Design and Research of a Dual Rotor Consequent-pole Vernier Motor with Halbach Array

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ABSTRACT Aiming at improving the torque density of the motor and the utilization rate of permanent magnets (PMs), a dual rotor consequent-pole vernier motor (DRCPVM) is proposed in this article. The stator of the motor has a double-sided structure with two sets of independent windings on each side. Therefore, the proposed motor has different working modes according to the on/off state of the two sets of windings. In the design process, DRCPVM is used as a basic model and optimization is performed on it. The optimization includes the slot width and height of the stator teeth and the radian ratio occupied by the PMs. Moreover, the Halbach array is introduced into the consequent-pole structure to establish the dual rotor consequent-pole vernier motor with Halbach array (DRCPVM-HA). Halbach array reduces flux leakage and improves the magnetic circuit. And Halbach array is employed to discuss the design of the magnetization angle. The rule of the electromagnetic performance changing with the magnetization angle is studied to find the optimal magnetization angle in the Halbach array. When the magnetization angle is 45° in DRCPVM-HA, the torque is significantly improved, the torque ripple is reduced, and the utilization rate of PMs is improved.

INDEX TERMS Vernier motor, outer rotor, inner rotor, magnetization angle, Halbach array

I. INTRODUCTION

Permanent magnet motors have been developed rapidly in the last several years because of their compact structure and efficient performance. Due to the demand for low-speed and high torque density motors, the volume of conventional permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSM) is large, and the torque density is difficult to meet the requirement. Based on magnetic field modulation, novel permanent magnet vernier motors (PMVM) have been proposed and have attracted considerable attention. Various new structures are proposed for the vernier motors to have better electromagnetic performance, such as dual stator and dual rotor. The double stator structure can meet the demand for increasing torque density, and independent windings make the motor have flexible control strategies [6].
The article is organized as follows. Section II gives the topologies of the motors, and introduces the operating principle of vernier motors. In Section III, the optimization strategies are mainly discussed, and motor parameters have been determined. In Section IV, the performance of the motors is compared and analyzed. Brief conclusions are given in Section V.

The main contributions of this paper are summarized as follows. Firstly, the dual-rotor motor structure is proposed to improve the torque density, and the consequent-pole structure is used to reduce the amount of PMs. Secondly, the optimization strategy of the proposed motor is given. Thirdly, the use of the Halbach array reduces the magnetic flux leakage and increases the amplitude of the harmonic components, and the specific magnetization angle is selected to improve the electromagnetic performance.

II. MOTOR TOPOLOGY AND OPERATING PRINCIPLE
A. MOTOR TOPOLOGY

The proposed DRCPVM has two rotors and a shared stator. And DRCPVM has different work modes because of having independent armature windings on both sides of the stator. Meanwhile, the model is divided into inner and outer parts to facilitate the following description.

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A. MOTOR TOPOLOGY

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For the outer part of DRCPVM, the pole pair number of PMs and winding is 44 and 4 respectively, and the number of stator outer teeth is 48. While the pole pair number of PMs and winding is 22 and 2 in the inner part, respectively. And the number of stator inner teeth is 24. The stator can be regarded as a complete structure with stator slots on both sides. The non-magnetic barrier is integrated into the stator for magnetic isolation. Two kinds of models are given in Fig. 1. Here, the DRCPVM is called Model I and the DRCPVM-HA is called Model II.

B. OPERATING PRINCIPLE

The proposed models are based on the principle of magnetic field modulation. The magnetomotive force formed by the three-phase windings can be calculated as follows [22]:

\[
F_p = F_0 \sum_a \frac{1}{6a+1} \lambda(a) \cos \left(\omega t - (6a + 1) N_w \theta\right)
\]

(1)

\[
F_w = \frac{6\sqrt{2}NI}{\pi N_w}
\]

(2)

\[
\lambda(a) = \sin \left(\frac{6a + 1}{2} \pi\right) \sin \left(\frac{6a + 1}{6} \right)
\]

(3)

Where \(N\) is the coil turns number per phase, \(I\) is the RMS value of current in the coils, \(N_w\) is the pole pairs number of rotating magnetic field, \(\theta\) is the mechanical angle and \(\omega\) is angular velocity.

The permeance function of stator teeth is given by:

\[
\Lambda = \Lambda_0 + \sum_{j=1,2,3...} \Lambda_j \cos(jN_s \theta)
\]

(4)

Where \(\Lambda_j\) is the permeance amplitude due to \(j\)th harmonic, \(N_s\) is the number of stator teeth.

The radial flux density of the vernier motor can be calculated as in the following equation:

\[
B_r(r, \theta) = F_p \Lambda
\]

\[
= \Lambda_0 F_0 \sum_a \frac{1}{6a+1} \lambda(a) \cos \left(\omega t - (6a + 1) N_w \theta\right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} F_0 \sum_a \sum_j \frac{1}{6a+1} \lambda(a) \Lambda_j \cos \left(C_1 \left(\theta - \frac{\omega t}{A_1}\right)\right)
\]

\[
+ \frac{1}{2} F_0 \sum_a \sum_{j=1,2,3...} \frac{1}{6a+1} \lambda(a) \Lambda_j \cos \left(C_2 \left(\theta - \frac{\omega t}{A_2}\right)\right)
\]

(5)

Where \(C_1\) and \(C_2\) are expanded as follows:

\[
C_1 = -(6a + 1) N_w + jN_s
\]

\[
C_2 = -(6a + 1) N_w - jN_s
\]

(6)

Moreover, the relation among the number of winding pole pairs, the number of stator teeth, and the orders of harmonics order are expressed as follows:

\[
P_{a,b} = \left|(6a + 1)N_w + bN_s\right|
\]

(7)

Where \(P_{a,b}\) is the order of harmonics order generated by modulation, \(a\) and \(b\) are integers, respectively.

Besides, the pole pair number of PMs, the number of stator teeth, and the pole pair number of rotating magnetic fields also satisfy the following equation:

\[
N_p = N_s - N_w
\]

(8)

Where \(N_p\) is the pole pair number of PMs.

The gear ratio \(G_r\) is

\[
G_r = \frac{N_p}{N_w}
\]

(9)

The magnetic field produced by the winding is opposite to the direction of the rotor rotation, so there is a ‘−’ in (9).
In the traditional N-S structure, N and S poles are a pair of poles. But in the proposed consequent-pole structure, its N or S pole forms a pair of poles with the adjacent rotor iron boot.

The pole pair number of the inner PMs is 22 and that of the outer PMs is 44 in the proposed motor. And the consumption of PMs has a corresponding increase because the pole pairs number of PMs is large. By introducing the consequent-pole structure, the PMs remain the original pole pairs number, but the amount of PMs is reduced by half.

Under the no-load condition, the magnetic field distribution of the two models is shown in Fig. 2. The magnetic flux flows through the rotor, air gap, and stator to form the main magnetic circuit. Due to the different pole pair numbers of the inner and outer windings, the loop number of the main magnetic circuit of the two parts is also different.

For the saturation phenomena in the two models, Model I is more saturated than Model II. In the rotor part of the two models, the magnetic leakage phenomena at the PMs of Model II are reduced compared with that of Model I. Due to the consequent-pole structure, Model I has the magnetic flux leakage phenomenon, and closed magnetic circuits are prone to appear at the PMs. While the magnetic flux leakage in Model II is reduced. Halbach array which uses the PMs with a specific magnetization angle can improve the main magnetic circuit and reduce the magnetic flux leakage in the consequent-pole structure.

### III. OPTIMAL DESIGN

Regard Model I as the basic model, and the optimization are carried out. The optimization includes the size of the slots and the radian ratio of PMs. After Model I achieves the optimal structure, Model II introduces the Halbach array based on Model I. To obtain better electromagnetic performance in Model II, the magnetization angle of the Halbach array has been optimized. The following article is divided into three sections to optimize the motor.

#### A. SELECTION OF SLOT SIZE

Because of considering the size of the motor, the outer stator teeth adopt a slotted structure and the inner stator teeth have a non-slotted structure.

For the outer stator teeth, the size of slots has a large effect on the output torque of the outer rotor. For the inner stator teeth without slots, the size of the stator teeth has little effect on the performance of the motor, but the size of stator slots should be guaranteed to place a certain number of turns of windings. Based on the above description, this article has carried out a parameterized analysis of the size of the stator outer teeth.

The outer stator teeth is shown in Fig. 3. Referring to the center of the circle $O$, the width of the slot is defined as $\beta$. The height of the slot represents the vertical distance between the upper and lower sides of the slots in the horizontal direction, and slot height is defined as $h$. The definition of slot width and slot height has been finished, then the parametric analysis which includes both slot width and height will be carried out at the same time.

#### B. RADIAN RATIO OF PERMANENT MAGNETS

The radian ratio of PMs also plays an important role in electromagnetic performance, and it is called $K$ in this paper. The formula for $K$ in traditional N-S pole structure is different from that consequent-pole structure.

In the traditional N-S pole structure, the formula for $K$ is as follows:
\[ K = \frac{\tau_{pm}}{2\pi} = \frac{\tau_{pm} \cdot N_p}{2N_p} \]  

(10)

Where \( K \) is the radian ratio of PMs, \( \tau_{pm} \) is the radian occupied by PMs and \( N_p \) is the number of PMs pole pairs.

For the traditional N-S pole structure, To ensure the rationality of the structure, the value of \( K \) cannot be greater than 1. The arrangement of the PMs is shown in Fig. 5 when \( K \) is 1. At this time, the adjacent PMs are arranged on the rotor surface without gaps.

It is shown in Fig. 6 that the arrangement of PMs in the consequent-pole motor. The pole pair number of PMs in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6 are the same, but the amount of PMs in both structures is different. In the consequent-pole structure, the radian occupied by a piece of PM could be larger than that in the traditional structure.

In the consequent-pole structure, the number of PMs has been reduced by half. So the formula for \( K \) is redefined as follows:

\[ K = \frac{\tau_{pm}}{2\pi} = \frac{\tau_{pm} \cdot N_p}{2N_p} \]  

(11)

That can be seen from the above two formulas, the difference between the two formulas is the coefficient in front of \( N_p \). In consequent-pole structure, a pole pair of PMs has only a N or S pole, so the coefficient of \( N_p \) is 1. While the coefficient is 2 in the traditional structure. The value of \( K \) in the consequent pole could exceed 1 because of the coefficient. According to the above discussion about the coefficient, the \( K \) of the consequent-pole structure has a wider range of values than the \( K \) of the traditional structure.

The value range of \( K \) is set to find out the rule of torque changing with it. \( K_1 \) and \( K_2 \) are the radian ratio of PMs in the outer and inner rotors respectively.

The torque of outer and inner rotors changing with \( K \) is shown in Fig. 7. For the outer and inner rotors, the trend of torque changing with the \( K \) is firstly increasing and then decreasing. The torque of the outer rotor reaches the maximum when the \( K_1 \) is 1.2, and the torque is 54.36 Nm. For the inner rotor, the torque reaches the maximum when the \( K_2 \) is 1.2, and the torque is 16.48 Nm. The consequent-pole structure with \( K=1.2 \) uses fewer PMs than the traditional structure with \( K=1 \).

The parameters of the proposed motor are changed to achieve optimal torque performance. The above optimization is based on the Model I. In the next section, on the basic Model I, Model II with Halbach array will be optimized.
C. HALBACH ARRAY WITH THE MAGNETIZATION ANGLE

Because the consequent-pole structure of Model I will cause magnetic flux leakage. To solve this problem, the Halbach array is introduced to establish Model II. In Model II, the PMs are divided into three pieces to form the Halbach array. The PMs in the middle piece remain in the original radial magnetization direction, but the PMs on both sides have a specific magnetization angle.

Model II is a dual rotor structure, there are PMs with Halbach array in both rotors. Although the magnetization directions of the Halbach array are different in these two rotors, the function of the Halbach array is to make more magnetic flux flow into the stator to form main magnetic circuits.

The PMs with Halbach array is given in Fig. 8, and the magnetization angle is defined as \( \alpha \). Because the magnetization directions of PMs on both sides of the Halbach array are symmetric, the ‘−’ in front of \( \alpha \) is to distinguish the magnetization directions on both sides. The following description of \( \alpha \) is to discuss its degree of angle, and the magnetization directions of the Halbach array are consistent with those shown in Fig. 8.

In the coordinate system shown in Fig. 9, take a magnet for the analysis of magnetization direction. The angle between \( \alpha = 0 \) and the magnetization vector is the magnetization angle. And in polar coordinates, the magnetization vector has radial and circumferential components which are related to the magnetization angle.

The Halbach array makes the field distribution concentrated on one side and dispersed on the other side, which is shown in Fig. 10. For the Halbach array in the outer rotor, it enhances the internal magnetic field. Meanwhile, the Halbach array in the inner rotor enhances the external field. In a dual rotor structure, the need for enhancing the magnetic field of internal and external air gaps is met by Halbach array.

The amplitude of magnetization \( M \) is calculated as the following equation [23]:

\[
M = \frac{B}{\mu_0}
\]  
(12)

Where \( \mu_0 \) is the permeability in the air and \( B \) is the remanence of PMs.

In polar coordinates, the magnetization vector \( \vec{M} \) is expressed by [24]:

\[
\vec{M} = M_r \vec{e}_r + M_t \vec{e}_t = M \cos \alpha \vec{e}_r \mp M \sin \alpha \vec{e}_t
\]  
(13)

Where \( \vec{e}_r \) and \( \vec{e}_t \) are the unit vector in the radial and circumferential directions, ‘−’ is for the external field and ‘+’ is for the internal field.

The Halbach array makes the field distribution concentrated on one side and dispersed on the other side, which is shown in Fig. 10. For the Halbach array in the outer rotor, it enhances the internal magnetic field. Meanwhile, the Halbach array in the inner rotor enhances the external field. In a dual rotor structure, the need for enhancing the magnetic field of internal and external air gaps is met by Halbach array.

![FIGURE 8. Permanent magnets with Halbach array of the outer and inner rotor](image)

![FIGURE 9. Magnetization direction and angle in polar coordinates.](image)

![FIGURE 10. Magnetic field distribution of permanent magnets with Halbach array in the air.](image)
change of the magnetization angle. The no-load back-EMF is less than the reference when the magnetization angle exceeds 90°. And when the magnetization angle is 45°, the amplitude of the outer and inner no-load back-EMF is the largest.

| Magnetization angle (deg.) | Outer Back-EMF (V) | Inner Back-EMF (V) |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 0                          | 115.30            | 37.13             |
| 15                         | 131.54            | 41.68             |
| 30                         | 143.17            | 42.98             |
| 45                         | 146.30            | 43.62             |
| 60                         | 144.40            | 41.29             |
| 75                         | 135.54            | 37.88             |
| 90                         | 120.94            | 33.05             |
| 105                        | 101.49            | 27.15             |
| 120                        | 78.79             | 20.45             |

Fig. 11 shows that the no-load magnetic field distribution of Model II under different magnetization angles, and different magnetization angles affect the path of flux lines. By comparing the no-load magnetic field distribution under the four magnetization angles, it is found that the degree of magnetic flux leakage at the PMs is lowest when the magnetization angle is 45°. There are fewer closed loops of magnetic flux lines near the PMs. Meanwhile, more magnetic flux lines flow into the side of stator teeth to form the main magnetic circuit. And the no-load back-EMF of Model II is the largest at this magnetization angle. When the magnetization angle exceeds 90°, it can be seen that the flux of the main magnetic circuits is reduced. And there is obvious flux leakage near the PMs, so the no-load back-EMF of the motor is decreased at these magnetization angles.

The trend of torque changing with the magnetization angle is shown in Fig. 12. The changing law of torque corresponds to that of no-load back-EMF. As the magnetization angle increases, the torque of the outer and inner rotor first increases and then decreases. When the magnetization angle is 45°, the torque of the outer and inner rotor reaches the maximum value of 68.72 Nm and 19.61 Nm respectively.

Based on the above research, it can be found that Model II has the best electromagnetic performance when the magnetization angle is 45°. Under this magnetization angle, the magnetic flux leakage of the motor is reduced and the main magnetic flux is improved. Therefore, the magnetization angle of 45° in the Halbach array is adopted.

IV. COMPARISON OF OPTIMAL PERFORMANCE
In Section III, the optimized Model I and Model II are established respectively.
These two models are consistent in motor structural parameters, but the difference is that Model II has used Halbach array. As shown in Table II, the basic parameters of the proposed motors are given. Then, take the performance of Model I as a reference and compare it with Model II. Record the electromagnetic performance of two models under no-load and on-load conditions for comparative analysis.

### A. NO-LOAD PERFORMANCE

Fig. 13 shows the flux density of the two models. Compared with Model I, Model II has an improvement in flux density. And this shows that the Halbach array with a magnetization angle of 45° could increase magnetic field intensity in the air gap, and also shows that the utilization of PMs has been improved.

#### No-Load Performance

Based on the working principle of the vernier motor, the outer air-gap main working harmonic orders are 4th, 44th, and 92nd, where the 44th harmonic occupies the largest component because the pole pair of outer rotor PMs is 44. Due to the pole pair number of outer and inner rotor PMs are not the same, both the air gaps in outer and inner parts have different working harmonic orders. The main working harmonic orders are 2nd, 22nd, and 46th in the inner air gap. Likewise, the pole pair number of PMs in the inner rotor is 22. And the 22nd working harmonic takes the largest amplitude.

As shown in Fig. 14 that the main working harmonic in outer air-gap, the amplitude of 4th, 44th, and 92nd harmonics are 0.2172, 0.9568, and 0.1929 respectively in Model II, and those of Model I are 0.1704, 0.7701, and 0.1592. Meanwhile, for the main working harmonic in inner air-gap, the amplitude of 2nd, 22th, and 46th harmonics are 0.2110, 0.7732, and 0.1992 respectively in Model II, and those of Model I are 0.1810, 0.670, and 0.1716. By comparing the main working harmonic amplitude of Model I and Model II, it can be further demonstrated that the Halbach array enhances the air-gap magnetic field of the motor.
FIGURE 14. Harmonic decomposition comparisons of the air-gap flux density. (a): Outer air-gap. (b): Inner air-gap.

The no-load back-EMF amplitude of the inner rotor part, Model I is 37.13 V and Model II is 46.32 V.

B. ON-LOAD PERFORMANCE

For both outer and inner windings, when the three-phase windings are applied with the phase current of 10 A, the performance of torque in Model I and Model II can be seen in Fig. 16 and Table III. In the outer rotor, the torque of Model I is 54.36 Nm and the torque ripple is 3.42%, while the torque of Model II is 68.72 Nm and the torque ripple is 1.69%. Compared with Model I, the outer rotor torque of Model II is increased by 26.42%. In the inner rotor, the torque of Model I is 16.48 Nm and the torque ripple is 0.71%, while the torque of Model II is 19.61 Nm and the torque ripple is 0.74%. Compared with Model I, the inner rotor torque of Model II is increased by 18.99%.

The formula for torque ripple can be expressed as follows:

\[ T_{rip} = \frac{T_{max} - T_{min}}{T_{avg}} \times 100\% \]  

Where \( T_{max} \) is the maximum value of torque, \( T_{min} \) is the minimum value of torque, \( T_{avg} \) is the average value of torque and \( T_{rip} \) is the torque ripple.

![TABLE III](image)

**TABLE III**

| Item | \( T_{max} \) (Nm) | \( T_{min} \) (Nm) | \( T_{avg} \) (Nm) | \( T_{rip} \) (%) |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| Model I | 55.34 | 53.48 | 54.36 | 3.42 |
| Model I | 16.60 | 16.37 | 16.48 | 1.40 |
| Model II | 69.36 | 68.20 | 68.72 | 1.69 |
| Model II | 19.73 | 19.50 | 19.61 | 1.17 |

The formula for PMs utilization is expressed as the following equation:

\[ U_r = \frac{T_{avg}}{P_{in}} \]  

The no-load back-EMF of the two models is shown in Fig. 15. For the no-load back-EMF amplitude of the outer rotor part, Model I is 115.30 V and Model II is 146.30 V. And For the inner rotor part, Model I is 37.13 V and Model II is 46.32 V.

The formula for no-load back-EMF can be expressed as follows:

\[ E_{noload} = \frac{T_{avg}}{P_{in}} \]  

Where \( E_{noload} \) is the no-load back-EMF of the two models.

![FIGURE 15](image)

**FIGURE 15.** No-load back-EMF comparisons. (a): Outer rotor part. (b): Inner rotor part.

![FIGURE 16](image)

**FIGURE 16.** Output torque comparisons of the two models.
Where $V_{pm}$ is the volume of PMs and $U_r$ is the PMs utilization rate.

It can be seen from Table IV that Model II with the Halbach array increases the utilization rate of outer rotor PMs from 0.63 to 0.79 and increases the inner rotor from 1.06 to 1.26.

| Item       | Location | The volume of PMs (cm$^3$) | The utilization rate of PMs |
|------------|----------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Model I    | Outer rotor | 86.86                      | 0.63                        |
|            | Inner rotor | 15.60                      | 1.06                        |
| Model II   | Outer rotor | 86.86                      | 0.79                        |
|            | Inner rotor | 15.60                      | 1.26                        |

V. CONCLUSION

A DRCPVM-HA is proposed in this article. Two models have been established, one is DPCPVM which is regarded as a basic model, and another is DRCPVM-HA that the Halbach array is introduced on the basis of DRCPVM. The slot size of stator teeth and the radial ratio of PMs have an influence on electromagnetic performance, and the analysis of their parameters has been carried out. For DRCPVM-HA, the optimal magnetization angle is 45°, and the magnetic field distribution of the motor is improved at this angle. Meanwhile, the amplitude of working harmonics in the flux density of the outer and inner air gap is increased. For the maximum output torque of DPCPVM-HA, the outer rotor is 68.72 Nm and the inner rotor is 19.61 Nm. And the torque ripples of outer and inner rotors are 1.69% and 1.17% respectively. Compared with DRCPVM, the outer rotor torque of DRCPVM-HA has increased by 26.42%, and the inner rotor torque has increased by 18.99%. Under the condition of consuming the same volume of PMs, DPCPVM-HA has a higher utilization rate of the PMs. For the work modes, the torque of the outer rotor or inner rotor could be obtained simultaneously or separately according to the on-off state of both two sets of windings.

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