

Design and Analysis of Dual-Rotor Dual-Flux Switching Stator Permanent Magnet Motor

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Abstract – This paper proposes a novel dual-rotor dual flux-switching (DR-DFS) motor topology that leverages the synergistic advantages of both flux-switching and dual-rotor topologies. By simplifying the structural configuration and reducing permanent magnet (PM) consumption, the proposed design effectively mitigates manufacturing complexity and production costs, making it highly suitable for direct-drive applications. The electromagnetic performance, including torque output and back electromotive force, is comprehensively evaluated using the finite element method (FEM). Furthermore, a multi-objective optimization based on a genetic algorithm is implemented to refine the structural parameters and further maximize the output performance

Keywords: Dual-rotor, Flux modulation, Flux switching, PM, Torque ripple

1. Introduction

At present, the application of electrical energy is developing at an unprecedented speed, a trend that continues to advance with the continuous reduction of human society's dependence on fossil energy. Among the many fields driving this transformation, the rise of new energy industries such as electric vehicles [1],[2], hybrid vehicles [3][4], electric aircraft [5][6], wind power generation [7][8], and wave energy conversion [9][10]. Permanent magnet (PM) machines, such as the PM brushless machines [11][12], PM vernier machines [13][14], magnetic-gear machines [15][16], stator-PM machines [17][18] and flux-switching PM machines [19][20], occupy a pivotal position in the electric machine field by virtue of the outstanding advantages such as higher efficiency, higher reliability and higher torque density than the conventional DC machines [21], induction machines [22] and reluctance machines [23].

PM machines, which originated in the 19th century, are typically categorized as PM synchronous machines (PMSMs), also referred to as PM brushless AC motors (PMBLACMs). In the late 20th century, the rapid advancements in PM materials and power electronics propelled the development of PMSMs to a new height [24]. Conventional electric machines are typically characterized by a single-rotor configuration for mechanical power

conversion. However, with the continuous advancement of engineering applications, conventional single-rotor topologies are increasingly struggling to meet evolving performance requirements. Consequently, dual-rotor machines (DRMs), which incorporate two rotors, have garnered significant attention in recent years. The flux modulation principle is extensively utilized in the design of DRMs and has increasingly permeated various engineering fields. In the field of wind power generation, this principle is employed to achieve flux-weakening control, thereby extending the operational speed range [25][26]. To enhance torque output in hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs) [27][28], and in EVs for direct-drive mode [29][30]. Additionally, this principle has been implemented in a wide range of other domains matched with DRMS to optimize overall system output performance [31]-[33]. However, to optimize flux paths and enhance flux density, conventional DRMs typically employ rotor-mounted PMs. This configuration poses a significant risk of PM detachment under high-speed operation due to centrifugal forces. Moreover, in DRMs featuring an internal rotor, the inherent challenges in heat dissipation can lead to excessive temperature rise, thereby increasing the risk of irreversible demagnetization [34].

Among various machine topologies, flux-switching PM machines (FSPMMs) represent a typical stator-PM architecture, which effectively circumvents the potential risks inherent in rotor PM designs [35]. FSPMMs are gaining attention in recent years since heat dissipation and reliability. To enhance the torque density of FSPMMs, a dual-PM configuration is adopted [36][37]. Furthermore, the fault-tolerant capability of the machine is significantly bolstered through optimized stator tooth geometries and the

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implementation of advanced control strategies [38][39]. Significant research has been conducted on dual-rotor flux-switching (DRFS) machines, exploring their potential in direct-drive applications such as EVs and flywheel energy storage systems [40]-[42]. Despite their advantages, existing DRFS machines typically necessitate highly sophisticated stator and PM configurations. This structural intricacy increases the difficulty of precision fabrication and raises the overall production cost.

This paper proposes a novel dual-rotor dual-flux-switching PM (DR-DFS-PM) motor topology which is simple in design, easy to manufacture and has high robustness. This paper is structured into five sections. Following the introduction, the proposed topology and operating principles are detailed in Sections II and III, respectively. Section IV focuses on the performance analysis and structural optimization of the design, and the paper is concluded in Section V.

2. Proposed Motor Structure

Table 1. The basic parameters of proposed topology.

Items	Symbol	Value
Motor outer diameter	D_o	220mm
Motor active stack length	L_s	80mm
Air gap length	L_{air}	1mm
Stator slot number	Z	24
Inner rotor teeth number	N_{ki}	22
Outer rotor teeth number	N_{ko}	19
Winding I pole pair number	$P_{a,I}$	7
Winding II pole pair number	$P_{a,II}$	10

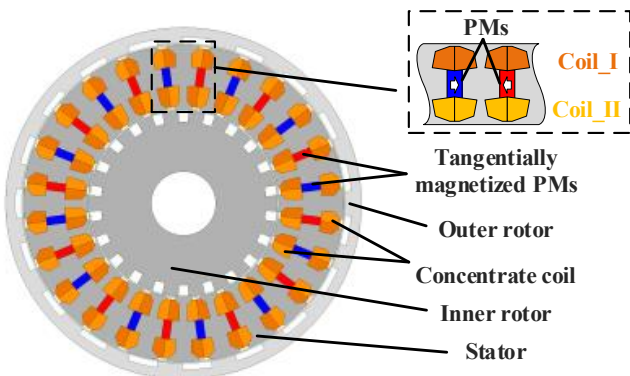


Fig. 1. The proposed DR-DFS-PM motor topology.

Fig. 1 illustrates the configuration of the proposed motor, which integrates a stator, an inner rotor, an outer rotor, and concentrated windings. All ferromagnetic elements in this design are constructed using DW310-35 silicon steel sheets. To amplify the magnetic flux capacity, tangentially magnetized PMs are embedded between inner stator slots

and outer stator slots, working in synergy with the concentrated windings. Table 1 presents the basic parameters of the proposed topology. The stator is designed with 24 slots and is shared by both rotors. Both the inner and outer rotors utilize a conventional FS structure, featuring 22 and 19 teeth, respectively. Furthermore, the concentrated winding comprises two distinct sets dedicated to the inner and outer rotors, with their respective pole pair numbers specified as 7 and 10. The coordination between these pole pairs is governed by the following relationship:

$$P_r = \frac{Z}{2} \quad (1)$$

$$P_{a,I} = |P_r - N_{ko}| = 7 \quad (2)$$

$$P_{a,II} = |P_r - N_{ki}| = 10$$

where P_r is the stator PM pole pair number.

3. Operation Principle

3.1 Flux Circuit Analysis

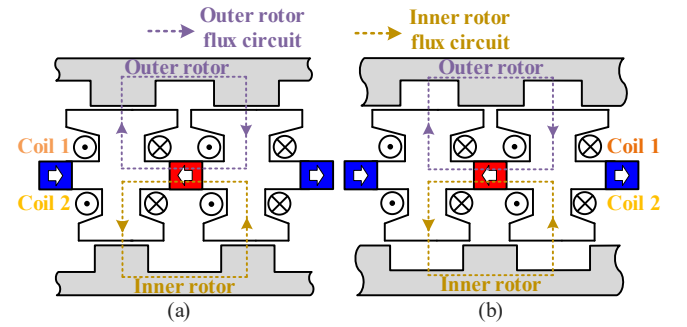


Fig. 2. The basic flux path of proposed DR-DFS-PM motor topology. (a) Aligned position. (b) Unaligned position.

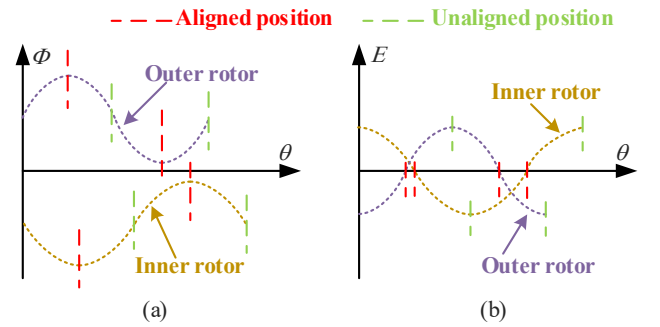


Fig. 3. Schematic coil flux and back EMF of proposed DR-DFS-PM motor topology. (a) Coil flux. (b) Back EMF.

Owing to the arrangement of tangentially magnetized PMs between the inner and outer stator slots, the proposed dual-FS structure exhibits a distinct flux-reversal effect during operation. Fig. 2 illustrates the magnetic flux paths within the inner and outer rotors. For analytical simplicity, the investigation focuses on two critical rotor positions: the aligned and unaligned positions relative to the stator teeth. In the aligned position, the magnetic circuit reaches its minimum reluctance, resulting in the maximum flux linkage.

Conversely, in the unaligned position, although the magnetic flux still forms a complete loop through the air gap, the reluctance is maximized, leading to a minimum flux linkage. Fig. 3 presents the periodic variations of flux linkage and the induced back electromotive force (back-EMF) under ideal operating conditions. Since the flux linkage alternates periodically with the rotor position, the induced back EMF likewise exhibits periodic characteristics. And the back-EMF reaches its maximum value at the unaligned position, the back-EMF is at the minimum at the aligned position. Moreover, the discrepancy in the tooth numbers of the inner and outer rotors leads to variations in their respective flux fluctuation periods and back EMF frequencies in the actual situation. Two other critical rotor positions are depicted in Fig. 4. In these configurations, the inner and outer rotors are situated in aligned and misaligned positions with respect to the stator poles. Consequently, the respective flux linkages attain their peak and trough values, while their magnetic directions are mutually reversed.

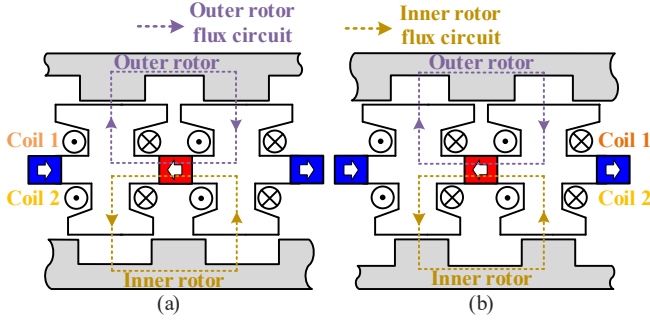


Fig. 4. The two rotors are respectively located at aligned position and unaligned position in actual operation.

3.2 Decoupling Analysis

In double-winding machine systems, achieving effective decoupling between the two sets of windings is a prerequisite for independent control and high-performance operation. Since both winding sets are integrated within a shared stator iron core which utilize the same magnetic circuit, leading to an inherent spatial overlap of their respective electromagnetic fields. This physical configuration inevitably introduces mutual inductance, where current transients in one winding set induce a parasitic back-EMF in the other, resulting in undesired cross-channel energy transfer and dynamic interference.

To analytically quantify this interaction, the mutual flux linkage $\Phi_{II,I}$, the flux linked by winding II due to the magnetic field of winding I, is expressed as follow [43]:

$$\Phi_{II,I} = L_s R_{air} \int_0^{2\pi} B_I(\theta) M_{II}(\theta) d\theta \quad (3)$$

where L_s is the stack length of the motor, R_{air} is the radius of air gap, $B_I(\theta)$ the resultant magnetic flux density distribution when winding I is excited without PM

excitations, $M_{II}(\theta)$ is the winding function of winding II, which can be expressed as follow:

$$M_{II}(\theta) = \sum_{i=1,2,3...} \frac{2Zk_{wi}}{i\pi P_{a,II} \cos(iP_{a,II}\theta)} \quad (4)$$

where k_{wi} is the winding factor of the i -th harmonic.

Through Fourier series expansion, it becomes evident that mutual flux linkage is only synthesized when both sets share common harmonic orders. Let H_I and H_{II} denote the sets of non-zero harmonic orders for the flux density and the winding function, respectively. The fundamental criterion for magnetic decoupling is established when $H_I \cap H_{II} = \emptyset$ [44]. Under this condition of harmonic orthogonality, the mutual inductance term vanishes. In addition, ensure that the distribution factor of winding I ($k_{d,I}$) relative to the harmonics of the winding II is minimized or nullified, thereby achieving a magnetically isolated dual-winding environment. Take the winding in this paper as an example,

$$\begin{aligned} H_I &= \{h | h = (2k - 1)P_{a,I}\}, k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \\ H_{II} &= \{h | h = (2k - 1)P_{a,II}\}, k \in \mathbb{Z}^+ \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

where $P_{a,I} = 7$ and $P_{a,II} = 10$, they are respectively an odd and an even, there can be no intersection between these two sets from a mathematical perspective, that is, $H_I \cap H_{II} = \emptyset$, which proves that these two sets of windings are decoupled.

4. FEM Simulation and Optimization

In this paper, the initial model was initially analyzed using finite element method (FEM) through the assistance of Maxwell based on the DR-DFS-PM motor topology designed based on Fig. 1.

4.1 No-load Analysis

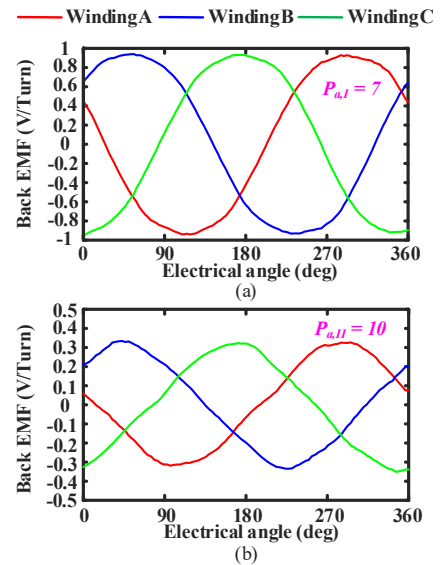


Fig. 5. The back EMF waveforms of the proposed DR-DFS-PM motor. (a) $P_{a,I} = 7$. (b) $P_{a,II} = 10$.

Fig. 5 depicts the back-EMF waveforms of both winding sets at a contra-rotating speed of 500 rpm. To eliminate the influence of slot area and fill factor on the performance evaluation, the back-EMF of a single-turn coil is analyzed. It is observed that winding I exhibits a more regular waveform compared to winding II. The single-turn amplitude of winding I is approximately 0.94 V, which is 185% higher than that of winding II.

Fig. 3 illustrates the magnetic flux distribution under no-load conditions. As depicted, the flux lines are uniformly distributed and align perfectly with the operation flux circuit analyzed previously.

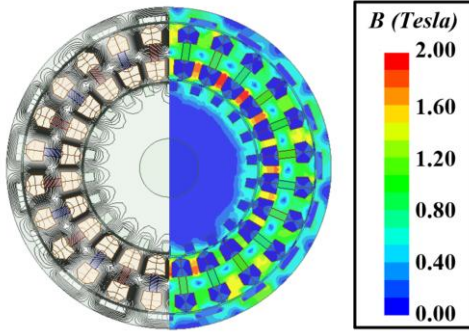


Fig. 6. The no-load flux line distribution and on-load flux density of the proposed motor.

4.2 Load Analysis

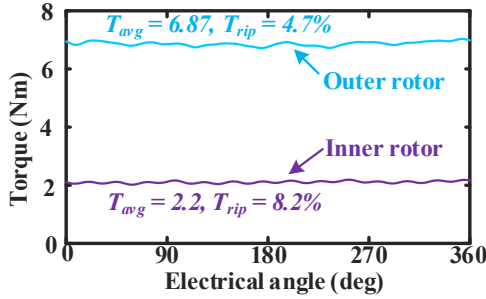


Fig. 7. The torque waveforms of inner rotor and outer rotor of the proposed motor.

Fig. 7 illustrates the torque waveforms of the inner and outer rotors over one electrical cycle. The average torque (T_{avg}) of the outer rotor is approximately triple that of the inner rotor, a disparity primarily attributed to the difference in rotor radius. Furthermore, the outer rotor exhibits a torque ripple (T_{rip}) of 4.7%, which is roughly half that of the inner rotor 8.7%. Notably, the T_{rip} of inner rotor remains within an acceptable range for practical applications.

Fig. 6 illustrates the magnetic flux density distribution under load conditions. While the overall magnetic circuit exhibits a well-managed saturation level, localized saturation is observed with peak flux densities reaching 2.0 T. This localized phenomenon warrants careful consideration in subsequent structural optimization.

4.3 Optimization Analysis

In this study, a multi-objective optimization of the proposed structure is performed using the non-dominated sorting genetic algorithm-II (NSGA-II). The optimization process spans 45 generations with a population size of 200 individuals per generation, resulting in the evaluation of 9,000 distinct topological configurations. The objectives are to maximize the overall torque density (T_d) and minimize the torque ripple (T_r), which can be formulated as:

$$T_d = \frac{T_{avg-i} + T_{avg-o}}{V} \quad (6)$$

$$T_r = \max\left(\frac{T_{rip-i}}{T_{avg-i}}, \frac{T_{rip-o}}{T_{avg-o}}\right) \quad (7)$$

where T_{avg-i} and T_{avg-o} are the average torque of the inner rotor and outer rotor, respectively. V is the electromagnetic part volume of the motor. T_{rip-i} and T_{rip-o} are the torque ripple of inner and outer rotor, respectively. Fig. 8 shows the Pareto fronts of the last optimization generation on data. The datum line represents the 10% torque ripple baseline.

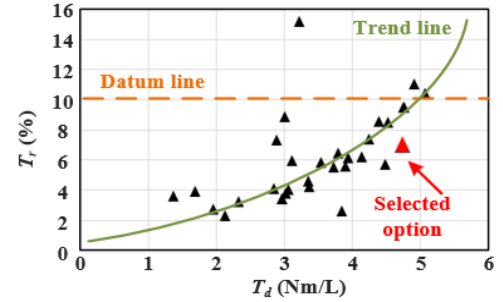


Fig. 8. Pareto fronts of the structure parameters optimization.

Table 2. The optimized structural parameters of proposed topology.

	Optimized Range	Optimized Value
α_{ri}	1°-10°	3.44°
α_{ro}	2°-12°	6.73°
l_{rt_i}	2-10mm	4.84mm
l_{rt_o}	2-10mm	6.12mm
h_{y_r}	2-11mm	4.05mm
h_{y_s}	6-20mm	10.55mm
b_{pm}	2-9mm	3.53mm
b_{ts_i}	2-10mm	5.41mm
b_{ts_o}	3-12mm	8.23mm
h_{s_i}	4-15mm	12.07mm
h_{s_o}	4-12mm	5.96mm
b_{s_i}	2-9mm	5.6mm
b_{s_o}	3-12mm	10.9mm

Table 2 summarizes the key design parameters and their respective variation ranges used in the optimization process,

primarily encompassing rotor teeth, stator slot dimensions, and PM height. The geometric definitions of these parameters within the proposed topology are illustrated in the schematic diagram on Fig. 9.

Further FEM analysis was conducted on the optimized topology, with a detailed performance comparison summarized in Table 3. The results indicate significant enhancements in both back-EMF amplitude and torque output. Specifically, the back-EMF amplitude of winding II has doubled. The T_{avg} of the inner and outer rotors increased by 113% and 35%, respectively, boosting the overall T_d by 54% to 4.59 Nm/L. Regarding T_{rip} , an improvement is observed in the inner rotor while the outer rotor shows a slight increase; nonetheless, the total system ripple remains comparable to the original design and within acceptable limits. Notably, the PM volume was reduced by approximately 40%, demonstrating a superior design that achieves higher output with lower PM usage.

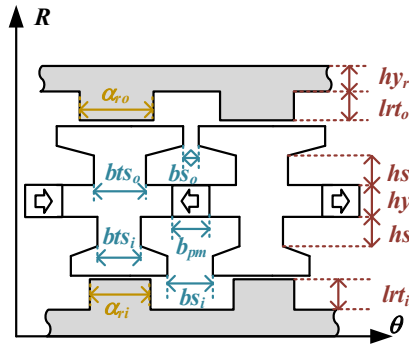


Fig. 9. Annotation diagram for parameters in cylindrical coordinate system.

Table 3. The comparison between optimized and original performance of proposed topology.

	Original	Optimized
Amplitude of winding I back EMF	0.94V/Turn	1.08V/Turn
Amplitude of winding II back EMF	0.33V/Turn	0.65V/Turn
T_{avg-i}	2.2Nm	4.69Nm
T_{avg-o}	6.87Nm	9.27Nm
T_{rip-i}	8.2%	4.3%
T_{rip-o}	4.7%	8.5%
T_d	2.98Nm/L	4.59Nm/L
T_r	8.2%	8.5%
Volume of PMs	115.08mL	71.46mL

5. Conclusion

A novel DR-DFS-PM motor is proposed, merging the advantages of PMSMs and FSPMMs. Featuring FS

structures in both rotors and a stator PM design, the motor offers improved robustness and a torque density of 4.59 Nm/L. When coupled with a gearbox for performance amplification, this dual-rotor topology provides a superior alternative for complex high-performance tasks. Notably, the 40% reduction in PM usage achieved through optimization enhances its cost-effectiveness, aligning with the primary economic considerations of modern industrial design.

Acknowledgements

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