

Thermal Management of Hybrid Excitation Modular SRM

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Abstract – This paper explores the effect of modular structure on the thermal management performance of switched reluctance motors. By designing the modular structure, combined with the centralized winding and parallel slot configuration, the heat dissipation capability of the motor is significantly improved without affecting the torque performance of the motor. Meanwhile, the effect of thermal management on the demagnetization behavior of permanent magnets, especially the mechanism of action when forming mixed excitation, is investigated. Finally, the thermal performance of the motor and the demagnetization characteristics of the permanent magnets are comprehensively analyzed by temperature field simulation, which provides an important basis for the optimized design of the motor.

Index Terms – Electromagnetic simulation, hybrid excitation, modular structure, switched reluctance motor, thermal management.

I. INTRODUCTION

Switched reluctance motors are widely used in industrial production, aerospace and other fields due to their simple structure, high starting torque and adaptability to harsh environments. Although switched reluctance motors have certain advantages in thermal management due to their simple structure, with the increasing power density, the thermal management problem has become more and more prominent and has become a key challenge to be solved.

In order to increase the power density, an effective approach is to increase the current density and optimize the structural design, but this correspondingly raises the requirements for thermal management [1]. However, excessive current density can lead to a significant increase in iron and hysteresis losses, which can lead to overheating problems in the windings and core. Most motors are air-cooled at the design stage by optimizing the structure for heat dissipation, creating a passive

heat dissipation mechanism. This method utilizes the gap between the motor structure and the shell to emit heat. This is effective, but the heat transfer process is slow. Therefore, the limiting conditions of current density and magnetic density of switched reluctance motors must be fully considered at the early design stage. This approach usually reduces motor performance to some extent. Another solution is to use active cooling technology, which provides thermal management by adding specialized cooling components. For example, integrating a liquid-cooled component in the motor stator allows for rapid and efficient heat extraction from heat sources close to the motor's interior, such as the windings [2]. Although this method is more efficient in terms of heat dissipation, it has a higher design cost and makes the motor structure more complex, which is not conducive to fully utilizing the advantages of the simple structure of switched reluctance motors.

Passive heat dissipation through the motor structure requires more structural design space in order to facilitate heat dissipation, especially ensuring the stator has enough space for heat dissipation. In [3] the authors simulated and investigated the temperature rise due to electromagnetic losses in switched reluctance motors and verified the temperatures in various parts of the machine through experimental data. In [4] the authors calculated the thermal parameters of an induction motor under totally enclosed fan-cooled conditions, and these calculations are able to be transferred to switched reluctance motors. It can be seen that for passive cooling, switched reluctance motors are more advantageous because the windingless rotor structure improves the ability to dissipate heat, especially if the convex pole rotor can provide some functions of a fan.

The stator can be wound with a centralized winding which has a lower winding density than other motors. Modularization of the stator is a well-established method to solve the thermal management problem by reducing the stator yoke core to leave enough space for passive heat dissipation. In [5], the authors calculate the temperature distribution of a two-stator switched reluctance motor at a constant temperature, simplifying the calculation and time. The effect of different winding connections on the temperature rise of the switched reluctance motor (SRM) was analyzed in the literature [6], and it was demonstrated that the two parallel path approach for one phase produces a significant temperature reduction.

Although the modular structure can effectively enhance the thermal management performance of SRMs, it will also have some impact on the overall performance of the motor. To enhance the performance of SRMs, hybrid excitation using permanent magnets is an effective improvement method. However, this design also faces the risk of permanent magnet demagnetization due

to temperature rise. In [7], authors analyze the demagnetization characteristics of permanent magnets in modular radial hybrid excitation switched reluctance motors and point out that its structural design can make the risk of demagnetization of permanent magnets do not increase significantly when the current exceeds more than double the rated value.

In this paper, a modular double-stator hybrid excitation switched reluctance motor is designed and its stator-rotor and winding distribution structure is optimized. Meanwhile, the influence of the temperature rise effect on the demagnetization performance of permanent magnets is analyzed in detail through thermal simulation of the core and windings, which provides an important reference for motor design and thermal management.

II. TOPOLOGY DESIGN OF SWITCHED RELUCTANCE MOTOR

The three-phase 12/10 axial flux modular hybrid excitation SRM (AFMHSRM) proposed in this paper is shown in Fig. 1. The stator of the AFMHSRM consists of 12 annularly arranged U-shaped stator modules, each with two stator poles and two stator slots. The rotor is secured by 10 rotor module mounting disks. As shown in Fig. 1, the left and right stators are positioned on either side of the rotor. Both the stator and rotor are constructed from DW470 laminated silicon steel sheets. The motor adopts concentrated windings, which not only saves space for the windings but also provides more room for the stator mounting plates, thereby facilitating easier installation and disassembly. Each phase contains four windings, which are independently connected and can be configured in either series or parallel to adjust the motor's operating characteristics. Notably, the stator and rotor are designed with parallel slots, allowing windings

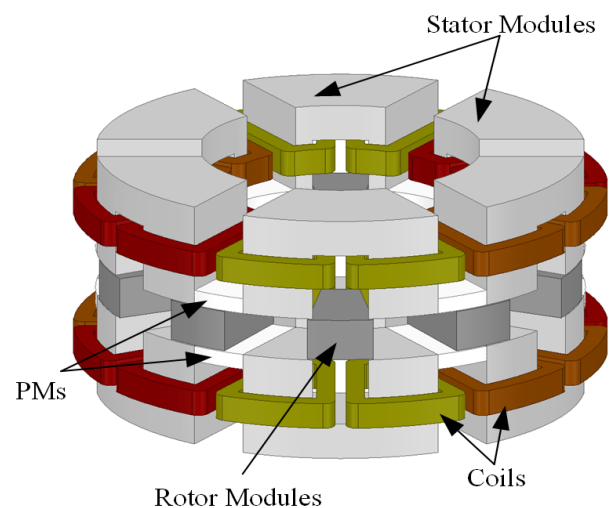


Fig. 1. AFMHSRM topology diagram.

of equal area to be placed in slots of different radii. In addition, permanent magnets are embedded as modules between the U-shaped stator segments to enhance torque density.

Performance specifications of the AFMHSRM are given in Table 1. The AFMHSRM has been designed by using a modular design in order to minimize the cost and at the same time increase the heat dissipation volume. The centralized winding and parallel slot structure are adopted on the stator, which minimizes the winding gap and improves heat dissipation uniformity in the slots, while the modular stator structure increases the passive heat dissipation space and area. The stator-rotor axial as well as circumferential dimensions of the proposed motor are given schematically in Fig. 2 (a). To define the rotor's radial dimensions for the proposed motor, it is

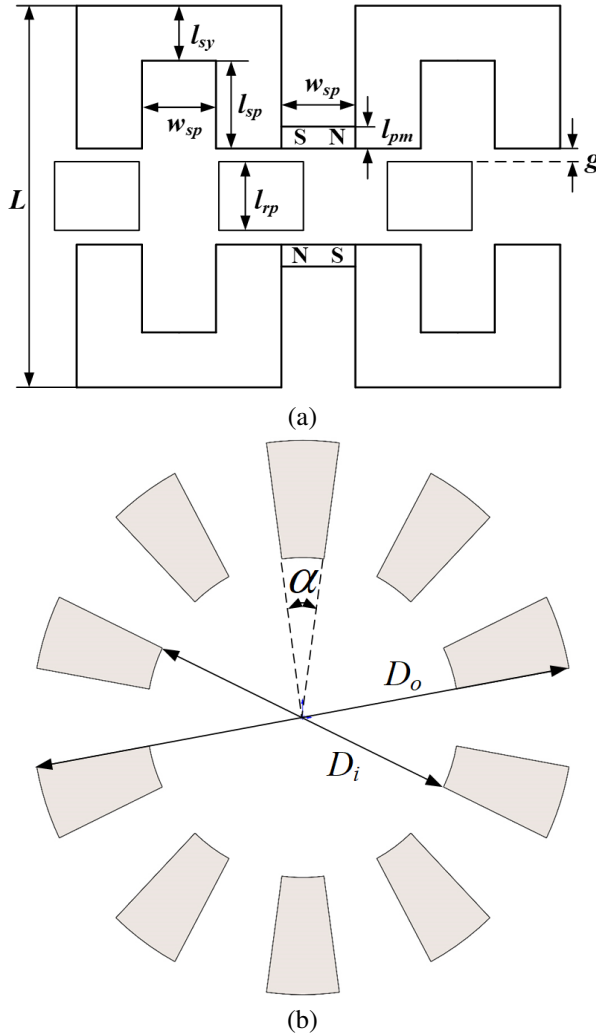


Fig. 2. Dimensional schematic of AFMHSRM: (a) axial dimensions and (b) inner and outer diameters and rotor pole angle.

Table 1: Design requirements of AFMHSRM

Parameter	Symbol	Value
Rated voltage (V)	U	96
Rated power (W)	P	1200
Rated speed (r/min)	n	600
Stator-rotor outer diameter (mm)	D_o	175
Current density (A/mm^2)	I_d	≤ 6
Stack length (mm)	L	96.8

necessary to add the initial conditions. These include the motor's inner and outer diameters as well as the rotor's polar arc angle. The specific values for these dimensions are provided in Table 2.

Table 2: Design requirements of AFMHSRM

Item	Parameter	Value
Stator-rotor outer diameter (mm)	D_o	175
Stator-rotor inner diameter (mm)	D_i	101
Rotor polar arc angle ($^\circ$)	α	15.5
Stator yoke height (mm)	l_{sy}	14
Stator pole length (mm)	l_{sp}	26
Rotor pole length (mm)	l_{rp}	15.5
Stator slot width (mm)	w_{sp}	20
Permanent magnets length (mm)	l_{pm}	6
Air gap length (mm)	g	0.4
Stack length (mm)	L	96.8

III. MOTOR LOSS ANALYSIS AND CALCULATION

The temperature rise of switched reluctance motors is mainly caused by the conversion of copper and iron losses generated during motor operation into heat energy. Heat energy accumulates inside the motor, causing the temperature to rise and adversely affecting the operational performance and reliability of the motor. Modeling and accurate calculation of copper and iron losses in motors is an important part of thermal management analysis.

Copper loss is closely related to winding resistance, operating current and motor speed. Under high-speed operating conditions, the skin effect and proximity effect will further increase the copper loss. Elevated temperatures further change the material resistivity of the windings, affecting the dynamic characteristics of copper losses.

Iron losses occur mainly in the stator and rotor cores, and consist of hysteresis losses, eddy current losses and additional losses. Among them, hysteresis loss is

related to the hysteresis loop characteristics of magnetic materials and the change of magnetic flux density. Eddy current loss is caused by the eddy current induced by the alternating magnetic field inside the core, and its magnitude is related to the magnetic flux frequency, the conductivity of the core material and the thickness of the sheet. Additional loss includes that caused by high harmonics, leakage flux and other complex factors, and its calculation usually needs to be corrected by combining electromagnetic simulation with experimental data.

A. Calculation of iron loss

Currently, iron loss is mainly calculated by the magnetic circuit analysis method and the finite element method. The iron loss of ferromagnetic materials is categorized into eddy current loss and hysteresis loss and, in general, the basic loss is obtained from the empirical formula calculated at the industrial frequency [8]:

$$P_{Fe} = P_h + P_e = C_h f B_m^n + C_e f^2 B_m^2, \quad (1)$$

where P_{Fe} is motor iron loss per unit mass loss; P_h and P_e are hysteresis loss and eddy current loss, respectively; C_h and C_e are core hysteresis loss coefficient and eddy current loss coefficient, respectively, related to the material coefficient of the iron core and the level of technology; $n = 1.6 \sim 2.2$, related to the size of B_m . C_h and C_e can be obtained by parameterization of the frequency of 50 Hz and 60 Hz [9].

A switched reluctance motor has strong nonlinearity. Its instantaneous iron core loss is non-sinusoidal periodic changes, so the need for Fourier decomposition of equation (1), the non-sinusoidal magnetic field k th harmonic iron loss estimation formula, is obtained as follows:

$$\begin{cases} P_h^{(k)} = C_h f k (B_{kmax}^{1.6} + B_{kmin}^{1.6}) \\ P_e^{(k)} = C_e f^2 k^2 (B_{kmax}^2 + B_{kmin}^2) \end{cases}, \quad (2)$$

where $P_h^{(k)}$ and $P_e^{(k)}$ are unit hysteresis loss and eddy current loss, respectively; f is core magnetically dense fundamental frequency, which is related to motor speed and number of stator and rotor poles; and B_{kmax} and B_{kmin} are k th harmonic radial and tangential Fourier transform amplitudes.

If the effect produced by the higher harmonics is negligible, then equation (2) can be rewritten as:

$$\begin{cases} P_h^{(k)} = C_h f \sum_{k=1}^m k (B_{kmax}^{1.6} + B_{kmin}^{1.6}) \\ P_e^{(k)} = C_e f^2 \sum_{k=1}^m k^2 (B_{kmax}^2 + B_{kmin}^2) \\ P_{Fe} = P_h + P_e \end{cases}. \quad (3)$$

In a sinusoidal magnetic field, when the volume of the motor core is fixed, motor iron loss, hysteresis loss P_h and eddy current loss P_e are proportional to magnetic field frequency f as well as f^2 . Let magnetic density be B , iron loss per unit volume is:

$$P_{Fe} = a(B)f + b(B)f^2. \quad (4)$$

When f , $a(B)$ and $b(B)$ are all fixed, equation (4) can be rewritten as:

$$\frac{P_{Fe}}{f} = a(B) + b(B)f. \quad (5)$$

B. Copper loss calculation

Copper loss of the winding is the main cause of temperature rise of the motor. The motor structure designed in this paper leaves more space for heat dissipation of the motor winding. Heat generation of the winding is related to the rms value of the current through the winding, which can be expressed as:

$$P_T = 3I_l^2 R_l, \quad (6)$$

where P_T denotes the copper loss of the torque winding, I_l denotes the rms value of the current and R_l denotes the resistance of the winding.

The motor winding can be estimated by the following equation:

$$R = \rho_a \frac{l_a}{S_a}, \quad (7)$$

where ρ is the resistivity, l is the length of one winding conductor and S is the cross-sectional area of the conductor.

Winding heat generation rate Q can be expressed as:

$$Q_T = \frac{P_T}{V_T}, \quad (8)$$

where Q is the winding heat generation rate and V_T is the winding volume.

C. Electromagnetic simulation of motors for loss analysis

A 3-D model of the proposed AFMHSRM is built in Ansys/Maxwell FEA software and the parameters of the stator and rotor cores, permanent magnets and windings are set to obtain the magnetic density cloud of the AFMHSRM as shown in Fig. 3 when the windings are excited by a constant current of 30 A. At the same time, the conventional 12/10 axial flux switched reluctance motor is finite element analyzed and compared with the AFMHSRM, and its magnetic density cloud is shown in Figs. 3 and 4.

It can be seen that the magnetic density of the AFMHSRM at the stator poles is significantly higher

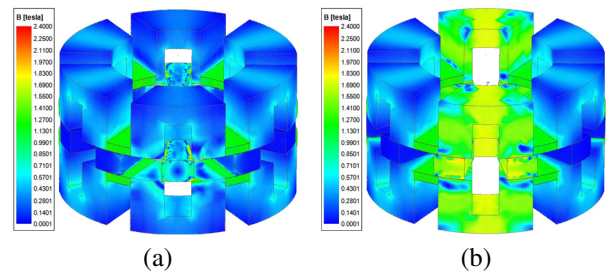


Fig. 3. Flux density distribution maps of AFMHSRM: (a) unaligned position and (b) aligned position.

than that of the conventional AFSRM for its position. On the contrary, the magnetic density at the stator yoke is lower than that of the CAFSRM due to the flux canceling effect of the permanent magnets. Therefore, the AFMHSRM produces less core loss in the stator than the CAFSRM.

The stator and rotor iron losses of both motors at rated condition and the eddy current loss curves of AFMHSRM are given in Fig. 5. It can be seen that the

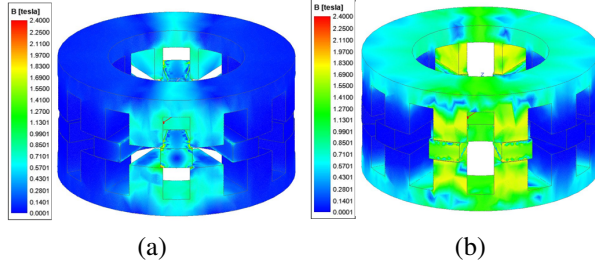


Fig. 4. Flux density distribution maps of CAFSRM: (a) unaligned position and (b) aligned position.

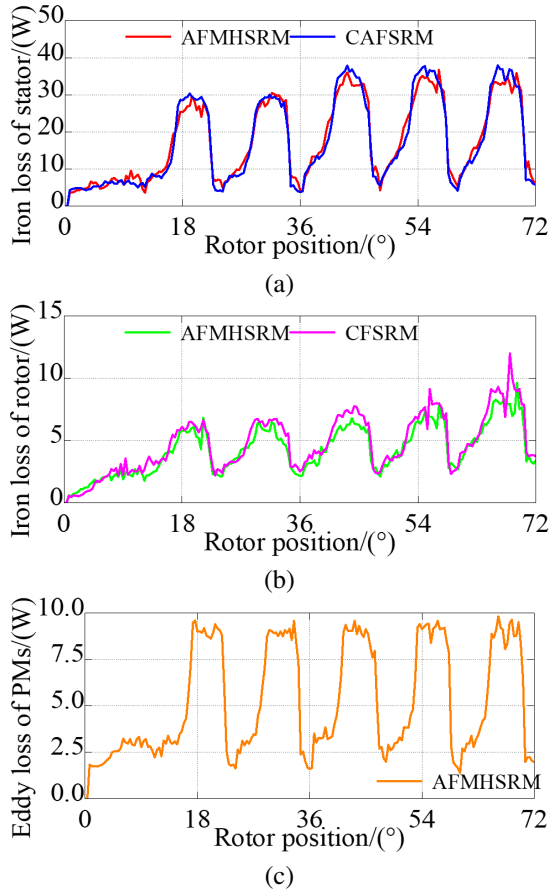


Fig. 5. Comparison of iron loss and eddy current loss of two motors: (a) stator iron loss, (b) rotor iron loss, (c) permanent magnets eddy current loss.

stator iron loss and rotor iron loss of the AFMHSRM are lower than that of the CAFSRM, which is attributed to permanent magnet flux reduction stator yoke magnetization and modular stator structure.

IV. MOTOR THERMAL MANAGEMENT ANALYSIS

A switched reluctance motor conducts heat from its windings and core through the air and core to the surface during operation. The thermal conductivity equation of a motor under steady conditions can be written as:

$$k_x \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial x^2} + k_y \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial y^2} + k_z \frac{\partial^2 T}{\partial z^2} + q_i = \rho c \frac{\partial T}{\partial \tau}, \quad (9)$$

where T is the internal temperature of the motor, q_i is the sum of heat flow densities, τ is the motor running time, ρ is the density of the motor material, c is specific heat capacity of the motor material, and k_x , k_y and k_z are the coefficients of thermal conductivity in the x , y and z directions of the axes, respectively.

In a steady state temperature field, temperature does not change with time and the right-hand side of the equation is 0. If the transient temperature field is analyzed, it is necessary to add boundary conditions for the initial moment.

First type of boundary conditions:

$$T_{S1} = T_0. \quad (10)$$

Second type of boundary conditions:

$$-k_q \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} \Big|_{S2} = q_0. \quad (11)$$

Third type of boundary conditions:

$$-k_q \frac{\partial T}{\partial n} \Big|_{S3} = \alpha_q (T - T_f), \quad (12)$$

where T_0 is the surface temperature value given by the first type of boundary condition; q_0 is the heat flow density given by the second type of boundary condition, the magnitude of which is related to the nature of the motion of the fluid flowing over the surface; the third type of boundary condition is the heat transfer coefficient and temperature of the object on both sides of the given boundary; $S1$, $S2$ and $S3$ are boundary surfaces, k_q is the boundary thermal conductivity, α_q is the heat transfer coefficient and T_f is the temperature around the heat dissipation surface.

A. Thermal analysis of AFMHSRM

With the stator and rotor iron losses obtained in the previous section, as well as the eddy current losses of the permanent magnets, the thermal model of the proposed AFMHSRM is further constructed, and the model is thermally analyzed using Ansys Workbench. In order to ensure the accuracy of the thermal analysis, and without considering the material changes with temperature, the following key operations need to be completed in the preliminary stage.

1. Temperature field model

The three-dimensional model of the motor established in the electromagnetic analysis stage is directly imported into the temperature field model, while ensuring that the physical parameters (density, thermal conductivity) of each part of the material in the imported model are consistent with the original settings, in order to ensure the reliability of the electromagnetic-thermal coupling analysis.

2. Grid division and parameter setting

Reasonable grid division is carried out for the imported 3D model to ensure the balance between calculation accuracy and solving efficiency. Loss data (including stator iron loss, rotor iron loss and permanent magnet eddy current loss) obtained from previous calculations are input into the simulation initialization parameters as heat sources, and reasonable heat dissipation boundary conditions and heat dissipation coefficients are added according to the actual cooling conditions and motor structure characteristics.

3. Thermal model solving and condition analysis

Based on the defined heat source and heat dissipation conditions, the thermal model is solved to obtain the steady state and transient heat distribution results. On this basis, the temperature distribution and thermal gradient changes of key components (e.g. stator windings, rotor and permanent magnets) are analyzed under different working conditions, which provides reference for the subsequent optimization of the motor structure and design of the cooling system.

A 3D sectional view of the entire motor during thermal simulation is given in Fig. 6. The simulation compensation is set to 1000 s and the loss parameters derived from the EM simulation are entered. The temperature distribution of stator, rotor and winding of the proposed motor at a constant initial temperature of 25°C is given in Fig. 7.

It can be seen that due to the high copper loss of the windings, the internal heat of the windings is difficult to be distributed. The temperature in the internal center area is significantly higher, with the maximum temperature reaching about 44°C. Compared to a significantly lower temperature, the heat of the motor stator is mainly concentrated in the stator pole part. The intimate heat dissipation about the temperature generated by the windings is transferred to the stator yoke through the stator poles and is distributed to the air, and the temperature in the center of the stator poles is slightly lower than that in the stator poles. The temperature at the center of the stator pole is a little lower than that of the windings. At the same time the rotor temperature is well suppressed.

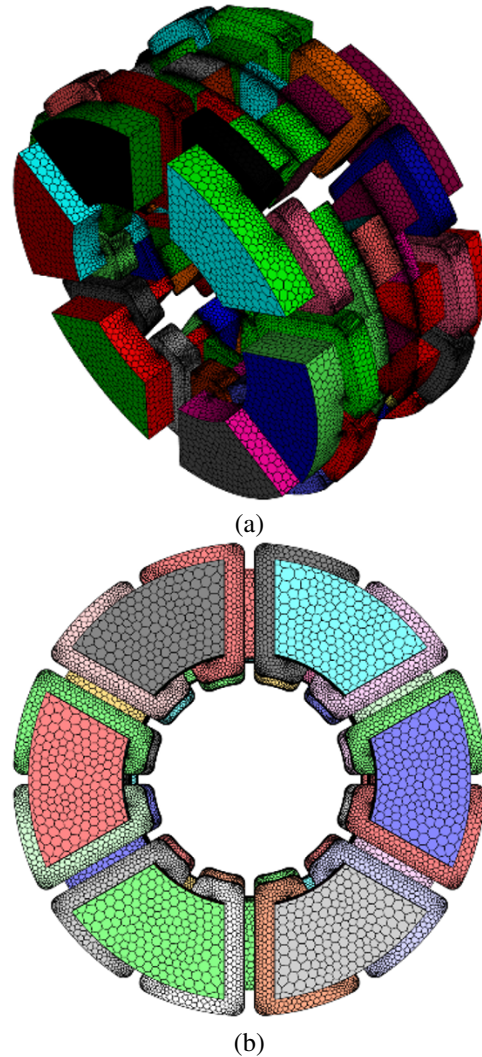


Fig. 6. Mesh graph of the 3D thermal model of the motor: (a) overall sectional view and (b) stator side.

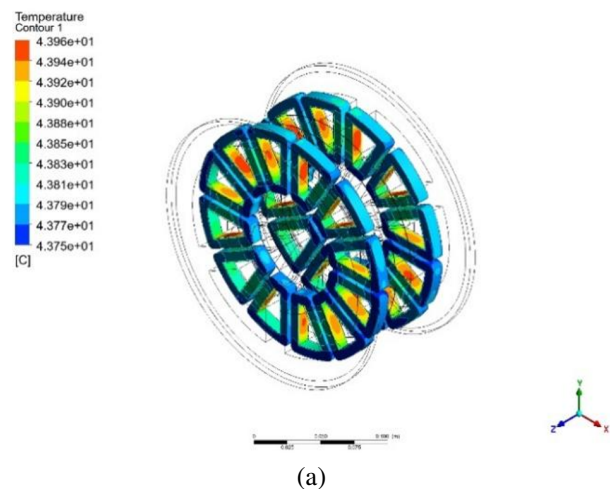


Fig. 7. Continued.

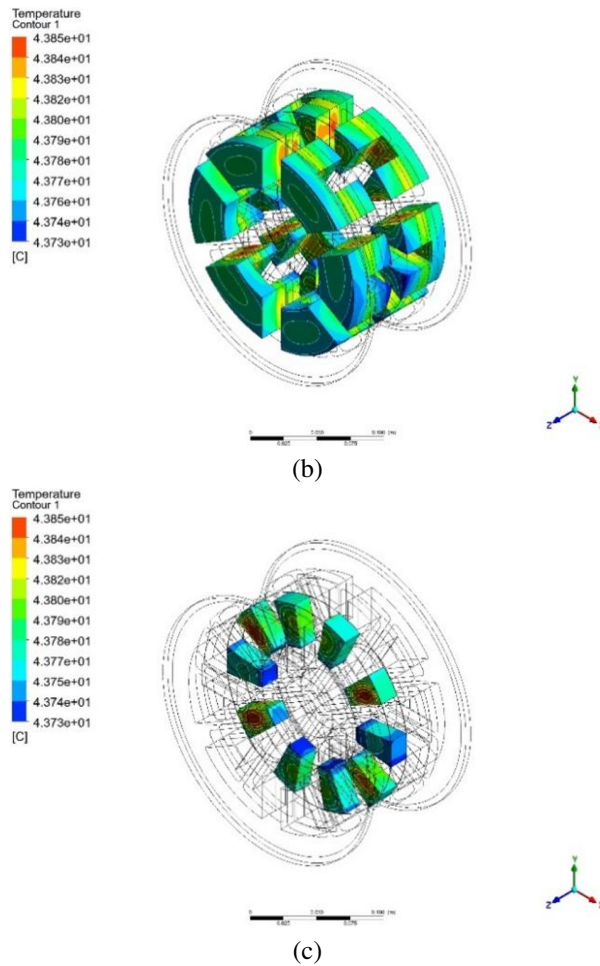


Fig. 7. Temperature map of AFMHSRM motor: (a) winding, (b) stator and (c) rotor.

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper, the influence of the structural design of the proposed AFMHSRM motor on its temperature rise is analyzed through simulation, and the copper loss and iron loss of the proposed AFMHSRM are obtained through finite element simulation. A temperature field simulation model is constructed through copper loss and iron loss, and it is verified that the temperature of the structure of the proposed motor stays at the non-high-temperature degree of 44°C , which is attributed to the thermal structure of the motor as well as the control of the electric density. It can be seen that the proposed motor has obvious advantages in thermal management.

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