

A Closed Loop TBSC Compensator for Direct Online Starting of Induction Motors With Voltage Sag Mitigation

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Abstract—Topology for direct online starting of Induction Motors (I.M.s) using Thyristor Binary Switched Capacitor (TBSC) compensator operating in closed loop is presented. TBSC is based on a chain of Thyristor Switched Capacitor (TSC) banks arranged in binary sequential manner. A transient free switching of TBSCs is carried out. Proposed topology allows switching in/out of capacitor banks according to the reactive power requirement of induction motors in very fast responding closed loop. Simulation results show that the proposed scheme can achieve reactive power compensation in cycle to cycle basis. Proposed scheme can be used for direct online starting of I.M.s with voltage sag mitigation at starting, which helps improving stability of the system and Power Factor (P.F.) improvement in steady state.

Keywords — Reactive power compensation, TBSC, transient free switching, voltage sag, Power Factor

I. INTRODUCTION

INDUCTION motors (I.M.) constitute a large portion of power system. Three-phase induction motors represent the most significant load in the industrial plants, over the half of the delivered electrical energy [1]. Starting of induction motor may cause a problem of voltage sag in the power system. The IEEE defines voltage sag as: A decrease to between 0.1 and 0.9 p.u. in rms voltage or current at the power frequency for durations of 0.5 cycle to 1 min [2]. An induction motor at rest can be modeled as a transformer with the secondary winding short circuited. Thus when full voltage is applied, a heavy inrush current (of 6 to 10 times the rated value) is drawn from the power system that causes voltage sag. As the motor accelerates and attains the rated speed, the inrush current decays and the system voltage recovers [3]. Voltage sag can cause mal-operation of voltage sensitive devices such as computers,

relays, programmable logic controllers etc. [chetan]. Also because of the highly inductive nature of the motor circuit at rest, the power factor is very low, usually of the order of 10 to 20 percent [3]. Thus reactive power demand at the starting of I.M. is very high and it reduces as motor picks up the speed. There are several solutions to minimize this problem, the most common are [5]: reactor start, auto transformer start, delta-wye start, capacitor start, soft starter, frequency variable driver (FVD) etc. All these methods except capacitor start are based on a motor terminal voltage reduction to decrease the rotor current, reducing the line voltage drop [5]. Problem with this method of starting is that the motor torque is directly proportional to the square of the supply voltage hence decrease in the motor terminal voltage will cause the motor torque to decrease, which may be insufficient for driving the required load [6]. Soft starter and frequency variable driver methods are the most expensive and complex, requiring more expert maintenance [7]. In capacitor start system, reactive current required by the motor during acceleration is supplied by capacitors which reduce the source current. This in turn reduces the magnitude of voltage sag in the system. Capacitor start method has a lower cost in comparison with other methods however one has to consider the transitory effects of switching of capacitor banks [3]. An alternative solution without motor terminal voltage reduction was proposed using Static VAR Compensator (SVC) in [8]. In [9] different topology of SVC without using thyristor controlled reactor (TCR) was proposed which has advantage of reduction in both cost as well as harmonics produced by TCR.

This paper presents a simple topology, which is shown in Fig.1.

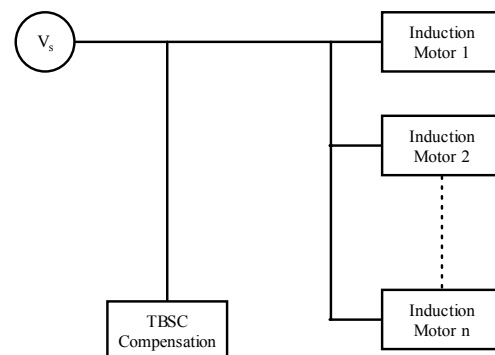


Fig.1 Proposed Topology

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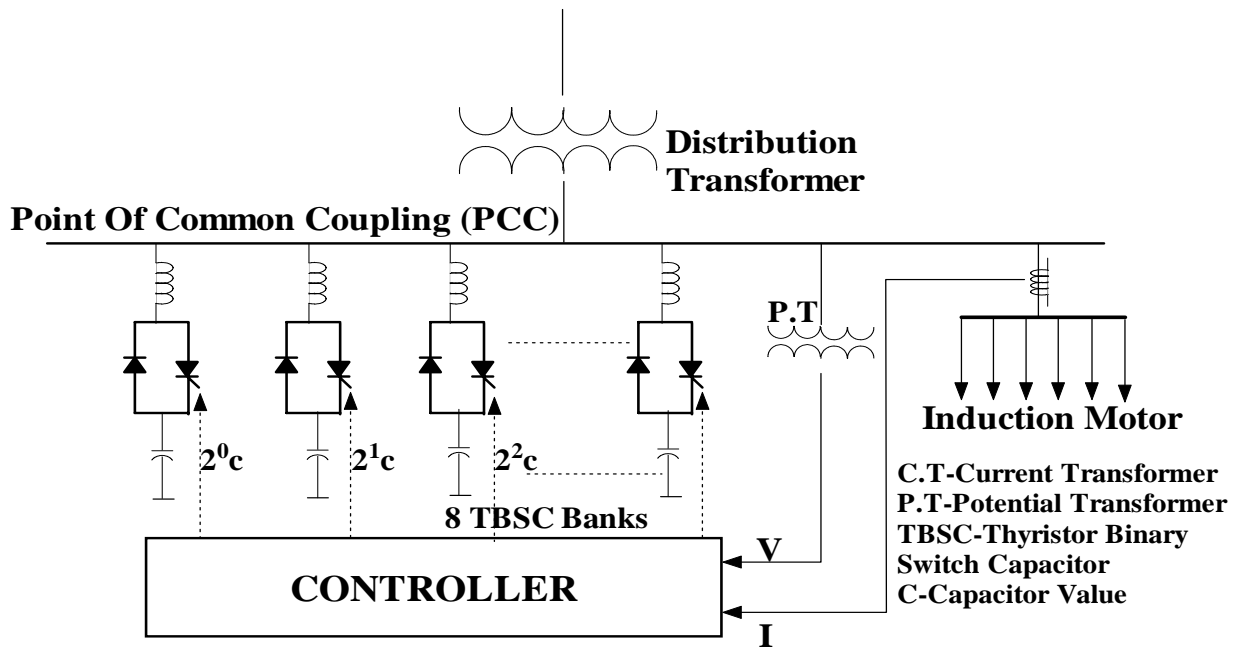


Fig.2 TBSC Compensator for direct online starting of induction motor.

The proposed scheme consists of Thyristor Switched Capacitor (TSC) banks in binary sequential steps [9] known as Thyristor Binary Switched Capacitor (TBSC) which are used for direct online starting of induction motor. The proposed topology has following distinctive features:

- 1) Transient free switching of capacitors is carried out.
- 2) Reactive power compensation is achieved in cycle by cycle basis.
- 3) Low cost
- 4) Closed loop operation is achieved using controller
- 5) Can be used to start more than one induction motor.
- 6) Can be implemented at the Point of common coupling (PCC) without disturbing the existing starting techniques. The theme of this paper deals with the proposed topology, description of controller and presentation of simulation results.

II. PROPOSED TOPOLOGY DESCRIPTION

TBSC compensator connected at the point of common coupling (PCC) for direct online starting of induction motors is shown in Fig.2. The operating principle of TBSC and controller is outlined in the following sections.

A. TBSC

TBSC consists of an anti-parallel connected thyristor and diode as a bidirectional switch in series with a capacitor and a current limiting small reactor. Transient free switching of capacitors is obtained by satisfying following two conditions [10]:

- a. Firing the thyristors at the negative/positive peak of supply voltage
- b. Precharging the Capacitors to the negative/positive peak of supply voltage

TSC current is sinusoidal and free from harmonics, thus eliminating the need for any filters. Small-series inductor is placed in series with capacitor. It serves following purposes [11]:

- a. It limits current transients if capacitors are switched at inappropriate instants.
- b. The chosen inductor magnitude gives a natural resonant frequency of many times the system nominal frequency.

This ensures that the inductance neither creates a harmonic resonant circuit with the network nor affects the TSC control system.

In the proposed paper capacitor bank step values are chosen in binary sequence weights to make the resolution small. If such 'n' capacitor steps are used then 2^n different compensation levels can be provided [12]. In this paper eight TBSC banks are arranged as 2.5: 5: 10: 20: 40: 80: 160: 320 KVAR in star connected with neutral grounded configuration.

B. CONTROLLER

Controller is the heart of compensator. Voltage V and current I at PCC are sensed by Potential Transformer (P.T.) & Current Transformer (C.T.) respectively and given to controller. Controller determines the value of reactive power required to achieve the desired power factor & then generates the control signals (gate signals) which are given to TBSC banks.

III. CONTROLLER DESCRIPTION

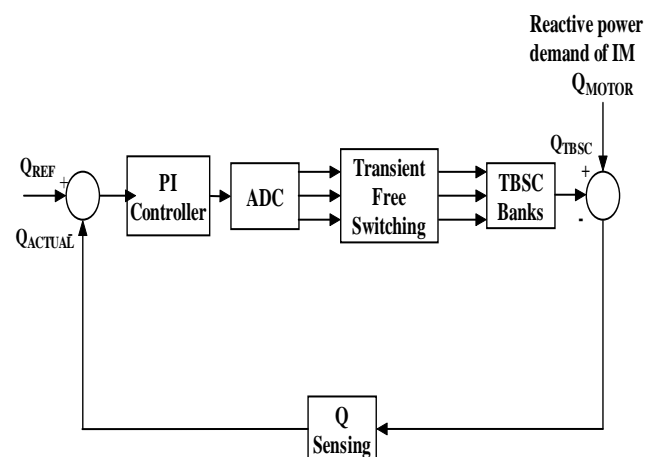


Fig. 3 TBSC closed loop operation

A block diagram of TBSC compensator operating in closed loop is shown in Fig. 3. Reference reactive power, Q_{Ref} is calculated from the desired power factor (If unity power factor is required then Q_{ref} will be set to zero). Actual reactive power at PCC, Q_{Actual} depends on the number of motors switched in the system. Q_{Actual} is calculated by sensing voltage and current at PCC by P.T. and C.T. respectively. Error signal between Q_{Ref} and Q_{Actual} is given to PI controller. Discrete PI controller is used. Output of PI controller is given to ADC and its output is given to TBSC banks in such a way that no transients occur. Switching in/out of capacitor banks is decided by the controller. At the time of starting of I.M.s reactive power demand is large hence higher capacitor banks will be switched in while as motor reaches the rated speed only few lower capacitor banks will remain connected at the PCC. In this way closed loop operation of TBSC banks for direct online starting of I.M.s is achieved.

SIMULATION RESULTS

MATLAB/SIMULINK software is used in the paper for simulation.

Data used in the simulation is shown below.

- Source -
Voltage $V = 400$ V, $R_s = 0.0287\Omega$, $L_s = 0.20471$ mH
- Induction motor (I.M.) –
3 identical I.M.s are used in the simulation which are switched on at $t = 0$ sec, 0.8 sec and 1.6 sec respectively. For Simulation purpose at 1.6 sec, two 50 h.p. motors are switched on simultaneously to get 100 h.p. load.

Parameters of each I.M. are shown in Table I

TABLE I. PARAMETERS OF INDUCTION MOTOR

Sr. No.	Parameter	Values
1.	Voltage (line-line)	400 V
2.	Frequency	50 Hz
3.	Nominal power	50 h.p.
4.	Speed	1480 r.p.m.

TABLE II. VALUES OF EIGHT TBSC BANKS

Sr. No.	Q (in KVAR)	C (in μ F)	L (in mH)
1.	2.5	50	0.10775
2.	5	100	0.0538
3.	10	200	0.0269
4.	20	400	0.0134
5.	40	800	0.0067
6.	80	1600	0.0033
7.	160	3200	0.0016
8.	320	6400	0.00084

- TBSC banks -
Eight TBSC banks are used in the simulation whose values are shown in Table II.

A Direct online induction motor starting without TBSC compensator

Fig. 4 shows the waveform of motor line voltage. When I.M.1 is switched on at $t=0$ sec, the motor line voltage drops to 351V i.e. voltage sag of 11.14% takes place. Line voltage returns to steady value of 395V in 0.5sec. When I.M.2 is switched on at $t=0.8$ sec, the motor line voltage drops to 349V i.e. voltage sag of 11.64% takes place. Line voltage returns to steady value of 392V in 0.5sec. When I.M.3 is switched on at $t=1.6$ sec, the motor line voltage drops to 309V i.e. voltage sag of 21.77% takes place. Line voltage returns to steady value of 382V in 0.7sec

Fig. 5 shows the variation of reactive power with time. When I.M.1 & 2 is switched on at $t= 0$ sec and 0.8sec respectively, reactive power demand is around 250 KVAR at starting period. Reactive power demand is around 380 KVAR when I.M.3 is switched on at $t=1.6$ sec. It is seen that reactive power demand is very high at the time of starting of motor and it reduces as the motor reaches the steady state condition. Because of high reactive power requirement at start voltage drops as shown in Fig. 4.

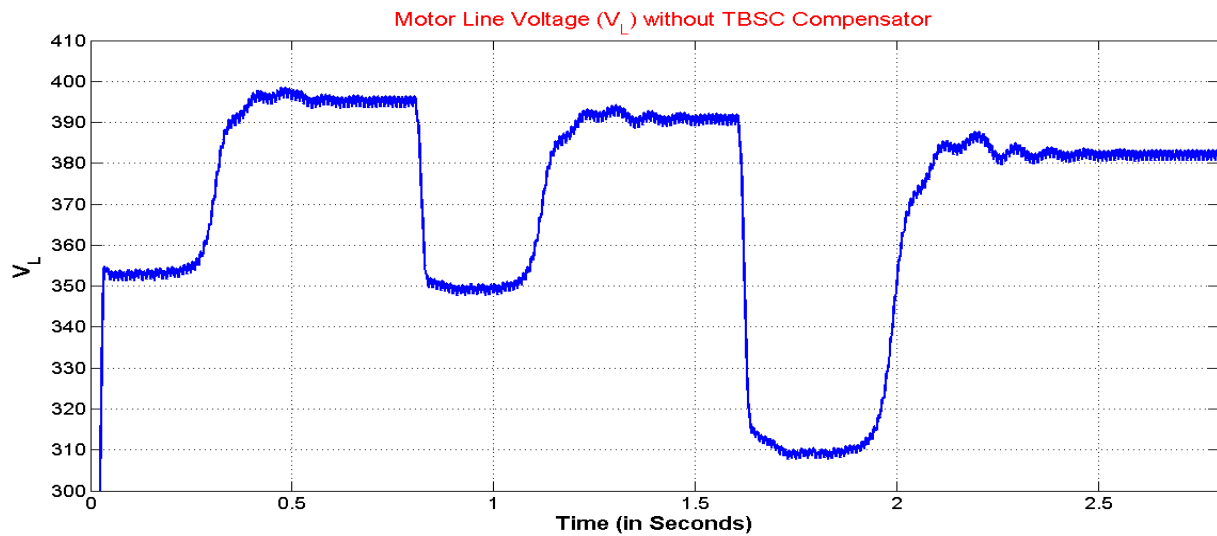


Fig. 4 Motor Line Voltage without TBSC compensator

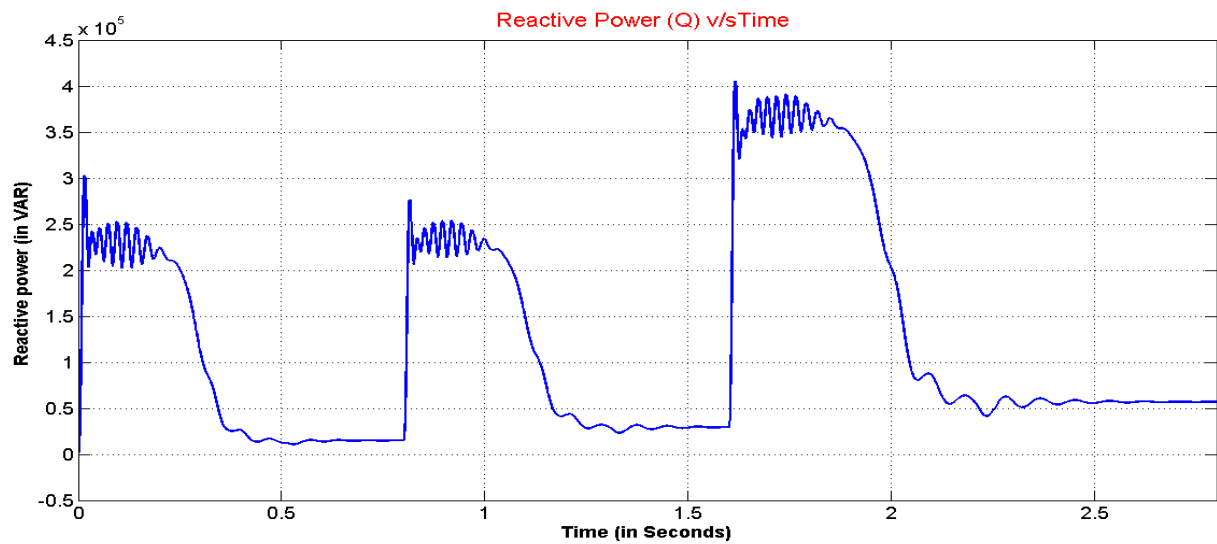


Fig.5 Reactive Power variation of I.M. without TBSC compensator

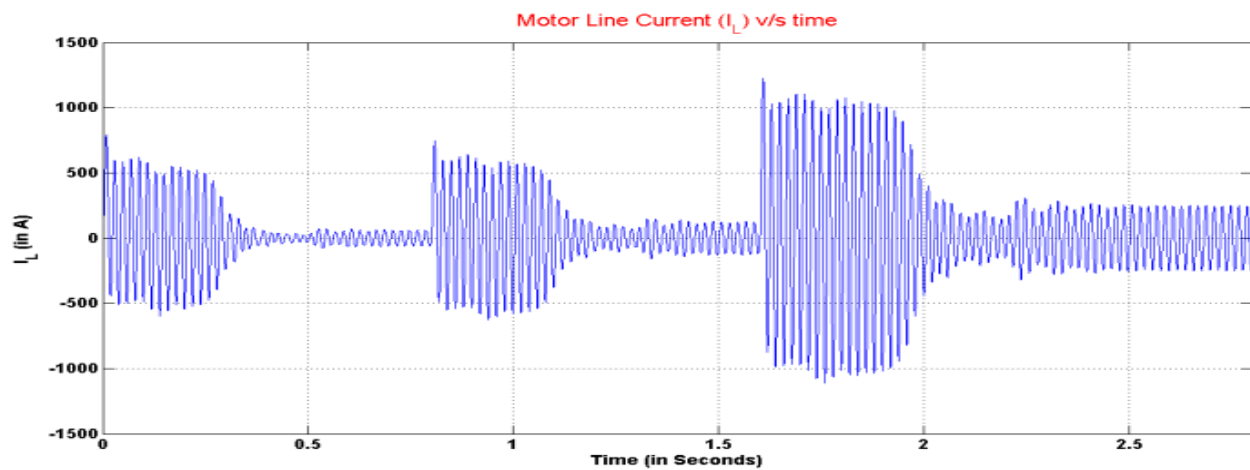


Fig.6 Motor line current without TBSC compensator

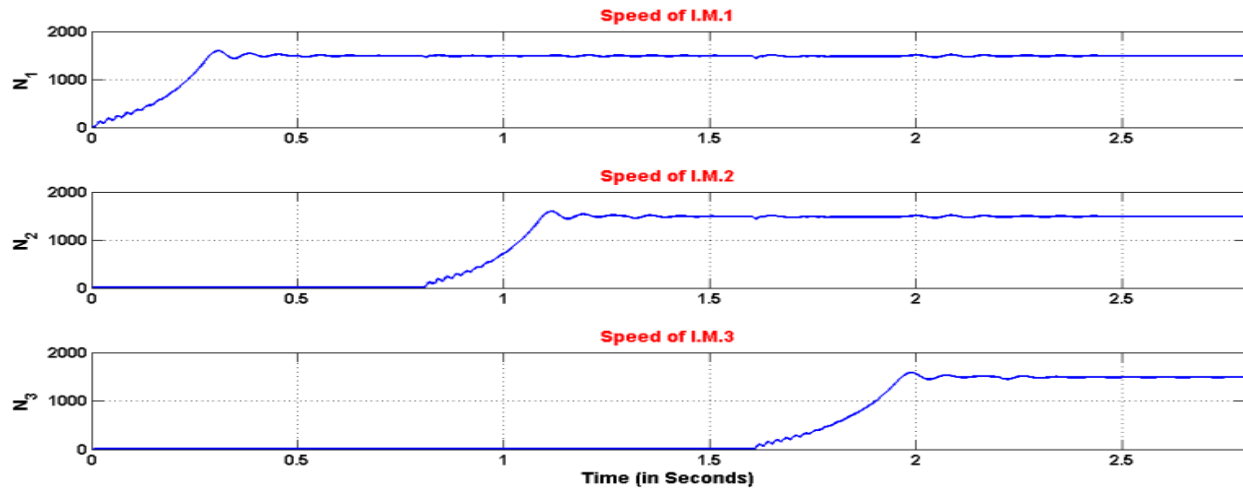


Fig.7 Speed of motors without TBSC compensator

Fig. 6 shows the variation of motor current with time. When I.M.1 & 2 is switched on at $t=0$ sec and 0.8 sec respectively, current is around 500 A at starting period while at the time of starting of I.M. 3 it is around 1000 A. It is seen that when motor is switched on, current is very large at the starting period & it reduces as motor attains steady speed.

Fig. 7 shows the variation of motor speed with time. When I.M.1 is switched on at $t=0$ sec it achieves rated speed in 0.6 sec. I.M.2 is switched on at $t=0.8$ sec and it achieves rated speed in 0.6 sec. At the time of switching of I.M.2 speed of I.M.1 drops to 1460 rpm for very short duration of about one cycle. I.M.3 is switched on at $t=1.6$ sec and it achieves rated speed in 0.8 sec. At the time of switching of I.M.1 & I.M.2 drops to 1442 rpm for very short duration of about one cycle.

B. Direct online induction motor starting with TBSC compensator

Discrete PI controller with $K_p = 0.54$ & $K_i = 25$ is used. 8 bit ADC is used in simulation. Waveforms of I.M. reactive power demand Q_{Motor} and reactive power given by TBSC Q_{TBSC} are shown in Fig. 8. From simulation results it is seen that Q_{TBSC} closely follows Q_{Motor} and actual reactive power Q_{Actual} at PCC is approximately zero at all times. Thus power factor is maintained near unity at all time. The small error is due to the binary switching arrangement of TSCs.

The first part of Fig.8 shows the instantaneous reactive power required at the starting of three different Induction motors sequentially. While in the next part of the figure instantaneous reactive power supplied by TBSC is shown. The error between these two power is negligible. Fig. 9 shows the motor line voltage with TBSC compensator. When I.M.1 is switched on at $t=0$ sec, motor line voltage drops to 389V i.e. small voltage sag of 2.01% takes place

for a duration of 0.4sec. Line voltage returns to steady value of 400V in 0.4sec. When I.M.2 is switched on at $t=0.8$ sec, the motor line voltage drops to 377V i.e. voltage sag of 5.3% takes place for a duration of 0.4 sec. steady value of 396V in 0.4sec. When I.M.3 is switched on at $t=1.6$ sec, the motor line voltage drops to 360V i.e. voltage sag of 7.92% takes place for a duration of 0.65 sec. Line voltage returns to steady value of 391V in 0.7sec.

These results show that with TBSC compensator there is improvement in the voltage profile. Fig. 10 shows the comparison of motor line voltage with and without TBSC compensator Current waveforms through all TSC banks & total compensating current (of R phase) are shown in Fig. 11 which are free from harmonics and have negligibly small transients only at few switching instants.

Fig. 12 shows the waveforms of motor current, total compensating current and source current. From these results it is clear that the total compensating current i.e. current flowing through all TBSC banks is almost equal to the motor current. Source current at the instant of switching of I.M.1 and I.M.2 (i.e. at $t=0$ sec and $t=0.8$ sec) is around 300 A. While at the instant of switching of I.M.3 is around 700 A. These results show that with TBSC compensator there is considerable reduction in source current magnitude. This leads to reduction in voltage sag as shown in Fig. 10.

Fig. 13 shows the variation of motor speed with time. When I.M.1 is switched on at $t=0$ sec it achieves rated speed in 0.5 sec. I.M.2 is switched on at $t=0.8$ sec and it achieves rated speed in 0.5 sec. At the time of switching of I.M.2 speed of I.M.1 drops to 1460 rpm for very short duration of about one cycle. I.M.3 is switched on at $t=1.6$ sec and it achieves rated speed in 0.6 sec. At the time of switching of I.M.3 speed of I.M.1 & I.M.2 drops to 1442 rpm for very short duration of about one cycle. Comparisons of results with & without TBSC Compensator are shown in Table III

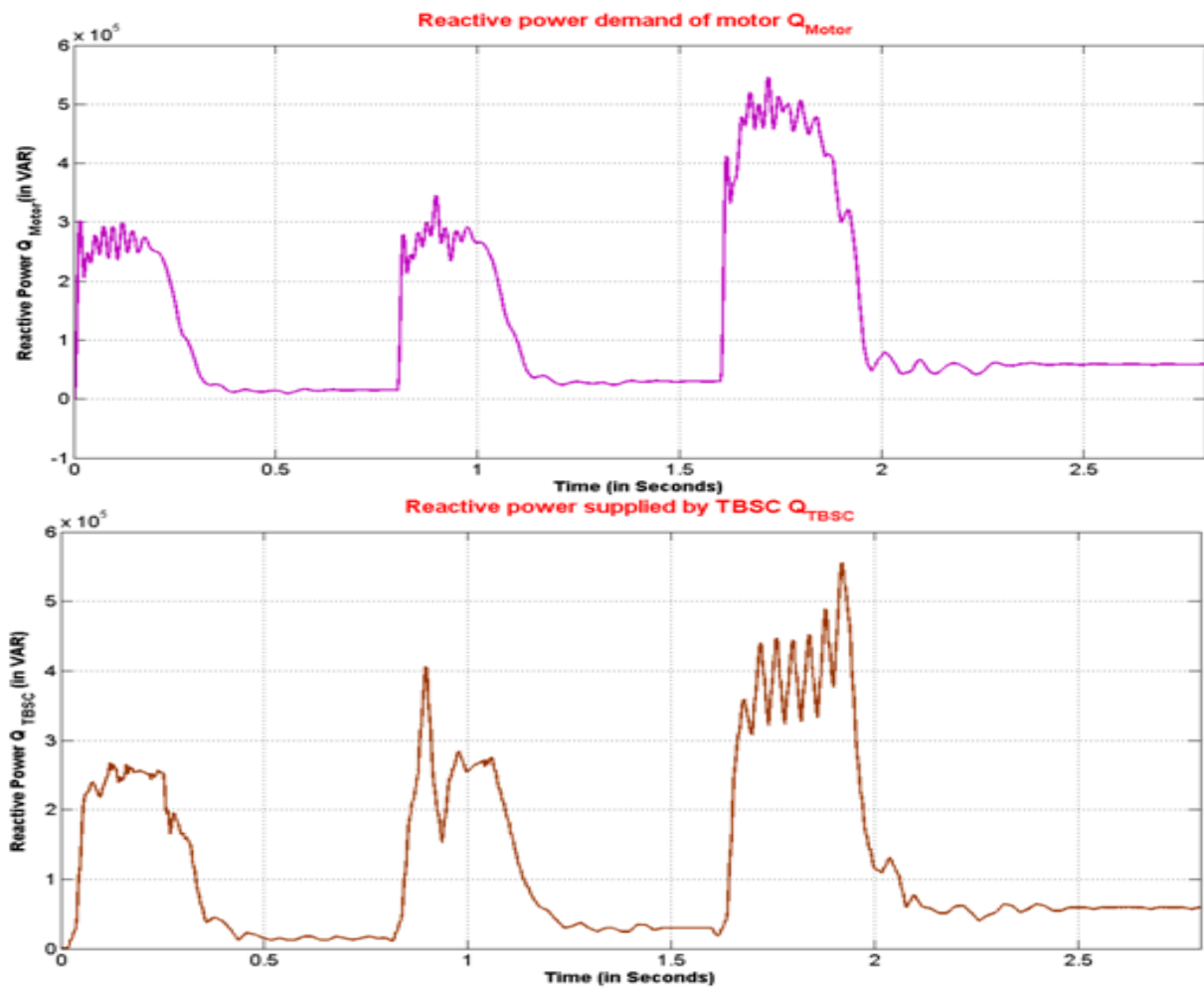


Fig.8 Waveforms of Q_{Motor} and Q_{TBSC}

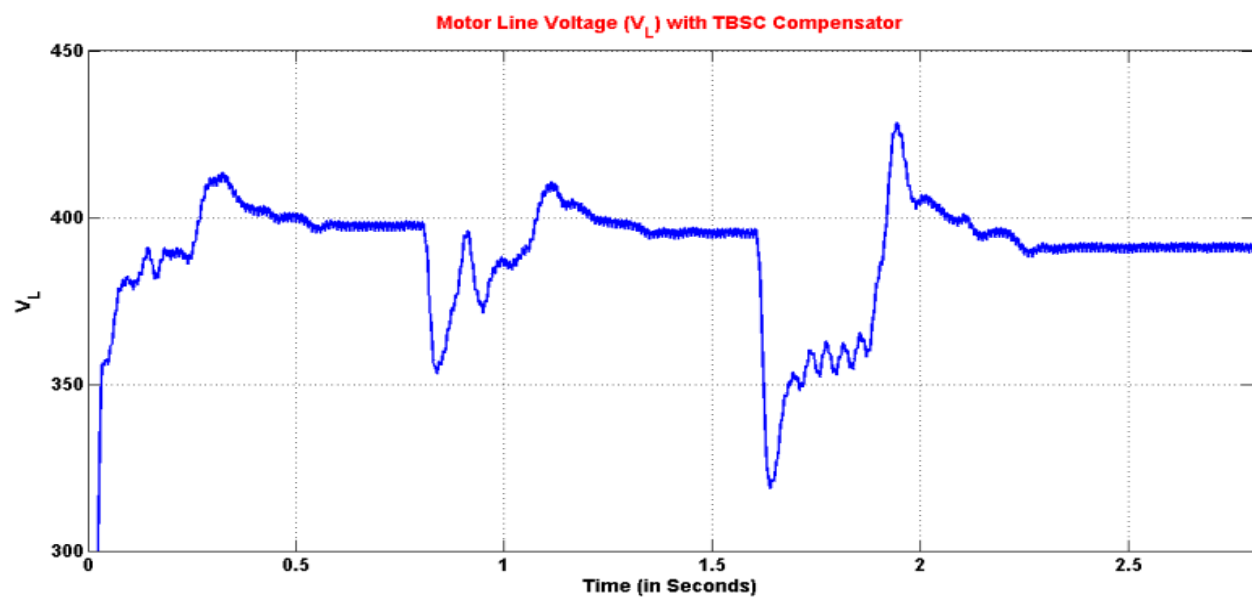


Fig. 9 Motor Line Voltage with TBSC compensator

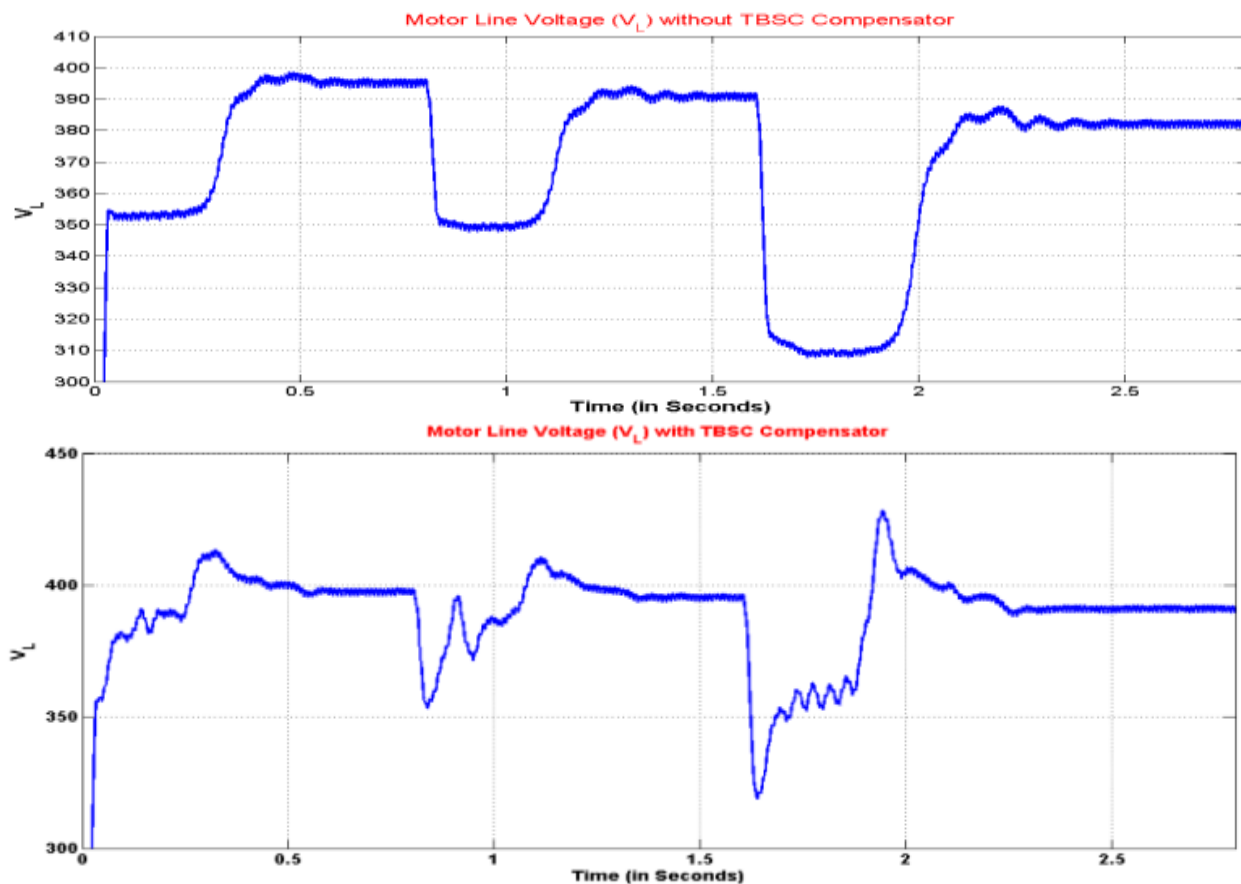


Fig. 10 Motor Line Voltage without TBSC compensator (Top) and with TBSC compensator (Bottom)

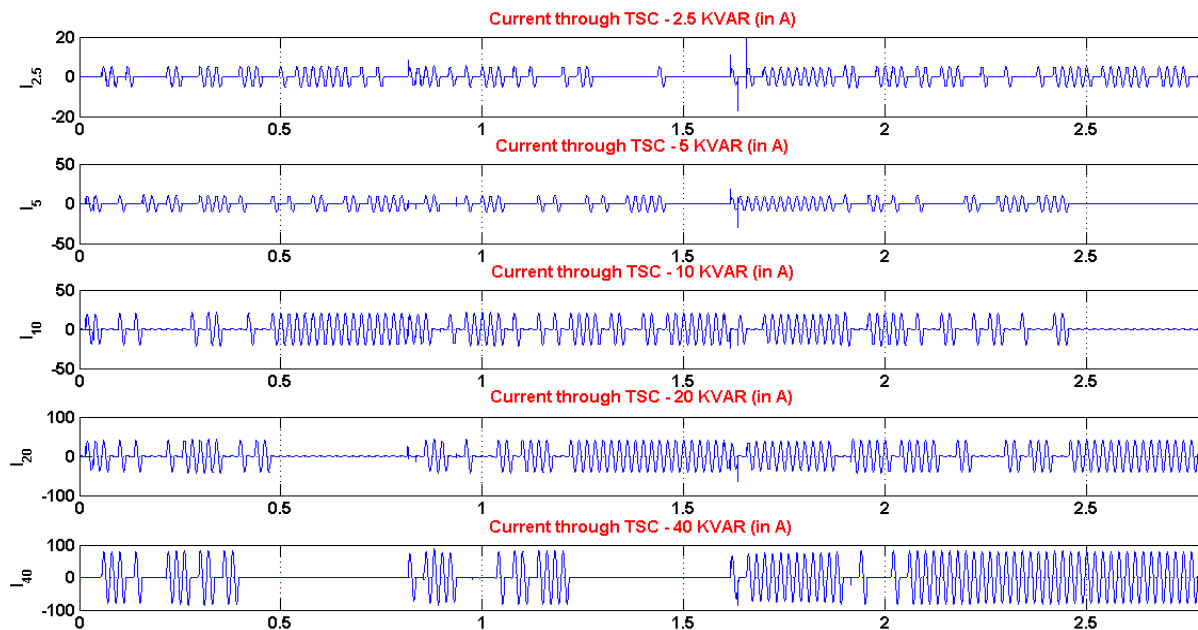


Fig. 11 Current Waveforms through all TSC banks and total compensating current (of R phase only).....continued

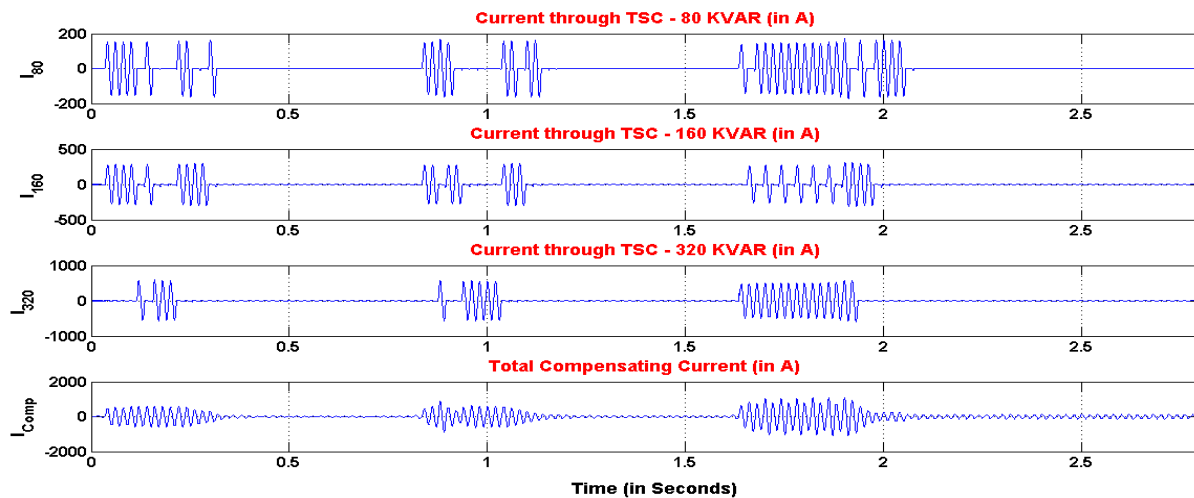


Fig. 11 Current Waveforms through all TSC banks and total compensating current (of R phase only)

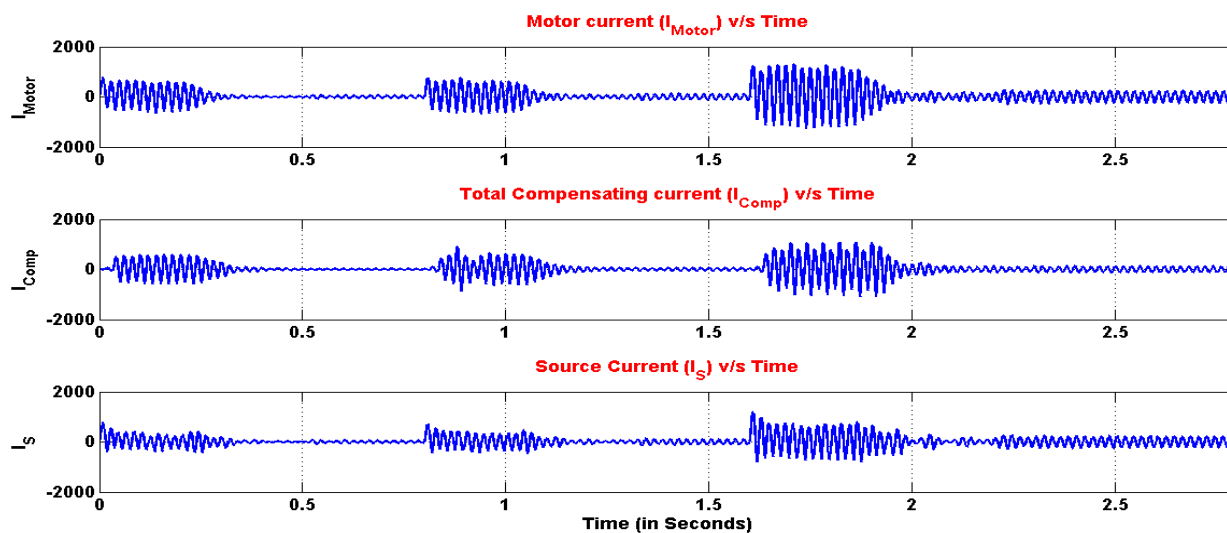


Fig. 12 Simulation results showing waveforms of motor current, total compensating current and source current in A (of R phase only)

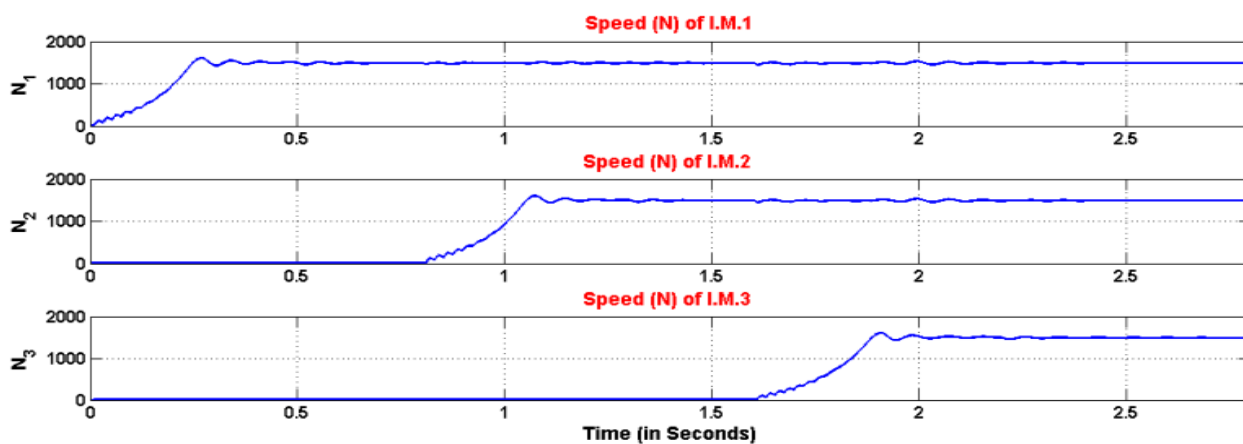


Fig.13 Simulation results showing speed of Motors with TBSC compensator

Table III : Comparison Results with and without TBSC

Sr. No.	Parameter	Without TBSC Compensator			With TBSC Compensator		
		I.M. 1 (50 h.p.)	I.M.2 (50 h.p.)	I.M.3 (100 h.p.)	I.M.1 (50 h.p.)	I.M.2 (50 h.p.)	I.M. 3 (100 h.p.)
1	Switching instant (in sec)	0.0	0.8	1.6	0.0	0.8	1.6
2	% Voltage sag	11.14	11.64	21.77	2.01	5.3	7.92
3	Reactive power at starting (in KVAR)	250	250	380	Closely matches with the required value		
4	Starting current (in A)	500	500	1000	300	300	700

IV CONCLUSION

A topology for direct online starting of induction motors using TBSC compensator is presented. TSC bank step values are chosen in binary sequence weights to make the resolution small in order to achieve almost stepless reactive power compensation. Harmonic contents in source current are negligibly small. With the use of TBSC compensator, voltage sag magnitude gets reduced as well as voltage profile is improved. Controller operates in a closed loop to determine the number of capacitor units to be switched in the system. At the time of starting of I.M.s higher capacitor banks are switched in the system while once the motor reaches the rated speed only few lower capacitor banks will remain connected at the PCC. Thus at all times power factor is maintained near unity. The proposed scheme is effective during both steady state and transient conditions. Separate starting method for individual induction motors can be avoided and many motors can be started direct online using the proposed scheme as long as TBSC banks are capable of supplying the required reactive power demand.

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