

# Enhancement of Torque Density in Wound Field Switched Flux Machines with Partitioned Stators Using Assisted Ferrites

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**Abstract:** In this paper, ferrites are applied in a partitioned stator wound field switched flux (PS-WFSF) machine to increase the air-gap flux density, and hence, the average electromagnetic torque and overload capability. Introducing short-circuited ferrites in the inner stator in the PS-WFSF machine can increase the open-circuit phase fundamental back-EMF and average electromagnetic torque at a 60 W copper loss by 2.33% and 3.77%, respectively. Moreover, the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites can exhibit a better overload capability than conventional PS-WFSF machines without ferrites, e.g., a 7.36% torque increment can be achieved when the copper loss is 120 W. The torque increment mechanism is analyzed and verified using finite element (FE) analysis. Moreover, the demagnetization of the ferrites in the proposed machine under rated on-load and overload conditions is investigated. Both prototypes of the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites and a conventional one without ferrite are built and tested to validate the analytical and FE analyses.

**Keywords:** Average electromagnetic torque, ferrite, flux switching, partitioned stator, switched flux, torque improvement, wound field

## 1 Introduction

Permanent magnet (PM) machines with rare-earth materials, e.g., NdFeB, have been widely adopted in various applications, including electric and hybrid electric vehicles, owing to their high torque density and efficiency<sup>[1-3]</sup>. However, rare-earth PMs are expensive and their supply is unstable<sup>[4]</sup>. Hence, wound field (WF) synchronous machines without rare-earth PMs have recently attracted interest owing to their lower cost<sup>[4]</sup>. Wound-rotor synchronous machines contain brushes and slip rings, which are essential for DC field excitation<sup>[5]</sup>. However, they can be eliminated in wound-stator synchronous machines in which both DC and AC windings are placed in the stator while the rotor is similar to that of the switched reluctance machine<sup>[6]</sup>, e.g., the WF switched flux (WFSF) machine<sup>[7-14]</sup>.

A single-phase WFSF machine was proposed and analyzed in Ref. [7], and the prototype was tested as a series motor with a current source inverter. Three-phase counterparts with various topologies were analyzed in Refs. [8-10]. In Ref. [12], an analytical method based on air-gap permeance was developed for WFSF machines for a faster design. In Ref. [13] and Ref. [14], WFSF motors were developed for electric vehicles, and prototypes were built and tested. WFSF machines also have the potential to be used in generators<sup>[15-16]</sup>, including high-temperature superconducting generators<sup>[17-19]</sup> and aerospace generators<sup>[20-22]</sup>.

Although WFSF machines have a low cost, their limitation is also apparent in that the torque density is relatively lower than that of rare-earth PM machines. Therefore, it is important to enhance the torque density of WFSF machines. Based on the magnetic gearing effect in stator-excitation machines<sup>[23-27]</sup>, a partitioned stator WFSF (PS-WFSF) machine with separated DC and AC windings in two stators was proposed and analyzed in

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Ref. [28], e.g., the 12/10-stator/rotor-pole PS-WFSF machine shown in Fig. 1a. Compared with the single-stator WFSF machine analyzed in Ref. [8], the PS-WFSF machine can exhibit >19% higher torque density owing to a higher total slot area for armature windings and field winding.

In this paper, to further increase the torque density and overload capability of the 12/10-stator/rotor-pole PS-WFSF machine shown in Fig. 1a but not introduce any rare-earth PM, based on the contents reported in Ref. [29], short-circuited ferrites are applied to increase the air-gap field density (Fig. 1b).

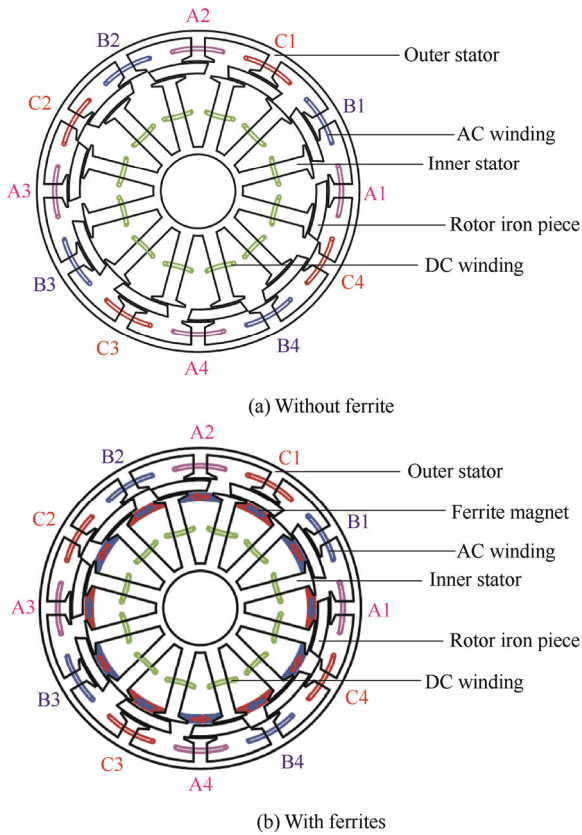


Fig. 1 Cross-sections of 12/10-stator/rotor-pole PS-WFSF machines without and with ferrites

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 introduces the machine topologies of the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites and the conventional PS-WFSF without ferrites. The torque increment mechanism is analyzed in Section 3. In Section 4, the contribution of ferrites and WF winding, as well as the armature winding, to the phase flux-linkage is analyzed using frozen permeability for open-circuit, rated on-load, and overload conditions. The demagnetization of the ferrites in the proposed

machine under rated on-load and overload conditions is investigated in Section 5. Prototypes of both PS-WFSF machines with and without ferrites were built and tested for experimental validation, and they are described in Section 6. The conclusions are provided in Section 7.

## 2 Machine topology and specifications

The 12/10-stator/rotor-pole PS-WFSF machine without ferrites is shown in Fig. 1a, and it consists of an outer stator wound by armature windings, an inner stator wound by DC windings, and a sandwiched rotor composed of several iron pieces. The main dimensional parameters are listed in Tab. 1, which can be referred to the linear illustration shown in Fig. 2. The parameters from  $R_{oso}$  to  $l_{itb}$  in Tab. 1 are fixed, while those from  $R_{osy}$  to  $\theta_{it}$  are globally optimized to achieve the largest average electromagnetic torque with a fixed total stack copper loss of  $P_{cu}=60$  W under brushless AC (BLAC) control and zero  $d$ -axis current control, i.e.,  $i_d=0$ .

Tab. 1 Main dimensional parameters of 12/10-pole PS-WFSF machines

Item	Value
Outer stator outer radius, $R_{oso}/\text{mm}$	45
Stack length, $l_s/\text{mm}$	25
Inner stator inner radius, $R_{isi}/\text{mm}$	10.4
Outer air-gap width, $g_o/\text{mm}$	0.5
Inner air-gap width, $g_i/\text{mm}$	0.5
Outer stator tip top length, $l_{ot}/\text{mm}$	0.5
Outer stator tip bottom length, $l_{otb}/\text{mm}$	1.5
Inner stator tip top length, $l_{it}/\text{mm}$	0.5
Inner stator tip bottom length, $l_{itb}/\text{mm}$	1.5
Outer stator yoke radius, $R_{osy}/\text{mm}$	43
Outer stator inner radius, $R_{osi}/\text{mm}$	36.5
Rotor iron piece inner radius, $R_{ri}/\text{mm}$	33
Inner stator yoke radius, $R_{isi}/\text{mm}$	12.5
Outer stator tooth arc, $\theta_{ot}/(^{\circ})$	6
Outer stator tip arc, $\theta_{ot}/(^{\circ})$	4
Rotor iron piece outer arc, $\theta_{ro}/(^{\circ})$	27
Rotor iron piece inner arc, $\theta_{ri}/(^{\circ})$	24
Inner stator tooth arc, $\theta_{isi}/(^{\circ})$	7
Inner stator tip arc, $\theta_{it}/(^{\circ})$	5
PM thickness, $T_{PM}/\text{mm}$	2.5



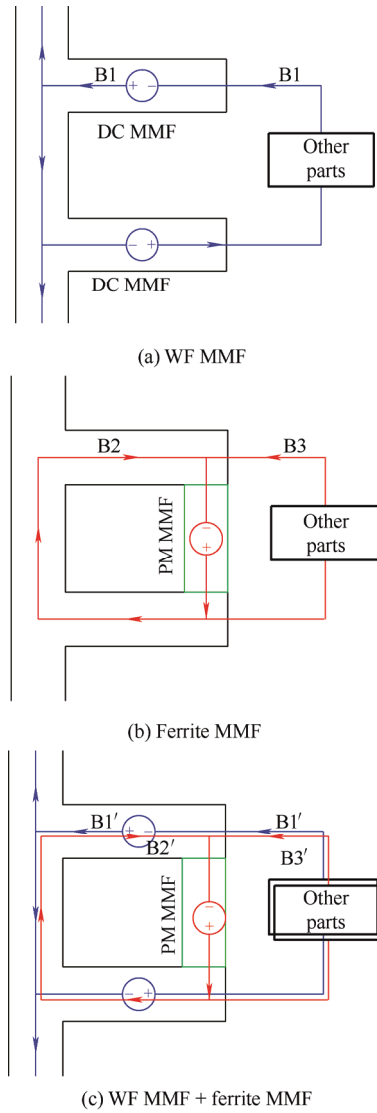


Fig. 4 Magnetic circuit illustration for WF MMF, ferrite MMF and WF+ferrite MMF

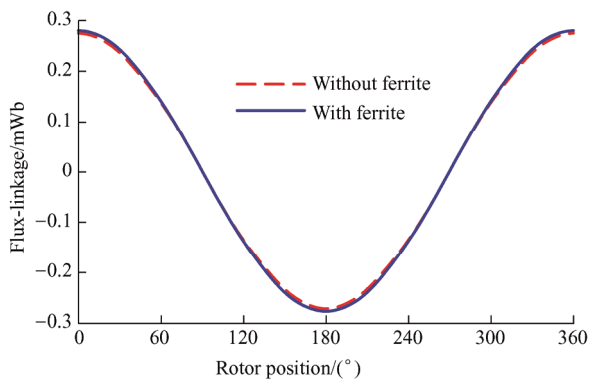


Fig. 5 Open-circuit phase flux-linkages ( $N_{ac}=1$ ,  $p_{cu}=30$  W)

As shown in Fig. 4c, the magnetic paths of  $B_1'$  and  $B_2'$  in the inner stator are in opposite directions. This implies that the magnetic saturation of the inner stator under open-circuit conditions is lower in the machine with ferrites than that without ferrites (Fig. 7).

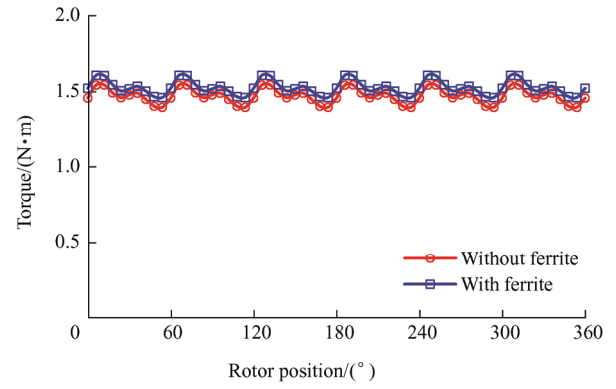


Fig. 6 On-load average torque waveforms (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cua}=p_{cu}=30$  W)

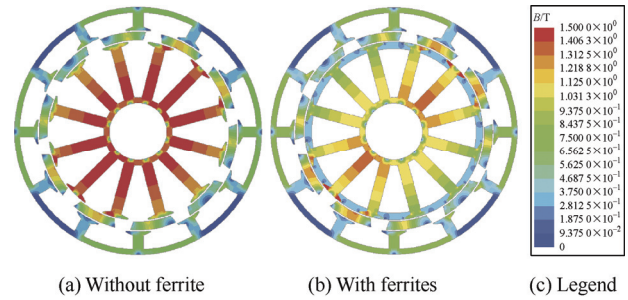


Fig. 7 Open-circuit magnetic field distribution of 12/10-pole PS-WFSF machines with and without ferrites ( $p_{cu}=30$  W)

Furthermore, since the on-load inner stator tooth saturation in the PS-WFSF machine without ferrites is stronger than the open-circuit one owing to armature reaction, the average electromagnetic torque can be more effectively increased by 3.77% from 1.47 N · m to 1.53 N · m, when both the DC winding copper loss ( $p_{cu}$ ) and the AC windings copper loss ( $p_{cua}$ ) are 30 W and the machines operate in the BLAC mode under  $i_d=0$ , because of negligible reluctance torque [28]. Moreover, as shown in Fig. 8, a higher total copper loss and hence a stronger saturation will achieve a more effective torque improvement, i.e. a 7.36% torque increment can be achieved at a 120 W copper loss and a 9.63% torque increment can be achieved at a 240 W copper loss. This also means that the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites has a better overload capability compared with the conventional PS-WFSF machine without ferrites.

The 7.36% larger average electromagnetic torque in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites at  $p_{cu}=120$  W is due to the higher inner air-gap flux density (Fig. 9), as well as the 9.63% larger average electromagnetic torque at  $p_{cu}=240$  W (Fig. 4). However, the outer

air-gap flux density waveforms for the two analyzed machines are similar because the ferrites primarily affect the inner air-gap field (Fig. 9).

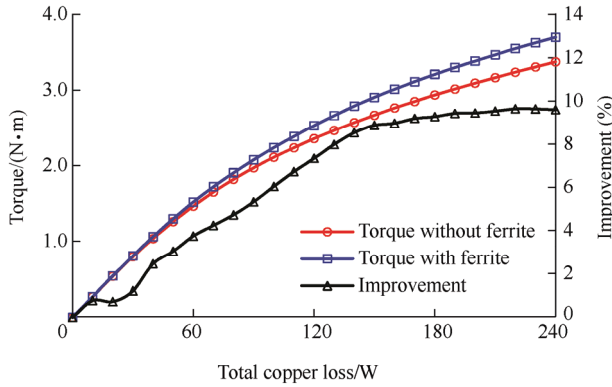


Fig. 8 Influence of total copper loss on average electromagnetic torque (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}$ )

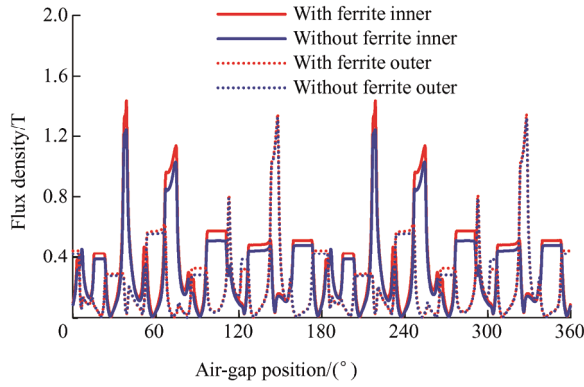


Fig. 9 Overload flux density in the inner air-gap (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}=60$  W)

#### 4 Separation of AC winding flux-linkage using frozen permeability

Using frozen permeability, we can express the phase-A flux-linkage  $\psi_A$  as

$$\psi_A = \psi_A(FP, WF) + \psi_A(FP, PM) + \psi_A(FP, AR) \quad (3)$$

where  $\psi_A(FP, WF)$ ,  $\psi_A(FP, PM)$ , and  $\psi_A(FP, AR)$  are the phase-A flux-linkages due to the WF, PM, and armature reaction (AR), respectively.

Eq. (3) can be verified using the FE predicted phase-A flux-linkage shown in Figs. 10-12 for the open-circuit, rated on-load, and overload with  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}=100$  W, respectively. As shown in Figs. 10-12 and Tab. 3, the ratio of the peak-to-peak value of  $\psi_A$  (FP, PM) to that of  $\psi_A$  is higher with a higher total copper loss; hence, the saturation degree is higher.

This means that the ferrites in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites are more effective with a high magnetic saturation, i.e., a higher torque increment than that without ferrites.

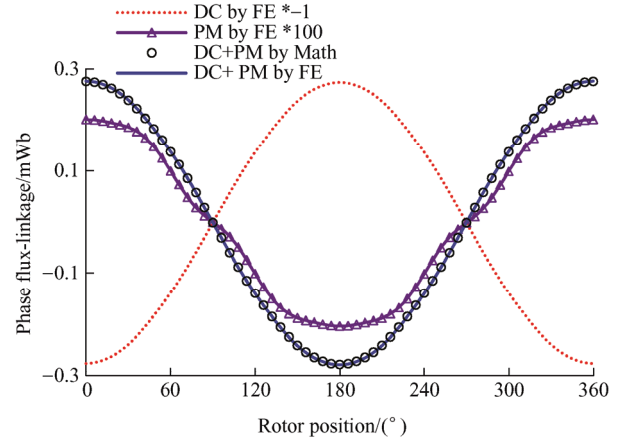


Fig. 10 Separation of open-circuit phase-A flux-linkage in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites ( $N_{ac}=1$ ,  $p_{cuf}=30$  W)

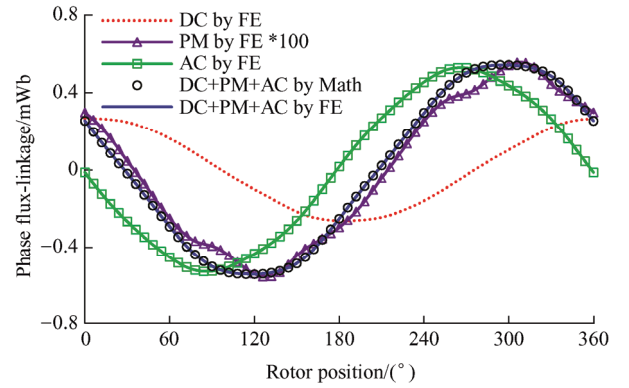


Fig. 11 Separation of rated on-load phase-A flux-linkage in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}=30$  W)

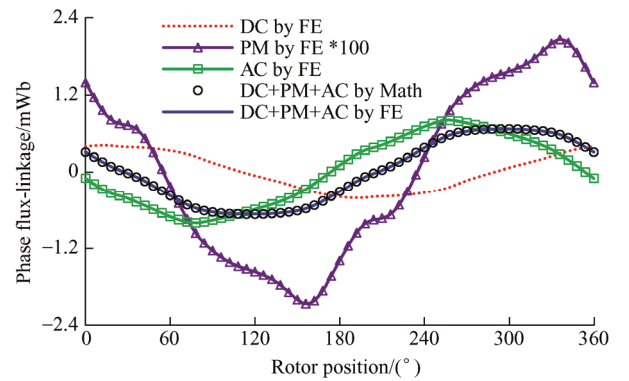


Fig. 12 Separation of rated on-load phase-A flux-linkage in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}=100$  W)



**Tab. 3 Peak-to-peak value of phase flux-linkage in a 12/10-pole machine with ferrites using frozen permeability**

Item	$(N_{ac}=1)$		
	Open circuit	Rated on-load	Overload
$p_{cu}/W$	30	30	100
$p_{cud}/W$	0	30	100
$\psi_A$ (FP, WF)/mWb	0.550	0.531	0.831
$\psi_A$ (FP, PM)/mWb	0.004	0.011	0.041
$\psi_A$ (FP, AR)/mWb	—	1.057	1.614
$\psi_A$ /mWb	0.554	1.087	1.341
$\psi_A$ (FP, PM)/ $\psi_A$ (FP, WF) (%)	0.73	1.02	3.08

## 5 Demagnetization of a PS-WFSF machine with ferrites

For electrical machines using ferrites, it is important to check the demagnetization withstand capabilities under rated on-load and overload conditions [30]. Because the temperature coefficient of coercivity is positive, ferrites are more vulnerable to irreversible demagnetization at lower temperatures [30]. Consequently, an operating temperature of  $-20\text{ }^\circ\text{C}$  is set as the worst condition to investigate demagnetization.

A negative  $i_d$  threatens the ferrites directly, while that of the  $q$ -axis  $i_q$  may demagnetize the PMs owing to the cross-coupling effect between the  $d$ - and  $q$ -axes [31]. Although the maximum average torque of the rated on-load condition at  $p_{cu}=60\text{ W}$  is obtained when the current angle  $\gamma=90$  electric degrees with  $i_d=0$ , that for the overload conditions  $p_{cu}=120\text{ W}$  and  $p_{cu}=240\text{ W}$  is  $\gamma=100$  electric degrees with  $i_d < 0$  (Fig. 13). Here, these three operating conditions, including both rated on-load and overload were evaluated in terms of demagnetization, i.e.,  $(p_{cu}, \gamma)$  are  $(60\text{ W}, 90^\circ)$ ,

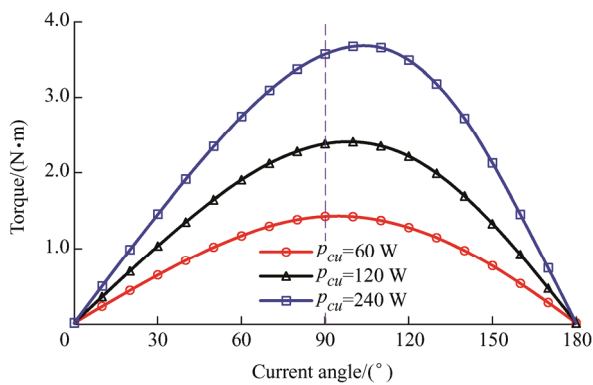


Fig. 13 Influence of current angle on average electromagnetic torque in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites (BLAC,  $i_d=0$ ,  $p_{cud}=p_{cu}$ )

$(120\text{ W}, 100^\circ)$ , and  $(240\text{ W}, 100^\circ)$ .

In Fig. 14, the white and black areas have flux densities higher or lower than  $0\text{ T}$ , respectively. As shown in Fig. 14, although the flux density along the magnetization direction among the major portions is higher than the demagnetization limit, i.e.,  $0\text{ T}$ , partially irreversible demagnetization will occur in the corner portions around points  $A$  and  $B$ . Therefore, six typical points are selected to investigate the influence of rotor position  $\theta$  on demagnetization, i.e., points  $A$  and  $B$  and four other points  $C, D, E,$  and  $F$  close to the boundary (Fig. 14).

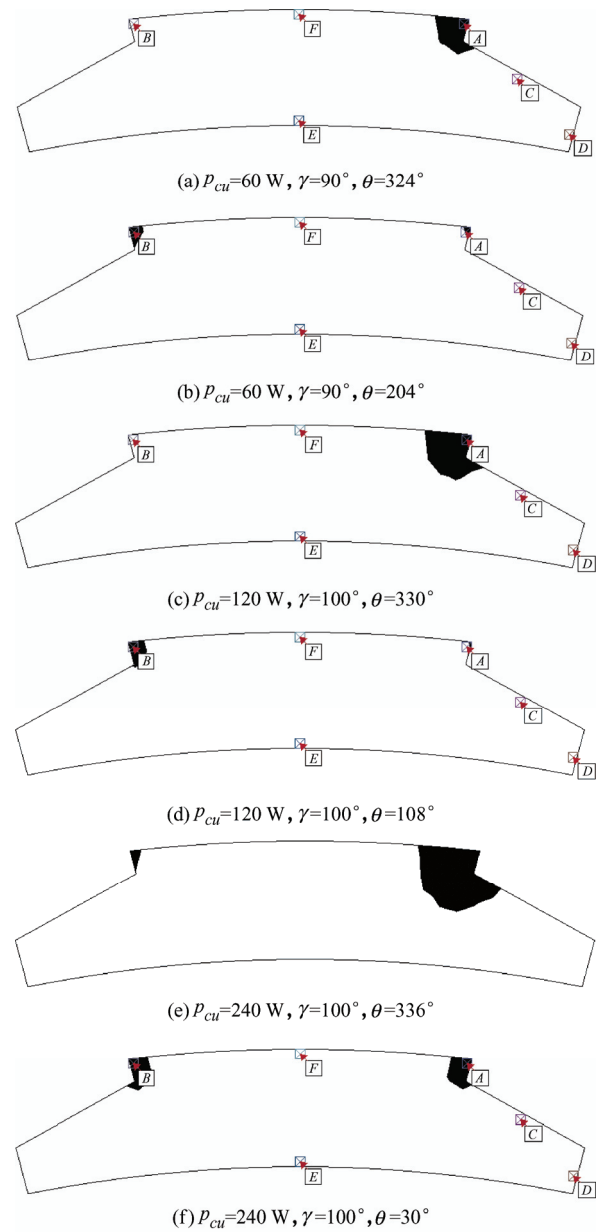


Fig. 14 Flux density distribution of ferrite PM along the magnetization direction (BLAC,  $p_{cud}=p_{cu}$ )

As shown in Fig. 15, only the corner portions around points *A* and *B*, close to the inner air gap and inner stator tooth tip, suffer from partially irreversible demagnetization for all three analyzed operation conditions. The largest area with a flux density along the magnetization direction smaller than 0 T is shown in Fig. 14 for both points *A* and *B* in all three analyzed operation conditions. Fig. 14 shows that the demagnetization area is larger with a larger load. Moreover, the area around point *D*, close to the inner stator tooth, poses a risk of demagnetization if the load is higher (Fig. 15).

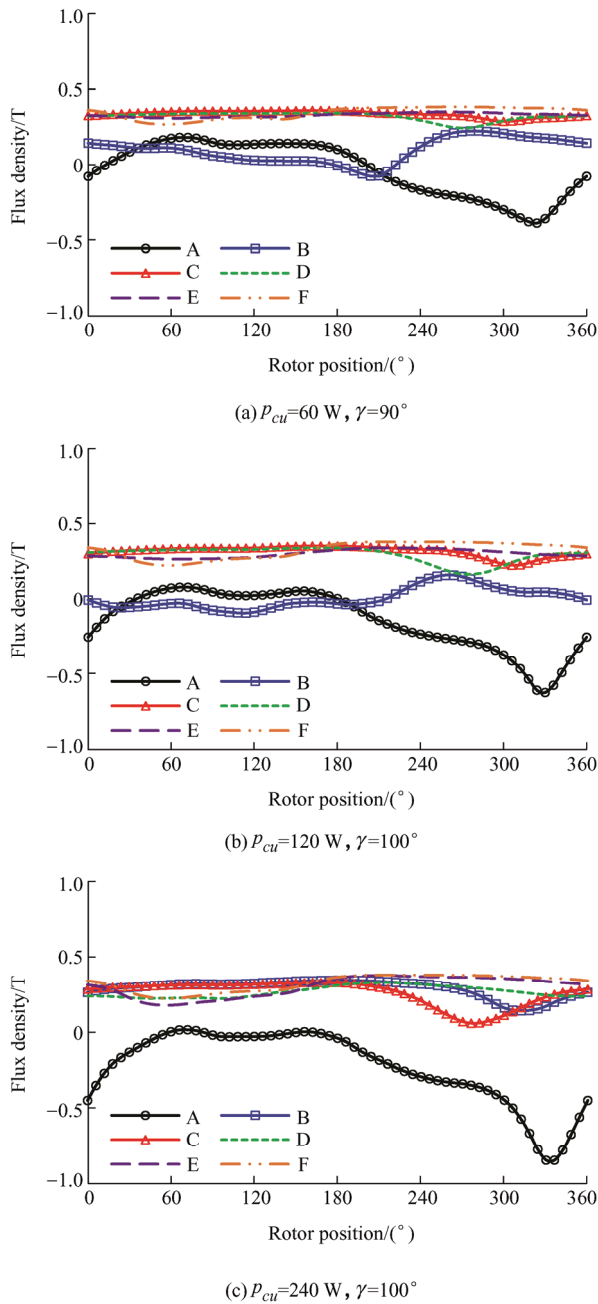


Fig. 15 Flux density of typical points along the magnetization direction versus rotor position (BLAC,  $p_{cua}=p_{cuf}$ )

## 6 Prototypes and experimental validation

To validate the previous FE predicted results, we fabricated and tested prototypes of PS-WFSF both with and without ferrites. The two prototypes had the same outer stator and cup rotor (Fig. 16a and Fig. 16b, respectively). The inner stators of the proposed inner stator with assisted ferrites and without ferrites are shown in Fig. 16c and Fig. 16d, respectively. The main dimensional parameters of the prototypes are listed in Tab. 4, which differed slightly from those in Tab. 1 to ease manufacturing. Note that for ease of manufacturing, the rotor iron pieces were connected by  $T_{fb}=0.5$  mm thick flux bridges, which were adjacent to the inner air gap. The open-circuit phase back-EMF and static torque under DC winding current  $I_f=10$  A and  $I_f=20$  A were tested, as described below.

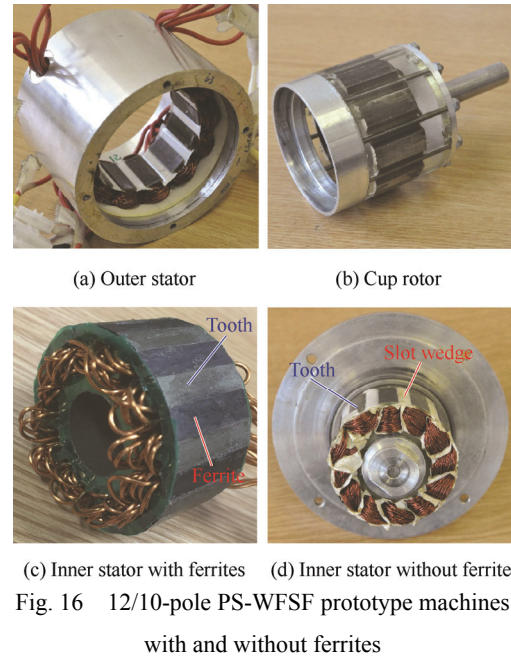


Fig. 16 12/10-pole PS-WFSF prototype machines with and without ferrites

Tab. 4 Main dimensional parameters of the prototypes

Item	Value	Item	Value	Item	Value	Item	Value
$R_{oso}/\text{mm}$	45	$L_{itl}/\text{mm}$	0.5	$R_{oso}/\text{mm}$	45	$L_{itl}/\text{mm}$	0.5
$R_{osi}/\text{mm}$	31.75	$L_{itb}/\text{mm}$	1	$R_{osi}/\text{mm}$	31.75	$L_{itb}/\text{mm}$	1
$R_{isy}/\text{mm}$	15	$\theta_{isl}/(^{\circ})$	6	$R_{isy}/\text{mm}$	15	$\theta_{isl}/(^{\circ})$	6
$T_{fb}/\text{mm}$	0.5	$\theta_{it}/(^{\circ})$	5.5	$T_{fb}/\text{mm}$	0.5	$\theta_{it}/(^{\circ})$	5.5
$g/\text{mm}$	0.5	$\theta_{ri}/(^{\circ})$	24	$g/\text{mm}$	0.5	$\theta_{ri}/(^{\circ})$	24

As shown in Fig. 17, the improvement in the tested phase back-EMFs in the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites was not apparent; however, they were considerably similar for the two prototypes. This

was due to the differences in dimensional parameters between the 2-D FE models and the prototypes (Tab. 1 and Tab. 4), and the introduced rotor flux bridge. However, the FE predicted open-circuit back-EMFs were validated by the experimental results for both prototypes (Fig. 17). They agreed closely with each other, although the tested results were slightly lower than those predicted using 2-D FE owing to the end effect [32]. However, as shown in Tab. 5, the measured waveforms exhibited a lower total harmonic distortion (THD) than the 2-D FE predicted waveforms in both prototypes. Here, the THD of the phase back-EMF  $THD_E$  was defined as

$$THD_E = \frac{\sqrt{E_2^2 + E_3^2 + E_4^2 \dots}}{E_1} \quad (4)$$

where  $E_k$  ( $k=1, 2, 3, \dots$ ) is the root mean square value of the  $k^{\text{th}}$  phase back-EMF harmonic.

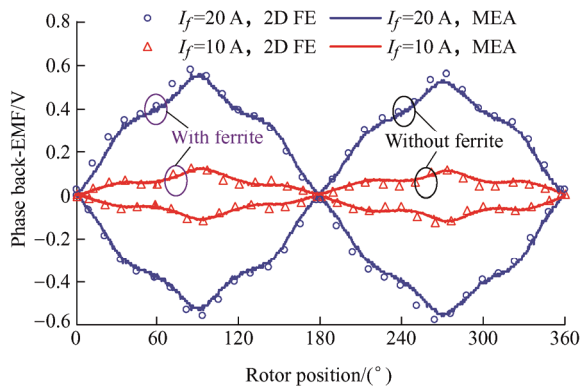


Fig. 17 Comparison of the measured and 2-D FE predicted phase back-EMF waveforms of the 12/10-pole PS-WFSF machines without and with ferrites at 400 r/min

**Tab. 5 Characteristics comparison of the measured and 2-D FE predicted phase back-EMF at 400 r/min (MEA=Measured)**

Item	$I_f=10$ A		$I_f=20$ A	
	MEA	2-D FE	MEA	2-D FE
Without ferrite, $E_1/V$	0.09	0.08	0.47	0.50
Without ferrite, $THD_E(\%)$	18.4	32.2	6.5	8.1
With ferrite, $E_1/V$	0.09	0.09	0.50	0.52
With ferrite, $THD_E(\%)$	17.7	29.4	6.0	7.8

As shown in Fig. 18, the improvement in the tested static torques in the proposed PS-WFSF machine with ferrites was not apparent but similar for the two prototypes when  $I_f=10$  A or  $I_f=20$  A and  $I_a=10$  A or  $I_a=20$  A. This was also due to the dimensional

differences between the 2-D FE models and prototypes. However, the FE predicted static torques was validated by the experimental results for both prototypes (Fig. 18 and Fig. 19). Moreover, the stronger overload capability of the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites than that without ferrites was validated by the curves shown in Fig. 19, in which the field winding current was  $I_f=20$  A.

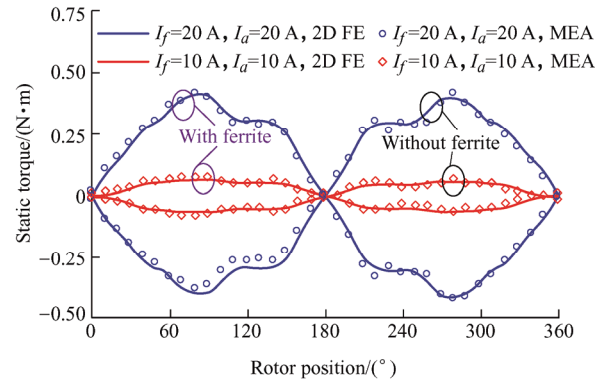


Fig. 18 Comparison of the measured and 2-D FE predicted static torque waveforms of the 12/10-pole PS-WFSF machines without and with ferrites

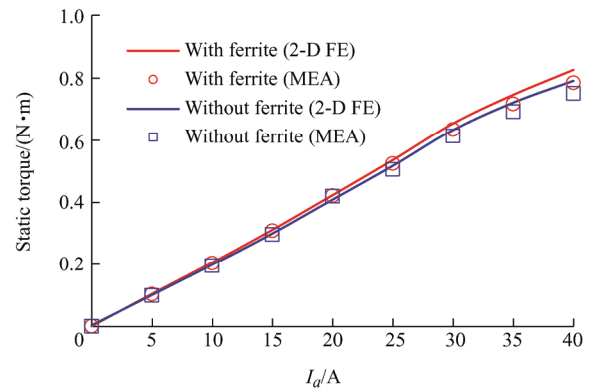


Fig. 19 Comparison of the measured and 2-D FE predicted peak static torques of the 12/10-pole PS-WFSF machines without and with ferrites ( $I_f=20$  A)

## 7 Conclusions

In this study, short-circuited ferrites were applied in a PS-WFSF machine to increase the air-gap flux density and hence the average electromagnetic torque and overload capability. By introducing assisted ferrites, the open-circuit phase fundamental flux-linkage and back-EMF can be improved by 2.33%, while the rated on-load average electromagnetic torque at 60 W copper loss is increased by 3.76% owing to a more effective saturation reduction. Furthermore, a better overload



capability can be achieved in the PS-WFSF machine with ferrites, e.g., a 7.36% larger average electromagnetic torque than that without ferrites can be achieved at a 120 W copper loss. Prototypes were built, and the tested results validated the FE analysis.

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