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Modelling and Simulation Analysis of the Brushless DC Motor by using MATLAB

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Abstract— ***The paper presents a model of three phase star connected brushless dc motor considering the behaviour of motor during commutation. This process is done in MATLAB/ SIMULINK after development of the BLDC motor with sinusoidal and trapezoidal waveforms of back-EMF. A comparision study is presented between the MATLAB/ SIMULINK models of sinusoidal and trapezoidal models of back-EMF.***

Keywords:BLDC, MATLAB/SIMULINK, EMF.

I. INTRODUCTION

A motor that retains the characteristics of a dc motor but eliminates the commutator and the brushes is called a Brushless DC motor.Brushless DC(bldc) motors can in many cases replace conventional DC motors. They are driven by dc voltage but current commutation is done by solid state switches i.e., the commutation is done electronically. BLDC motors are available in many different power ratings,from very small motors as used in hard disk drives to large motors in electric vehicles. Three phase motors are most common but two phase motors are also found in many applications. The BLDC motors have many advantages over brushed DC motors. A few of these are:

- Higher speed ranges
- Higher efficiency
- Better speed versus torque characteristics
- Long operating life
- Noiseless operation
- Higher dynamic response

The torque of the BLDC motor is mainly influenced by the waveform of back-EMF (the voltage induced into the stator winding due to rotor movement). The ratio of torque delivered to the size of the motor is higher, making it useful in applications where space and weight are critical factors.

Ideally, the BLDC motors have trapezoidal back-EMF waveforms and are fed with rectangular stator currents, which give a theoretically constant torque. However, in practice, torque ripple exists, mainly due to emf waveform imperfections, current ripple and phase current commutation. The current ripple result is from PWM or hysteresis control. The emf waveform imperfections result from variations in the shapes of slot, skew and magnet of BLDC motor, and are subject to design purposes. Hence, an error can occur between actual value and the simulation results. This paper attempts to compare various types of BLDC motor models with the trapezoidal and sinusoidal back-EMF waveforms. The simple motor model of a BLDC motor consisting of a 3-phase power stage and a brushless DC motor is shown in Fig.1.

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II. CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATING PRINCIPLE

The BLDC motor is also referred to as an electronically commutated motor. There are no brushes on the rotor and the commutation is performed electronically at certain rotor positions. The stator phase windings are inserted in the slots (a distributed winding), or can be wound as one coil on the magnetic pole. The magnetization of the permanent magnets and their displacement on the rotor are chosen in such a way that the back-EMF shape is trapizoidal. This allows the three-phase voltage system, with a rectangular shape, to be used to create a rotational field with low torque ripples. In this respect, the BLDC motor is equivalent to an inverted DC commutator motor in that the magnets rotates while the conductors remain stationary.

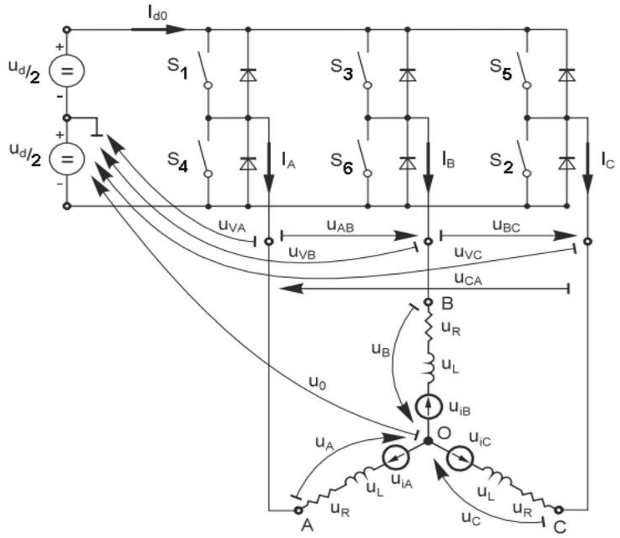

Fig.1. BLDC motor model of electrical circuits

In the DC commutator motor, the current polarity is reversed by the commutator and the brushes, but in the brushless DC motor, the polarity reversal is performed by semiconductor switches which are to be switched in synchronization with the rotor position. Besides the higher reliability, the missing commutator brings another advantage.

The commutator is also a limiting factor in the maximal speed of the DC motor. Therefore the BLDC motor can be employed in applications requiring high speed.

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Replacement of a DC motor by a BLDC motor place higher demands on control algorithm and control circuit. Firstly, the BLDC motor is usually considered as a three-phase system. Thus, it has to be powered by a three-phase power supply. Next, the rotor position must be known at certain angles, in order to align the applied voltage with the back-EMF. The alignment between the back-EMF and commutation events is very important. In this condition the motor behaves as a DC motor and runs at the best working point. But the drawbacks of the BLDC motor caused by necessity of power converter and rotor position measurement are balanced by excellent performance and reliability, and also by the ever-falling prices of power components and control circuits.

III.MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF THE BLDC MOTOR

Modelling of a BLDC motor can be developed in the similar manner as a three-phase synchronous machine. Since there is a permanent magnet mounted on the rotor, some dynamic characteristics are different. Flux linkage from the rotor depends upon the magnet material. Therefore, saturation of magnetic flux is typical for this kind of motors. As any typical three-phase motors, one structure of the BLDC motor is fed by a three phase voltage source. The source is not necessarily to be sinusoidal. Square wave or other wave-shape can be applied as long as the peak voltage does not exceed the maximum voltage limit of the motor. Similarly, the model of the armature winding for the BLDC motor is expressed as follows:

$$V_a = Ri_a + L\frac{di_a}{dt} \quad (1)$$

$$V_b = Ri_b + L\frac{di_b}{dt} \quad (2)$$

$$V_c = Ri_c + L\frac{di_c}{dt} \quad (3)$$

Where,
L is armature self-inductance [H],
R-armature resistance [Ω],
V_a, V_b, V_c – terminal phase voltage [V],
i_a, i_b, i_c – motor input current [A],
and e_a, e_b, e_c – motor back-EMF [V].

In the 3-phase BLDC motor, the back-EMF is related toa function of rotor position and the rotor position and the back-EMF of each phase has 120^o phase angle difference so equation of each phase should be as follows:

$$e_a = K_w f(\theta_e)\omega \quad (4)$$

$$e_b = K_w f(\theta_e - 2\pi/3)\omega \quad (5)$$

$$e_c = K_w f(\theta_e + 2\pi/3)\omega \quad (6)$$

where,
K_w is back EMF constant of one phase[V/rad.s^{-1}],
θ_e -electrical rotor angle [^{o} el.],
ω - rotor speed [rad.s^{-1}],

The electrical rotor angle is equal to the mechanical rotor angle multiplied by the number of pole pairs p:

$$\theta_e = \frac{p}{2}\theta_m \quad (7)$$

Where
θ_m is mechanical rotor angle [rad].

Total torque output can be represented as summation of that of each phase. Next equation represents the total torque output:

$$T_e = \frac{e_a i_a + e_b i_b + e_c i_c}{\omega} \quad (8)$$

Where,
T_e is total torque output [Nm],

The equation of mechanical part is represented as follows:

$$T_e - T_l = J\frac{d\omega}{dt} + B\omega \quad (9)$$

Where,
T_l is load torque[Nm],
J – inertia of rotor and coupled shaft [kgm^2],
B – friction constant [Nms.rad^{-1}].

IV. SIMULINK MODEL OF THE BLDC MOTOR

The simulink model of the BLDC motor is shown in fig.2.

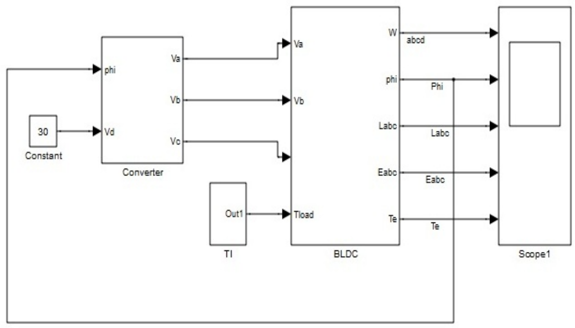

Fig.2. Simulink Model of BLDC Motor

Unlike a brushed DC motor, the commutation of a BLDC motor is controlled electronically. To rotate the BLDC motor,the stator windings should be energized in a sequence. It is important to know the rotor position in order to understand which winding will be energized following the energizing sequence. Rotor position is sensed using hall effect sensors embedded into the stator. Most BLDC motors have three hall sensors embedded into the stator on the non-driving end of the motor.

Whenever the rotor magnetic poles pass near the hall sensors, they give a high or low signal, indicating the N or S pole is passing near the sensors. Based on the combination of these three hall sensor signals, the exact sequence of computation can be determined.

The converter block was developed using the equations below:

$$V_a=(S_1)V_d/2 -(S_4)V_d/2 \quad (10)$$

$$V_b=(S_3)V_d/2 -(S_6)V_d/2 \quad (11)$$

$$V_c=(S_5)V_d/2 -(S_2)V_d/2 \quad (12)$$

Every 60 electrical degress of rotation, one of the hall sensors changes the state. Given this, it takes six steps to complete an electrical cycle. Corresponding to this, with every 60 electrcial degress, the phase current switching should be updated.

However, one electrical cycle may not correspond to a complete mechanical revolution of the rotor.

The number of electrical cycles to be repeated to complete a mechanical rotation is determined by the rotor pole pairs. For each rotor pole pairs, one electrical degree is completed. The number of electrical cycles/rotations equals the rotor pole pairs.

Detailed SIMULINK model of the BLDC motor is:

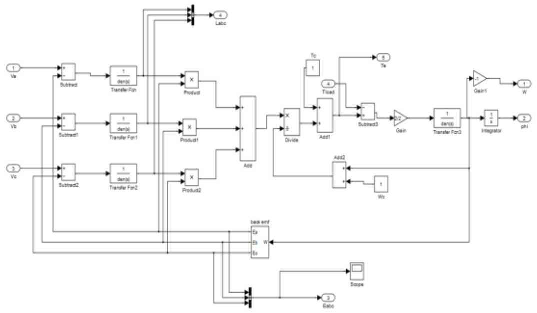

Fig.3. Detailed SIMULINK model of BLDC motor

The sinusoidal back-EMF is given as:

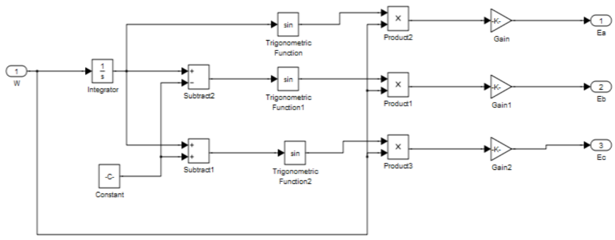

Fig.4(a). Sinusoidal model of the back-EMF

The trapezoidal back-EMF is given as:

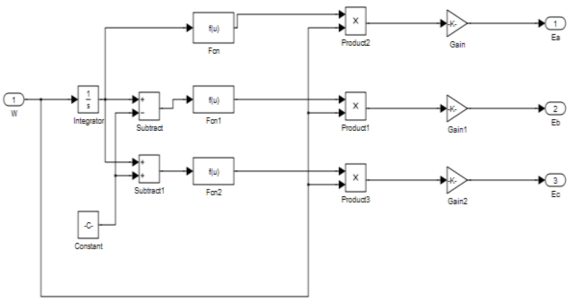

Fig.4(b). Trapezoidal model of the back-EMF

V. SIMULATION RESULTS

Fig shows results of simulation of a BLDC motor with the following parameters: V_d =30v, R=4,98Ω, L=5,05 mH, p=4, J= 15,17.10^{-6} kgm^2, K_w=56,23.10^{-3} V/rad.s^{-1}, T_1=0.1 Nm. The load time is 0,15 s.

Simulations results for sinusoidal input:

For speed :

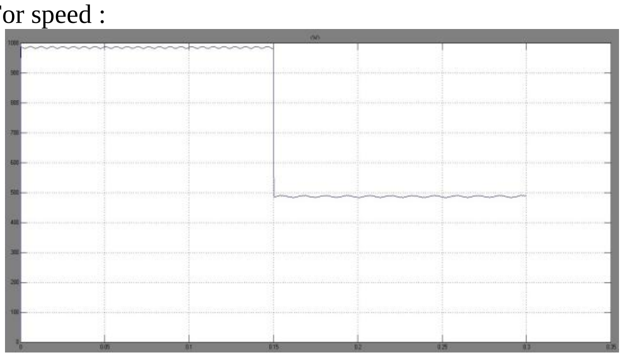

Fig. 5(a). Output Waveform For Speed

For phi:

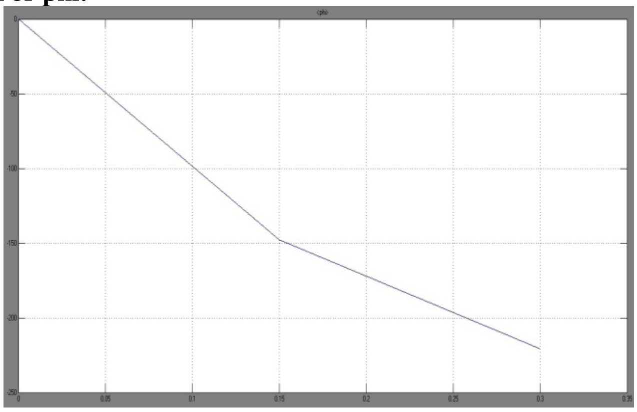

Fig. 5(b). Output Waveform For Phi

For E_{abc} :

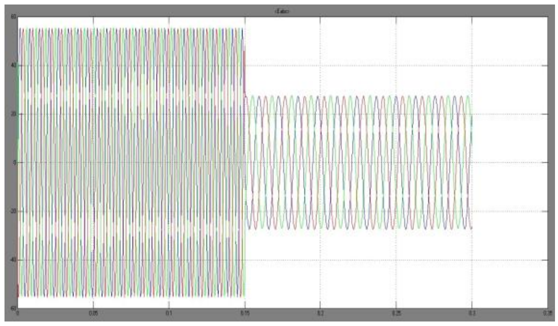

Fig. 5(c). Output Waveform For Back EMF

For I_{abc} :

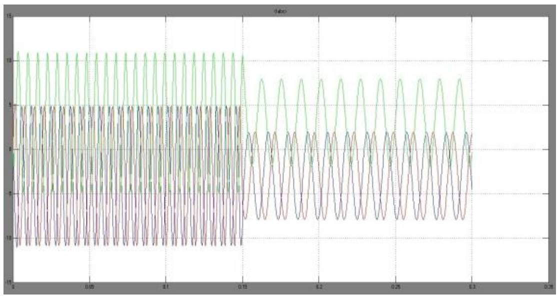

Fig. 5(d). Output Waveform For Current

For T_e :

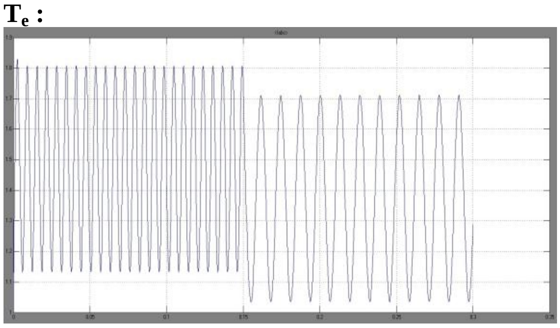

Fig. 5(e). Output Waveform For Torque

For sinusoidal simulation model FFT analysis is given as:

For speed:

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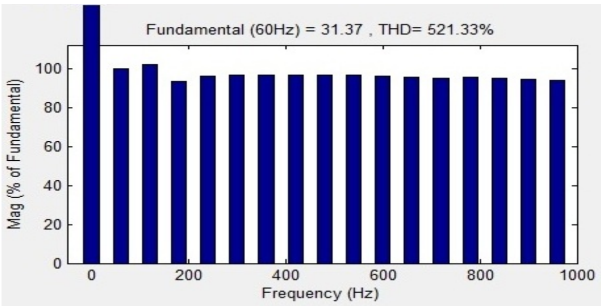

Fig. 6(a). FFT Analysis For Speed

For Eabc:

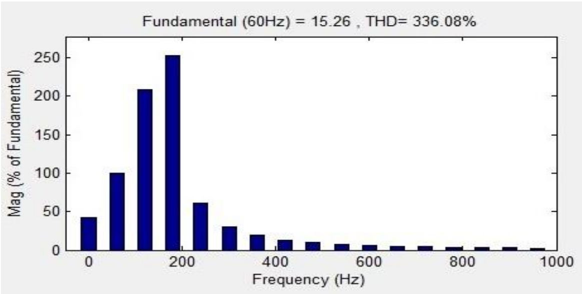

Fig. 6(b). FFT Analysis For Back EMF

For I_{abc}:

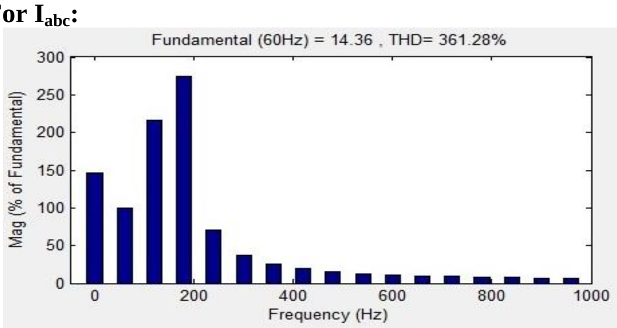

Fig. 6(c). FFT Analysis For Current

For phi:

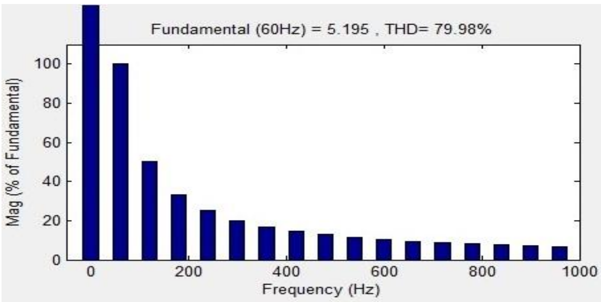

Fig. 6(d). FFT Analysis For Phi

For T_e:

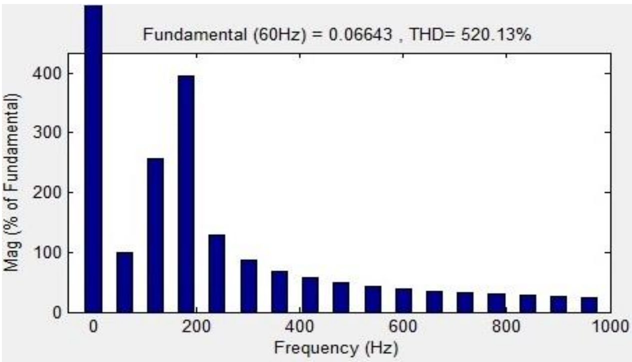

Fig. 6(e). FFT Analysis For Torque

Simulation results for trapezoidal input:

For speed:

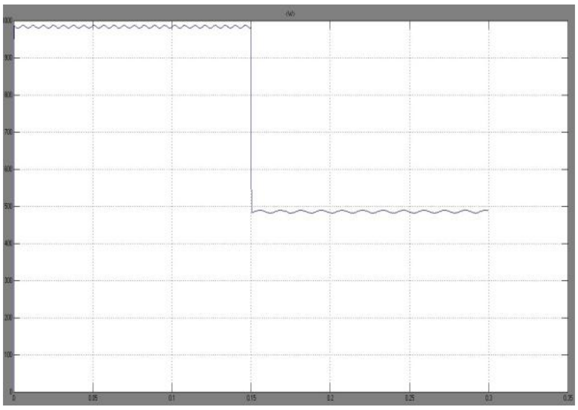

Fig. 7(a). Output Waveform For Speed

For Phi:

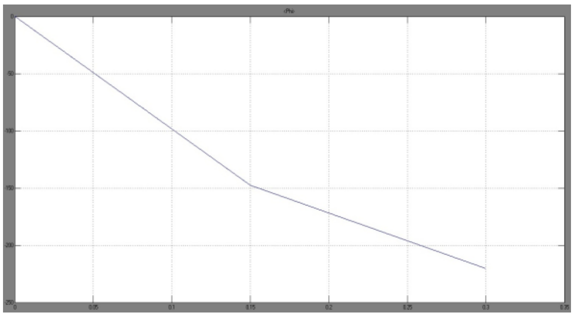

Fig. 7(b). Output Waveform For Phi

For I_{abc}:

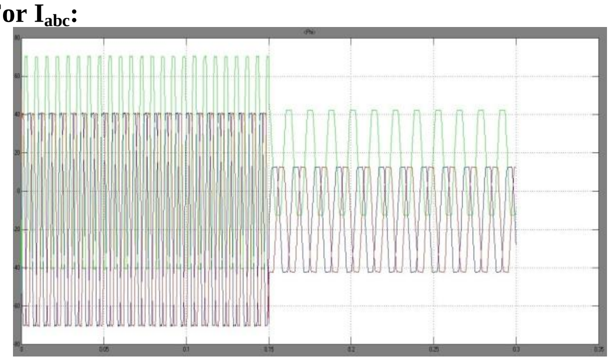

Fig. 7(c). Output Waveform For Current

For E_{abc} :

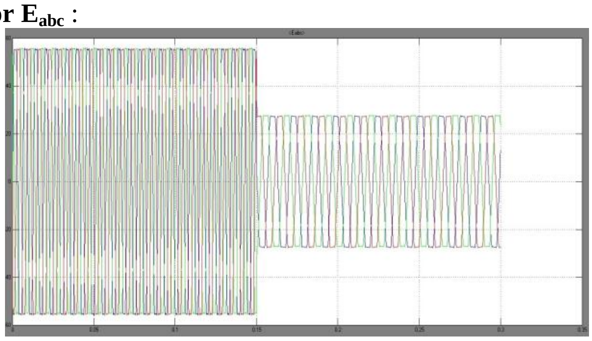

Fig. 7(d). Output Waveform For Back EMF

For T_e :

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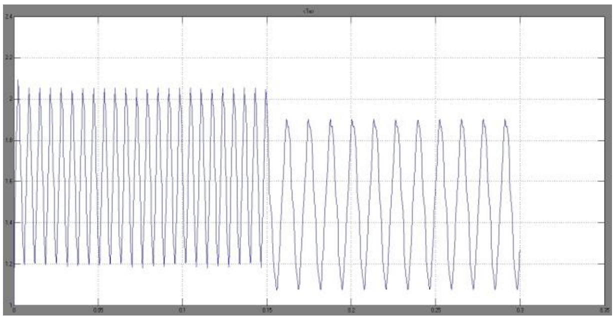

Fig.7(e). Output Waveform For Torque

For trapezoidal simulation model FFT analysis is given as:
For speed:

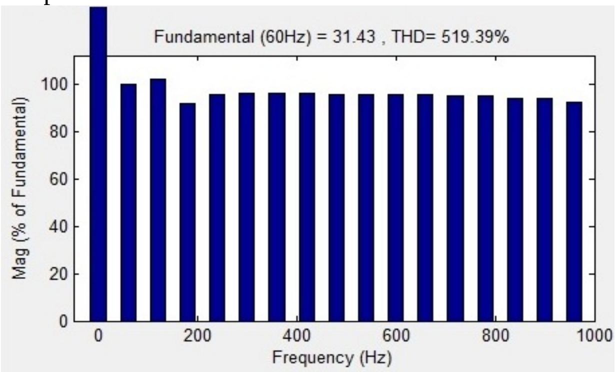

Fig. 8(a). FFT Analysis For Speed

For E_{abc}:

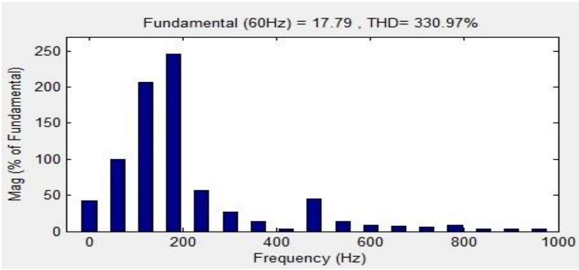

Fig. 8(b). FFT Analysis For Back EMF

For I_{abc}:

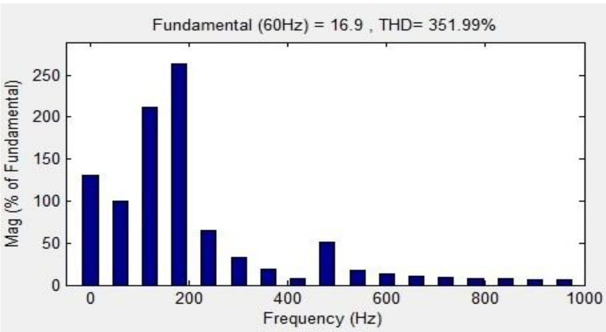

Fig. 8(c). FFT Analysis For Current

For phi:

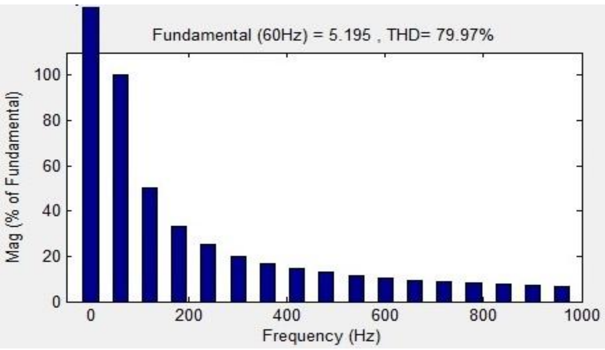

Fig. 8(d). FFT Analysis For Phi

For T_e:

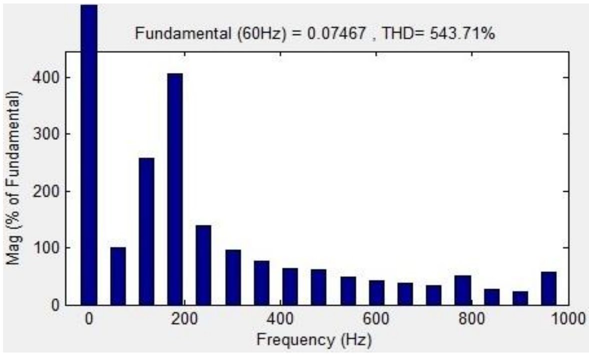

Fig. 8(e). FFT Analysis For Torque

Table 1: Comparison of sinusoidal and trapezoidal outputs

Type of waveform	Speed			Torque			Current					Back EMF				
	Ripple	Peak value	THD	Ripple	Peak value	THD	Ripple	Peak value I_a	I_b	I_c	THD	Ripple	Peak value E_a	E_b	E_c	THD
Sinusoidal	0.71	988	521.33	0	1.81	520.13	0	2	2	8	361.28	0	28	28	28	336.08
Trapezoidal	2.88	492	519.39	0	2.4	543.71	0	-6.9	-6	11	351.99	0	13.5	13.5	14	330.97

VI. CONCLUSION

The modelling procedure presented in this paper helps in simulation of various types of BLDC motors.

The performance evaluation results show that such a modelling is very useful in studying the drive system before taking of the dedicated controller design.

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