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Slotless PM machines with skewed winding shapes: 3D electromagnetic semi-analytical model


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The 3D modeling technique presented in this paper, predicts, with high accuracy, electromagnetic fields and corresponding dynamic effects in conducting regions for rotating machines with slotless windings, e.g. self-supporting windings. The presented modeling approach can be applied to a wide variety of slotless winding configurations, including skewing and/or different winding shapes. It is capable to account for induced eddy-currents in the conductive rotor parts, e.g. permanent magnet eddy-current losses, albeit not iron and winding AC losses. The specific focus of this paper is to provide the reader with the complete implementation and assumptions details of such a 3D semi-analytical approach, which allows model validations with relatively short calculation times. This model can be used to improve future design optimizations for machines with 3D slotless windings. It has been applied, in this paper, to calculate fixed parameter Faulhaber, Rhombic, and Diamond slotless PM machines to illustrate accuracy and applicability.

Index Terms—3D harmonic modeling, Fourier, BLDC PM machine, slotless winding, Faulhaber, rhombic, self-supporting winding, rotor eddy-current losses, high-speed.

I. INTRODUCTION

SLOTLESS rotating permanent magnet (PM) machines are being employed in low to medium power industrial applications, such as medical, aerospace, factory automation, etc. Their 3D design evaluation would benefit from a fast electromagnetic modeling tool that does not suffer from long computational times when accuracy is paramount. Indeed, especially for design optimization procedures, computational time is even more important due to the required evaluation of a large field of design solutions. Thus analytical or semi-analytical modeling techniques are superior over numerical inasmuch as they usually require shorter computational times.

(Semi-)Analytical modeling of slotless AC machines is not a trivial task considering the fact that slotless windings have a large variety of configurations with complex geometries. Although in some configurations, e.g. toroidal, concentrated, distributed overlapping winding machines, the modeling can be reduced to a 2-dimensional (2D) problem due to the sole presence of an axial current component [1], [2], [3], [4]. However for some slotless winding machines, this 2D simplification is not applicable due the presence of skewing and/or different winding shapes, e.g. Faulhaber (also called helical and skewed), rhombic, and diamond winding, which are shown in Fig. 1. Here, the conductors can be skewed for half an electrical period, which implies both and axial and circumferential current component. This necessitates a 3-dimensional (3D) electromagnetic model to be implemented.

These 3D magnetic field modeling techniques have been reported in several papers. For example, the authors of [5] have presented the magnetic field modeling of a Faulhaber winding based on the numerical solution of the Biot-Savart law. In [6], [7] analytical models of magnetic field in machines with Faulhaber (helical) winding have been presented. The results obtained by these models are accurate, however do not consider induced rotor eddy-currents losses. These effects have been presented in [8], however the model contains an assumption which introduces an error in the rotor eddy-current...
II. HARMONIC MODELING IN CYLINDRICAL COORDINATES

In order to derive a 3D Harmonic Model (HM) the following assumptions have been considered:

- The HM model is based on the quasi-static Maxwell’s equations;
- Materials are isotropic (i.e. both relative permeability and conductivity remain the same in different directions);
- Soft-magnetic material parts (iron) are infinitely permeable;
- Winding current is modeled by linear current density, which assumes infinitely thin winding, placed on a boundary;
- The model is periodic in both axial and circumferential direction;
- Skin and proximity effects in conductors are not accounted for;
- Balanced 3-phase currents in the windings are considered;
- Back iron and rotor length are equal;
- The internal PM magnetization is zero.

In HM, the magnetic field is derived using the magnetic vector potential. Keeping in mind that the magnetic field is solenoidal vector field (vector potential). Combining the quasi-static Maxwell’s equations and constitutive equations in electromagnetism, under the Coulomb gauge condition ($\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$), results in

$$\nabla^2 \vec{A} = \frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t} - \mu_0 \mu_r \vec{J} - \nabla \times \vec{B}_{\text{rem}}, \quad (2)$$

where $\mu_0$ is the magnetic permeability of vacuum [H/m], $\mu_r$ the relative permeability of the material, $\sigma$ the electric conductivity [S], $\vec{J}$ the current density [A/m²], and $\vec{B}_{\text{rem}}$ the remanent flux density of a material [T].

In general the HM assumes the division into regions with different electromagnetic properties, i.e. with different conductivity and permeability, where the field behavior in each region is governed by (3) or (4). Solutions of these governing equations are obtained by separation of variables. The solutions contain unknown coefficients which are determined by solving a system of equations based on the boundary information between considered regions, as discussed further.

### A. 2D Harmonic modeling

In radial flux rotating machines electromagnetic torque is created by axial current components, thus if the model is limited to axial current components, only axial magnetic vector potentials have to be present. Therefore, a 2D HM can be used, where the magnetic flux density in a cylindrical (polar) coordinate system is expressed as

$$\vec{B} = \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial A_r}{\partial \theta} \vec{e}_r - \frac{\partial A_z}{\partial r} \vec{e}_\theta. \quad (5)$$

where $\vec{e}_r$ and $\vec{e}_\theta$ are the unit vectors in the radial and circumferential (azimuthal) directions. The complete derivation of the 2D HM in cylindrical (polar) coordinates ($r, \theta$) is thoroughly reported in [1], [2] and [4].
The complex form solution of (3) in cylindrical (polar) coordinate system with only axial component of the vector potential is given as

$$A_z(\nu) = \begin{cases} (C(\nu)I_\nu(\beta r) + D(\nu)K_\nu(\beta r))e^{j(\nu \theta + \omega_1 t)}, & \text{if } \beta \neq 0 \\ (C(\nu)r^{-\nu} + D(\nu)r^{\nu})e^{j(\nu \theta + \omega_1 t)}, & \text{if } \beta = 0 \end{cases},$$

(6)

$$\beta^2 = j\mu_0 \mu_1 \sigma \omega_1,$$

where $I$ and $K$ are the modified Bessel functions of the first and second kind, $C$ and $D$ the unknown coefficients, $\nu$ the space harmonic order, $j$ the imaginary unit, and $\omega_1$ the relative angular velocity between the media and magnetic field. The solution of the Laplace equation (4) in complex form is written as

$$A_z(\nu) = (C(\nu)r^{-\nu} + D(\nu)r^{\nu})e^{j(\nu \theta + \omega_1 t)}. \tag{7}$$

2) Boundary conditions

The boundary conditions between two regions are used to calculate the unknown coefficients of the solutions of Laplace and Helmholtz equations, expressed as

$$\vec{n} \cdot (\vec{B}_1 - \vec{B}_2) = 0, \tag{8}$$

$$\vec{n} \times (\vec{H}_1 - \vec{H}_2) = \vec{K}, \tag{9}$$

where subscript 1 and 2 indicate variable of the first and second interfacing regions, $\vec{K}$ the linear current density [A/m], $\vec{n}$ the surface normal, and $\vec{H}$ the magnetic field strength [A/m]. The latter can be determined by the following relation

$$\vec{H} = \frac{\vec{B}}{\mu_0 \mu_1}. \tag{10}$$

B. 3D Harmonic modeling

If the equivalent linear current density is not limited to the axial current components, as e.g. in Faulhaber, rhombic and etc. windings, also circumferential current components are present. Thus two components of the magnetic vector potential have to be introduced which necessitates a 3D HM implementation. Unfortunately, in cylindrical coordinates the solutions of (3) and (4) cannot be determined by the magnetic vector potential [10]. However, the solution of these equations can be obtained by introducing a second order vector potential. Keeping in mind $\nabla \cdot \vec{A} = 0$, this second order magnetic vector potential, $\vec{W}$, is introduced as [11]

$$\vec{A} = \nabla \times \vec{W}. \tag{11}$$

$\vec{W}$ consists of two orthogonal scalar potentials, $W_1$ and $W_2$ and in cylindrical coordinates is given by [12]

$$\vec{W} = W_1 \vec{e}_z + \nabla \times W_2 \vec{e}_z, \tag{12}$$

where $W_1$ and $W_2$ are the magnetic scalar potential functions [Wb] and [Wbm], respectively, and $\vec{e}_z$ the unit vector in axial direction. Substituting (12) into (3), separate expressions for $W_1$ and $W_2$ are

$$\nabla^2 W_1 = \beta^2 W_1, \tag{13}$$

$$\nabla^2 W_2 = \beta^2 W_2, \tag{13}$$

$$\beta^2 = j\mu_0 \mu_1 \sigma \omega_1.$$

These equations are the governing equations in the conducting region of the 3D HM. Using (11), (12) and (13) the magnetic vector potential is expressed as

$$\vec{A} = (\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial W_1}{\partial \theta} + \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial r \partial z}) \vec{e}_r + \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 W_2}{\partial \theta \partial z} - \frac{W_1}{r} \right) \vec{e}_\theta + \left( \frac{\partial^2 W_2}{\partial z^2} - \beta^2 W_2 \right) \vec{e}_z. \tag{14}$$

The expression for the vector potential is substituted into (1), and the magnetic flux density inside the conducting region is given as

$$\vec{B} = \left( \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial r \partial z} - \frac{\beta^2}{r} \frac{\partial W_2}{\partial \theta} \right) \vec{e}_r + \left( \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial \theta \partial z} + \beta \frac{W_2}{r} \right) \vec{e}_\theta + \left( \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial z^2} - \beta^2 W_2 \right) \vec{e}_z. \tag{15}$$

The governing equation for the air region is obtained by simply setting $\beta$ to zero. Then from (15) it can be observed that when $\beta$ is zero the scalar potential $W_2$ does not contribute to the flux density. Therefore, using (13) the governing equation for the air region is

$$\nabla^2 W_1 = 0. \tag{16}$$

The expression for the flux density in the air region is given by

$$\vec{B} = \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial r \partial z} \vec{e}_r + \frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial \theta \partial z} \vec{e}_\theta + \frac{\partial^2 W_1}{\partial z^2} \vec{e}_z. \tag{17}$$

1) Solution of the Laplace and Helmholtz equations

The solution of (13) is also determined by separation of variables which results in [9]

$$W_1(\nu, \omega_z) = (C_1(\nu, \omega_z)I_\nu(\xi r) + D_1(\nu, \omega_z)K_\nu(\xi r)) \cdot \left( F_1(\nu, \omega_z) \cos(\omega_2 z) + G_1(\nu, \omega_z) \sin(\omega_2 z) \right) e^{j(\nu \theta + \omega_1 t)},$$

$$W_2(\nu, \omega_z) = (C_2(\nu, \omega_z)I_\nu(\xi r) + D_2(\nu, \omega_z)K_\nu(\xi r)) \cdot \left( F_2(\nu, \omega_z) \cos(\omega_2 z) + G_2(\nu, \omega_z) \sin(\omega_2 z) \right) e^{j(\nu \theta + \omega_1 t)}, \tag{18}$$

where $C, D, F, G$ are unknown constants calculated using boundary conditions, and $\omega_z$ is the spatial frequency in the $z$-direction. For the Laplace equation (16) the solution takes the form [9]
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\[ W_1(\nu, \omega_z) = (C(\nu, \omega_z)I_0(\omega_zr) + D(\nu, \omega_z)K_0(\omega_zr)) \cdot (F(\nu, \omega_z)\cos(\omega_zz) + G(\nu, \omega_z)\sin(\omega_zz))e^{j(\nu\omega + \omega t)}. \]  

(19)

2) Boundary conditions
The boundary conditions for 3D HM include (8), (9) and the boundary information of the electric field strength, expressed as
\[ \vec{n} \times (\vec{E}_1 - \vec{E}_2) = 0, \]  

(20)

where \( \vec{E} \) is electric field strength [V/m], which can be calculated using
\[ \vec{E}^\nu = -\frac{\partial \vec{A}}{\partial t}. \]  

(21)

It needs noting that only one component of electrical field (axial or tangential) requires a boundary condition (20). For example, constraining the axial electrical field strength omits the use of the circumferential one.

C. Rotor eddy-current losses
As the rotor PM field is neglected, the power transferred to torque production is zero. However, the armature reaction causes rotor eddy-current losses, which can be calculated by integrating the Poynting vector over the rotor surface. For radial flux rotating machines, where the radial component of the vector potential is zero, the rotor eddy-current losses are calculated as
\[ P = -\frac{1}{2} \int_{S_{\text{rotor}}} \text{Re}(E_zH_\theta^* - E_\theta H_z^*)dS_{\text{rotor}}, \]  

(22)

where \( H^* \) is the conjugated magnetic field strength [A/m] and \( S_{\text{rotor}} \), the rotor surface [m²].

III. DISTRIBUTION OF LINEAR CURRENT DENSITY
Modeling winding regions with imposed currents in cylindrical coordinates does not seem possible by means of first and second order vector potentials [13]. Thus the winding is modeled as an air region and linear current density, imposed on the iron bore surface. If this linear current density is solely distributed along the axial direction, a 2D HM can be used, e.g. for machines with toroidal or concentrated slotless windings. However, if an axial and circumferential components are present (see Fig. 2), the linear current density can be written as
\[ \vec{K} = K_z \vec{e}_z + K_\theta \vec{e}_\theta, \]  

(23)

where \( K_z \) and \( K_\theta \) are the axial and circumferential linear current density components, respectively, [A/m].

Figure 2: A phase coil contour of a Faulhaber winding. The blue arrows indicate the linear current density, and black arrows the axial and circumferential components, correspondingly.

A. Axial component of linear current density
The axial component of the linear current density in a single phase can be written as
\[ K_z(\theta, z, t) = \frac{N_i(t)}{sr} f_z(\theta, z), \]  

(24)

where \( N \) is the phase turn number, \( i \) the instantaneous value of phase current [A], \( r \) the radius at which the linear current density is defined [m], \( s \) the phase spread in circumference [rad], \( t \) time [s], and \( f_z(\theta, z) \) the distribution function dependent on the geometry of the winding. This distribution function can be generally approximated through 2D Fourier series as
\[ f_{z,\text{approx}}(\theta, z) = \sum_{\nu=0}^{\infty} \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \left[ c_{ss}(\nu, m) \sin(\omega_\theta \theta) \sin(\omega_z z) + c_{sc}(\nu, m) \cos(\omega_\theta \theta) \sin(\omega_z z) + c_{cs}(\nu, m) \cos(\omega_\theta \theta) \sin(\omega_z z) \right] + \right. \]  

(25)

\[ \left. + c_{sc}(\nu, m) \sin(\omega_\theta \theta) \cos(\omega_z z) + c_{cc}(\nu, m) \cos(\omega_\theta \theta) \cos(\omega_z z) \right], \]

where \( \omega_\theta \) and \( \omega_z \) are the spacial frequencies in the \( \theta \)- and \( z \)-direction, and \( T_\theta \) and \( T_z \) the periodocities in the \( \theta \)- and \( z \)-direction. The coefficients \( c_{ss}, c_{sc}, c_{cs} \) and \( c_{cc} \) are derived by the following integrals
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\[ c_{sc}(\nu, m) = \frac{\kappa}{4T_0 T_z} \int_{T_z}^{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} f_z(\theta, z) \sin(\omega_0 \theta) \sin(\omega z) d\theta dz, \]

\[ c_{cc}(\nu, m) = \frac{\kappa}{4T_0 T_z} \int_{T_z}^{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} f_z(\theta, z) \cos(\omega_0 \theta) \cos(\omega z) d\theta dz, \]

\[ c_{cc}(\nu, m) = \frac{\kappa}{4T_0 T_z} \int_{T_z}^{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} f_z(\theta, z) \cos(\omega_0 \theta) \sin(\omega z) d\theta dz, \]

\[ c_{cc}(\nu, m) = \frac{\kappa}{4T_0 T_z} \int_{T_z}^{T_0} \int_0^{T_0} f_z(\theta, z) \cos(\omega_0 \theta) \cos(\omega z) d\theta dz, \]

(26)

where

\[ \kappa = \begin{cases} 4, & \text{for } \nu > 0, \ m > 0 \\ 2, & \text{for } \nu = 0, \ m > 0 \\ 2, & \text{for } \nu > 0, \ m = 0 \\ 1, & \text{for } \nu = 0, \ m = 0 \end{cases}. \]  

The integral limits in (26) can be set by linear equations to describe winding skewing [14]. The practical implementation of the 2D Fourier series is given in the Appendices.

For three phase rotating machines the phase coils are mutually shifted by \( 2\pi/3 \), hence the phase currents are given as

\[ i(t) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \hat{i}(k) \cos(k(\omega t + x)), \]

(28)

\[ x = \left(0, \frac{2\pi}{3}, \frac{4\pi}{3}\right), \]

where \( \hat{i} \) is the current amplitude of each time harmonic order \([A]\), \( k \) the time harmonic order and \( \omega \) the angular frequency \([\text{rad/s}]\). Substituting (25) and (28) into (24) results in a Fourier series representation of the axial linear current density

\[ K_{c}(\theta, z, t) = \sum_{m=0}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \hat{K}_{c}(m, k, L) e^{i((3L-k)\theta + k\omega t)} \sin(\omega z) + \]

\[ + \hat{K}_{cc}(m, k, L) e^{i((3L-k)\theta + k\omega t)} \cos(\omega z) + \]

\[ + \hat{K}_{cc}(m, k, L) e^{i((3L-k)\theta + k\omega t)} \sin(\omega z) + \]

\[ + \hat{K}_{cc}(m, k, L) e^{i((3L-k)\theta + k\omega t)} \cos(\omega z) \],

(30)

This complex linear current density can be transformed from the complex domain back to (29), by taking the real or imaginary part of each component.

B. Circumferential component of linear current density

The circumferential component of the linear current density can be derived using the same procedure, alternatively from the continuity equation as

\[ \frac{\partial K_{cc}}{\partial z} = -\frac{1}{r} \frac{\partial K_{cc}}{\partial \theta}. \]  

(31)

However, there is no need for the circumferential component of the linear current density for the field calculation. This statement results from the continuity equation with absence of the free charge conservation and Ampere’s law. If on the boundary with linear current density the transition conditions for the normal and a single tangential (axial or circumferential) magnetic field components have been satisfied, the second tangential component is also satisfied [12].

C. Linear current density in rotor reference frame

The axial component of the linear current density, (30), is given in the stator reference frame. This means that the harmonics are traveling with respect to the stator. However for the rotor eddy-current calculation the expression should be transferred to the rotor reference frame, since only the harmonics rotating with respect to the rotor induce eddy-currents. Therefore, the angular position of the rotor is linked to the angular position of the stator through the angular velocity of the rotor as

\[ \theta = \theta_r + \omega t, \]  

(32)

where \( \theta_r \) is the angular position in the rotor reference frame \([\text{rad}]\). Substituting (32) equation into (30) results in the expression of the axial component of the linear current density in the rotor reference frame.
\[ K_z(\theta, z, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{L} e^{i((3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t)} \cos(\omega_z z) \]

\[ = K_{z1} + K_{z2}, \]

\[ K_{z1} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{L} e^{i((3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t)} \cos(\omega_{z1} z), \]

\[ \omega_{z1} = \frac{(3L - k - \frac{m}{2})\pi}{l}, \]

\[ K_{z2} = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \sum_{k=1}^{L} e^{i((3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t)} \cos(\omega_{z2} z), \]

\[ \omega_{z2} = \frac{(3L - k + \frac{m}{2})\pi}{l}, \]

IV. THREE-DIMENSIONAL MODEL SYNTHESIS OF SLOTLESS WINDING MACHINES

This section describes the realization procedure of the 3D HM. For validation, the model is implemented for fixed parameter Faulhaber, rhombic and diamond shaped windings, as shown in Fig. 3. The axial component of the linear current density of these windings is given in section Appendix.

Only the 3D HM synthesis for a PM machine with rhombic winding is derived in detail in this paper, i.e. on the slotless PM machine as shown in Fig. 4a. Here, the rotor is completely made of a diametrically magnetized single PM, and, as discussed before, the PM excitation field is not considered, thus the PM is modeled as a conducting region. The back iron is infinitely permeable, and the winding is represented by an air region with linear current density on its boundary (between air and back-iron). The resultant model consists of two regions: the PM and air gap, as shown in Fig. 4b.

Finally, an important model detail is the axial periodicity. In [8], where the 3D HM of the Faulhaber winding machines is presented, the model has an axial periodicity of a single winding length. However, the rotor usually overhangs the winding, which influences the induced eddy-currents distribution, thus the assumption in [8] leads to an error in the rotor eddy-current estimation and magnetic field. To overcome this, the axial periodicity of the model is set to \( T_z = 2l \) as shown in Fig. 4b. However, this axial periodicity automatically assumes that the back-iron length equals the axial periodicity. The authors realize that this is not a completely correct implementation, since ideally the axial periodicity should be equal to the rotor length. Nevertheless, this assumption simplifies the derivation of the linear current density expression and the obtained results are more accurate than the results shown in [8].

A. HM model of PM machine with rhombic winding

The implementation of the 3D HM starts with the derivation of the linear current density, which is, for the rhombic winding, given as
This solution contains both the first and second component of the linear current density distribution. For the air region the solution is

\[ W_{a1}(m, k, L) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (C_{a1}(m, k, L)I_{3L-k}(\omega_1 z) + \right) + D_{a1}(m, k, L)K_{3L-k}(\omega_1 z) \sin(\omega_1 z) e^{i(3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t}), \]  

and the second component as

\[ W_{a2}(m, k, L) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} (C_{a2}(m, k, L)I_{3L-k}(\omega_2 z) + \right) + D_{a2}(m, k, L)K_{3L-k}(\omega_2 z) \sin(\omega_2 z) e^{i(3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t}). \]  

2) 2D harmonic model

A 2D HM is employed when the linear current density becomes \( z \)-independent, e.g. the current distribution is inherently independent of \( z \), as one of the components of the diamond winding linear current density (see Appendix C), or when \( \omega_z = 0 \).

Similarly to the 3D model and taking (6) and (34), the solution in the PM region is

\[ A_{2}(k, L) = \left\{ \begin{array}{ll} C_{PM}(k, L)I_{3L-k}(\beta_{PM} r) e^{i(3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t}) & \text{if } L \neq 0, \\
C_{PM}(k, L)I_{abs}(3L-k) e^{i(3L-k)\theta + 3L\omega t}) & \text{if } L = 0, \end{array} \right. \]  

\[ \beta_{PM}^2 = j3L\omega \sigma_{PM} \mu_{PM}, \]  

\[ \xi_{PM}^2 = \omega_z^2 + \beta_{PM}^2. \]  

This solution contains both the first and second component of the linear current density distribution. For the air region the solution is
\[ A_z(k, L) = \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} (C_z(k, L)r^{-(3L-k)} + D_z(k, L)r^{3L-k})e^{i(3L-k)\theta} + 3L \alpha t). \]  

(40)

3) Determination of unknown coefficients

To determine the unknown coefficients in (35)-(40), a system of equations based on the boundary condition information is composed, for the 3D HM as

\[
\begin{align*}
B_{PM} - B_{ra} &= 0, & r &= r_m \\
H_{PM} - H_{\theta a} &= 0, & r &= r_m \\
H_{PM} - H_{\theta a} &= 0, & r &= r_m \\
H_{\theta a} &= K_z, & r &= r_{si}
\end{align*}
\]

(41)

This system of equations consists of four equation which equals to the number of unknowns in the PM and air regions in the 3D HM. The system of equations for the 2D HM is

\[
\begin{align*}
B_{PM} - B_{ra} &= 0, & r &= r_m \\
H_{PM} - H_{\theta a} &= 0, & r &= r_m \\
H_{\theta a} &= K_z, & r &= r_{si}
\end{align*}
\]

(42)

Consequently solving these system of equations for both components of the axial linear current density, the unknown coefficients calculated.

B. Calculation of rotor eddy-current losses

Equation (22) is used to calculate the rotor losses due to the induced eddy-currents, however analytically this equation is difficult to implement. This difficulty is related to the fact that magnetic and electric field strengths in (22) can have several components due to the linear current density distribution, which makes the analytical solution of the loss calculation rather complicated.

Therefore, a numerical approach is implemented that assumes the division of the rotor surface into small areas/elements (\(S_e\)), as shown in Fig. 5. The rotor eddy-current losses are calculated for each element separately and eventually summarized together. The values of the electrical and magnetic field strengths are determined in the center of these elements. Mathematically for the case of rhombic winding this can be formulated as

\[
P = -\sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \sum_{v=1}^{V} \sum_{w=1}^{W} S_e \frac{2}{S_e} \text{Re}(E_{Z,v,w}^{e}(k)H_{\theta,v,w}^{e}(k) - E_{Z,v,w}^{e}(k)H_{\theta,v,w}^{e}(k)), \]

(43)

where \(v\) and \(w\) indicate the element position in \(z\) and \(\theta\) directions, 1 and 2 are indexes corresponding to the quantities resulting from the first and second component of the rhombic winding linear current density, and \(V\) and \(W\) are number of elements in \(z\) and \(\theta\) directions, thus \(V \cdot W\) results in the number of elements the rotor is divided into.

V. Model Validation

The 3D semi-analytical model validation is done by comparison of radial flux densities and rotor eddy-current losses, obtained by the semi-analytical and 3D FEM models. The material and geometrical properties of the benchmark machines are summarized in Table I.

The software used to build the 3D FEM models is Flux 12 from Cedrat. The iron core permeability in the 3D FEM model is set to infinity, and the iron (axial) length is equal to the winding length \(l\). The windings in FEM models are modeled by means of non-meshed coils which represent non-conducting conductor volumes with imposed current density.

Table I: Material and geometrical properties of the benchmark PM machines

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter [symbol]</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speed ([\Omega])</td>
<td>10(^{3}) rpm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relative magnetic permeability of PM ([\mu_{PM}])</td>
<td>1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electric conductivity of PM ([\sigma_{PM}])</td>
<td>5.9 (10^{7}) S/m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of turns per coil ([N])</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winding spread ([\alpha])</td>
<td>2(\pi/8) rad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Machine active length ([l])</td>
<td>20 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magnet radius ([r_m])</td>
<td>2.75 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stator bore inner radius ([r_{si}])</td>
<td>5 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stator bore outer radius ([r_{so}])</td>
<td>8 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air-gap length ([\delta])</td>
<td>0.5 mm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(L)</td>
<td>-11 (\Omega)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(m)</td>
<td>1 (\Omega)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(V), (W)</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A. Magnetic flux density

The magnetic flux density radial components of the benchmark PM machines obtained by the semi-analytical model are illustrated in Fig. 6. These are extracted for the first time harmonic component with a phase current peak value of 1A. Figure 7 shows the relative difference of the radial magnetic flux densities obtained by the analytical model and the 3D FEM for the benchmark machines. The small
difference indicates a good agreement between these models, where the maximum relative difference is less than 10% and the weighted mean value over the active part of the rotor is about 3%, respectively. Further, it can be seen that the difference replicates the winding geometries. Additionally, to give a visual impression of the magnetic flux density difference between the semi-analytical and 3D FEM models, where 2D plots of radial flux densities of the benchmark machines are illustrated in Fig. 8.

### B. Rotor eddy-current losses

To summarize the results of the rotor eddy-current loss calculation, Table II provides the losses per harmonic for the rotating speed of 100 000 rpm with both the semi-analytical and FEM analysis, respectively. Within this simulation, the phase current amplitude for all time harmonic components for the convenience is assumed to be 1A. This, however, represents a theoretical value, since it is important to account for the rotor eddy-current losses in PM machines, especially in high-speed ones, to avoid thermal overloading of the rotor. This summary illustrates that the difference between the results of the semi-analytical and FEM analysis does not exceed 5%, which validates the 3D semi-analytical model. It needs noting that this model does allow the eddy-current loss calculation for all integer time harmonics, however without triplet harmonics due to the considered three phase system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Harmonic Order $k$</th>
<th>$P$ [W]</th>
<th>Faulhaber</th>
<th>SANA</th>
<th>FEM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.5 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>9.5 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>3.7 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3.0 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>9.5 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>3.6 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhombic</td>
<td>1.6 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>8.2 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>3.2 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.121</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.7 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>8.3 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>3.2 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diamond</td>
<td>9.1 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>1.4 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>5.5 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.197</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9.5 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>1.4 · 10^{-9}</td>
<td>5.5 · 10^{-2}</td>
<td>0.209</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### VI. Conclusion

This paper presents a complete 3D model derivation for accurate modeling of slotless PM machines with different winding shapes, including skewed. This semi-analytical approach does allow to calculate the magnetic field in all regions and electric field in regions with an assigned conductivity. More specifically this paper discussed extraction of the induced rotor eddy-current losses using semi-analytical model. This approach is based on a magnetic field derivation from the Maxwell equations by means of magnetic vector potential and magnetic second order vector potential in the cylindrical coordinates. The source of the armature reaction is implemented using a linear current density which is expressed as Fourier series.

To validate the model, three benchmark slotless PM machines with fixed parameter Faulhaber, rhombic and diamond windings have been modeled. The obtained results illustrate that the difference replicates the winding geometries. Additionally, to give a visual impression of the magnetic flux density difference between the semi-analytical and 3D FEM models, where 2D plots of radial flux densities of the benchmark machines are illustrated in Fig. 8.

**Figure 6:** Radial component of the armature reaction magnetic flux density of the benchmark PM machines with a) Faulhaber, b) rhombic, and c) diamond slotless winding types at $r = r_m$. The obtained results
Figure 7: Relative difference between radial component of the armature reaction flux densities obtained semi-analytically and by 3D FEM for the benchmark PM machines with a) Faulhaber, b) rhombic, and c) diamond slotless winding types at $r = r_m$.

Figure 8: Relative difference between radial component of armature reaction flux densities obtained by a semi-analytically (SANA) and a 3D FEM (FEM) for the benchmark PM machines with a) Faulhaber, b) rhombic, and c) diamond slotless winding types at $r = r_m$ and $z = -5$ mm.
have been compared with those obtained by 3D FEM, and this comparison showed a good agreement. The discrepancy, between magnetic flux density and rotor eddy-current losses, had a maximum of 10% and 5%, respectively, between the 3D semi-analytical and 3D FEM models for the benchmark machines. The calculation time of semi-analytical approach for all winding configurations is less than a minute where for the 3D FEM it takes a few days to reach the steady-state point, assuming equal hardware conditions. For slotless PM machines with comparable winding shapes and physics as the benchmark topologies, 3D harmonic modeling has proven to be an excellent tool for modeling and design optimization in terms of computational time, as well as accuracy.

APPENDIX

A. Linear current density of rhombic winding

To calculate the axial component of the linear current density distribution, the rhombic winding is divided into four current carrying filaments as shown in Fig. 9. Following the coefficients in the distribution function (25) are derived using (26) as

\[ c_{a} = \frac{\kappa}{4 \cdot 2l \cdot 2\pi} \cdot \left( \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_1} \sin\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_3} \sin\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz + \right. \\
\left. + \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_5} \sin\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_7} \sin\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz \right), \quad (44) \]

\[ c_{c} = \frac{\kappa}{4 \cdot 2l \cdot 2\pi} \cdot \left( \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_1} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \cos\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_3} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \cos\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz + \right. \\
\left. + \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_5} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \cos\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_7} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \cos\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz \right), \quad (45) \]

\[ c_{s} = \frac{\kappa}{4 \cdot 2l \cdot 2\pi} \cdot \left( \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_1} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_3} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz + \right. \\
\left. + \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_5} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(-\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz - \right. \\
\left. - \int_{-l/2}^{l/2} \int_{0}^{\theta_7} \cos\left(\frac{\nu 2\pi}{2\pi} \theta\right) \sin\left(\frac{m 2\pi}{2l} z\right) \ d\theta dz \right), \quad (46) \]

Figure 9: A phase coil of a rhombic winding represented as the four current carrying strips. The blue arrows represent the current direction.
The rhombic winding is

simplifications the distribution function of three phases for the

to the number of current carrying filaments, and the sign,

the equations of the filament border lines, where these

these coefficients contain four integrals, which correspond

to the limits of the inner integrals

where

These coefficients should be calculated for the following cases

which eventually results in nine coefficients. In the case of

only coefficients \( c_{sc} \) and \( c_{cc} \) for \( \nu > 0, m > 0 \) do not result in a zero. Following some mathematical

simplifications the distribution function of three phases for the

the axial component of the linear current density for the

Substituting this distribution function into (24) and having in

mind the following trigonometric identity:

the rhombic winding is
B. Linear current density of Faulhaber winding

\[ K_z(\theta, z, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{L=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{K}_c \sin \left( \left(3L - k\right)\theta + k\omega t \right) \cdot \left( \sin \left( \omega z_1 z + \frac{\left(3L - k\right)\pi}{2} \right) + \sin \left( \omega z_2 z + \frac{\left(3L - k\right)\pi}{2} \right) \right) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \hat{K}_s \sin \left( \left(3L - k\right)\theta + k\omega t \right) \sin \left( \omega z_3 z + \frac{\left(3L - k\right)\pi}{2} \right), \]

\[ \omega z_1 = \frac{\left(3L - k + m\right)\pi}{2l}, \]
\[ \omega z_2 = \frac{\left(3L - k - m\right)\pi}{2l}, \]
\[ \omega z_3 = \frac{\left(3L - k\right)\pi}{2l}, \]

\[ \hat{K}_c = \frac{3Nl}{2s\rho_{si}} \frac{\sin((3L - k)\pi/3)}{m(3L - k)\pi^2}, \]

\[ \hat{K}_s = \frac{3Nl}{2s\rho_{si}} \frac{2\sin((3L - k)\pi/3)}{(3L - k)\pi}. \]

C. Linear current density of diamond winding

\[ K_z(\theta, z, t) = \sum_{m=1}^{\infty} \int_{L=-\infty}^{\infty} \hat{K}_c \sin \left( \left(3L - k\right)\theta + k\omega t \right) \left( \cos(\omega z_1 z) + \cos(\omega z_2 z) \right) + \hat{K}_s \sin \left( \left(3L - k\right)\theta + k\omega t \right) \cos \left( \frac{m\pi}{2l} z \right) \right) + \sum_{k=1}^{\infty} \hat{K}_s \sin \left( \left(3L - k\right)\theta + k\omega t \right), \]

\[ \omega z_1 = \frac{\left(3L - k - \frac{m}{2}\right)\pi}{l}, \]
\[ \omega z_2 = \frac{\left(3L - k + \frac{m}{2}\right)\pi}{l}, \]

\[ \hat{K}_c = \frac{3Nl}{2s\rho_{si}} \frac{16(1 + 2\cos(m\pi/4))\cos((3L - k)\pi)}{2m(3L - k)\pi^2}, \]
\[ \cdot \sin((m\pi/8)^2) \sin(\pi(3L - k)/3), \]

\[ \hat{K}_s = \frac{3Nl}{2s\rho_{si}} \frac{8\sin((3L - k)\pi/3)\sin((3L - k)\pi/2)}{m(3L - k)\pi^2}, \]

\[ \hat{K}_c = \frac{3Nl}{2s\rho_{si}} \frac{2(2\cos((3L - k)\pi/6) + \cos((3L - k)\pi/2))}{(3L - k)\pi}, \]
\[ \cdot \sin((3L - k)\pi/6)^2. \]