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Comparative Analysis of Different Permanent Magnet Arrangements in a Novel Flux Modulated Electric Machine

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ABSTRACT A novel dual permanent magnet (PM) machine with Halbach segmentation flux modulation is proposed in this paper, which is evolved from a flux switching PM machine (FSPM). In order to improve the performance of the FSPM, several PM arrangement methods have been adopted and three new different structures have been investigated. To achieve a fair comparison, all the structures are under the same size and rotate at the same speed. The performances of output torque and back EMF are compared. The analysis results show that the dual PM with Halbach segmentation has the highest torque density and power efficiency. The torque is improved by 100.3% from the FSPM while the PM volume does not increase too much. The unique of this best structure is that it not only combines the vernier machine and FSPM machine together, but also reduces the torque ripple. The performance of the motor is verified by the simulation using finite-element analysis (FEA).

INDEX TERMS Dual PM, electric machines, finite element methods, permanent magnet machines, torque density.

I. INTRODUCTION

With the emergence and development of renewable energy and automation technology, electric machines have attracted more and more attention. They play important roles in many applications, such as electric vehicles, drones, wind power generators, industrial robots, etc [1]–[4]. To meet the requirements for high torque density and efficiency in these applications, the conventional PM machines have been widely used. However, to further increase the torque density in the conventional structures without sacrificing the power efficiency has already been constricted. There are two main restrictions in conventional PM machines. One is the pole-pair number of the stator should equal the rotor pole pair number, which leads to the increased copper loss when increasing the rotor poles number. The other is the limited space to employ more PMs.

Flux-modulated PM machines are a promising solution and have been widely studied. Several different kinds of flux-modulated machines have emerged, including magnetic-gear motor [5], basic flux-modulated motor [6], vernier motor [7]–[10], flux-switching motor [11]–[13], and doubly fed magnetic reluctance machine [14]–[16]. All of

these machines are based on the working principle of the novel magnetic gear proposed in [17] and the derivation from it. These machines break the conventional pole-pair combination limitation and a unified theory of them has been proposed [18].

To further optimize the torque density, flux-modulated dual-PM-excited structures have been investigated. The machines have PMs mounted both in rotor and in stator. A basic dual-PM-excited motor is presented in [19], the PMs on the stator are modulated by the rotor teeth, so that the rotor should have salient poles to produce the varying magnetic reluctance. And the stator teeth modulate the magnetic field produced by the rotor PMs at the same time. In [20], a design method of the vernier machine with dual PM was proposed. And [21] also revealed that the dual PM vernier machine has a better performance than stator-PM and rotor-PM machines. In [22], several dual-PM-excited motors have different stator structures with the same rotor are comparatively studied. The comparison results show the motor with stator PMs located on the tooth region has the best performance.

The researches on the PM arrangements in different machines have never stopped. In [23], different PM arrangements in the stator back iron have been investigated and compared. The results show that the V-shaped PM arrangement

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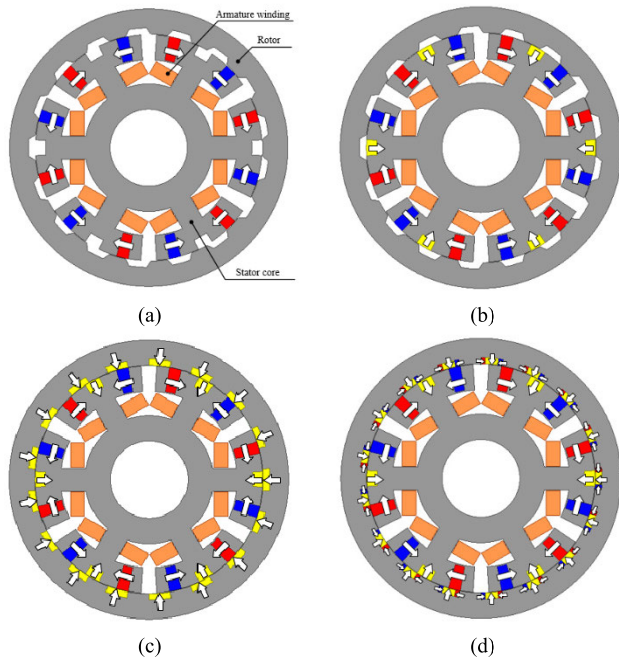


FIGURE 1. Structures of the proposed flux modulated machines. (a) Outer rotor FSPM. (b) Outer rotor FSPM with middle stator PM. (c) Dual PM flux modulated machine. (d) Dual PM flux modulated machine with Halbach segmentation.

has the best performance compared to the arc-shaped and I-shaped. The PM arrangements in rotor has also been investigated in [24]. To reduce the torque ripple and asymmetric phase back-EMF caused by the consequent pole, different PM arrangements in rotors have been investigated and a hybrid pole structure has been proposed.

This paper proposes several PM arrangement methods to improve machine performance. New structures of the flux-modulated machine are proposed, and the best structure is featured by dual PM with Halbach segmentation. It not only improves the torque density but also reduces the harmonics. The paper is organized as follows. Firstly, the topologies of machines will be introduced. Next, the operating principle will be illustrated. Then, the performance of all topologies will be compared. Moreover, the detailed analysis of design parameters for the best structure will be conducted. Finally, the conclusion will be drawn.

II. MACHINE TOPOLOGIES

A multi-tooth FSPM was proposed in [25] which is derived from 6 slots 17 rotor teeth V-shaped FSPM. To increase the torque density, a new outer rotor FSPM (Machine 1) is proposed based on the existing FSPM. As shown in Fig. 1(a), the air gap radius is increased a lot when adopting outer rotor structure. This structure also eliminates the influence caused by relatively complex and space-consuming stator structure of the inner rotor FSPM. To further increase the output torque, a middle magnet is added in each stator dummy slot (Machine 2). The structure is shown in Fig.1(b).

It is well known that the average torque T_{ave} can be obtained by the equation

$$T_{ave} = \frac{m}{\sqrt{2}} L_s D N_{ph} I_{rms} B_g K_w \tag{1}$$

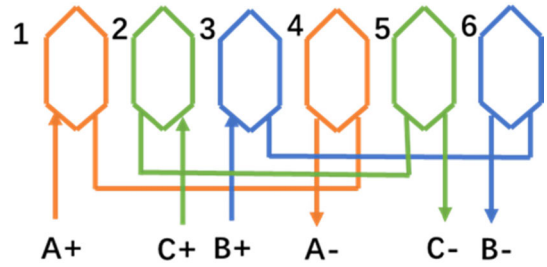


FIGURE 2. Machine winding configuration.

where m is the phase number, L_s is the stack length, D is the air gap diameter, N_{ph} is the turns per phase, B_g is the air gap flux density, and K_w is winding factor. If we keep the same current, we can improve the torque by enhancing the magnetic flux density in the air gap. Employing more PMs is an effective method to improve the torque without consuming the operating energy. Therefore, the dual PM modulated machine (Machine 3) is proposed and shown in Fig. 1(c). To further enhance the output torque, the Halbach magnetization array is adopted in the rotor PM (Machine 4). It reduces the harmonic and increases the flux density in the air gap. The structure is shown in Fig. 1(d).

A. WINDING CONFIGURATION

According to the working principle of general flux-modulated machines [18], the modulated harmonics will couple together and produce the effective torque. The general relationship between each part is as

$$P_{Fe} = P_1 \pm P_2 \tag{2}$$

Applied to this structure it can be expressed as

$$P_r = P_s \pm P_a \tag{3}$$

where P_r is the number of rotor pole pairs, P_s is the number of stator PMs pole pairs and P_a is the number of armature pole pairs. The winding configuration is shown in Fig. 2. The winding factor is 0.933. This winding topology is employed for all considered machine topologies.

B. MAIN DESIGN PARAMETERS

To make a relatively fair comparison, the proposed structures are in the same size and rotate at the same speed, in which the outer diameter is 220mm, the stack length is 45mm, and the rotation speed is 800rpm. The inner diameter of the rotor and electric load also keep constant. The main design parameters of the machines are given in Table 1.

III. OPERATING PRINCIPLE

The operating principle of the proposed machines is based on the general modulated theory. To clearly explain the working principle of the proposed machine, the no-load flux path is presented in Fig. 3. And Fig.4. shows the partial enlarged flux when the rotor is at the aligned position and unaligned position.

To illustrate the operating principle more clearly, the analytical method and 2-D EFA method are applied. The PMs are divided into three groups, namely, PM_{s1} , PM_{s2} and PM_r .

TABLE 1. Main design parameters.

Parameter	Unit	Value
Rotor teeth number	/	17
Stator slots number	/	6
Machine outer diameter	mm	220
Machine inner diameter	mm	61.1
Stack length	mm	45
Air gap length	mm	0.45
Slot filling factor	/	0.5
Rated speed	rpm	800
Electric load	A	10990
Current density	A/mm ²	3.42
PM material	/	N38EH
Core material	/	WG35WW300

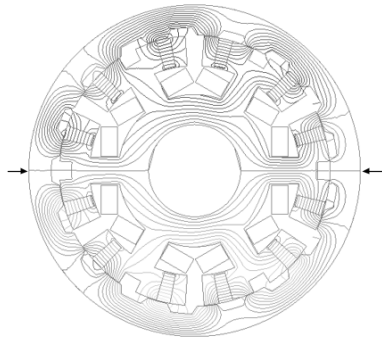


FIGURE 3. No-load flux path.

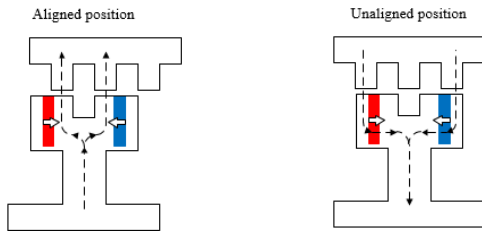


FIGURE 4. Partial enlarged no-load flux path.

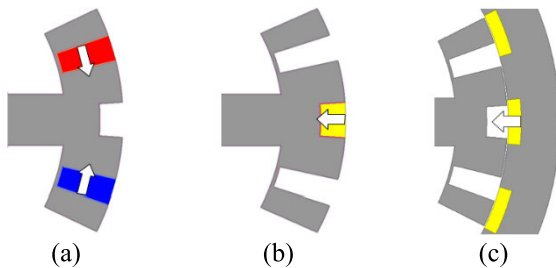


FIGURE 5. Magnet groups. (a) PM_{s1}. (b) PM_{s2} (c) PM_r.

As shown in Fig. 5, PM_{s1} is the pair of flux focusing PMs, PM_{s2} refers to the PM in the stator dummy slot, and PM_r represents the rotor PMs.

The air gap flux density can be obtained by multiplying the magnetomotive force (MMF) and corresponding permeance. When we remove other PMs, the magnetic field excited by PM_{s1} is modulated by rotor teeth. The MMF of PM_{s1} is assumed as a square waveform which is shown in Fig. 6.

In Fig. 6 N_{slot} is the number of slots, θ_1 and θ_2 are the mechanical angles presented in Fig. 7. F_{s1} and F_{s2} refer to the MMF values in different positions.

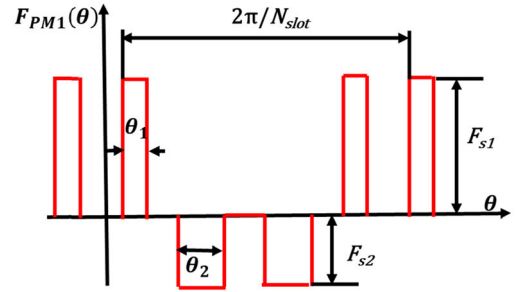


FIGURE 6. MMF of PM_{s1}.

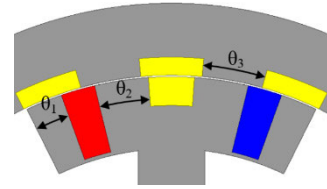


FIGURE 7. Partial enlarged of stator and rotor.

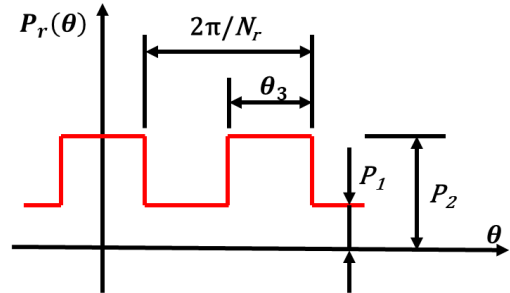


FIGURE 8. Rotor permeance.

The MMF of PM₁ can be expressed as

$$F_{PM1(\theta)} = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} F_n \cos(nN_{slot}\theta) \quad (4)$$

The permeance of the rotor is given in (5) and the waveform is shown in Fig. 8, where N_r is the number of rotor teeth, P_1 is the permeance between rotor teeth and P_2 is the permeance in rotor teeth.

$$P_r(\theta) = \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2} + \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} A_k \cos(kN_r\theta) \quad (5)$$

The air gap field from PM_{s1} can be obtained by:

$$\begin{aligned} B_{PM1(\theta)} &= F_{PM1(\theta)} P_r(\theta) \\ &= \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} F_n \cos(nN_{slot}\theta) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{n=-\infty \\ n \neq 0}}^{+\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{F_n A_k}{2} \cos(kN_r + nN_{slot})\theta \end{aligned} \quad (6)$$

Similarly, the MMF of PM_{s2} is expressed in Fig. 9 and (7).

$$F_{PM2(\theta)} = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} G_n \cos(nN_{slot}\theta) \quad (7)$$

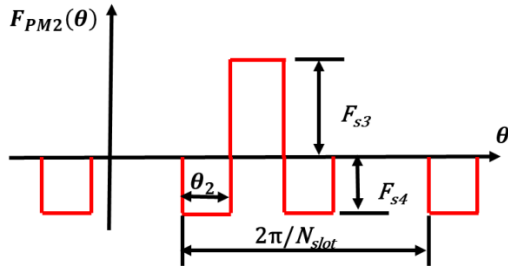


FIGURE 9. MMF of PM_{s2}.

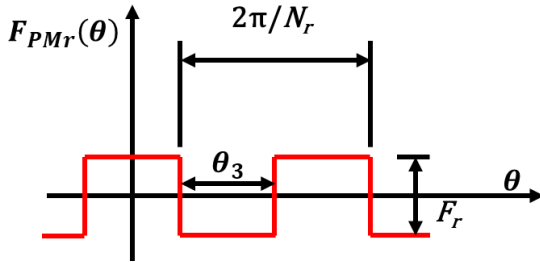


FIGURE 10. MMF of PM_r.

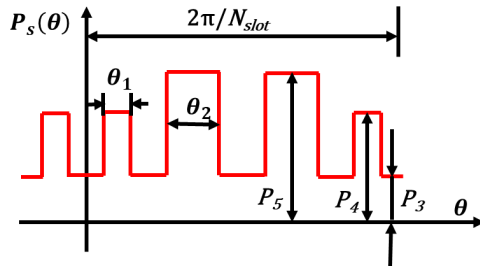


FIGURE 11. Permeance of stator.

Compared (4) and (7), the harmonic order of magnetic field produced by PM_{s2} is the same as the PM_{s1}.

The MMFs of PM_r and stator permeance are presented in Fig. 10 and 11. F_r is the MMF value of rotor PM. P_3 , P_4 and P_5 represent the permeance in different positions of stator teeth.

According to Fig. 10 and Fig. 11, the MMF of PM_r and stator core permeance can be expressed as below

$$F_{PM_r(\theta)} = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} H_n \cos(nN_r\theta) \quad (8)$$

$$P_s(\theta) = P_0 + \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} C_k \cos(kN_{slot}\theta) \quad (9)$$

where P_0 means the average value of permeance in the waveform.

Hence, the air gap flux density produced by PM_r can be obtained

$$\begin{aligned} B_{PM_r(\theta)} &= F_{PM_r(\theta)} P_s(\theta) \\ &= P_0 \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} F_n \cos(nN_r\theta) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{n=-\infty \\ n \neq 0}}^{+\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{H_n C_k}{2} \cos(kN_{slot} + nN_r)\theta \end{aligned} \quad (10)$$

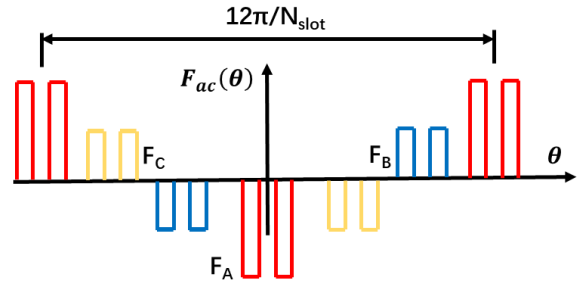


FIGURE 12. MMF of armature current.

TABLE 2. Harmonic order from different sources.

Excitation sources	Harmonic order
PM _{s1}	$kN_r \pm nN_{slot}$
PM _{s2}	$kN_r \pm nN_{slot}$
PM _r	$kN_{slot} \pm nN_r$
Armature winding	$kN_r \pm \frac{n}{6}N_{slot}$

The MMF of armature current in each phase can be expressed as

$$F_A = I_{ac} N_t \cos(2\pi ft) \quad (11)$$

$$F_B = I_{ac} N_t \cos\left(2\pi ft - \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \quad (12)$$

$$F_C = I_{ac} N_t \cos\left(2\pi ft + \frac{2\pi}{3}\right) \quad (13)$$

where N_t is the number of turns in the coil.

According to [26], [27], to simplify the analysis, let $t = 0$. The corresponding MMF is shown in Fig. 12.

The simplified MMF of armature current is

$$F_{ac(\theta)} = \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} I_n \cos\left(\frac{n}{6}N_{slot}\theta\right) \quad (14)$$

The flux density can be obtained as

$$\begin{aligned} B_{ac(\theta)} &= F_{ac(\theta)} P_r(\theta) \\ &= \frac{P_1 + P_2}{2} \sum_{n=1}^{+\infty} I_n \cos\left(\frac{n}{6}N_{slot}\theta\right) \\ &\quad + \sum_{\substack{n=-\infty \\ n \neq 0}}^{+\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{+\infty} \frac{I_n A_k}{2} \cos\left(kN_r + \frac{n}{6}N_{slot}\right)\theta \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

To sum up, the harmonic order of air gap flux density from different sources can be summarized and listed in Table 2.

Fig. 13. presents the air gap flux density and corresponding harmonic order of different excitation sources. They are conducted by using the FEA software. The results of FEA software perfectly match the analyzed results in Table 2.

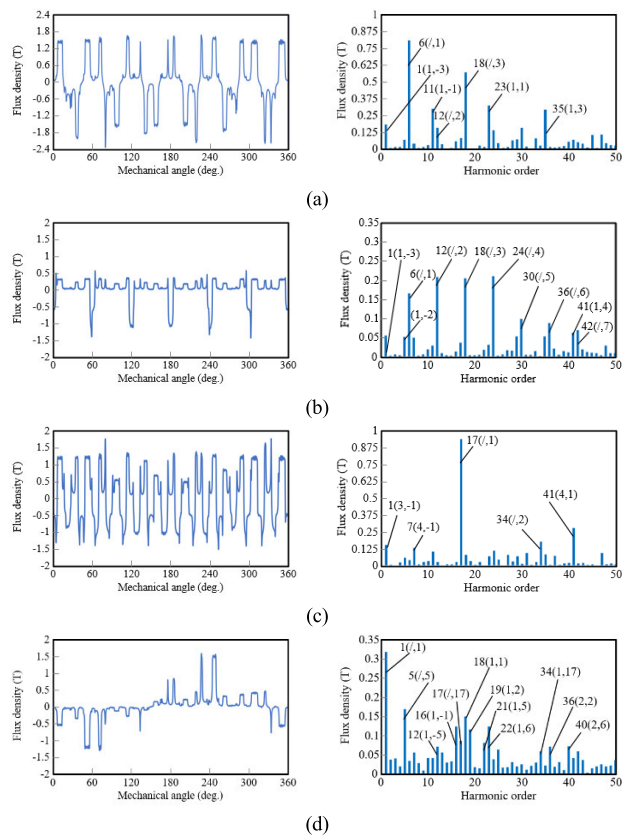


FIGURE 13. Flux density in air gap and its corresponding Fast Fourier Transform (FFT) results by different excitation sources. (a) Excited by PM₅₁. (b) Excited by PM₅₂. (c) Excited by PM_r. (d) Excited by AC.

IV. PERFORMANCE ANALYSIS

In this part, the electromagnetic performances of the proposed structures are analyzed. With the commercial software ANSYS Maxwell, the 2-D time-stepping FE analysis is conducted. All the proposed structures rotate at same rated speed and are excited under the same electric load as shown in Table 1.

Fig. 14 compares the torque performance among all structures under the same electric load. It is clear that Machine 4 has the highest output torque, which increases 89.91% from Machine 1. The torques of Machine 2 and Machine 3 are also increased 37.6% and 67% while compared to Machine 1. As analyzed in III, the PMs can be divided into three groups. Machine 3 and Machine 4 adopt all the three groups of PMs and coupled with the armature winding to produce the output torque. Therefore, they have higher output torque than Machine 1 and Machine 2 since Machine 1 only uses one group of magnets and Machine 2 adopts 2 groups. In addition, Machine 4 adopts a Halbach arrangement in the rotor PMs, the air gap flux density has been strengthened. So, Machine 4 has the highest output torque.

It also can be observed that, Machine 3 has the lowest torque ripple while Machine 4 has the highest one.

Fig.15 shows the waveform of cogging torque. It is obviously that Machine 4 has the largest cogging torque, which is 19.17Nm (peak to peak). And Machine 1 has the

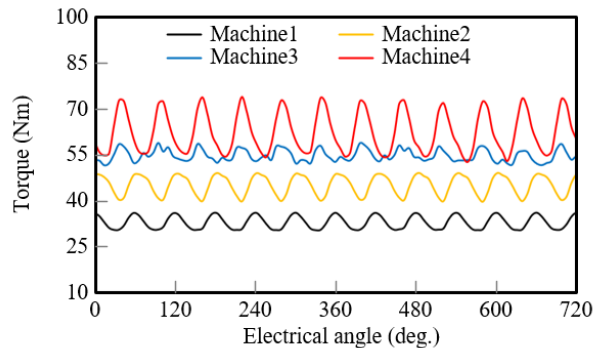


FIGURE 14. Torque performance.

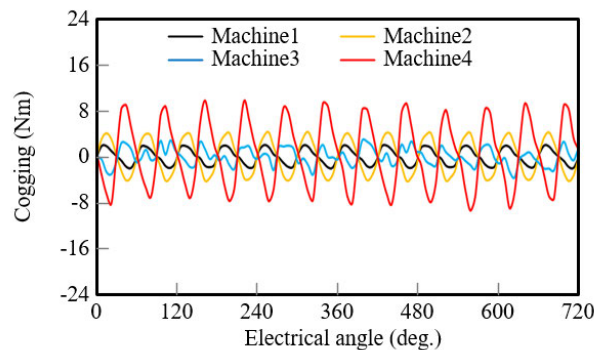


FIGURE 15. Cogging torque.

TABLE 3. Performance comparison.

Items	Unit	Machine 1	Machine 2	Machine 3	Machine 4
Torque	Nm	32.7	45	54.61	62.1
Cogging (peak to peak)	Nm	4.04	8.56	6.5	19.17
Torque ripple	%	6.3	7	3.6	10.1
No-load back emf	V	412.4	503	484.6	550
Copper loss	W	69.6	69.6	69.6	69.6
Core loss	W	238.86	240.84	201.8	235.76
Efficiency	%	89.9	92.4	94.4	94.5
PM volume	mm ³	85860	111780	176805	176805
PM Utilization	Nm/mm ³	3.81*10 ⁻⁴	4.03*10 ⁻⁴	3.09*10 ⁻⁴	3.51*10 ⁻⁴
Cost of copper	HKD	145	145	145	145
Cost of PMs	HKD	297.35	387.12	612.3	612.3
Cost of iron core	HKD	129.65	129.65	129.61	129.61
Total cost	HKD	572	661.77	886.91	886.91
Torque density	Nm/mm ³	1.91*10 ⁻⁵	2.63*10 ⁻⁵	3.19*10 ⁻⁵	3.63*10 ⁻⁵

lowest cogging. From above, Machine 4 has the highest torque and largest cogging while Machine 1 has the lowest torque and cogging at the same time. Machine 3 has the relatively high torque and lowest ripple. The detailed comparison is listed in Table 3.

As shown in Table 3, Machine 4 has the highest efficiency and torque density. Machine 1 has the smallest PM volume and lowest cost. Compared to Machine 1, the torque density of Machine 4 also increases a lot. It is increased about 94.51%. And the torque density of Machine 3 also increases 60.37% when it compares to Machine 1. The total cost of each machine is also summarized in Table 3. It is clear that, Machine 3 and Machine 4 have the highest cost,

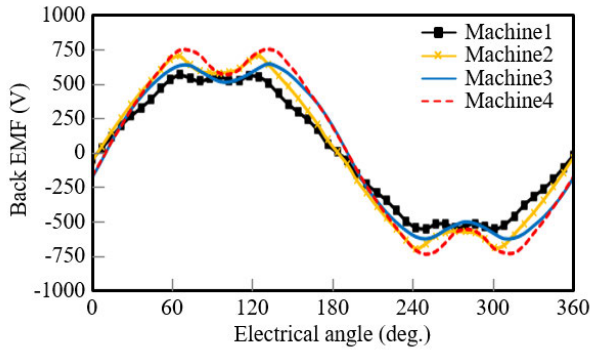


FIGURE 16. No-load back emf.

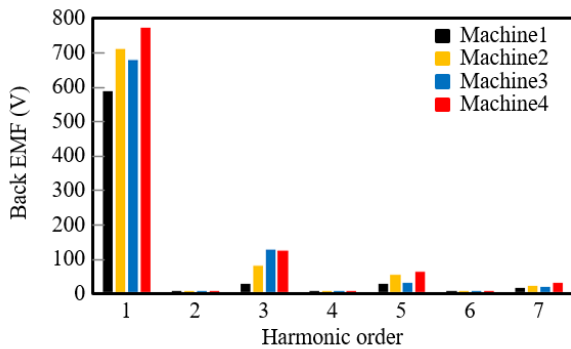


FIGURE 17. FFT results of no-load back emf.

which is mainly caused by the increased cost of PMs from 297.35 HKD to 612.3 HKD. Compared to Machine 1, the total cost of Machine 2 is increased 15.7% while Machine 3 and Machine 4 are increased 55%.

Fig. 16 compares the no-load back emf among all structures. It can be seen that, due to the harmonic effect, the distortion of the waveform is a little bit obvious. It is clear that, with the amplitude of the no-load back emf increases, the distortion also increases. According to Fig. 17, Machine 4 has the highest amplitude and relative high harmonic which is 17.77% while Machine 1 has the lowest amplitude and minimum harmonic which the THD is around 6.26%.

V. ANALYSIS OF DESIGN PARAMETERS

Compared with other structures, Machine 4 has the highest torque density and efficiency. However, the torque ripple and the distortion of no-load back emf are quite high. To further investigate the possibility of torque performance improvement in Machine 4, the analysis of design parameters is carried out. The key design parameters such as outer diameter, inner diameter of the rotor and the air gap length are kept the constant. The related design parameters for the analysis are specified in Fig. 18. Considering the mechanical constrains and the rationality of the design, the ranges of the parameters are listed in Table 4.

The rotor PM pole arc coefficient is given by

$$\alpha_1 = \frac{W_{pm1} + W_{pm2} * 2}{W_{rt} + W_{pm1} + 2 * W_{pm2}} \tag{16}$$

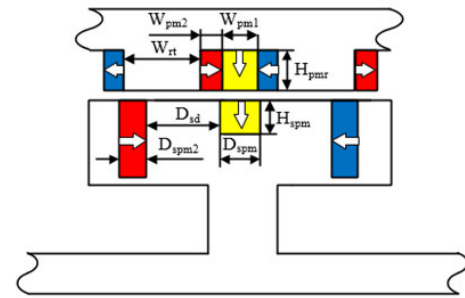
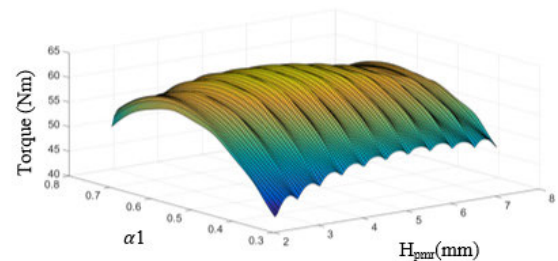


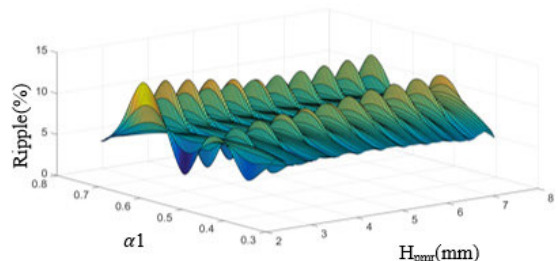
FIGURE 18. Description of geometric parameters.

TABLE 4. Range of parameters.

Design Parameter	Unit	Value
H_{pmr}	mm	2.5-7.5
α_1	/	0.35-0.75
α_2	/	0.15-0.33
D_{spm}	deg	4-12
H_{spm}	mm	4-12
D_{sd}	deg	14-19
D_{spm2}	deg	4-8



(a)



(b)

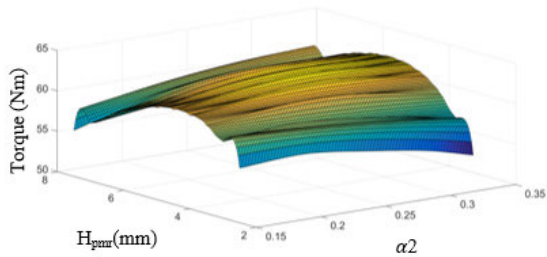
FIGURE 19. Torque performance under different H_{pmr} and α_1 . (a) Output torque. (b) Torque ripple.

The Halbach coefficient is given by

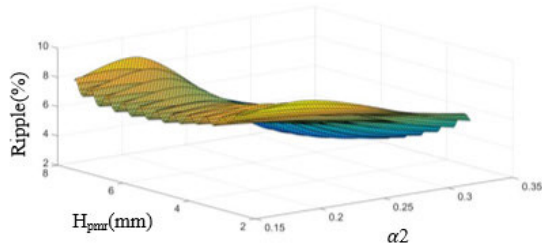
$$\alpha_2 = \frac{W_{pm2}}{W_{pm1} + 2 * W_{pm2}} \tag{17}$$

The H_{pmr} and α_1 are changed at the same time. According to Fig. 19(a), the output torque increases with H_{pmr} of the rotor PM until H_{pmr} is equal to 4.5mm. The trend of torque regarding changes with α_1 is the same as the height of rotor PM. The output torque increases first then decreases. Fig. 19(b) shows the ripple of different H_{pmr} and α_1 , it is clear that the α_1 is critical for the torque ripple.

Fig. 20 shows the torque performance under different H_{pmr} and α_2 . It is obvious that with H_{pmr} increases, the output

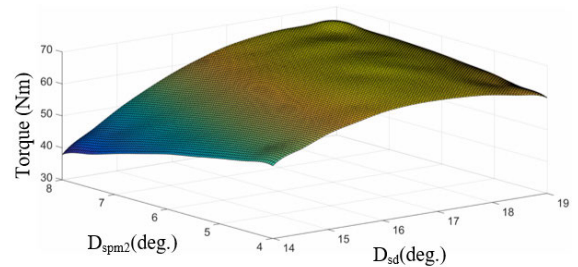


(a)

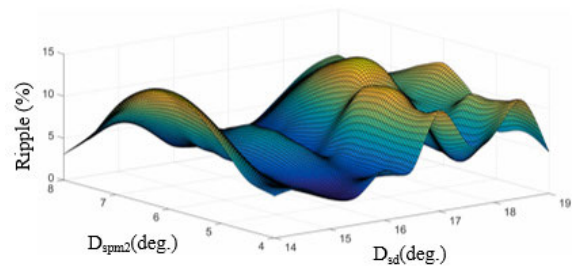


(b)

FIGURE 20. Torque performance under different H_{pmr} and α_2 . (a) Output torque. (b) Torque ripple.

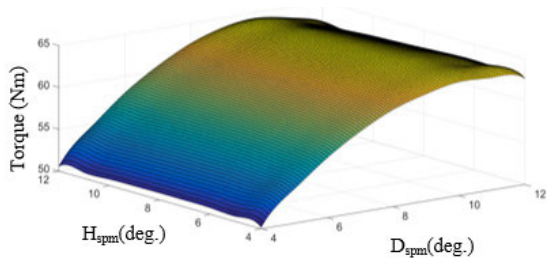


(a)

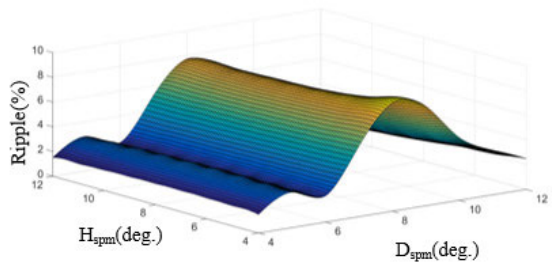


(b)

FIGURE 22. Torque performance under different D_{sd} and D_{spm2} (a) Output torque. (b) Torque ripple.



(a)



(b)

FIGURE 21. Torque performance under different H_{spm} and D_{spm} . (a) Output torque. (b) Torque ripple.

torque increases then slightly decreases. The trend of α_2 is totally the same but the change is not very obvious.

Fig. 21 shows the influence of different D_{spm} and H_{spm} combination to the torque performance. We can observe that if we keep the D_{spm} in a constant value and increase H_{spm} , the output torque and ripple keep in a stable level and do not change too much. However, the torque will be increased with D_{spm} is increased when H_{spm} keeps the constant value. And the torque ripple will be increased and then decreased with D_{spm} increased while H_{spm} keeps constant.

TABLE 5. Design parameters and performance of initial and final model.

Parameter	Initial value	Final value
Machine outer diameter (mm)		220
Rotor inner diameter (mm)		90
Rotor PM thickness (mm)	5	4.5
Rotor PM pole arc coefficient	0.5	0.6
Halbach coefficient	0.2	0.25
Stator mid PM height (mm)	8	8
Stator mid PM width (deg)	8	10
Stator side PM width (deg)	6	6
Stator teeth width D_{sd} (deg)	16.5	16.5
Torque (Nm)	62.1	65.5
Torque ripple (%)	10.1	3.3
Torque density (Nm/mm ³)	3.63×10^{-5}	3.83×10^{-5}
Efficiency (%)	94.5	94.7
PM volume (mm ³)	176805	188536.6
Cost of PMs (HKD)	612.3	652.94
Cost of iron core (HKD)	129.61	128.65
Total cost (HKD)	886.91	926.15

The relationship between the torque performance and combinations of D_{spm2} and D_{sd} is shown in Fig. 22. It is clear that, the torque increases first then decreases when we keep D_{spm2} constant. It can also be found that with the difference in D_{spm2} , the turning points of the total trend are different, the thicker of D_{spm2} , the higher value of turning points. This is due to the saturation effect in the modulation teeth between the stator mid PM and side PM. It can also be observed that, when D_{sd} is stable, the overall trend of the ripple is increased first and then decreased, with the increases of D_{spm2} .

Considering the usage of PMs volume, output torque and torque ripple, the final model can be obtained. The initial and final design parameters and performance are listed in Table 5. And Fig. 23 compares the output torque waveforms with the initial and final design parameters.

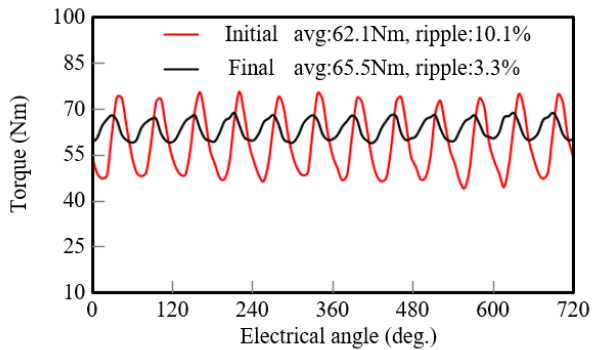


FIGURE 23. Torque comparison between initial and final model.

It can be seen that the final model has higher average output torque and lower torque ripple. The output torque increases about 5.6% while the torque ripple reduces 67.3% from 10.1% to 3.3%. With the torque density increasing, the efficiency also has a slight rise, from 94.5% to 94.7%.

VI. CONCLUSION

This paper has presented and compared several PM arrangements in flux modulated machines. The working principle of the proposed machines with different PM arrangement is clearly illustrated through analyzing the working harmonics of each excitation source. FEM software is adopted to analyze the machine performance and verify the analytical calculation. The result shows when we adopt all three groups of PMs together, the flux modulated machine has the highest torque density and efficiency. The output torque of Machine 4 increases 100.3% compared with Machine 1 which only adopts one group PM. However, the parametrical analysis of the main dimensions is limited, the global optimization of this machine can be conducted in the future work.

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