the step changes in the speed command. The settling time and rising time of the proposed ESO-SMSC after the sudden speed changes are 90 and 82 ms, respectively, which are much shorter than 120 and 115 ms of the DO-SMSC, 180 and 130 ms of the SMSC, and 210 and

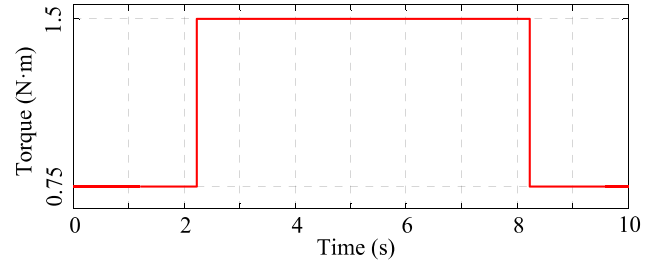


Fig. 6. Load torque reference for the four controllers.

170 ms of the PISC, respectively. The speed rising times of the PMSM using the four different speed controllers are also clearly shown in Fig. 5. Moreover, the steady-state speed tracking error of the proposed ESO-SMSC is 2 rpm, which is much smaller than 5 rpm of the DO-SMSC, 14 rpm of the SMSC, and 16 rpm of the PISC. These results show that by properly estimating and compensating the total disturbance shown in Fig. 4(d), the ESO-SMSC has better steady-state

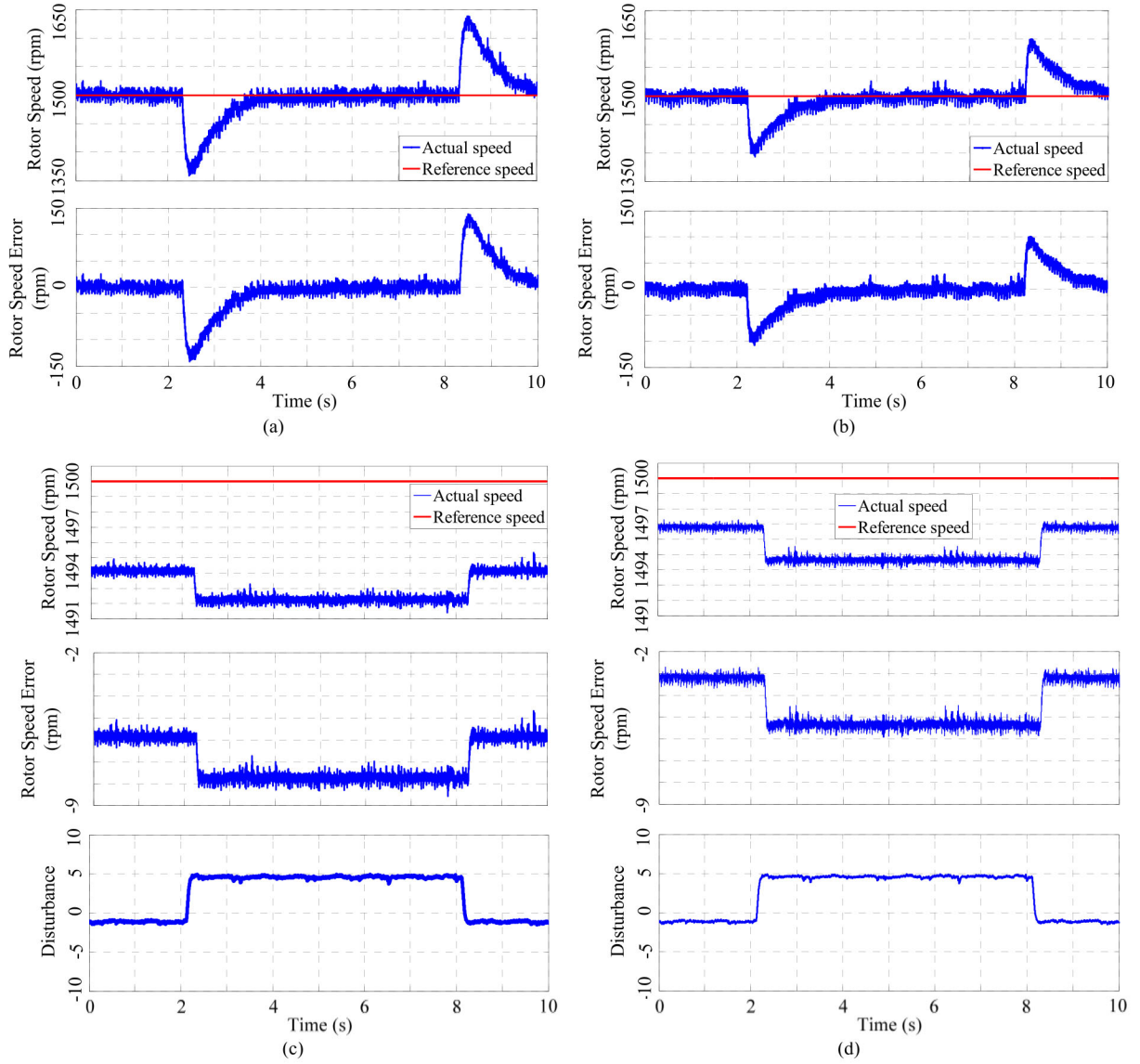


Fig. 7. Experimental results under sudden load torque changes. (a) PISC. (b) SMSC. (c) DO-SMSC. (d) Proposed ESO-SMSC.

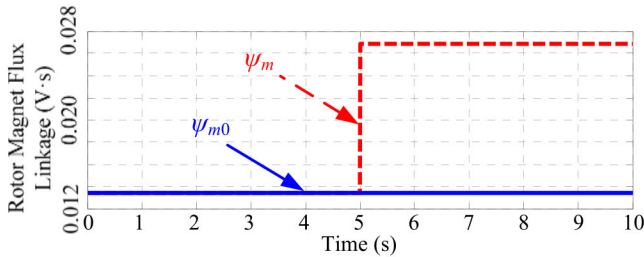


Fig. 8. Mismatch of the rotor magnetic flux linkage used by the five speed controllers.

and transient speed tracking performance than the PISC, the SMSC, and the DO-SMSC.

### C. Sudden Load Torque Changes at Constant Speed Without Parameter Mismatch

In the second test, the load torque, which is an external disturbance, is step changed from 0.75 to 1.5 N·m and then back to 0.75 N·m, as shown in Fig. 6. The speed reference

TABLE II  
PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE FOUR SPEED CONTROLLERS  
UNDER SUDDEN LOAD TORQUE CHANGES

Performance Metrics	ESO-SMSC	DO-SMSC	SMSC	PISC
Steady-State Tracking Error $e_{ss}$ (rpm)	4.4	6.7	20	22
Overshoot $e_{os}$ (rpm)	0	0	100	125

is kept constant at 1500 rpm during the test. Fig. 7 shows the comparison of the reference and actual rotor speeds and shows the rotor speed tracking errors of the PMSM with the PISC, the SMSC, the DO-SMSC, and the proposed ESO-SMSC during the test. Table II shows that the average steady-state tracking error  $e_{ss}$  of the PMSM rotor speed after the step changes in the load torque using the proposed ESO-SMSC is only 65.7%, 22%, and 20%, respectively, of that using the DO-SMSC, the PISC, and the SMSC. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 7 and Table II, when using the ESO-SMSC and DO-SMSC, the speed overshoots after the step load torque changes are negligible, but are much larger when using the SMSC and

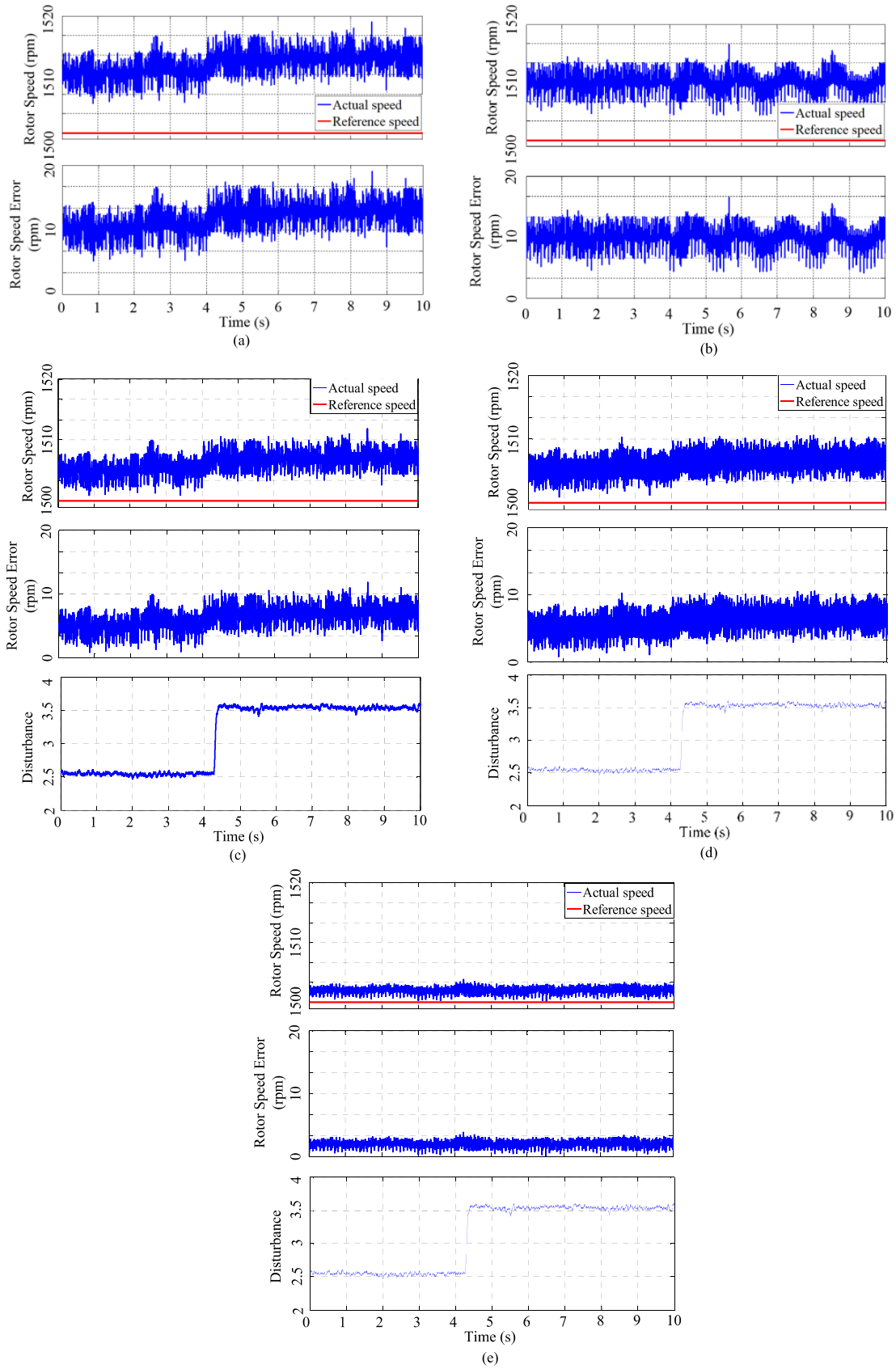


Fig. 9. Experimental results at 1500 rpm and the rated load with the rotor magnetic flux linkage mismatch. (a) PISC. (b) SMSC. (c) DO-SMSC. (d) ESO-PSC. (e) Proposed ESO-SMSC.

the largest when using the PISC. These results prove that by properly compensating the total disturbance  $\hat{f}_{id}$  estimated by

the ESO in real time, as shown in Fig. 7(d), the ESO-SMSC exhibits a remarkably improved capability of rejecting or

TABLE III  
PERFORMANCE COMPARISON OF THE FIVE SPEED  
CONTROLLERS WITH PARAMETER MISMATCH

Performance Metrics	ESO-SMSC	ESO-PSC	DO-SMSC	SMSC	PISC
Steady-State Tracking Error $e_{ss}$ (rpm) before Parameter Mismatch	2.5	4.9	5	11	13
Steady-State Tracking Error $e_{ss}$ (rpm) after Parameter Mismatch	2.5	6.8	7	13	17

robustness to the external disturbance and, thus, has better steady-state and/or transient speed tracking performance than the conventional PISC, the SMSC, and the DO-SMSC.

#### D. Constant Load Torque and Constant Speed With Parameter Mismatch

In the third test, the robustness of the proposed ESO-SMSC to rotor magnetic flux linkage variation is verified in comparison with the PISC, the SMSC, the DO-SMSC, and an ADRC-based speed controller that consists of an ESO and a proportional speed control (ESO-PSC). The bandwidth of the PSC is the same as that of the PISC. The bandwidth of the ESO is the same as that of the proposed ESO-SMSC. The speed reference and load torque are kept constant at 1500 rpm and 1.5 N·m, respectively. Assume that the rotor magnetic flux linkage  $\psi_m$  used by the five speed controllers is mismeasured to be 200% of  $\psi_{m0}$  from 4.2 s onwards, as shown in Fig. 8. Fig. 9 and Table III shows the comparison of the rotor speed tracking performance of the PMSM using the five speed controllers during the test. The results clearly show that both the average value and the magnitude of oscillation of the steady-state tracking error of the PMSM rotor speed using the proposed ESO-SMSC are much smaller than those using the PISC, the SMSC, DO-SMSC, and the ESO-PSC. Moreover, with the help of the ESO to estimate and compensate the total disturbance  $\hat{f}_{id}$  in the ESO-SMSC, as shown in Fig. 9(e) and Table III, the rotor speed tracking performance is not affected by the parameter mismatch at all. However, when using the PISC, the SMSC, the DO-SMSC, or the ESO-PSC, the rotor speed tracking error increases when the parameter mismatch occurs. Therefore, the ESO-SMSC exhibits an improved capability of rejecting or robustness to internal disturbance (parameter mismatch) compared to the PISC, the SMSC, the DO-SMSC, and the ESO-PSC.

#### V. CONCLUSION

An ESO-SMSC was proposed for PMSM drive systems to achieve a fast dynamic response, precise tracking performance, and high robustness to disturbances of the system, such as parameter variations and load torque changes. First, a fast-response SMSC was designed based on the upper bound of the total disturbance. Then, an ESO was proposed to online estimate the total disturbance of the PMSM drive system. Finally, the control law of the SMSC was adapted by compensating the estimated total disturbance with the stability proven by the Lyapunov theory, leading to an ESO-SMSC with improved disturbance rejection ability over the SMSC. The experimental results showed that the PMSM drive system

using the proposed ESO-based SMSC has a better disturbance rejection capability, smaller steady-state speed tracking error, and improved dynamic response than that using the conventional PISC, the SMSC, the DO-SMSC, and the ESO-PSC.

In the future work, the ESO-based SMC method will be applied to the current loop of the PMSM drive system to further improve the robustness of the closed-loop system to other disturbances such as inductance and/or resistance variations.

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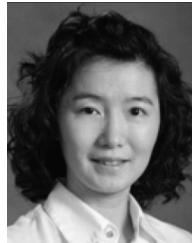
include power electronics and electric motor drives.



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