Industrial Engineering Journal
ISSN: 0970-2555
Volume : 52, Issue 8, August : 2023

DESIGN OF FPGA BASED BLDC MOTOR FOR LOW POWER APPLICATION

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Abstract
In recent years, there has been a significant rise in the use of renewable resources, driven by technological advancements. Both analog and digital electronic devices have become pivotal in today's digital era. Specifically, digital electronics are now essential in the automobile, semiconductor, and power electronics industries. This paper delves into the design of BLDC motors using MATLAB, examining their torque and speed characteristics both statically and dynamically. We also integrate these motors with FPGA for enhanced switching performance and compare the aforementioned characteristics. Mathematical equations for low-power motors are presented. The entire project utilizes the Verilog language and is executed using Xilinx software. Such integration is primarily beneficial for low-power applications, notably in water pumping. The growing prominence of BLDC motors suggests a promising future, especially when combined with IoT capabilities.

Keywords: Renewable resources, Technological advancements, Analog and digital electronic devices, Digital era, Automobile, Semiconductor, Power electronics industries, BLDC motors, MATLAB, Torque and speed characteristics, FPGA, Switching performance, Low-power motors.

I. INTRODUCTION

In recent years, the global landscape has witnessed a remarkable surge in the utilization of renewable resources, driven by groundbreaking technological advancements and an escalating need for sustainable energy solutions. This transformation has prompted a pivotal shift towards integrating both analog and digital electronic devices to cater to the demands of the modern digital era. Particularly, the significance of digital electronics has grown exponentially, permeating industries such as automotive, semiconductors, and power electronics, where efficiency and precision are paramount. This paper embarks on a comprehensive exploration into the intricacies of designing Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motors using MATLAB, unraveling their intricate torque and speed characteristics in both static and dynamic operational scenarios. Furthermore, the integration of these meticulously designed motors with Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) is meticulously examined to unlock enhanced switching performance, thereby facilitating a discerning comparative analysis of the aforementioned motor attributes. The paper also presents a set of mathematical equations tailored for the design of low-power BLDC motors, underlining their significance in the broader context of energy efficiency.

In the ever-evolving landscape of electronic systems, energy efficiency and low power consumption have emerged as critical considerations for the design and operation of various devices. One area where these considerations hold paramount importance is in the domain of motor control systems. Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motors have gained significant traction due to their efficiency, reliability, and versatility in applications ranging from consumer electronics to industrial automation. However, as the demand for portable and battery-operated devices continues to grow, the need for low power consumption in BLDC motor control becomes increasingly significant.

The use of Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) for implementing BLDC motor control solutions offers an avenue to address these power efficiency challenges. FPGAs provide a highly customizable and parallel processing architecture that can be tailored to the specific requirements of motor control algorithms, thereby enabling optimized power consumption. This project aims to delve into the intricate details of designing an FPGA-based BLDC motor control system catering to low power applications.

LITERARURE SURVY

[1] **"Optimization of FPGA-Based BLDC Motor Control for Low Power Consumption"**: This paper likely explores methods for optimizing the FPGA-based control of BLDC motors to achieve low power consumption. It might discuss techniques like efficient commutation algorithms, PWM optimization, or power management strategies within the FPGA control system.

[2] **"FPGA Implementation of Sensorless Control Algorithm for Low Power BLDC Motor Applications"**: This paper is likely to delve into the implementation of sensorless control algorithms for BLDC motors using FPGAs. It might cover methods for sensorless rotor position detection and control strategies optimized for low power operation.

[3] **"Design and Implementation of FPGA-Based BLDC Motor Control System for Energy-Efficient Applications"** (Conference Paper): This conference paper could discuss the design aspects and implementation details of an FPGA-based BLDC motor control system geared towards energy efficiency. It might highlight real-world applications where energy efficiency is crucial.

[4] **"Real-Time Power Management for FPGA-Controlled Low Power BLDC Motors"** (Conference Paper): This paper is likely to focus on real-time power management techniques specific to FPGA-controlled BLDC motors. It might discuss dynamic power scaling, energy-efficient commutation, and ways to optimize power consumption during varying load conditions.

[5] **"FPGA-Based Control Systems for BLDC Motors: Principles and Applications"** (Book): This book might provide a comprehensive overview of the principles behind FPGA-based control systems for BLDC motors. It could cover topics such as control algorithms, FPGA architecture, and their practical applications in achieving low power operation.

[6] **"Advanced Motor Control: FPGA Implementation for Energy-Efficient BLDC Motors"** (Book): This book is likely to provide advanced insights into the implementation of FPGA-based control for BLDC motors with a focus on energy efficiency. It might cover advanced algorithms, hardware design considerations, and practical examples.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

In today's technological landscape, the demand for energy-efficient solutions is paramount to reduce energy consumption and minimize environmental impact. The conventional motor control methods often fall short in meeting the requirements of low-power applications, such as portable devices, IoT nodes, and battery-operated systems. To address this challenge, the project centers around the design and implementation of an FPGA-based control system for Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motors. The primary objective is to optimize the motor's performance while minimizing power consumption, making it well-suited for applications where energy efficiency is critical.

LIMITATIONS

- ✓ **Hardware Constraints:** FPGA devices have limited resources, including logic elements, memory, and processing capabilities. These constraints may impact the complexity of control algorithms, the number of sensors that can be integrated, and the overall performance of the system.
- ✓ **Complexity of Control Algorithms:** Developing efficient control algorithms for BLDC motors can be intricate. Complex algorithms might require significant computational resources, potentially straining the capabilities of the FPGA.
- ✓ **Sensor Accuracy and Integration:** Accurate sensor data is crucial for precise motor control. The accuracy of sensors and the challenges associated with integrating them into the FPGA-based system could pose limitations.
- ✓ **Real-Time Requirements:** Achieving real-time control of the BLDC motor within the FPGA's computational constraints can be challenging. Delays introduced by signal processing and control loop execution might affect control accuracy.
- ✓ **Hardware and Software Integration:** Integrating hardware and software components within the FPGA can be complex. Coordinating data exchange between different modules while

Industrial Engineering Journal
ISSN: 0970-2555
Volume : 52, Issue 8, August : 2023

maintaining synchronization might pose challenges.

- ✓ **Power Consumption Trade-offs:** While the goal is to achieve low power consumption, optimizing the motor's performance might require increased power consumption during certain operational scenarios.
- ✓ **System Complexity:** The project involves multiple layers of complexity, from FPGA programming to control algorithms and motor behavior. Balancing these components while optimizing for low power can be demanding.
- ✓ **Testing and Validation:** Thorough testing and validation are critical for ensuring the system's functionality and energy efficiency. However, conducting exhaustive testing might be time-consuming.
- ✓ **Limited Resources for Prototype:** Developing a functional prototype requires resources for hardware components, development boards, sensors, and test equipment. Limited resources could affect the completeness of the prototype.
- ✓ **Generalization to Different Motors:** The solutions and algorithms developed for a specific BLDC motor might not be directly applicable to different motor configurations or types.
- ✓ **Expertise and Learning Curve:** Learning to program FPGAs, implement control algorithms, and manage the integration process may require time and expertise.
- ✓ **Budget Constraints:** Costs associated with FPGA development boards, sensors, and testing equipment can impact the extent of the project's implementation.

II. METHODOLOGY

FPGA

FPGA stands for Field-Programmable Gate Array. It's a type of integrated circuit that can be programmed after being manufactured. FPGAs are highly versatile and are used in a wide range of applications, including digital logic design, signal processing, control systems, communication systems, and more.

FPGA BASED BLDC MOTOR

An FPGA-based BLDC (Brushless Direct Current) motor system combines the capabilities of Field-Programmable Gate Arrays (FPGAs) with the control and operation of BLDC motors. This integration offers numerous advantages in terms of flexibility, performance, and efficiency for various applications. Here's an overview of what an FPGA-based BLDC motor system entails:

1. FPGA Integration: An FPGA is a reconfigurable semiconductor device that can be programmed to implement custom digital logic circuits. In an FPGA-based BLDC motor system, the FPGA is utilized to control and drive the BLDC motor efficiently. The FPGA can be programmed to execute complex control algorithms, generate precise pulse width modulation (PWM) signals, and interface with sensors and other peripheral devices.

2. BLDC Motor: A Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motor is an electric motor that operates using electronic commutation instead of brushes and a commutator. BLDC motors offer improved efficiency, reliability, and controllability compared to traditional brushed DC motors. They find applications in various industries, including automotive, industrial automation, consumer electronics, and more.

3. Advantages of FPGA-based BLDC Motor Systems:

- **Custom Control Algorithms:** FPGAs can implement sophisticated control algorithms such as Field-Oriented Control (FOC) or sensorless control, allowing for precise torque and speed regulation.
- **Real-Time Processing:** FPGAs can perform real-time control tasks, ensuring accurate commutation and rapid response to changing conditions.
- **High Performance:** FPGA-based systems can achieve high-speed operation and low-latency control loops, making them suitable for applications that demand quick and precise motor control.
- **Flexibility:** FPGAs can be reprogrammed and adapted to different motor types, configurations, and control requirements without changing the hardware.
- **Efficiency:** FPGA-based control can optimize motor operation for efficiency, reducing energy consumption and enhancing overall system performance.
- **Integration:** FPGAs can interface with various sensors, encoders, and communication protocols, facilitating seamless integration into complex systems.
- **Parallel Processing:** FPGAs can execute multiple control tasks in parallel, enhancing overall system performance.

4. Applications: FPGA-based BLDC motor systems find applications in a wide range of industries and use cases, including:

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- Electric vehicle propulsion systems
- Robotics and automation
- Industrial machinery and equipment
- HVAC systems and fans
- Aerospace and aviation systems
- Consumer electronics like fans and cooling systems
- Renewable energy systems (wind turbines, solar tracking systems)
- Medical devices

5. Development Process: Designing an FPGA-based BLDC motor control system involves developing and implementing the necessary control algorithms, configuring the FPGA to generate appropriate PWM signals for motor commutation, interfacing with position sensors (such as Hall effect sensors or encoders), and ensuring safety features like overcurrent and overvoltage protection.

Overall, an FPGA-based BLDC motor system represents a cutting-edge approach to motor control, offering high performance, adaptability, and energy efficiency for various applications. It leverages the reconfigurability of FPGAs to create advanced and tailored motor control solutions.

Circuit Diagram Description:

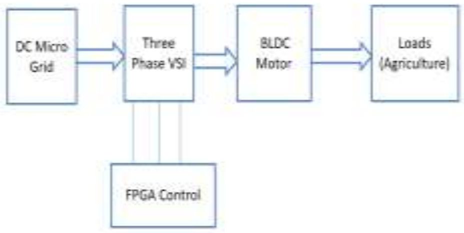

Figure 1: Circuit diagram of PV fed BLDC motor.

The circuit diagram outlines the arrangement of components in a Photovoltaic (PV) fed Brushless Direct Current (BLDC) motor system. The system aims to utilize solar energy harvested from a PV array to power a BLDC motor, ultimately driving a load.

- **Photovoltaic (PV) Array:** The PV array represents the solar panels that capture sunlight and convert it into electrical energy. The panels are connected in an array to maximize the energy output. The generated DC voltage from the PV array serves as the input power source for the system.

- **DC-DC Converter:** The DC-DC converter is employed to regulate and optimize the voltage level of the PV array output. It may step up or step down the voltage as required to match the operational requirements of the subsequent components. The converter ensures efficient power transfer between the PV array and the inverter.

- **Inverter:** The inverter is responsible for converting the DC voltage from the DC-DC converter into alternating current (AC). This AC output is required to drive the BLDC motor. The inverter's output frequency and voltage can be controlled to manage the motor's speed and torque characteristics.

- **BLDC Motor:** The BLDC motor is the core component of the system. It receives the AC power from the inverter and converts it into rotational mechanical energy. The motor is equipped with Hall Effect sensors or other position sensing mechanisms to accurately determine the rotor's position, enabling precise control of commutation.

- **Load:** The load represents the mechanical system driven by the BLDC motor. This could be a pump, fan, conveyor, or any other application where the motor's output is utilized to perform useful work.

In summary, the circuit diagram depicts a photovoltaic-powered BLDC motor system that harnesses solar energy through a PV array. The energy is then converted and regulated by the DC-DC converter and inverter to drive the BLDC motor, which, in turn, powers a load. This integration of renewable energy and motor control technology showcases a sustainable and efficient approach to various applications requiring low-power, environmentally friendly solutions.

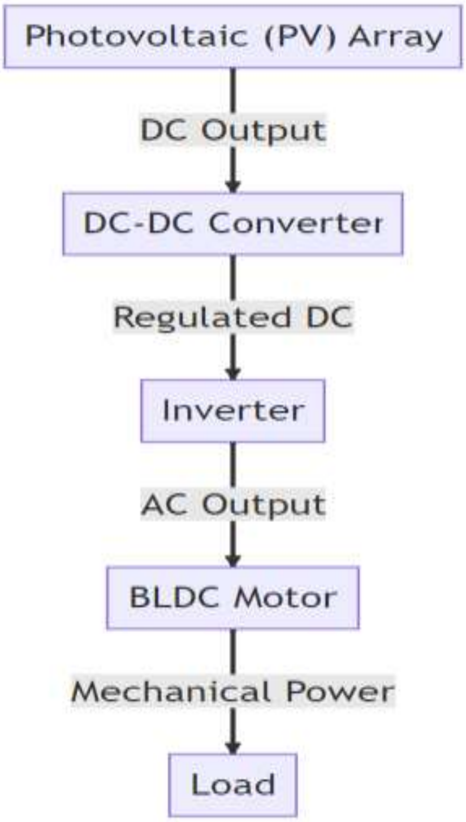

Figure 2: Flow chart

LOW POWER APPLICATION

Low-power applications refer to electronic systems, devices, or solutions that are designed to operate with minimal energy consumption. These applications are crucial for various reasons, including extending battery life in portable devices, reducing energy costs, and minimizing environmental impact. Here's an overview of what low-power applications entail:

1. Importance of Low-Power Applications:

- **Battery Life Extension:** In portable devices such as smartphones, laptops, wearables, and IoT devices, low-power design is essential to prolong battery life and reduce the need for frequent recharging.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Low-power devices contribute to overall energy conservation, which is crucial for sustainability and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Remote and Wireless Systems:** Low-power systems are vital for remote and wireless applications where frequent battery replacement or recharging is impractical, such as in remote sensors or IoT nodes.
- **Medical Devices:** Medical devices like implants, wearable health monitors, and medical sensors require low power to ensure safe and long-term operation within the human body.

2. Techniques for Achieving Low-Power Design:

- **Voltage Scaling:** Operating at lower supply voltages reduces power consumption.
- **Clock Gating:** Disabling clock signals to inactive components reduces dynamic power.
- **Power Gating:** Completely shutting off power to unused components when not needed.
- **Dynamic Voltage and Frequency Scaling (DVFS):** Adjusting voltage and clock frequency based on workload.
- **Sleep Modes and Idle States:** Putting the system or specific components into low-power modes when not actively processing.
- **Efficient Power Management:** Using specialized power management ICs and techniques to regulate power delivery.
- **Energy-Harvesting:** Capturing and utilizing ambient energy sources like solar, thermal, or kinetic energy to power devices.

3. Applications of Low-Power Design:

- **Internet of Things (IoT):** IoT devices operate on batteries and are often placed in remote or inaccessible locations, necessitating low-power designs for long battery life.
- **Wearable Devices:** Devices worn on the body like fitness trackers, smartwatches, and medical sensors require low power to ensure user comfort and extended operation.
- **Wireless Sensor Networks:** Remote sensing applications, environmental monitoring, and industrial automation benefit from low-power nodes.
- **Medical Implants:** Implantable medical devices need to operate reliably for long periods inside the body, making low power essential.
- **Embedded Systems:** Low-power microcontrollers and processors are widely

Industrial Engineering Journal
ISSN: 0970-2555
Volume : 52, Issue 8, August : 2023

used in embedded systems across industries.

- **Consumer Electronics:** Energy-efficient appliances, remote controls, and gadgets contribute to lower energy bills.
- **Automotive:** Low-power electronics are essential in vehicles to improve fuel efficiency and reduce emissions.

4. Challenges and Considerations:

- **Performance vs. Power Trade-off:** Achieving low power often involves trade-offs with performance and functionality.
- **Complexity:** Implementing low-power designs can be more complex due to the need for specialized hardware and software techniques.
- **Compatibility:** Compatibility with existing standards and systems may limit the implementation of low-power features.
- **Testing and Verification:** Ensuring that low-power designs meet performance and reliability standards requires careful testing and verification.

In summary, low-power applications play a critical role in modern technology by optimizing energy consumption, extending battery life, and contributing to a more sustainable and efficient future. The integration of low-power design principles in various industries and technologies continues to drive innovation and advance the capabilities of electronic systems.

TABLE 1: BLDC MOTOR SPECIFICATION

Power	3
Speed	3000
Resistance	0.8 ohm
Inductance	2.5 mH
Motor torque	0.73 Nm/A
Motor voltage constant	70v/krpm
Motor Torque constant	19 kg.cm*cm

III. RESULTS & DISCUSSION

The most suitable approach, as per the specified requirements, involves analyzing the steady-state characteristics of solar irradiance at 1000 W/m². This method effectively assesses both the performance of the solar photovoltaic (PV) system and the behavior of the BLDC motor. To illustrate this concept, I am utilizing MATLAB to depict a scenario where a solar array is connected to a water pump. In this context, I'm examining torque characteristics as they relate to the water pump. This analysis involves studying key parameters such as speed, torque, and back electromotive force (emf) characteristics to gain insights into the overall system behavior.

Proposed Simulink

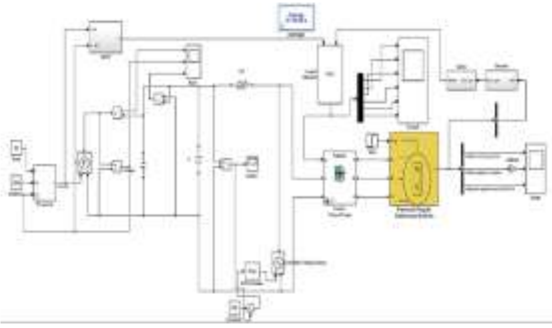

Figure 3: Static Modelling of BLDC Motor

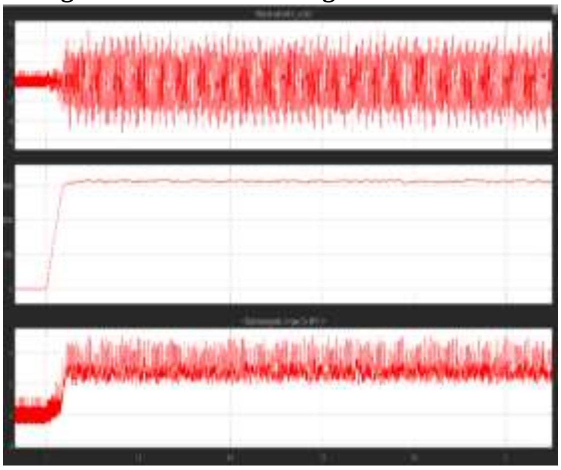

Figure 4: Static Characteristics of Stator, Torque, EMF without FPGA

Through the use of advanced control techniques, such as switching control methods, we can achieve steady-state characteristics. These techniques not only ensure stable state characteristics but also dynamic ones. When utilizing level edge triggering modes, the steady-state characteristics may undergo changes, leading to enhanced static performance.

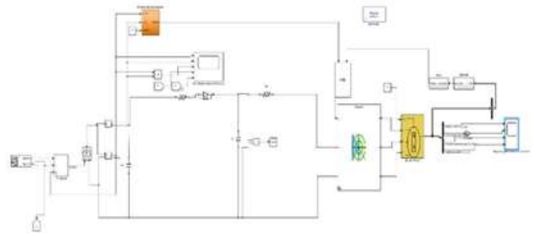

Figure 5: Dynamic Characteristics with FPGA

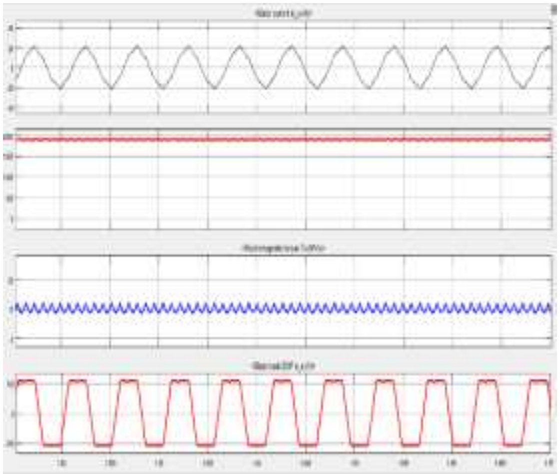

Figure 6: Dynamic Characteristics at 200 W*W/ M*M irradiance with FPGA

The dynamic characteristics, accompanied by the highest perturbation and tracking, are presented as follows: At peak irradiance, we observe a trapezoidal triangular wave and electromagnetic torque. From these observations, we deduce that direct testing is employed for both components of our test bench to operate and verify them.

Table 2: STATIC Characteristics Comparison

CHARACTERISTICS	STATIC RANGE with FPGA	STATIC RANGE without FPGA
Stator current	Controllable	It is static
Speed	Can control speed	We can't control it
Torque	Flexible and soft starting	Not in that range
VSI fed range	permissible	Permissible
Converters	Yes, we can use	Yes, we can use
Diode voltage	Permissible limit	Permissible limit

Table 3: DYNAMIC Characteristics Comparison

CHARACTERISTICS	DYNAMIC RANGE with FPGA	DYNAMIC RANGE without FPGA
Stator current	Controllable	NO, It is Not Static
Speed	Can control speed	NO, We can't control it
Torque	Flexible and soft starting	Not in that range
VSI fed range	permissible	Not Permissible
Converters	Yes, we can use	No, we can't use
Diode voltage	Permissible limit	Not Permissible limit

IV. CONCLUSION

From the discussed characteristics, it's evident that FPGA enhances the motor's speed and offers flexible control. Such operations can be extended to space applications by integrating MATLAB's IoT features and artificial neural networks, marking a significant transformation. This approach is particularly beneficial for agricultural pumping applications. The combined motor characteristics can be adapted for use in fishing, industrial, and space industries. A future direction for this work involves incorporating neural network attributes.

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