AMIS-30623 / AMIS-30624 Stall Detection

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Introduction

The AMIS–30623 and AMIS–30624 are single–chip microstepping motordrivers with position controller and control/diagnostic interface. They are ready to build dedicated mechatronics solutions connected remotely with a LIN or I^2C master. The chip receives positioning instructions through the bus and subsequently drives the motor coils to the desired position. The on–chip position controller is configurable (OTP or RAM) for different motor types, positioning ranges and parameters for speed, acceleration and deceleration. The AMIS–30623 and AMIS–30624 act as a slave on the LIN or I^2C bus and the master can fetch specific status information like actual position, error flags, etc. from each individual slave node.

An integrated sensorless stall detection prevents the positioner from loosing steps and stops the motor when running into stall. This enables silent, yet accurate position calibrations during a referencing run and allows semi–closed loop operation when approaching the mechanical end–stops.

This application note describes the stall detection operation and how to use it to enable the development of high reliable sensorless steppermotor applications¹.

Electromagnetic Force

Electromagnetic induction creates an electromagnetic force (EMF) when a conductor moves through a magnetic field (Faraday's Law of induction). The magnitude of this EMF is given by:



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APPLICATION NOTE $e = -\frac{d\theta}{dt}$

where Θ is the magnetic flux of the field The minus in above equation comes from Lenz's Law. If several conductors N are connected in series this gives:

$$e = -N \frac{d\theta}{dt}$$

When $\Theta = \Theta_m \sin \omega t$ is substituted this gives

 $e = E_m \cos \omega t$

where $Em = -N\omega\Theta m$

The amplitude of this EMF is a function of the number of windings N, the magnetic flux Θ_m of the field and the rotation speed ω . Because N and Θ_m are constant for a given stepper motor, EMF is a good representation of the angular speed of the stepper motor.

Sensing BEMF

As explained above, the EMF (also called Back EMF because of the minus sign (Lenz's Law)) is a good measure for the speed of a stepper motor. By measuring the BEMF, the stepper motor could sense if the motor is moving or not (stalled).

A two-phase stepper motor is driven by two H-bridges (one H-bridge for each coil). Both driver stages create a sine and cosine current. Figure 2 illustrates the coil current through the X- and Y-coil when 1/8 microstepping is used.

^{1.} This document is only intended as a guideline during development. The information as also the tips and tricks given in this document should always be verified by the customer under all operating conditions.

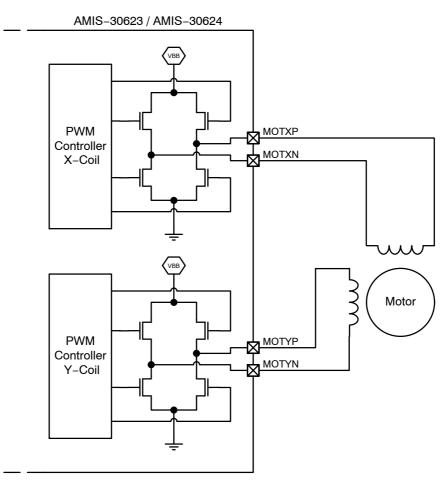


Figure 1. Driver Configuration

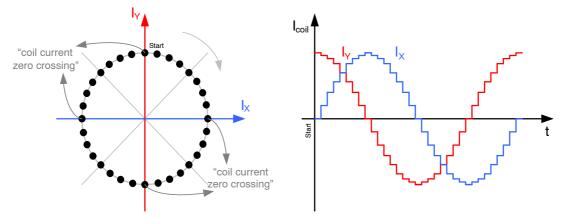


Figure 2. 1/8 Microstepping

At any moment in time the relation between voltage and where: current is given by:

L = motor coil inductance R_i = serial resistance of the motor coil I = coil current

$$U = V_{\text{BEMF}} + i \times R_i + L \times \frac{di}{dt}$$

 V_{BEMF} = generated Back EMF

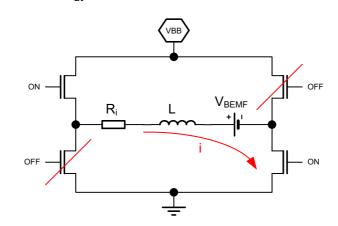


Figure 3. Driving Coil Current

As can be seen from Figure 2, in one electrical period (of both currents) there are 4 moments when no current is forced through one of the coils (the so called Coil Current Zero Crossings). It's at this moment that the BEMF can be measured (see Figure 4).

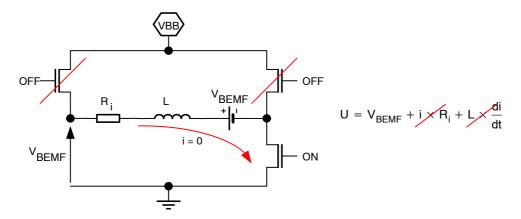


Figure 4. Measure BEMF During Coil Current Zero Crossing

Above principle is used by AMIS-30623 and AMIS-30624 to measure the motor BEMF. This is done on

the 4 motor pins during one electrical period using a multiplexed sample and hold circuit (see Figure 5).

AMIS-30623 / AMIS-30624

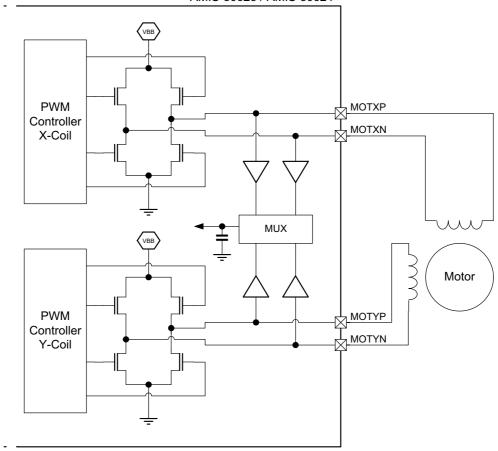


Figure 5. Multiplexed Sample and Hold Circuit to Sample BEMF

Stall Detection Parameters

This chapter contains a technical description of the different parameters that can be set for stall detection. Next chapter gives a step–by–step explanation to define the stall parameters.

Absolute Threshold

When the motor is rotating a BEMF will be generated. In normal operation this BEMF would look something like given in Figure 6.

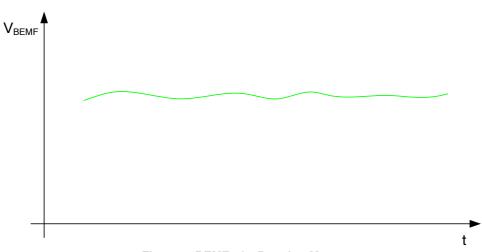
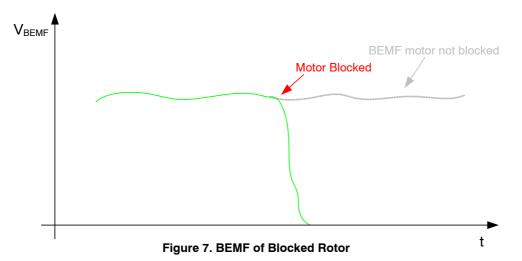


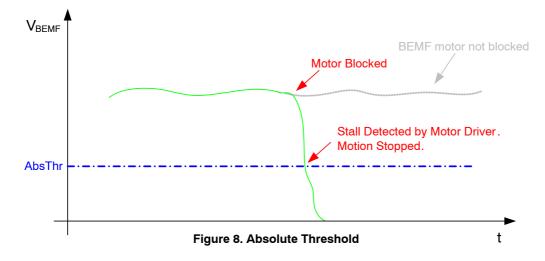
Figure 6. BEMF of a Rotating Motor

If the motor gets blocked at some point, the BEMF will drop (Figure 7).



AMIS–30623 and AMIS–30624 have a stall parameter called absolute threshold (AbsThr) to detect this stall. If the

BEMF drops below the AbsThr level, stall will be detected by the motor driver and the motion will stop (Figure 8).



There is a second reason why the absolute threshold is used, in case a motor is blocked from the beginning.

Figure 9 displays the theoretical and real velocity of the stepper motor during acceleration and the generated BEMF. More information on this acceleration profile can be found

in the AMIS–30623 and AMIS–30624 stepper motor driver datasheet (see References). The real velocity represents the real movement of the rotor. The BEMF shape will be similar to this real velocity.

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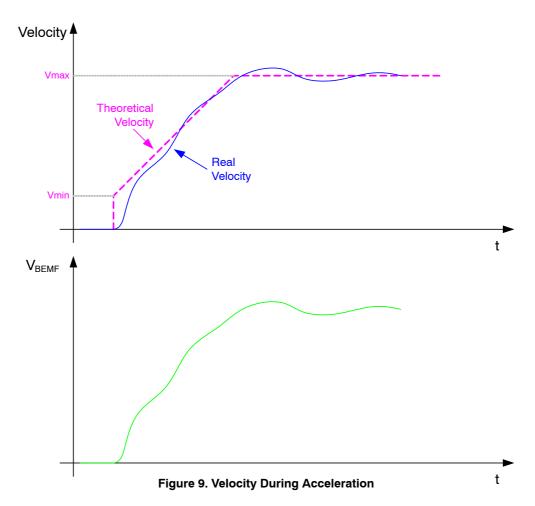


Figure 10 displays what would happen if the rotor is blocked at start of the movement. Because the rotor is blocked, the rotor will not move and the BEMF will stay low. Because the BEMF is below the AbsThr level after acceleration², stall will be detected by the motor driver and the movement will be stopped.

2. Stall detection is only enabled after the acceleration phase. During deceleration stall detection is also disabled.

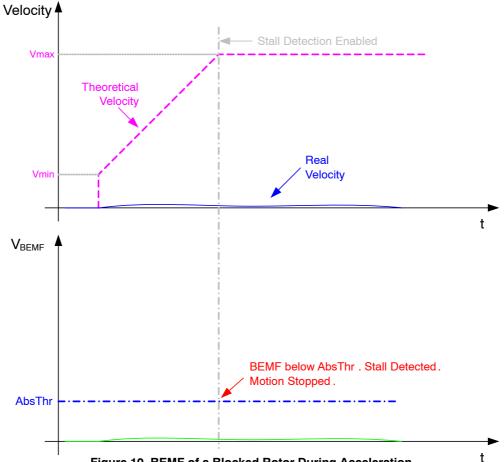


Figure 10. BEMF of a Blocked Rotor During Acceleration

Delta Threshold

Although stall detection will work by only using an absolute threshold level, it has some drawbacks. If different speeds are used, the AbsThr level always needs to be adjusted if the speed is adjusted. One could decide to define AbsThr based on the slowest speed (lowest BEMF) but this will have an effect on the stall detection accuracy at higher speeds.

Additionally, when a motor gets more loaded, the BEMF will shift (see Figure 11). Although the amplitude of the BEMF stays the same, the shift and the fact that the BEMF is only sampled during the coil current zero crossing could result in unwanted stall detection. Because of this, it's sometimes better to take the AbsThr value low to avoid falls stall under all operating conditions (see also Figure 14).

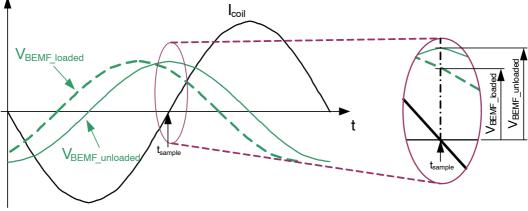


Figure 11. Effect of Motor Load on the BEMF

Figure 12 displays another issue. If by some external influence the motor is slowed down for a very short time, or accelerated, this will not be deteced by the AbsThr level

(BEMF stays above AbsThr level). This effect can however result in steploss.

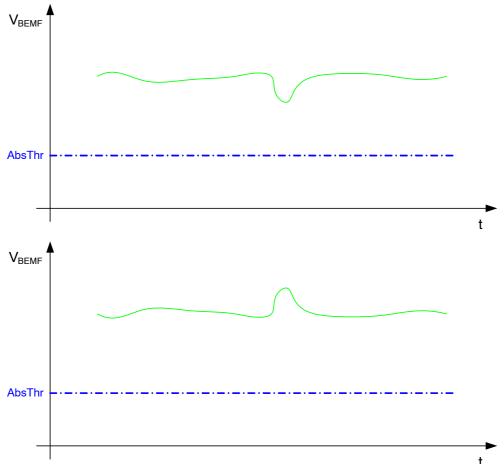
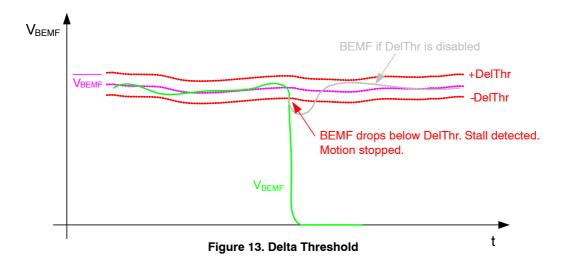


Figure 12. BEMF of a Rotating Motor (top: short deceleration, bottom: short acceleration)

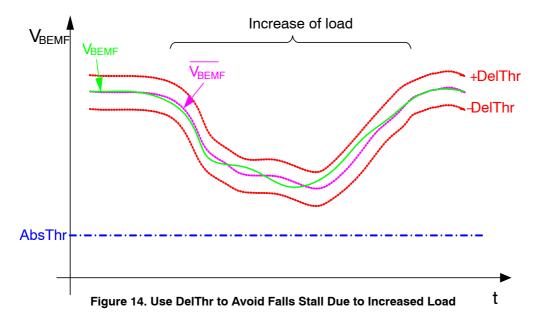
To detect these short dips or peaks, AMIS-30623 and AMIS-30624 will take the average value of the BEMF and add a delta on top and below this level (DelThr). If the

immediate BEMF value goes outside this window, stall is detected and the movement is stopped.



If different speeds are used in the application, the AbsThr can be based on the slowest speed (lowest V_{max}). The AbsThr level will only be intended to detect a blocked rotor

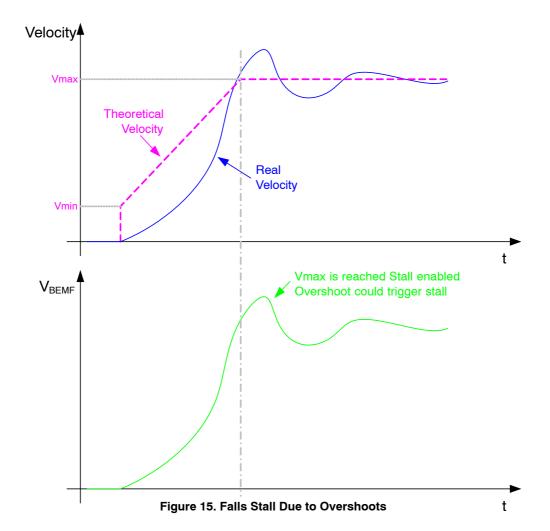
at start of a rotation³. DelThr will be used to prevent steploss during motion. If AbsThr level is taken low enough, an increase in load will not trigger a falls stall (see Figure 14).



Full Steps to Stall Enable

As mentioned before, stall detection is only enabled when the motor is at the (theoretical) maximum velocity (V_{max}). Because a stepper motor is a 2nd order system (simplified), a step response can lead to overshoots in the movement. Depending on the acceleration level, the speed of the motor can oscillate or ring around the V_{max} set–point. This could lead to falls stall detection (see Figure 15).

3. A slow decrease in speed will also trigger AbsThr if speed gets low enough.



A possible solution could be to make the DelThr wider or decrease AbsThr so the overshoots would not trigger the stall detection. However, because these overshoots will damp after a certain time, this would lead to a less sensitive stall detection.

Another solution could be to decrease the acceleration but for some applications it could be necessary to use a high acceleration (see application note AND8404, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>). Keep in mind however that the BEMF represents the real movement of the motor (see also Electromagnetic Force). If overshoots are seen in the BEMF, these overshoots will also be present in the real movement of the rotor (as can be seen in the blue curve of Figure 15). Too large overshoots could lead to steploss making it always important to minimize these overshoots (even if stall detection is not used).

To avoid falls triggering due to the overshoots, stall detection can be delayed with a certain amount of full steps (FS2StallEn).

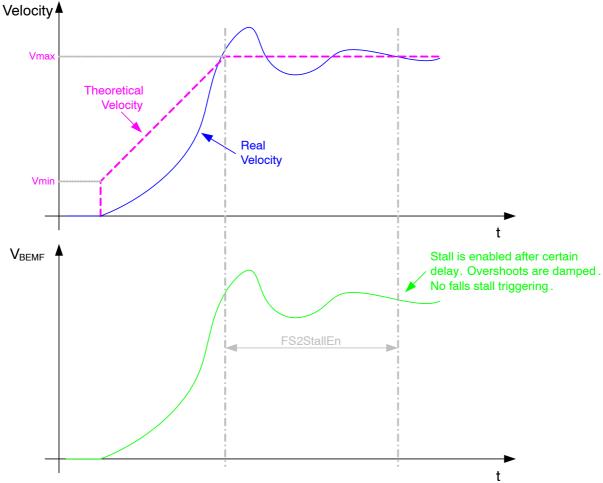


Figure 16. Delay stall detection

Minimum Samples

As mentioned before, the BEMF is only measured during a coil current zero crossing (see Figure 2).

Figure 17 gives a more detailed view on the coil current zero crossing. The ideal coil current is given by the purple dashed line. At the moment the coil current zero crossing phase is initiated (purple dashed line goes to zero), one side of the coil is connected with ground, the other one is left open to measure the BEMF (see schematic at the right side of Figure 17). Because the coil current needs time to decay

to zero, the (real) coil current will not be zero at the beginning of the coil current zero crossing phase. This will give a spike in the measured coil voltage (coil voltage will clamp to $V_{BB} + 0.6$ V).

When the real coil current has become zero a voltage transient is visible on the coil. The time this voltage transient is present depends on the coil inductance L and the parasitic resistance R_p . It is only after this voltage transient that the real BEMF can be measured!

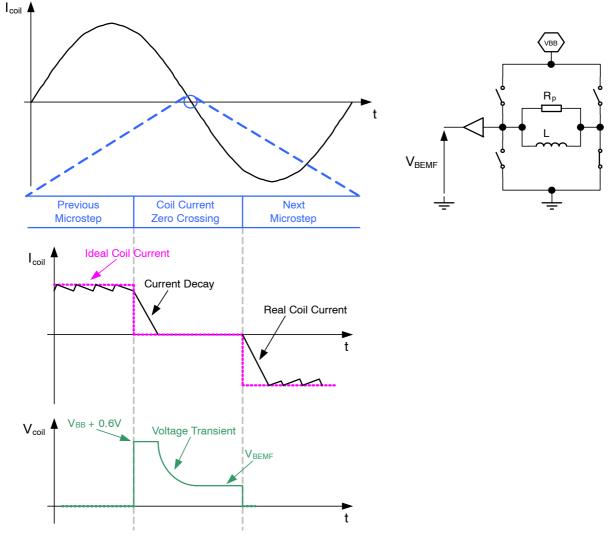


Figure 17. Coil Current Zero Crossing

Because AMIS-30623/AMIS-30624 does not know when the voltage transient has ended, the moment to measure the BEMF needs to be specified. This can be done by using the MinSamples parameter. The MinSamples parameter specifies the delay time between the (theoretical) start of the zero crossing and sampling of the coil voltage (see Figure 18).

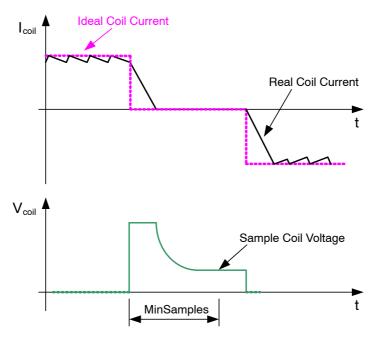


Figure 18. MinSamples Parameter

When MinSamples is set larger than the microstep time, the coil current zero crossing will be stretched. This makes it possible to do stall detection at high speeds but will have an effect on the coil current shape. Figure 19 displays what could go wrong if the stepper motor is operated too fast. At the end of the coil current zero crossing the voltage transient has not yet finished. Because of this the real BEMF can not be sampled.

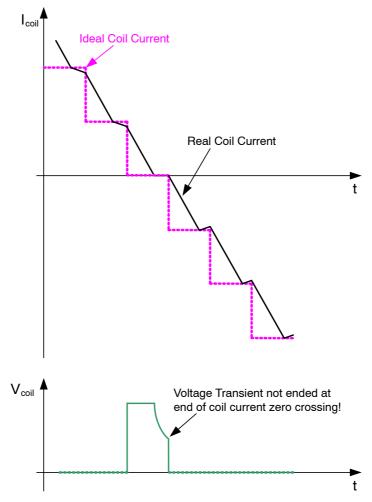


Figure 19. Coil Current Zero Crossing Too Short for BEMF Measurement

Figure 20 displays how the MinSamples setting can solve this issue. By setting MinSamples to a value higher than the clamp time + the voltage transient time, the real BEMF can be sampled. Because MinSamples is in this case larger than one microstep, the coil current zero crossing will be stretched. Notice however that the speed did not change.

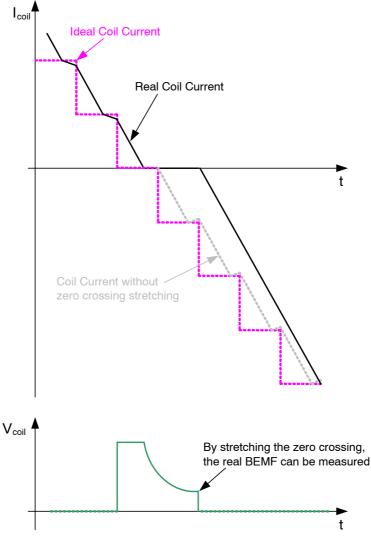
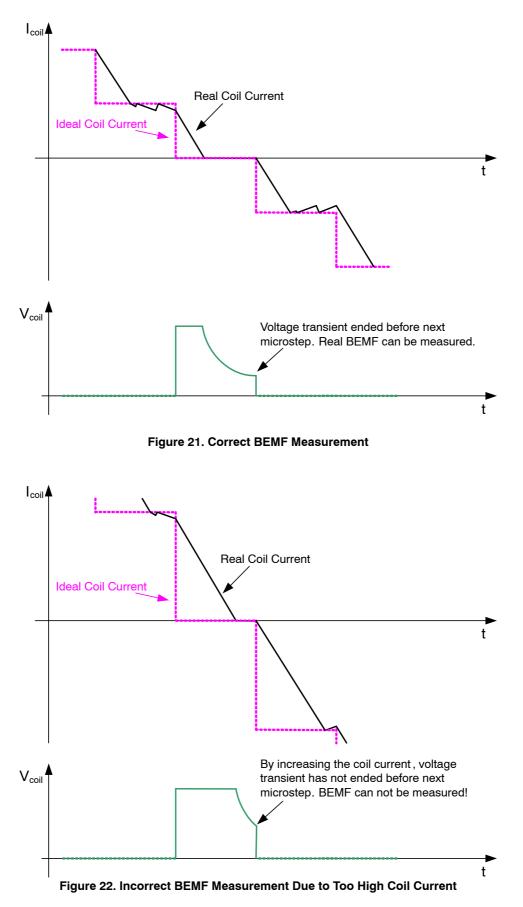


Figure 20. Stretching the Coil Current Zero Crossing

Stretching of the coil current zero crossing will not only be needed when the speed is set too high. If the supply voltage V_{BB} is too low, BEMF is high or the serial resistance of the coil R_i is high, the voltage across the coil will be too low resulting in a too slow current decay. If coil inductance is too high, this could also lead to a too slow current decay.

Similar effect will happen if the coil current is set too high. Figure 21 displays good BEMF sampling. The voltage transient phase has ended before the next microstep. Figure 22 displays what would happen if the coil current is doubled (all other operating parameters are kept similar). The coil current decay will be as fast as in Figure 21 but because the coil current has to decay from a higher level to the zero current, it will take longer to reach the zero current. Because of this the voltage transient phase will start later (coil voltage is clamped longer to $V_{BB} + 0.6 V$) and will not have ended before the next microstep. Figure 23 displays how MinSamples can solve this issue.



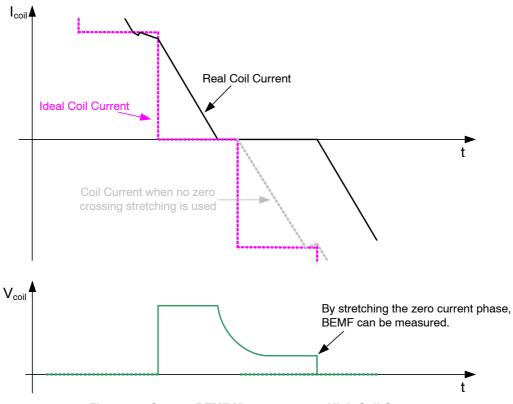


Figure 23. Correct BEMF Measurement at High Coil Current

Keep in mind that stretching the coil current zero crossing will not have an effect on the speed of the motor but will have an effect on the current shape and by this also on the motor performance.

100% Duty Cycle

AMIS-30623/AMIS-30624 will skip stall detection when 100% PWM duty cycle is detected because this could result in incorrect triggering of the stall detection.

Figure 24 gives an example of 100% duty cycle. During the zero crossing there is still current present in the coil. The BEMF can not be measured.

Figure 25 gives an oscilloscope plot of a 100% duty cycle. Because AMIS-30623/AMIS-30624 detects this 100% PWM duty cycle, stall detection will be skipped at the next zero crossing to prevent falls stall triggering.

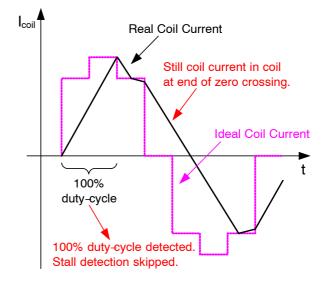


Figure 24. 100% PWM Duty Cycle

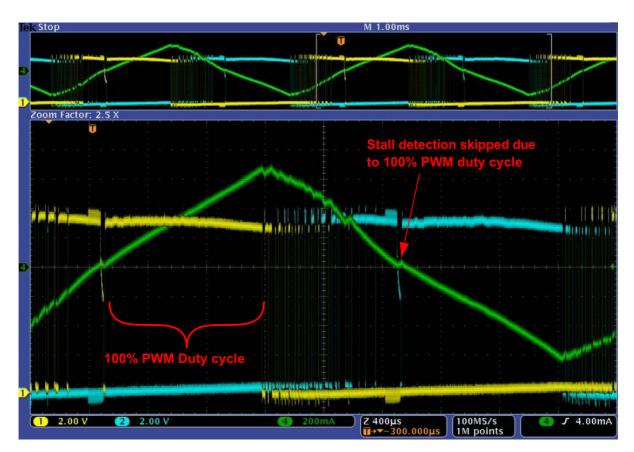


Figure 25. Oscilloscope Plot of 100% PWM Duty Cycle

If MinSamples is used to stretch the zero crossing, it's possible that the zero crossing can be made long enough to do a correct BEMF measurement.

In Figure 26 MinSamples is increased to stretch the zero crossing. Although the zero crossing is long enough to measure the BEMF, AMIS-30623/AMIS-30624 will skip

stall detection due to the detection of 100% PWM duty cycle. It is however possible to enable stall detection all the time by setting the DC100StEn bit. This improves the sensitivity of the stall detection but can only be done if MinSamples can stretch the zero crossing long enough (see also Minimum Samples).

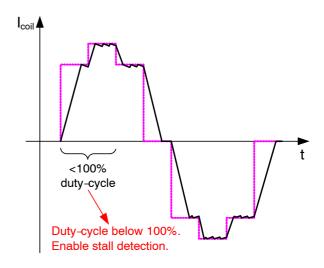


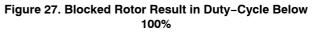
Figure 26. Oscilloscope Plot of 100% PWM Duty Cycle

Ignoring the stall detection during 100% duty-cycle detection does not necessarily mean that stall can not be detected. If the motor gets blocked during a 100% duty-cycle, the BEMF drops to 0 V. Because of this the coil gets a larger voltage drop resulting in faster current slopes. In most cases this will result in a duty-cycle of less than 100% enabling stall detection again (Figure 27). If AbsThr is set stall will be detected (because BEMF is below AbsThr level).

Only in case the voltage supply is very low (too low to drive the motor in a correct way), the duty-cycle will still be 100% resulting in no stall detection.

Always keep in mind that driving a motor as given in Figures 25 and 26 will have an effect on the motor performance.





Set Stall Parameters

This chapter will guide you step–by–step in defining the best stall parameters.

It is very important that stall detection parameters are verified under all operating conditions (voltage supply, temperature, ...). It is also important to define the stall parameters of the complete setup (and not only of the motor).

It is always important to operate a (stepper) motor application inside his operating range. Characterization of the complete setup has to be done to define this operating range. Application note AND8371 (<u>www.onsemi.com</u>) can help you in characterizing the setup. Application note AND8404 (<u>www.onsemi.com</u>) gives additional information in defining the motor parameters.

Using incorrect parameters or operating the stepper motor in an instable region will result in incorrect operation and incorrect stall detection.

To set the stall parameters an oscilloscope will be needed to measure the coil voltage, coil current (current probe) and the voltage on the SWI-pin. In all oscilloscope plots given in this document, the yellow and blue curves are the coil voltages measured on one coil, the green curve is the coil current through the same coil and the purple curve is the voltage measured on the SWI-pin of the motor driver.

It's assumed that the user has enough knowledge in using the stepper motor driver itself. The user should at least be confident with all AMIS-30623 and/or AMIS-30624 commands and parameters before continuing.

Define MinSamples

The first parameter to be defined is MinSamples. It is very important to do this before defining AbsThr and DelThr. This because it's important to first make sure that the BEMF is measured and not the voltage transient (see Minimum Samples).

Step 1: Set the motor parameters by using the SetMotorParam command. Make sure the correct motor parameters are used (see application note AND8404 (<u>www.onsemi.com</u>) for more info)

- Step 2: Set all stall parameters to 0x00.
- Step 3: To define MinSamples, the motor should be running at maximum velocity (V_{max}). Use the RunVelocity command in case the stepper motor can rotate freely (no mechanical end positions).

If the stepper motor can not spin freely (mechanical end positions), the SetPosition command has to be used. Move the rotor between two positions without hitting a mechanical end position. Make sure that the movement is long enough so V_{max} is reached (see also Figure 35). It's possible that the SetPosition command has to be initiated several times to define the MinSamples parameter.

Step 4: When spinning at maximum velocity (V_{max}), measure the coil voltage and coil current. Measure the time it takes for the voltage transient to end. Set MinSamples to the smallest possible value but high enough so the voltage transient has ended.

Figure 28 gives an oscilloscope plot of a zero current crossing. Notice that the voltage transient has ended before the zero current phase is left. Figure 29 is a more detailed zoom of the zero current crossing of Figure 28.

As can be seen in Figure 29, a BEMF sampling delay (MinSamples) of about 150 μ s is a good value. If MinSamples is set too low, it's possible that the voltage transient is measured instead of the BEMF resulting in incorrect stall detection. In Figure 30 the speed (V_{max}) and coil current (I_{run}) are increased resulting in a too short zero crossing (MinSamples was set back to 0x00). The voltage transient has not ended before the next microstep is taken. By increasing the MinSamples to a value of about 200 μ s, the zero current phase is stretched and the BEMF can be measured (see Figure 31).

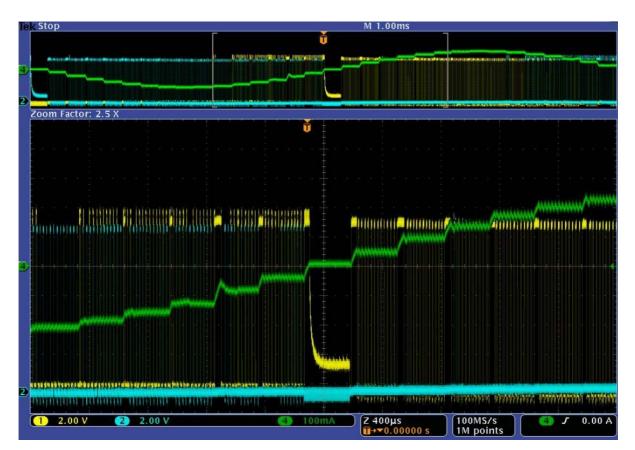


Figure 28. Oscilloscope Plot of Zero Current Crossing

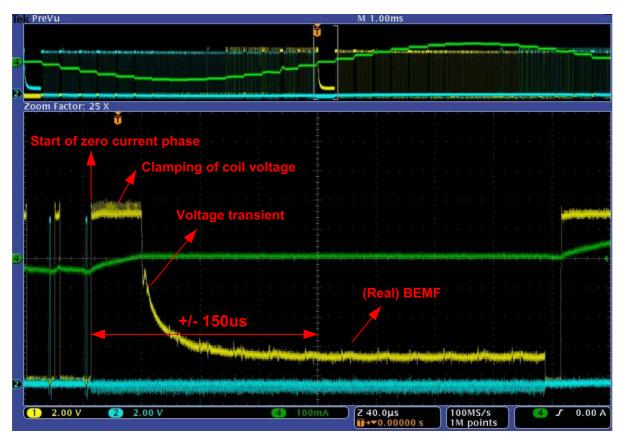


Figure 29. Zoom on Zero Current Crossing



Figure 30. Too Short Zero Crossing

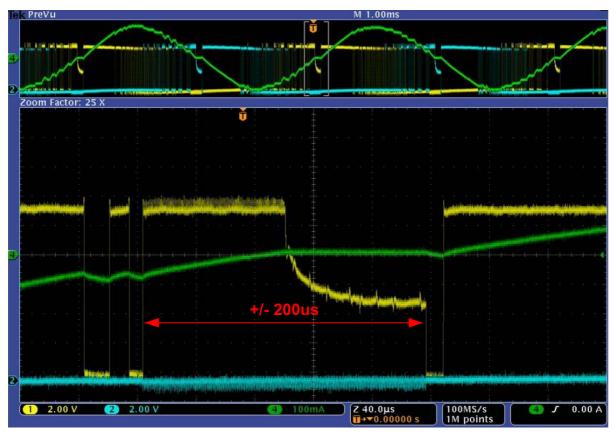


Figure 31. Zero Current Stretched

Define FS2StallEn

It's advised to define FS2StallEn before defining AbsThr and DelThr. Follow below steps to do this.

- Step 1: Set the motor parameters similar to the parameters taken to define MinSamples.
- Step 2: Set all stall parameters to 0x00 except for MinSamples (defined in previous section).
- Step 3: Send a TestBEMF command. This command will output the BEMF integrator of the motor driver on the SWI-pin. This can be used to observe the BEMF of the motor. See AMIS-30623 or AMIS-30624 datasheet for more info.
- Step 4: To define FS2StallEn, one must know when the acceleration phase ends. The amount of full steps the acceleration phase lasts can be calculated as next:

Nsteps =
$$\frac{V_{max}^2 - V_{min}^2}{2 \times Acc}$$

Step 5: Do a SetPosition and observe the BEMF on the SWI-pin during the acceleration phase and the beginning of the maximum velocity phase. Figure 32 displays an oscilloscope plot of the observed BEMF on the SWI-pin. Next settings where taken:

$$V_{max} = 395 \text{ FS/s}$$

 $V_{min} = 48 \text{ FS/s}$
Acc = 19092 FS/s²

This will result in an acceleration phase of about

4 full steps. Notice that the acceleration is fast and the BEMF is lagging behind (BEMF is not at his maximum level when acceleration phase has ended). Because it's best to enable stall detection only when the BEMF is at the (highest) level, FS2StallEn should be set to 7 full-steps in this example.

Keep in mind that the BEMF represents the real movement of the rotor. If the Bemf is lagging behind, this means that the real velocity of the rotor is also lagging behind on the desired (theoretical) velocity.

In Figure 33 acceleration was lowered to 6228 FS/s². Acceleration phase will take 12 full steps. Notice that the BEMF is not lagging behind too much. MinSamples can be set to 3 full steps.

Figure 34 gives an example of bad acceleration. Very fast acceleration was done to a high velocity resulting in a lot of overshoots. If this happens it's best to reduce acceleration. If this can not be done, set FS2StallEn to the maximum (7 full steps). Keep in mind however that this will reduce stall accuracy. Also keep in mind that the BEMF represents the real movement of the rotor. If overshoots are seen on the BEMF, these overshoots will also be present in the real movement of the rotor.



Figure 32. Observation of BEMF on SWI-Pin

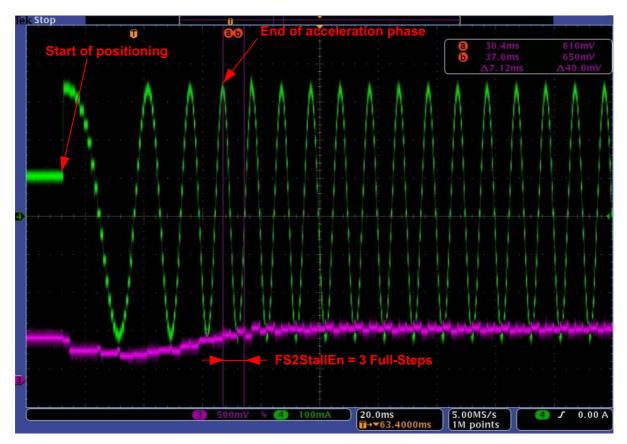


Figure 33. Slower Acceleration Results in Less Lagging Behind of the BEMF

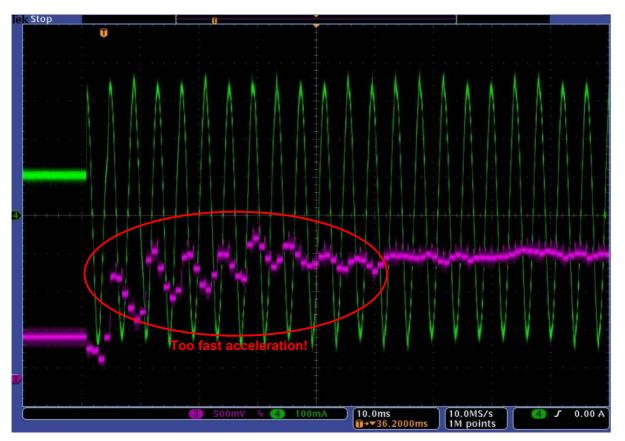


Figure 34. Too Fast Acceleration Results in Overshoots

Define AbsThr

Follow next steps to define the absolute threshold.

- Step 1: Set the motor parameters similar to the parameters taken to define MinSamples.
- Step 2: Set all stall parameters to 0x00 except for MinSamples and FS2StallEn which are defined above.
- Step 3: When the stepper motor can rotate freely (no mechanical end positions), send the RunVelocity command and go to Step 4a (do not execute Step 4b).

If the stepper motor can not spin freely (mechanical end positions), the SetPosition command has to be used. To define the AbsThr parameter, the motor has to be moved between two positions without hitting a mechanical end position. The movement has to be long enough to make sure stall detection is enabled. A good positioning is given by the purple curve in Figure 35. The grey curves give a too short positioning. Go to Step 4b.

position (= falls stall). If falls stall is detected, the AbsThr value is set too high. Decrease the (hexadecimal) value by 2 (if possible) to have a good AbsThr setting. See also Figure 36.

Although the best value for FS2StallEn was already defined in Define FS2StallEn, it's still possible that oscillations after acceleration trigger a falls stall. Do a SetPosition command and verify if the motion was done correctly. If not, oscillations triggered an absolute stall. Decrease AbsThr or increase FS2StallEn until a SetPosition is done correctly.

Step 4b: Set the AbsThr to the lowest value (0.5 V) and do a SetPosition. If the motion was completed correctly, increase AbsThr by one and repeat the SetPosition. Do this until a stall was detected without hitting an end position (= falls stall). If falls stall is detected, the AbsThr value is set too high. Decrease the (hexadecimal) value by 2 (if possible) to have a good AbsThr setting. Figure 37 gives a better view on this.

Remark:

If the motor already stalls at the smallest AbsThr value (0.5 V), stall detection can not be used because BEMF is too low. Use a stepper motor

which generates a higher BEMF or operate the motor at a higher speed.

It's possible that a stepper motor generates a high enough Bemf (higher than 0.5 V) but due to overshoots the absolute stall is triggered. See Define FS2StallEn (page 24) how this can be observed.

Stall parameters of a free running motor (no end positions) can also be defined by using the

SetPosition command (as used for a non-free running stepper motor).

As given in Delta Threshold (page 7), sometimes it's best to set AbsThr level to the lowest value (0.5 V) and use it only to detect a blocked rotor at start of the rotation. DelThr will be used to detect a blocked rotor during rotation.

Hint: To detect if an Absolute stall occurred, the GetFullStatus(2) command can be used.

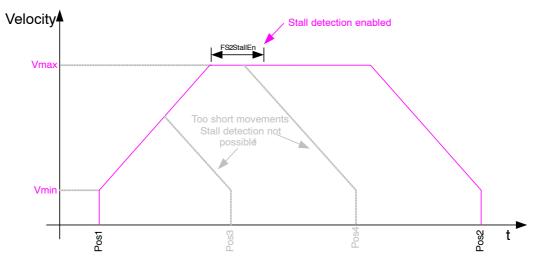
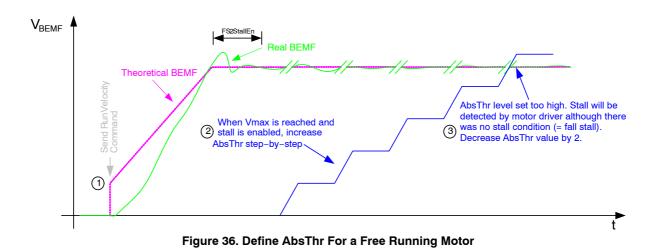


Figure 35. Define AbsThr by Using SetPosition Command



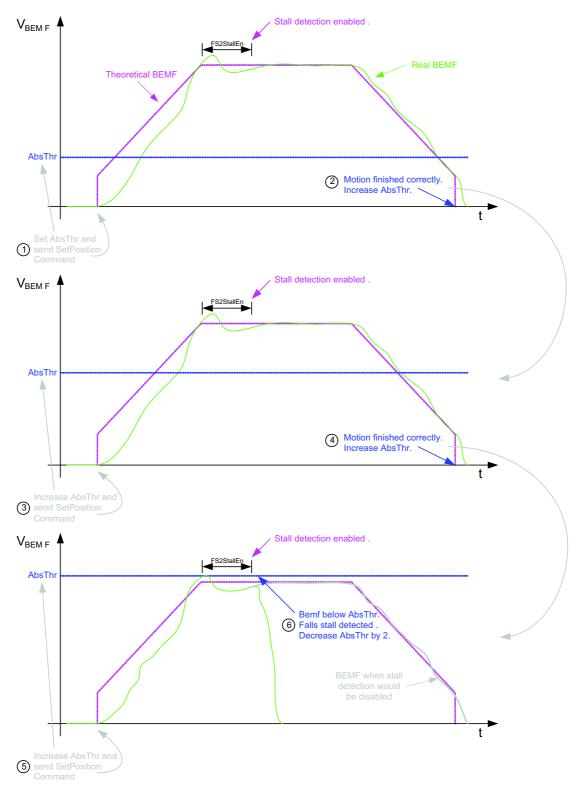


Figure 37. Define AbsThr for a Non-Free Running Motor (End Positions)

Define DelThr

Follow next steps to define the delta threshold.

- Step 1: Set the motor parameters similar to the parameters taken to define MinSamples.
- Step 2: Set all Stall parameters to 0x00 except for MinSamples, FS2StallEn and AbsThr which were defined above.
- Step 3: When the stepper motor can rotate freely (no mechanical end positions), send the RunVelocity command and go to Step 4a (do not execute Step 4b).

If the stepper motor can not spin freely (mechanical end positions), the SetPosition command has to be used.

To define the AbsThr parameter, the motor has to be moved between two positions without hitting a mechanical end position. The movement has to be long enough to make sure stall detection is enabled. A good positioning is given by the purple curve in Figure 35. The grey curves give a too short positioning.

Go to Step 4b.

Step 4a: When spinning at maximum velocity (V_{max}) , set DelThr to the maximum value. If the motor is still rotating, decrease DelThr. Do this until the motor stalls without hitting an end position (= falls stall). If falls stall is detected, the DelThr value is set too narrow. Increase the (hexadecimal) value by 2 (if possible) to have a good DelThr setting. See also Figure 38. Although the best value for FS2StallEn was already defined in previous section, it's still possible that oscillations after acceleration trigger a falls stall. Do a SetPosition command and verify if the motion was done correctly. If not, oscillations triggered a delta stall. Increase DelThr or increase FS2StallEn until a SetPosition is done correctly.

Step 4b: Set DelThr to the maximum value and do a SetPosition. If the motion was completed correctly, decrease DelThr by one and repeat the SetPosition. Do this until a stall was detected without hitting an end position (= falls stall). If falls stall is detected, the DelThr value is set too high. Increase the (hexadecimal) value by 2 (if possible) to have a good DelThr setting. Figure 39 gives a better view on this.

Remark:

If the motor already stalls at the highest DelThr value, this indicates that too many oscillations are present on the BEMF (and by this also on the real movement of the rotor). This can be caused due to too fast acceleration or because the motor is operated inside an instable region. See Define FS2StallEn how this can be observed.

Stall parameters of a free running motor (no end positions) can also be defined by using the SetPosition command (as used for a non-free running stepper motor).

Hint: To detect if an Delta stall occurred, the GetFullStatus(2) command can be used.

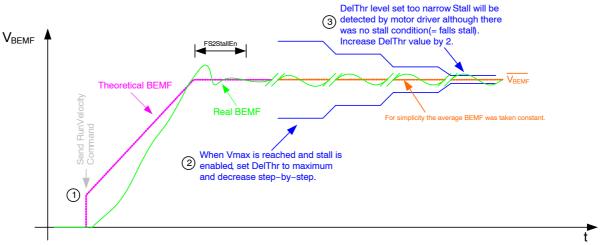
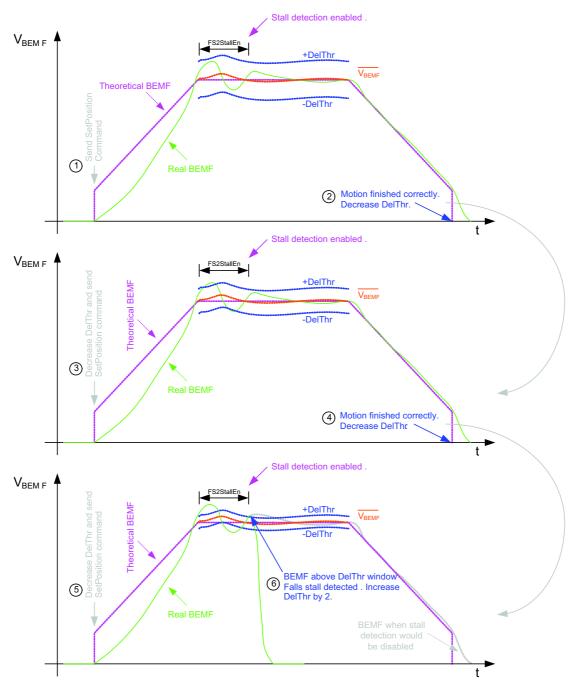
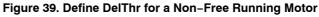


Figure 38. Defining DelThr for a Free Running Motor





Define DC100StEn

If the BEMF can be sampled in a correct way under all operating conditions (voltage supply, temperature, ...), enable the DC100StEn bit. This makes sure that stall detection is performed every zero crossing.

If MinSamples can not be stretched long enough or if it's possible that under certain conditions BEMF can not be measured (e.g. voltage dips), clear DC100StEn bit. This makes sure that if 100% PWM duty cycle is noticed, stall detection is skipped to prevent falls stalls.

References – AMIS–30623 datasheet, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>

- AMIS-30625 datasneet, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>
- AMIS-30624 datasheet, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>
- Application Note AND8371, Stepper Motor Resonance Measurement Setup with the AMIS-3052x/NCV7052x Evaluation Kit, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>
- Application Note AND8404, AMIS-3062x
 Micro-Stepping Motor Driver Family, Robust Motion
 Control Using the AMIS-3062x, <u>www.onsemi.com</u>

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