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Thermal Modeling and Experimental Validation in the Rotor Region of Hydrogenerator With Different Rotor Structures

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ABSTRACT Thermal management is often considered a bottleneck in the pursuit of the next generation hydrogenerator in the electric power system. Overheating of the complex rotor parts has become one of the main problems affecting safe and stable hydrogenerator operation. In this paper, a 250 MW hydrogenerator is analyzed. The transient electromagnetic field of the hydrogenerator is calculated and the losses of the rotor parts are obtained. The rotation of the hydrogenerator rotor is considered. Three-dimensional fluid and thermal mathematic and physical models of the hydrogenerator are established. The loss values from electromagnetic field calculations are applied to the rotor parts as heat sources in the temperature field. After solving the fluid and thermal equations of fluid-solid conjugated heat transfer, influence of the structures of rotor support plate, rotor pole body insulation, and rotor excitation winding on the fluid flow and temperature distribution in the rotor region of hydrogenerator is studied using the finite volume method. The calculated temperature result of rotor excitation winding is compared with the measured value. The calculated temperature result agrees well with the measured value. It provides an important reference for optimizing the rotor structure of the larger hydrogenerator.

INDEX TERMS Hydrogenerator, different rotor structures, rotor rotation, transient electromagnetic field, fluid flow, temperature distribution.

I. INTRODUCTION

As a key energy conversion equipment in the electric power system, the safety and stability of hydrogenerator are very important. With the capacity increase of the hydrogenerator, overheating problem of hydrogenerator become more and more serious. Because the current of the rotor excitation winding is high, it results in the high temperature of the rotor excitation winding in the hydrogenerator. The structures of rotor support plate, rotor pole body insulation, and rotor excitation winding could affect obviously the temperature

of the rotor region in the hydrogenerator. Reasonable rotor structure design could reduce the temperature of rotor parts in the rotor region.

In recent years, researchers have extensively focused on the physical field in the hydrogenerator. For example, Meiswinkel *et al.* performed transient Roebel bar force calculation in large salient-pole hydrogenerators. Carounagarane *et al.* analyzed on thermal behavior of large hydrogenerators operating with continuous overloads [2]. Øyvang *et al.* performed the online model-based thermal prediction for flexible control of an air-cooled hydrogenerator [3]. Dirani *et al.* researched the rotor interturn short circuit impact on large hydrogenerator magnetic quantities [4].

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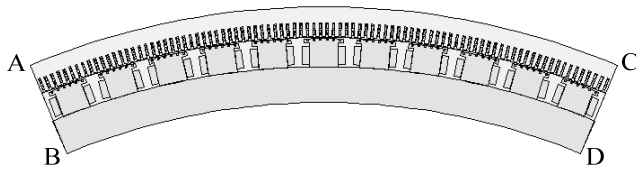


FIGURE 1. Solving region of the transient electromagnetic field in the hydrogenerator.

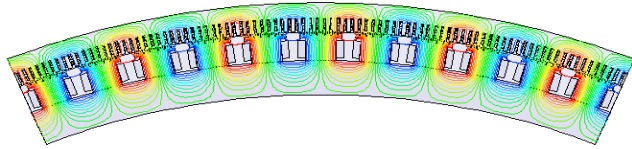


FIGURE 2. Flux distribution of this hydrogenerator.

Valavi performed the electromagnetic analysis and electrical signature-based detection of rotor inter-turn faults in salient-pole synchronous machine [5]. Akiror *et al.* studied the challenges in modeling of large synchronous machines [6]. Gbégbé *et al.* performed the damper currents simulation of large hydro-generator using the combination of FEM and coupled circuits models [7]. Schrittwieser *et al.* analyzed on temperature distribution in the stator of large synchronous machines considering heat conduction and heat convection [8]. Some other experts extensively studied hydro-generator [9], [10], but very few focused on the influence of rotor structure on the fluid flow and temperature distribution in the rotor region of hydrogenerator.

In this paper, a 250 MW hydrogenerator is analyzed. The transient electromagnetic field of the hydrogenerator is calculated and the losses of the rotor parts are obtained. The rotation of the hydrogenerator rotor is considered. Three-dimensional fluid and thermal mathematic and physical models of the hydrogenerator are established. The loss values from electromagnetic field calculations are applied to the rotor parts as heat sources in the temperature field. After solving the fluid and thermal equations of fluid-solid conjugated heat transfer, influence of the structures of rotor support plate, rotor pole body insulation, and rotor excitation winding on the fluid flow and temperature distribution in the rotor region of hydrogenerator is studied using the finite volume method. This paper provides an important reference for the reasonable design of rotor structure in the larger hydrogenerator.

II. ANALYSIS OF TRANSIENT ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD

Based on classical electromagnetic theory, mathematical and physical models of the transient electromagnetic field in the hydrogenerator are established [11]. Fig. 1 shows the solving region of the transient electromagnetic field in the hydrogenerator.

Fig. 2 shows the flux distribution of this hydrogenerator. The loss of the rotor exciting winding is 558.1 kW in the rotor region of hydrogenerator. The loss of the rotor magnetic pole surface is caused by the tooth harmonic magnetic field.



Hydrogenerator unit

FIGURE 3. 250MW hydrogenerator unit.

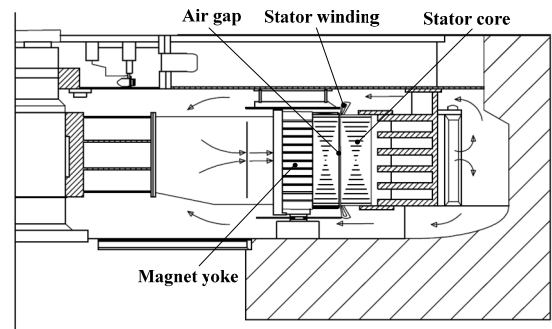


FIGURE 4. Ventilation cooling system of 250MW hydrogenerator.

TABLE 1. Additional loss in the rotor region of hydrogenerator.

	$P_{2vk}(kW)$	$P_{Fep}(kW)$	$P_{kv}(kW)$
Calculated results	44.78	190.75	9.13
Design values	42.535	194.05	—

It includes: (1) Additional loss P_{2vk} caused by harmonic MMF of stator teeth on the surfaces of the rotor magnetic pole and rotor damper bar. (2) Additional loss P_{Fep} of the rotor magnetic pole surface under no-load rated voltage. (3) Rotor surface loss P_{kv} caused by the stator windings MMF harmonic. Table 1 shows the additional loss in the rotor region of hydrogenerator.

III. FLUID-THERMAL COUPLING ANALYSIS MODEL OF HYDROGENERATOR

Fig. 3 shows 250MW hydrogenerator unit. Fig. 4 shows the ventilation cooling system of 250 MW hydrogenerator. Table 2 gives the basic parameters of hydrogenerator. According to the actual structure of 250 MW hydrogenerator, 3-D fluid and thermal coupling analysis model of the hydrogenerator rotor region is established, as shown in Fig. 5.

Fig. 5(a) shows the solving region of hydrogenerator rotor. Fig. 5(b) shows the rotor structure of hydrogenerator. It includes the rotor yoke, rotor ventilation ducts, rotor excitation winding, rotor support plate, rotor pole body, rotor pole body insulation, rotor press plate, and rotor end ring, etc. In the 3-D fluid and thermal coupling analysis model of the hydrogenerator rotor region, fluid velocity of the rotor region inlet is 2 m/s under the rated operating condition. The fluid

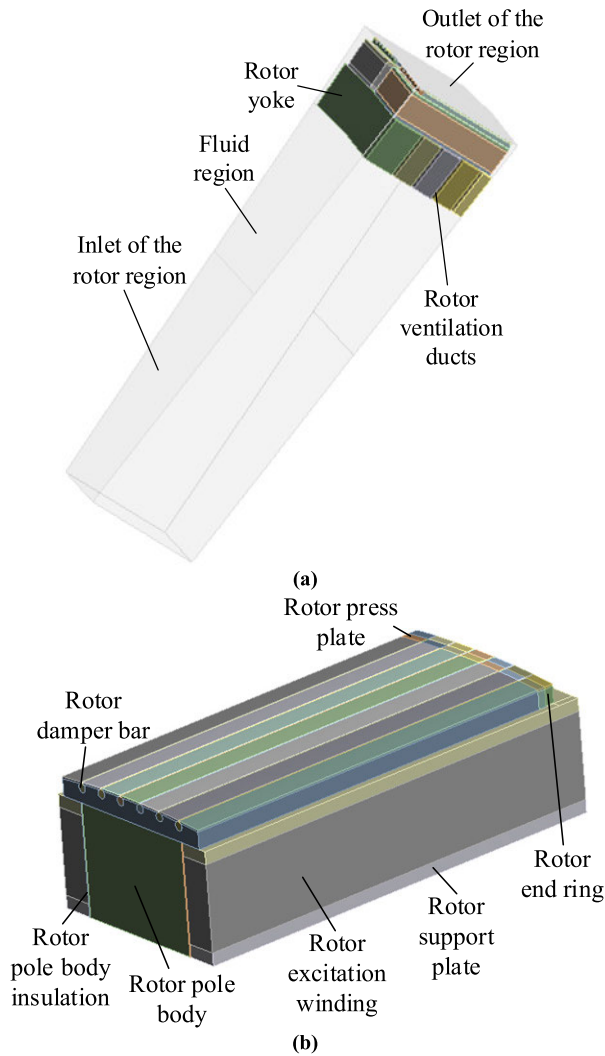


FIGURE 5. 3-D fluid and thermal coupling analysis model of the hydrogenerator rotor region. (a) Solving region. (b) Rotor structure.

TABLE 2. Basic parameters of hydrogenerator.

Rated power	250 MW	Number of poles	88
Outer diameter of rotor	16580m	Frequency	50Hz
Width of rotor ventilation ducts	32mm	Number of rotor ventilation ducts	9

temperature of the rotor region inlet is 40°C. Rated rotation speed of the rotor is 68.2r/min.

In the 250 MW hydrogenerator rotor region, fluid flow and heat transfer satisfy the laws of mass conservation, momentum conservation, and energy conservation [12]–[17]. The mathematical equations of 3-D fluid and thermal coupling field in the rotor region of hydrogenerator are given as follows.

The law of mass conservation is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\partial \rho}{\partial t} + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v}) = 0 \quad (1)$$

where \vec{v} is velocity vector, t is time, and ρ is fluid density.

The law of momentum conservation is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \vec{v}) + \nabla \cdot (\rho \vec{v} \vec{v}) = -\nabla p + \nabla \cdot (\bar{\tau}) + \rho \vec{g} + \vec{F} \quad (2)$$

where p is static pressure, $\bar{\tau}$ is stress tensor, $\rho \vec{g}$ and \vec{F} are gravitational body force, and external body forces, respectively.

The stress tensor $\bar{\tau}$ is expressed as follows:

$$\bar{\tau} = \mu \left[(\nabla \vec{v} + \nabla \vec{v}^T) - \frac{2}{3} \nabla \cdot \vec{v} I \right] \quad (3)$$

where μ is the molecular viscosity, I is the unit tensor, and the second term on the right side denotes the effect of volume dilation.

The law of energy conservation is expressed as follows:

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho E) + \nabla \cdot (\vec{v} (\rho E + p)) = \nabla \cdot (k_{eff} \nabla T) - \sum_j h_j \vec{J}_j + (\bar{\tau}_{eff} \cdot \vec{v}) + S_h \quad (4)$$

where k_{eff} is the effective conductivity, \vec{J}_j is the diffusion flux of species, j the first three terms on the right side of Equation (4) represent energy transfer due to conduction, species diffusion, and viscous dissipation, respectively. S_h includes the heat of chemical reaction and any other volumetric heat sources.

For the Reynolds number larger than 2300, the fluid is turbulent. In this paper, turbulence is simulated with the standard k - ϵ model. Boltzmann equation with kinetic energy of turbulence k and diffusion factor ϵ is used in the turbulence model as follows:

$$\begin{cases} \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho k) + \text{div}(\rho k \vec{u}) = \text{div} \left[\left(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_k} \right) \text{grad} k \right] + G_k - \rho \epsilon \\ \frac{\partial}{\partial t} (\rho \epsilon) + \text{div}(\rho \epsilon \vec{u}) = \text{div} \left[\left(\mu + \frac{\mu_t}{\sigma_\epsilon} \right) \text{grad} \epsilon \right] + G_{1\epsilon} \frac{\epsilon}{k} G_k - G_{2\epsilon} \rho \frac{\epsilon^2}{k} \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

where G_k is the generation rate of the turbulence, μ_t is the turbulent viscosity coefficient, $G_{1\epsilon}$, $G_{2\epsilon}$ are constants and σ_k , σ_ϵ are Planck constants.

IV. INFLUENCE OF ROTOR STRUCTURE ON THE FLUID FLOW AND TEMPERATURE DISTRIBUTION IN THE ROTOR REGION OF HYDROGENERATOR

The structures of the rotor support plate, rotor pole body insulation, and rotor excitation winding affect directly fluid flow between the rotor magnetic poles and temperature of the rotor excitation winding. During the heat transfer and fluid flow calculations in the rotor region of hydrogenerator, loss values obtained from transient electromagnetic field calculation with different rotor structures are applied to the rotor parts as heat source. The rotation of the hydrogenerator rotor is considered. After solving the fluid and thermal equations

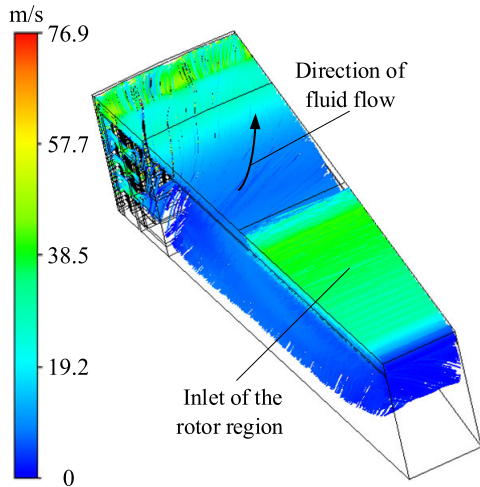


FIGURE 6. Streamline of fluid flow in the rotor region of hydrogenerator when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

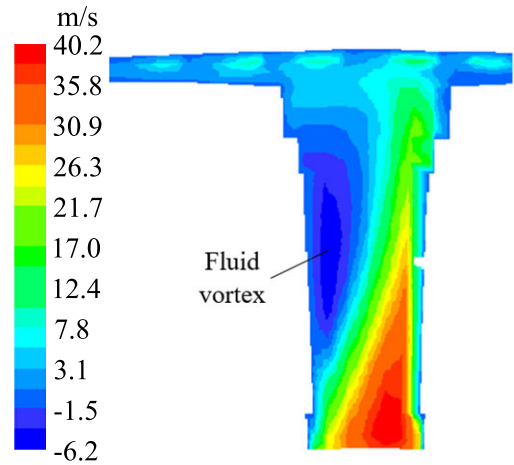


FIGURE 8. Radial fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

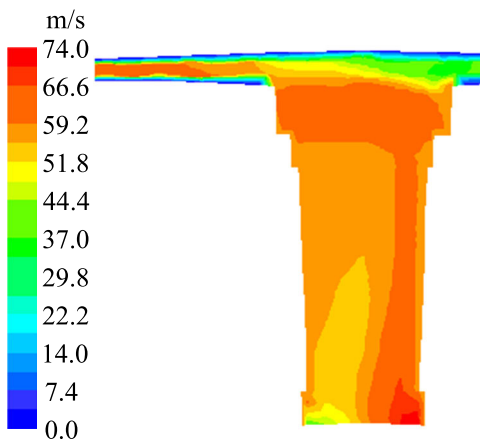


FIGURE 7. Fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

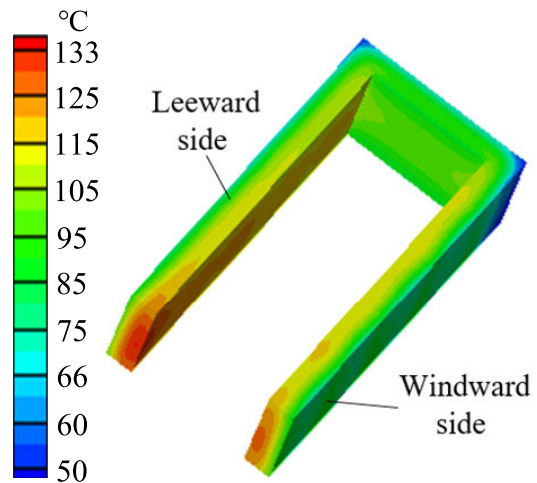


FIGURE 9. Temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding.

of fluid–solid conjugated heat transfer, influence of the width of rotor support plate, the thickness of rotor pole body insulation, and the width of the rotor excitation winding on the fluid flow and temperature distribution in the rotor region of hydrogenerator is determined [18]–[22].

A. INFLUENCE OF THE WIDTH OF THE ROTOR SUPPORT PLATE ON FLUID VELOCITY AND TEMPERATURE IN THE ROTOR REGION OF HYDROGENERATOR

Fig. 6 shows the streamline of fluid flow in the rotor region of hydrogenerator. The rotor rotation of the hydrogenerator drives the fluid flow in the rotor region. The highest fluid velocity in the rotor region is 76.9m/s when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

Figs. 7 and 8 show the distribution of fluid velocity and radial fluid velocity between the rotor magnetic poles when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm. It can be seen from Fig. 7 that the highest fluid velocity is 74m/s in this section when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm. In the rotor region of hydrogenerator, fluid

velocity in the radial direction plays a major role in cooling the rotor excitation winding. Fig. 7 shows that the highest fluid velocity is 40.2m/s in this section when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm. The highest radial fluid velocity is 1.4m/s lower than that under the original structure. Fluid vortex appears between the rotor magnetic poles.

Fig. 9 shows the temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 133°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 1°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 125°C on the windward side. It is 2°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the windward side under the original structure. Fig. 10 gives the isotherm of rotor excitation winding. The temperature of rotor excitation winding on the leeward is higher than that of rotor excitation winding on the windward side. The temperature difference of rotor excitation winding on the leeward side and on the windward side is 8°C.

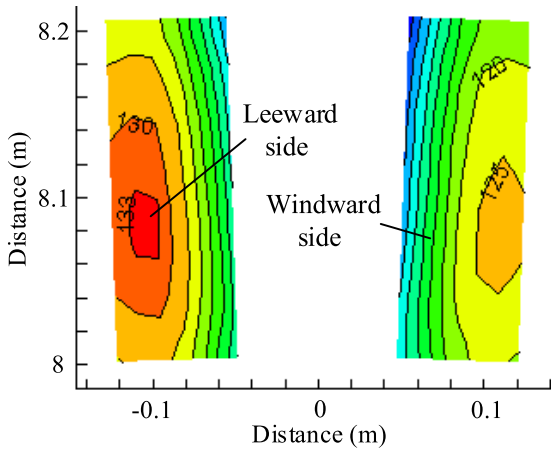


FIGURE 10. Isotherm of rotor excitation winding.

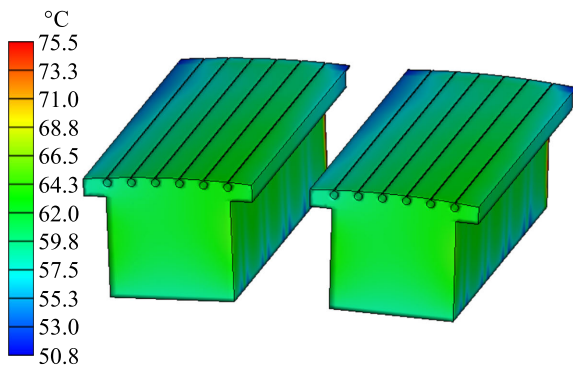


FIGURE 11. Temperature distribution of rotor pole body.

Figs. 11 and 12 give the temperature distribution of rotor pole body and rotor pole body insulation. The highest temperature of rotor pole body and rotor pole body insulation is 75.5°C and 107°C when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm, respectively. Rotor pole body insulation contacts with the rotor excitation winding. It results in the high temperature of rotor pole body insulation.

B. INFLUENCE OF THE THICKNESS OF THE ROTOR POLE BODY INSULATION ON THE FLUID VELOCITY AND TEMPERATURE IN THE ROTOR REGION OF HYDROGENERATOR

Figs. 13 and 14 show the distribution of fluid velocity and radial fluid velocity between the rotor magnetic poles when the thickness of rotor pole body insulation increases by 5mm. It can be seen from Fig. 13 that the highest fluid velocity is 74.1m/s in this section. Fig. 14 shows the highest radial fluid velocity is 42m/s in this section when the thickness of rotor pole body insulation increases by 5mm. The highest radial fluid velocity is 0.4m/s higher than that under the original structure.

Fig. 15 shows the temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding when the thickness of rotor pole body insulation increases by 5mm. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 138°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 6°C higher than that of the rotor excitation

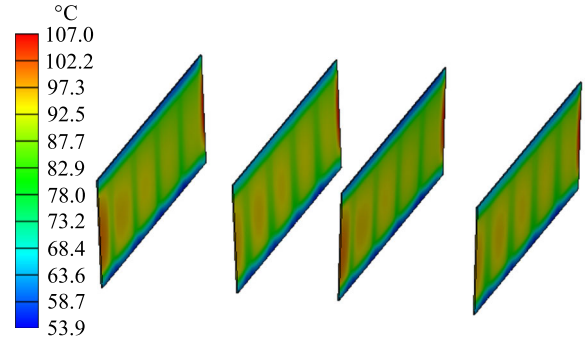


FIGURE 12. Temperature distribution of rotor pole body insulation.

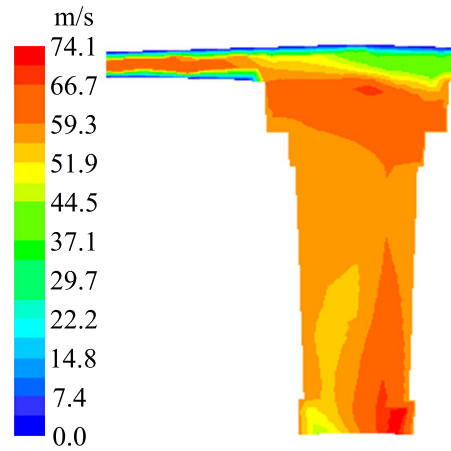


FIGURE 13. Fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

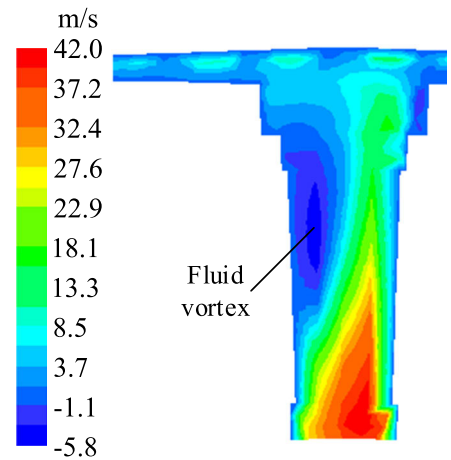


FIGURE 14. Radial fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm.

winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 135°C on the windward side. It is 12°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the windward side under the original structure. Fig. 16 gives the isotherm of rotor excitation winding. The temperature difference of rotor excitation winding on the leeward side and on the windward side is 3°C.

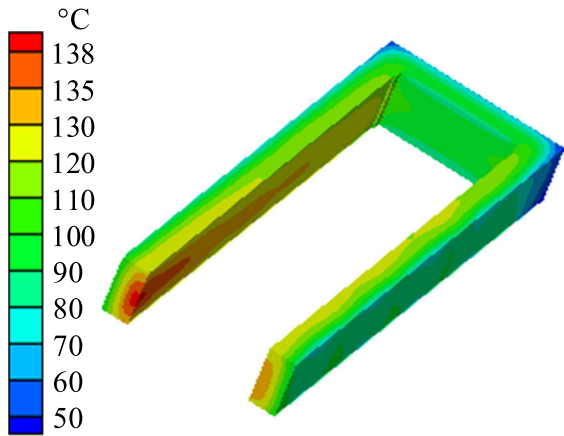


FIGURE 15. Temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding.

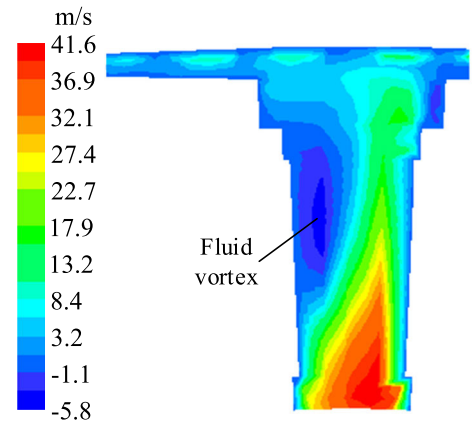


FIGURE 18. Radial fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm.

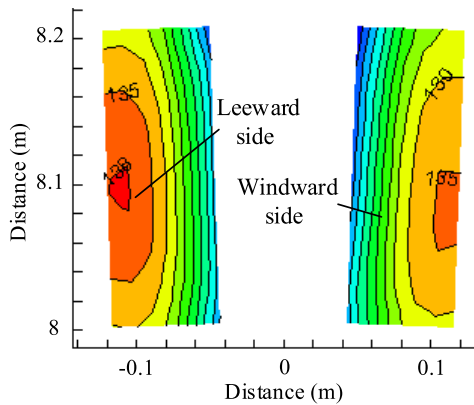


FIGURE 16. Isotherm of rotor excitation winding.

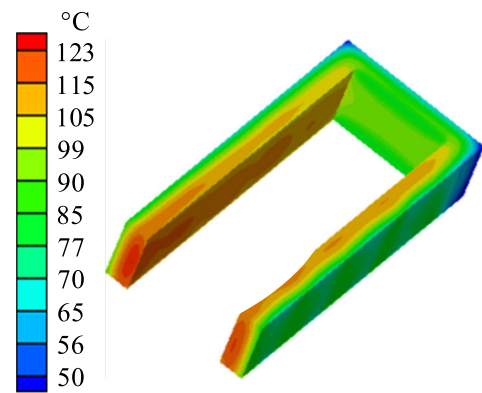


FIGURE 19. Temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding.

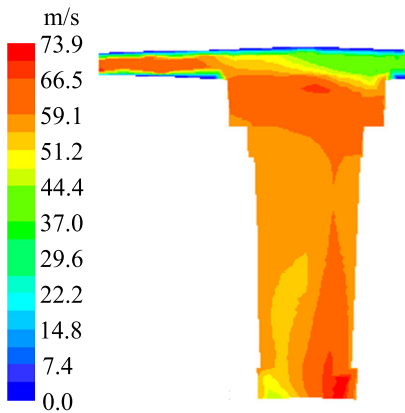


FIGURE 17. Fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm.

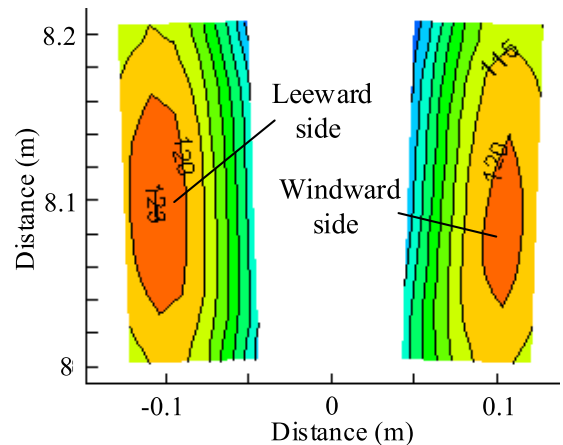


FIGURE 20. Isotherm of rotor excitation winding.

C. INFLUENCE OF THE WIDTH OF THE ROTOR EXCITATION WINDING ON THE FLUID VELOCITY AND TEMPERATURE IN THE ROTOR REGION OF HYDROGENERATOR

In order to study influence of the width of the rotor excitation winding on the fluid velocity and temperature distribution in the rotor region of hydrogenerator, the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm or decreases by 5mm when the current of the rotor excitation winding remains unchanged. Figs. 17 and 18 show the distribution of fluid

velocity and radial fluid velocity between the rotor magnetic poles when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm. It can be seen from Fig. 17 that the highest fluid velocity is 73.9m/s in this section. Fig. 18 shows the highest radial fluid velocity is 41.6m/s in this section when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm.

The heat density of the rotor excitation winding reduces as the width of the rotor excitation winding increases. Fig. 19 shows the temperature distribution of rotor excitation

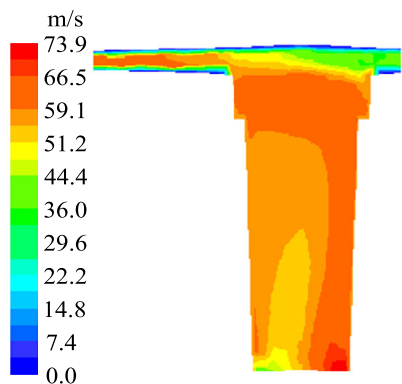


FIGURE 21. Fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm.

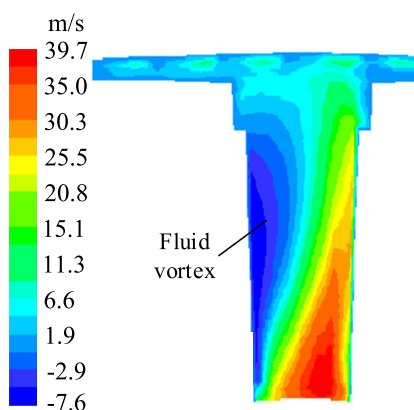


FIGURE 22. Radial fluid velocity distribution when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm.

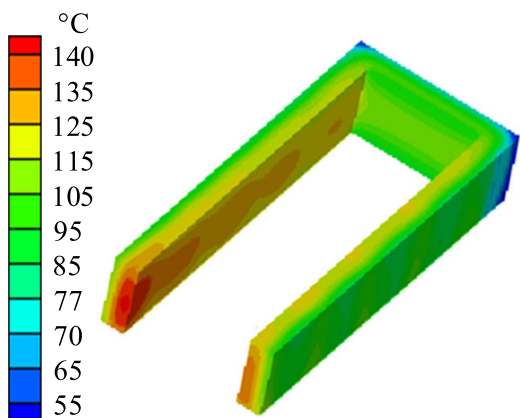


FIGURE 23. Temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding.

winding when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 123°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 9°C lower than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. Fig. 20 gives the isotherm of rotor excitation winding. The temperature difference of rotor excitation winding on the leeward side and on the windward side is 3°C.

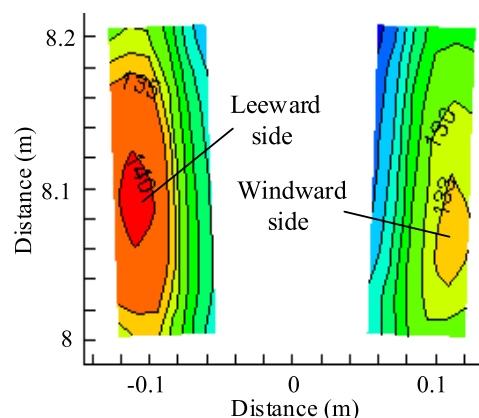


FIGURE 24. Isotherm of rotor excitation winding.

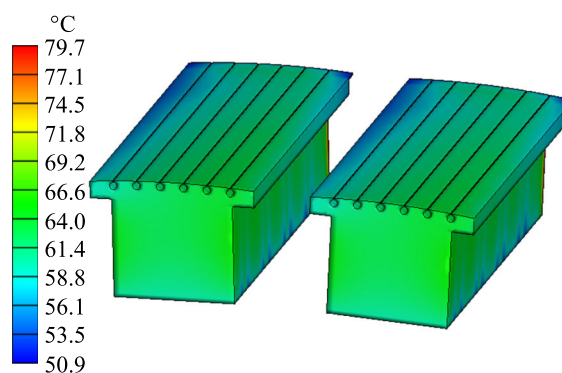


FIGURE 25. Temperature distribution of rotor pole body.

Figs. 21 and 22 show the distribution of fluid velocity and radial fluid velocity between the rotor magnetic poles when the width of the rotor excitation winding decreases by 5mm. Fig. 21 shows that the highest fluid velocity is 73.9m/s in this section. Fig. 22 shows the highest radial fluid velocity is 39.7m/s in this section when the width of the rotor excitation winding decreases by 5mm.

Fig. 23 shows the temperature distribution of rotor excitation winding when the width of the rotor excitation winding decreases by 5mm. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 140°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 8°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 133°C on the windward side. It is 10°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the windward side under the original structure. Fig. 24 gives the isotherm of rotor excitation winding. The temperature difference of rotor excitation winding on the leeward side and on the windward side is 7°C.

Figs. 25 and 26 give temperature distribution of rotor pole body and rotor pole body insulation. The highest temperature of rotor pole body and rotor pole body insulation is 79.7°C and 115.4°C when the width of the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm, respectively. The temperature difference of the highest temperature and the lowest temperature of rotor pole body is 28.8°C.

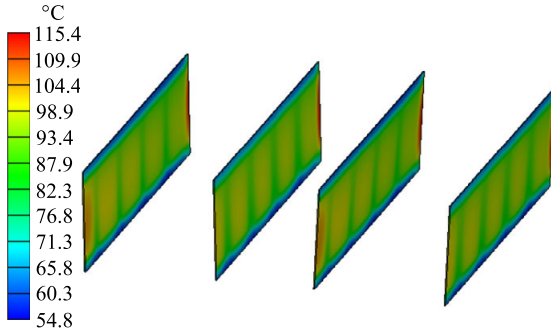


FIGURE 26. Temperature distribution of rotor pole body insulation.

TABLE 3. Measured value and calculated result of the temperature of rotor excitation winding.

Rotor excitation winding	Measured values	Calculated results
Temperature (°C)	108.6	106

D. PROTOTYPE EXPERIMENT AND VERIFICATION

In order to verify the accuracy of calculated results, the temperature of the rotor excitation winding is measured online at the power plant under the original structure. The measured average temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 108.6°C. The measured value and calculated result of the temperature of rotor excitation winding is shown in Table 3. It can be seen that the calculated result is close to the measured value. It shows the calculated result is accuracy and the calculated method is reliable.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, influence of the structures of the rotor support plate, rotor pole body insulation, and rotor excitation winding on the fluid flow between the rotor magnetic poles and temperature of the rotor parts is studied in the rotor region of hydrogenerator. Some conclusions are obtained as follows:

1. The highest fluid velocity is 76.9m/s when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 133°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 1°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of rotor pole body and rotor pole body insulation is 75.5°C and 107°C when the width of the rotor support plate reduces by 5mm, respectively.
2. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 138°C and appears on the leeward side when the thickness of rotor pole body insulation increases by 5mm. It is 6°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 135°C on the windward side. It is 12°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the windward side under the original structure. The temperature difference of rotor excitation winding on the leeward side and on the windward side is 3°C.
3. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 123°C and appears on the leeward side when the width of

the rotor excitation winding increases by 5mm. It is 9°C lower than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. When the width of the rotor excitation winding decreases by 5mm, the highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 140°C and appears on the leeward side. It is 8°C higher than that of the rotor excitation winding on the leeward side under the original structure. The highest temperature of the rotor excitation winding is 133°C on the windward side.

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