

# A Novel Flux-weakening Control Method with Quadrature Voltage Constrain for Electrolytic Capacitorless PMSM Drives

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**Abstract**—In electrolytic capacitorless permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) drives, the DC-link voltage will fluctuate in a wide range due to the use of slim film capacitor. When the flux-weakening current is lower than  $-\psi_f/L_a$  during the high speed operation, the flux-weakening control loop will transform to a positive feedback mode, which means the reduction of flux-weakening current will lead to the acceleration of the voltage saturation, thus the whole system will be unstable. In order to solve this issue, this paper proposes a novel flux-weakening method for electrolytic capacitorless motor drives to maintain a negative feedback characteristic of the control loop during high speed operation. Based on the analysis of the instability mechanism in flux-weakening region, a quadrature voltage constrain mechanism is constructed to stabilize the system. Meanwhile, the parameters of the controller are theoretically designed for easier industrial application. The proposed algorithm is implemented on a 1.5kW electrolytic capacitorless PMSM drive to verify the effectiveness of the flux-weakening performance.

**Index Terms**—Permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM), Electrolytic capacitorless drive, Flux-weakening control, Voltage constrain, Stable operation.

## I. INTRODUCTION

PERMANENT magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) have been widely used in white goods and other industrial applications due to the merits of higher power density, lower cost and higher efficiency [1]-[4]. In traditional drives, the large-volume electrolytic capacitors are commonly used for energy storage and buffering [5]-[6]. However, the existence of electrolytic capacitors will not only increase the volume but

also reduce the reliability of the drives. Because of the short life time, the electrolytic capacitor critically affects the reliability of the drive circuit, about 60% of the drive circuit failure are due to the DC-link electrolytic capacitor [7]-[8]. Recently, many researches have been carried out to use slim film capacitors in motor drives which are the so-called electrolytic capacitorless motor drives. Firstly, the largely reduced DC capacitance will increase the power factor of the grid side, and the Power Factor Correction (PFC) can be removed, which leads to remarkable cost and volume reduction [9]-[11]. Then, the film capacitors have stronger tolerance of ripple voltage, which are more suitable for power electronics system and can prolong the service time of drives [12]-[13].

However, the slim DC-link capacitor cannot be regarded as an energy buffer anymore, which will aggravate the energy coupling between the grid side and the motor side. Consequently, some new challenges will happen such as the LC resonance [14]-[17], high power quality control [18]-[19], beat phenomenon [20]-[25], and more difficult flux-weakening control in high-speed operation [26]-[28].

The inverter controlled PMSM can be regarded as constant power loads (CPLs), which will aggravate the system LC resonance and even lead to instability in a weak grid. Some strategies have been proposed to solve the instability problem of the electrolytic capacitorless motor drives, and they can be classified into two categories. One solution is algorithm based, which means changing the frequency characteristics of the drive by manipulating the motor power [14]-[16]. The other solution is hardware based, which means modifying the power circuit by adding additional switching devices [17], this kind of methods is less attractive because of increased cost. In [14], an active damping control method was proposed based on DC-link voltage closed loop control, the system could be stable due to the increase of the system damping characteristic. In [16], the stability control was analyzed based on speed sensorless control, the stability scheme was designed by taking the motor side characteristics into consideration.

The power factor of the grid side should be higher than 0.95 in the application of white goods. So, it is important to develop high power factor control strategy for the application of electrolytic capacitorless motor drives. Modifying the grid power can realize the improvement of the power factor. Considering that the grid voltage will not change with load power, modifying the amplitude and phase of the grid current

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the DC-link voltage which is equal to  $U_m$ .  $u_{dcmin}=U_m\sin\theta_d$ ,  $u_{dcmax}=U_m$ , and  $\theta_{gm}=\text{mod}(\theta_g, \pi)$ . In order to ensure the reliable operation of motor, it is necessary to keep the DC-link voltage above  $u_{dcmin}$ .

The voltage equation of PMSM can be presented as

$$\begin{cases} u_d = i_d R_s + L_d \frac{di_d}{dt} - \omega_e i_q L_q \\ u_q = i_q R_s + L_q \frac{di_q}{dt} + \omega_e i_d L_d + \psi_f \omega_e \end{cases} \quad (3)$$

where  $u_d$  and  $u_q$  are the  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis voltage,  $i_d$  and  $i_q$  are the  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis current,  $L_d$  and  $L_q$  are the  $d$ -axis and  $q$ -axis inductance,  $\omega_e$  is the motor speed,  $R_s$  is the stator resistance, and  $\psi_f$  is the flux linkage.

The  $q$ -axis current command can be presented as

$$\begin{cases} T_e^* = W_f^* (k_p + \frac{k_i}{s})(\omega_e^* - \omega_e) \\ i_q^* = \frac{2T_e^*}{3p(\psi_f + (L_d - L_q)i_d)} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where  $T_e^*$ ,  $i_q^*$  and  $\omega_e^*$  are the commands of the torque, the  $q$ -axis current, and the speed, respectively. PI represents proportional and integral regulator.  $W_f$  is the wave generator.

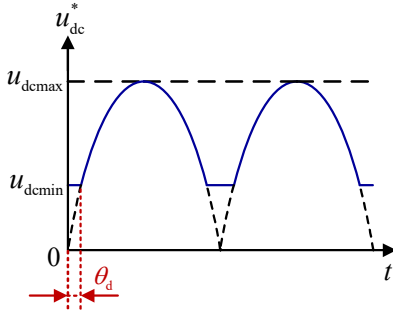


Fig. 2. Schematic diagram of the DC-link voltage of IPMSM drive with reduced DC-link capacitance.

For electrolytic capacitorless motor drive, the input current and voltage can be synchronous sine waves ideally. Ignoring the capacitor power, the input and output power of the inverter are the same

$$\begin{cases} P_g = U_m I_m \sin^2(\theta_{gm}) \\ P_{out} = T_e^* \omega_e \\ P_g = P_{out} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

According to (5), the waveform of the input power is the square of sine. Therefore, the waveform generator  $W_f$  can be set as

$$W_f = \sin^2(\theta_{gm}). \quad (6)$$

According to (4) and (6), the  $q$ -axis current command can be expressed as

$$\begin{cases} i_q^* = I_{q0} \sin^2 \theta_{gm} \\ I_{q0} = \frac{2*(k_p + \frac{k_i}{s})(\omega^* - \omega)}{3p(\psi_f + (L_d - L_q)i_d)} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

In order to avoid the instability of the system when the DC-link voltage is lower than the minimum limit value  $u_{dcmin}$ .

The  $q$ -axis current command is set to 0 in the zero-current dead zone of the source  $\theta_d$ .

$$i_q^* = \begin{cases} I_{q0} \sin^2 \theta_{gm} & \theta_{gm} \in [\theta_d, \pi - \theta_d] \\ 0 & \theta_{gm} \in [0, \theta_d] \cup (\pi - \theta_d, \pi] \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

According to (3) and (7), the stator voltage can be re-expressed as

$$\begin{cases} u_d = i_d R_s + L_d \frac{di_d}{dt} - \omega_e I_{q0} L_q \sin^2 \theta_g \\ u_q = I_{q0} R_s \sin^2 \theta_g + I_{q0} L_q \sin(2\theta_g) + \omega_e L_d i_d + \psi_f \omega_e \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

When the motor is in steady-state operation, ignoring the voltage drop of stator resistance and inductance, (9) can be simplified as

$$\begin{cases} u_d = -\omega_e I_{q0} L_q \sin^2 \theta_g \\ u_q = \omega_e L_d i_d + \psi_f \omega_e \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Considering the output capacity of the inverter, the constraint equations of stator current  $I_s$  and stator voltage  $U_s$  can be expressed as

$$\begin{cases} I_s = \sqrt{i_d^2 + i_q^2} \leq I_{max} \\ U_s = \sqrt{u_d^2 + u_q^2} \leq U_{max} \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

where  $I_{max}$  is the maximum current,  $U_{max}$  is the maximum voltage that can be output by the inverter. Considering the linear modulation of the voltage,  $U_{max}$  is  $u_{dc}/\sqrt{3}$ .

Fig.3 shows the current and voltage constrain of the motor drive with reduced DC-link capacitance. The current constraint is a circle with  $I_{sm}$  as the radius. In the electrolytic capacitorless motor drive system, the voltage limit ellipse changes with the fluctuated DC-link voltage between ellipse  $u_{dcmax}$  and  $u_{dcmin}$  at the same speed as shown in Fig. 3. Assuming that the motor speed is  $\omega_1$ , when the DC-link voltage reaches the maximum value, the voltage limit circle is the blue biggest ellipse. When the DC-link voltage reaches the minimum value, the voltage limit circle is the blue smallest ellipse.

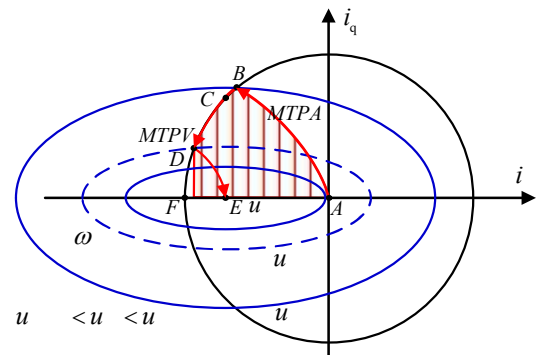


Fig. 3. Current and voltage constrain of motor drive with reduced DC-link capacitance.

When the speed increases,  $\psi_f \omega_e$  will increase accordingly, which leads to insufficient DC-link voltage margin. In order to deal with the problem, the  $q$ -axis current command is designed to be dynamically adjusted with the source voltage cycle, as shown in (7). According to (10), the  $d$ -axis voltage can be dynamically adjusted with the grid voltage cycle to ensure that the  $d$ -axis voltage meets the requirement of the voltage limit



According to (3),

$$\frac{\partial u_q^*}{\partial i_d} = \omega_e L_d. \quad (17)$$

It can be seen from (17) that  $\partial u_q^* / \partial i_d > 0$ , the flux-weakening closed-loop system is negative feedback, which is stable.

### B. Analysis of Parameter Influence on Flux-Weakening Control Strategy

The DC-link voltage fluctuation period is twice of the source voltage. In order to obtain a stable flux-weakening current, the cutoff frequency of the low-pass filter is preferably set to 1/10 of DC-link frequency.

The q-axis voltage command can be presented as

$$u_q^* = \psi_f \omega_e + i_d^* L_d \omega_e + PI(i_q^* - i_q). \quad (18)$$

Combined with (15) and (18),

$$u_q^* = \psi_f \omega_e + \frac{KL_d \omega_e}{\tau S + 1} (u_{qmax} - u_q^*) + PI(i_q^* - i_q). \quad (19)$$

Fig. 7 is the schematic diagram of the q-axis voltage command and the q-axis saturation voltage. It can be seen from Fig. 7 that  $u_{qmax} - u_q^*$  satisfies

$$u_{qmax} - u_q^* = u_q^* \frac{U_{max} - U_S^*}{U_S^*}. \quad (20)$$

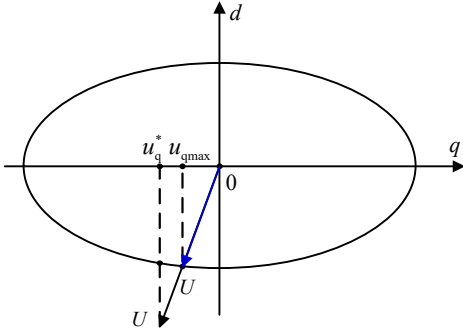


Fig. 7. Schematic diagram of q-axis voltage command and q-axis saturation voltage.

According to (20) and ignoring the change of speed, (19) can be simplified as

$$\begin{cases} \tau \dot{u}_q^* + u_q^* = \frac{U_{max} - U_S^*}{U_S^*} KL_d \omega_e u_q^* + \Delta \\ \Delta = PI(i_q^* - i_q) + \psi_f \omega_e + \frac{dPI(i_q^* - i_q)}{dt} \end{cases} \quad (21)$$

In (21),  $\Delta$  can be regarded as an external disturbance, assuming that the error of q-axis current control is zero and its mean value is  $\psi_f \omega_e$ , thus (21) can be simplified as

$$\tau \dot{u}_q^* = \left( \frac{U_{max} - U_S^*}{U_S^*} KL_d \omega_e - 1 \right) u_q^* + \psi_f \omega_e. \quad (22)$$

According to (20) and (21), it can be obtained

$$\tau \dot{u}_q^* + (1 + KL_d \omega_e) u_q^* = \psi_f \omega_e + KL_d \omega_e u_{qmax}. \quad (23)$$

The steady-state value of  $u_q^*$  is

$$u_{qss} = \frac{\psi_f \omega_e + KL_d \omega_e u_{qmax}}{1 + KL_d \omega_e}. \quad (24)$$

Considering the range of  $K$ , which is larger than 10, and the system parameters shown in Table I, the assumption can be made that  $KL_d \omega_e \gg 1$ , then

$$u_{qss} \approx \frac{\psi_f \omega_e + KL_d \omega_e u_{qmax}}{KL_d \omega_e} = \frac{\psi_f}{KL_d} + u_{qmax}. \quad (25)$$

Fig. 8 shows the relationship between  $u_{qss}$ ,  $u_{qmax}$  and proportional gain  $K$ . In conclusion, when the error of q-axis current control is zero, the upper bound of voltage  $u_q^*$  is  $u_{qmax} + \psi_f / (K^* L_d)$ , which will be closer to  $u_{qmax}$  with the increase of  $K$ .

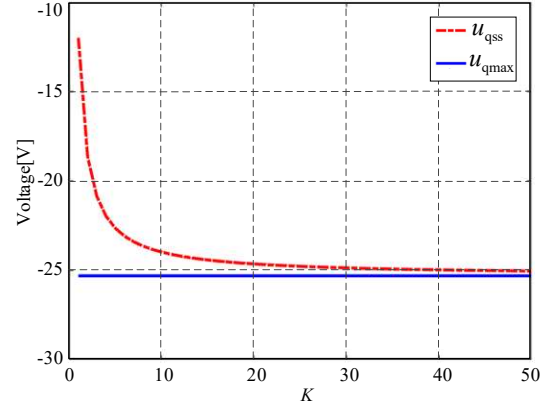
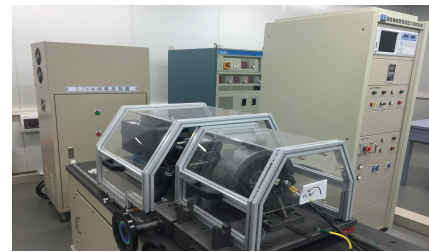


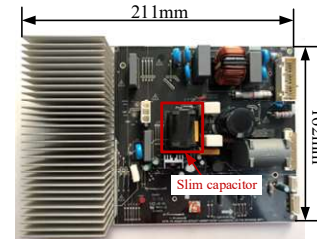
Fig. 8. Schematic diagram of relationship between  $u_{qss}$ ,  $u_{qmax}$ , and proportional gain  $K$ .

## IV. UNITS

In order to verify the effectiveness of the method, experiments are carried out on the 1.5kW motor drive. The test bench is shown in Fig. 9 (a). Fig. 9 (b) shows the electrolytic capacitorless motor drive circuit using Renesas 32-bit MCU rx62t as the control core, and the main frequency is 100 MHz. The compressor motor is driven by IPM, and the carrier frequency of 6 kHz. The DC-link capacitance is 20  $\mu$ F, and the AC side inductance is 5 mH. The circuit and compressor motor parameters are shown in Table I.



(a)



(b)

Fig. 9. Platform of the electrolytic capacitorless motor drive. (a) Test bench. (b) Drive circuit.

TABLE I  
SYSTEM PARAMETERS

| Parameters                | Units | Values |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|
| Input voltage             | V     | 220    |
| Voltage frequency         | Hz    | 50     |
| Film capacitor            | μF    | 20     |
| Filter inductance         | mH    | 5      |
| Output power              | kW    | 1.5    |
| Pole pair                 |       | 3      |
| Motor phase resistance    | Ω     | 1      |
| Flux linkage              | Wb    | 0.108  |
| <i>d</i> -axis inductance | mH    | 8.1    |
| <i>q</i> -axis inductance | mH    | 11.6   |

The comparisons of the conventional method and proposed method in deep flux-weakening region are shown in Fig. 10. When the motor speed reaches 6180 r/min, the direct axis current command reaches -13.5 A, which is less than the characteristic value of the direct axis current of  $-\psi_f/L_d$ . As can be seen, the direct axis current reduces rapidly, reaches the demagnetization limit value of -19 A within 600 ms, and remains at -19 A, which means the flux-weakening loop is out of control as shown in Fig. 10 (a). In Fig. 10 (b), the motor speed is 6780 r/min and the direct axis current is -16 A. It can be seen that when the direct axis current is less than the characteristic value, the flux weakening control can still operate stably.

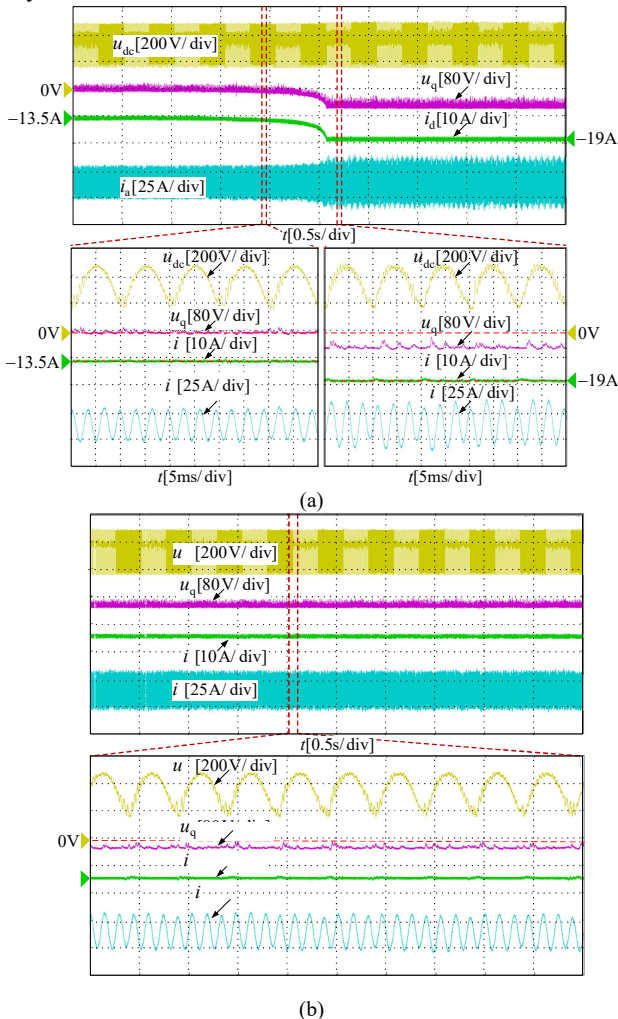


Fig. 10. Experimental results of the comparison in deep flux-weakening region. (a) Conventional method. (b) Proposed method.

Fig. 11 shows the experimental results of the speed dynamic. The motor accelerates from 3000r/min to 6500r/min within 5s, and then the motor decelerates from 6500r/min to 3000r/min within 5s. As can be seen, the motor dynamic process is smooth.

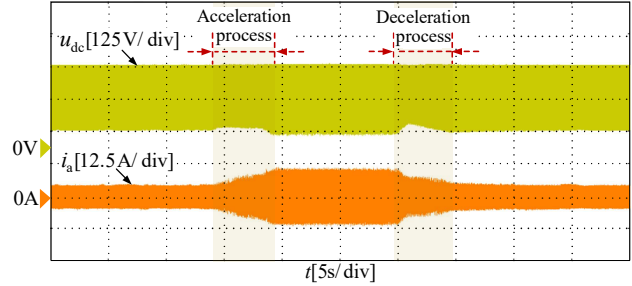


Fig. 11. Experimental results of the speed dynamic process.

Fig. 12 shows the experimental results of the torque dynamic process. At the speed of 5500 r/min, the load torque is decreased from 2 N.m to 0 N.m within 5 s, and then increased to 2 N.m within 8 s. The proposed flux-weakening method can work well in the load dynamic process.

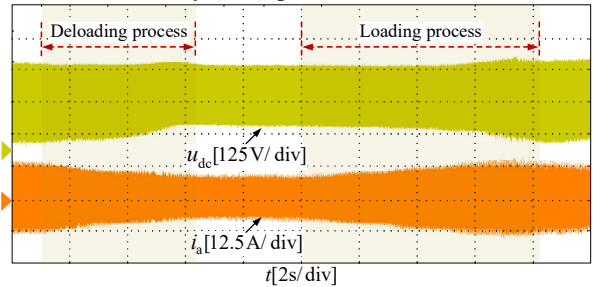


Fig. 12. Experimental results of the torque dynamic process.

The error of *q*-axis voltage under different *K* is shown in Fig. 13. The motor speed is 5000 r/min and the torque is 0.5 N.m. The experimental results when *K* is 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 are shown in Fig. 13. It can be seen from the figure that the larger the *K*, the closer the *q*-axis voltage command to the maximum limit of *q*-axis voltage. Besides the experimental motor KSN98D22UEZ, some other typical motors of the same rated power are tested. As can be seen, the voltage error can be reduced with the increase of *K*, and the voltage error is below 0.5 V when *K* is larger than 35.

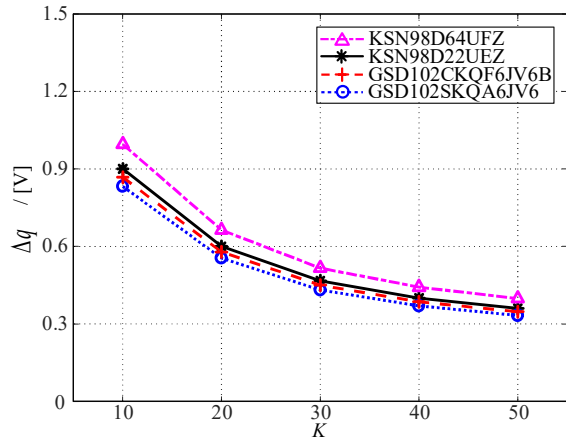


Fig. 13. Error of *q*-axis voltage under different values of *K* using the proposed method.

Fig. 14 shows the efficiency experimental results when *K* is 10, 20, 30, 40 and 50 respectively. As can be seen from the

figure, as the increase of  $K$ , the system efficiency is getting lower. The driver efficiency of conventional flux-weakening control strategy and proposed flux-weakening control strategy is compared as shown in Fig. 15. The load torque is 0.5 N.m. It can be seen from the figure that the efficiency of conventional flux-weakening and proposed flux-weakening is the same in the speed range of 3000 ~ 6000 r/min.

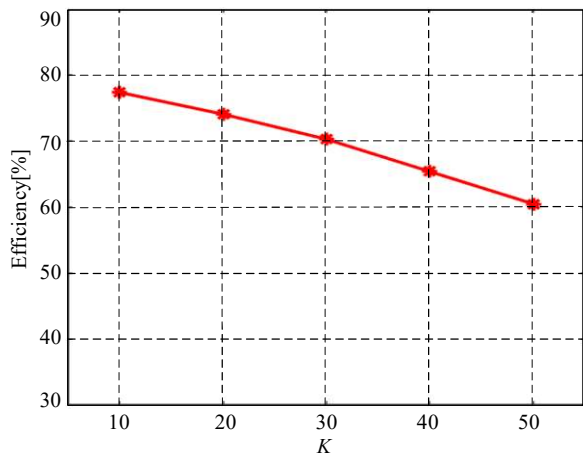


Fig. 14. Efficiency of the proposed flux-weakening method under different  $K$  values.

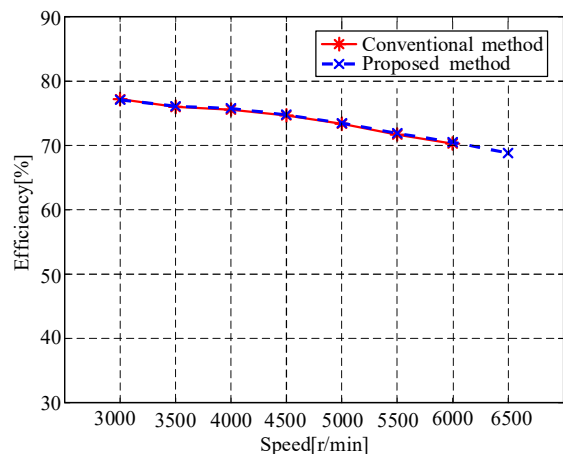


Fig. 15. Comparison of system efficiency.

## V. CONCLUSION

In order to improve the stability of the electrolytic capacitorless motor drives during the deep flux-weakening region caused by the voltage saturation due to the largely fluctuated DC-link voltage, a novel flux-weakening control strategy with quadrature axis voltage constrain has been proposed. The reason of the unstable problem when applying the conventional voltage feedback flux-weakening method is clearly displayed, which may enter into a positive feedback mode when the DC-link voltage is extremely low. Benefited from the introduction of quadrature axis voltage, the stability of the control system is improved during flux-weakening region. Meanwhile, the parameters of the controller are theoretical designed by taking the voltage utilization and stability into consideration. The experimental results show that the novel flux-weakening can work effectively without efficiency sacrifice.

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