

Variable reluctance synchronous machines in saturated mode

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ABSTRACT

Electric vehicle seems largely based on electrical machines. Finding the best motor type seems be important for having more performances and a transport system robustness. In this work, we present an analytical model of the synchronous machine with variable reluctances in linear and saturated modes. The angular position of the rotor (θ) and the phase current (i) will be used as parameters. The analytical model of this machine will allow us to determinate its magnetic characteristics such inductors, magnetic flux and electromagnetic torque. The results obtained by the analytical model are compared with those obtained by the finite element method. So, basing on MATLAB/Simulink tool and by working with finite element method, these results are depicted and the paper objective is illustrated.

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1. INTRODUCTION

Variable reluctance machines, because of their broad power range, are commonly used nowadays. For properly understand these types of motors, we must know their origin. The first double constructs seem to have emerged in the 1920s. They were the first systems to appear. A research that explains the physical theory of force generation in variable reluctance machines, which has often preceded the first implementations, was published in 1927 [1], [2].

In 1930, synchronous motors with variable reluctance started to be known. It was used for particular applications that needed an accurate and realistic speed. The electromagnetic arrangement didn't make for a high enough salient ratio. In the 1960s, there was renewed interest in these types of machines [3]. And there are the variable rotor reluctance synchronous motors [4]. The aim of developing flux barriers and axially rolling rotors was to increase the saliency ratio and thus the power and efficiency. There was also renewed interest in variable-reluctance motors with either a wide teeth and high torque: these engines appeared to be well suited to the realization of direct reduced motors size, such as those used in electric vehicle tires. The term "switched reluctance motor" first emerged in 1969 for the self-commutated double relieved variable reluctance motor [5]. It is now the term used to describe these devices in international scientific literature.

Today's uses include variable-speed industrial drives, as well as future applications such as automobile and electrical appliance components and turbine starter-alternators (aeronautics). This type of system is very important to study and necessitates knowledge of motor parameters such as resistance, inductance, and internal flow. As a consequence, in this article, we attempt to present two methods for estimating the efficiency of an electromagnetic actuator, which may be empirical, theoretical, or experimental. a) the finite element method (MEF) is a numerical approximation method used to solve static and dynamic boundary problems, b) the analytical models contain a series of

mathematical formulas that interpret the actuator's function as precisely as possible and c) the experimental procedure: This is a useful approach, although it is not always feasible [6].

We have chosen the analytical approach because we want a model that is fast, feasible, and reliable. Nonetheless, a finite element model would be needed. It is required for validation even if it is not used for model creation. Furthermore, after dimensional optimization, it is proposed that the results be tested using a finite element model. These methods help one to evaluate the magnetic properties of the engine, such as flux, current, and inductance variations [7].

This work is described in four principal parts, the first one deal with the geometry and dimensions of our model, the second part concerns the study of the machine in a linear regime and the third is the study of the machine in saturated regime. One of these two parts will include modeling of the machine by finite element and by analytical method. Finally, a comparative study of the results will be presented and discussed in a fourth part.

2. MOTOR STRUCTURE

2.1. Topology

Synchronous motors with variable reluctance can be regular or irregular. A regular motor is one whose poles are symmetrical around the central lines equally spaced around rotor and stator respectively. The variable reluctance synchronous machine can be designed by several numbers of phases. In short, it can be classified depending on the number of phases (single phase, three-phase) or the number of poles (6/4, 8/6). Our research is focused on the case of a Three-phase machine. Each phase contains two coils connected in such a way that their flows are additive [8], [9].

2.2. Motor operating strategy

The operation is like a series of electrical pulses applied to the coils of each phase in an alternating manner. They start when two rotor poles become aligned with a pair of stator poles. The duration of these electrical pulses can be adjusted in order to improve the characteristics of the machine [10].

2.3. Design and geometry

The geometry of a variable reluctance synchronous machine is based on a set of parameters that are reference d in (1). Figure 1 shows the design and the geometry of this machine.

$$c_c = \frac{2 \times p}{24 \times n} \quad (1)$$

In our case, n is set to one.

$$N_{ds} = 3 \times n \quad (2)$$

$$N_{dis} = 3 \times n \quad (3)$$

$$N_{dr} = 4 \times n \quad (4)$$

$$N_{sl} = 2 \times 3 \times n \quad (5)$$

To receive triangular inductances moved by an amount θ to $2/3$, the following conditions must be met, a) the stator teeth's angular opening is equivalent to the rotor teeth's angular opening, and b) the angular opening of the gap between stator teeth is $5/3$ of a size of a stator tooth [11], [12].

We have:

$$A_{dent1} = 3 \times C_c \quad (6)$$

$$A_{enc} = C_c \quad (7)$$

$$A_{dent2} = 3 \times C_c \quad (8)$$

$$A_{dr} = 3 \times C_c \quad (9)$$

$$A_{dentr} = \frac{2 \times \pi \times N_{dr} \times A_{dr}}{N_{dr}} \quad (10)$$

$$H_{cs} = \frac{B_d \times S_d}{2 \times B_{cs} \times L_m} \quad (11)$$

$$H_{cr} = \frac{B_c \times S_d}{2 \times B_{cs} \times L_m} \quad (12)$$

$$H_d = \frac{N_{sph} \times I_{dim}}{\delta \times L_{ens} \times K_r} \quad (13)$$

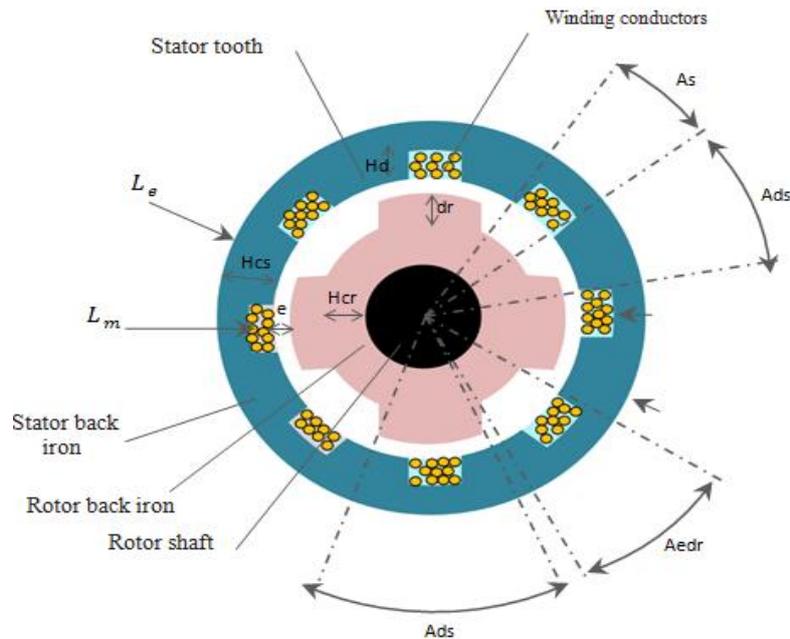


Figure 1. Prototype parameters

3. THE MOTOR IS MODELED USING FINITE ELEMENTS

The finite element theory derives from the work of Fermat and Bernoulli (1743), as well as Galerkin's method based on approximation equations in Hilbert spaces. Robert Courant implemented the variety theorem of local support functions in 1943, setting the stage for the subdivision of a given domain into "elements". Even so, it is still with the advancement of computing that these works seek use, with the groundbreaking works of Zienkiewicz and Argyris establishing the method in 1960. The contribution of the matrix measurement, implemented by an unknown civil engineer, is what leads to the method's performance and strength. The method then experienced a rapid growth, aided by advances in computer science.

Today, finite elements are a big instrument that is inevitable in mechanics (fluids and solids, relations, and structures) and valid in many fields including boundary problems, such as financial mathematics or electromagnetism. There are numerous industrial codes (solvers) available, which are usually paired with software or ss (CAD) software [13]. For this work we use the software finite element method magnetics (FEMM)

3.1. Create model

The motor was a three-phase, two-pole pair ($p=2$) design. Four teeth make up the rotor. The coils are concentrated and the holes are straight. This speed up the process of automating them and integrating them into a block. The winding is a tooth set enclosed by a coil. The motor's torque is caused by the difference in salience along the air distance. We use low-height teeth to reduce the impact of the rotor's variation in inertia during rotation [14]. The process parameters are shown in the Table 1.

Table 1. Dimensions of the prototype

Symbols	Dimensions
Lm	500 mm
E	2.5 mm
Ra	40.121 mm
Dst	300.000 mm
Nsph	550
hcr	50.279 mm
hcs	31,425 mm
hd	46,039 mm
dr	60.27 mm
Ndrp	4.000
Ndsp	3.000
Ndsi	3.000
Adent1	45.000°
Adent2	45.000°
Aenc	15.000°
Adentr1	45.000°

3.2. Materials

The realization of a high-performance machine has always been our goal. Three types of materials were used which are:

- Copper for coils: Copper is not magnetic or is just mildly magnetic (not large enough to see under usual circumstances), but it interacts with magnets.
- Pure iron for the stator and the rotor: We notice the existence of two parts. A linear part that corresponds to the linear mode. A non-linear part that corresponds to the saturated mode [15], [16].

3.3. Generate mesh and run FEA

A linear mesh of 17454 components has been used. Figure 2 demonstrates the flow lines and flux density for various values of the flow path and flux density.

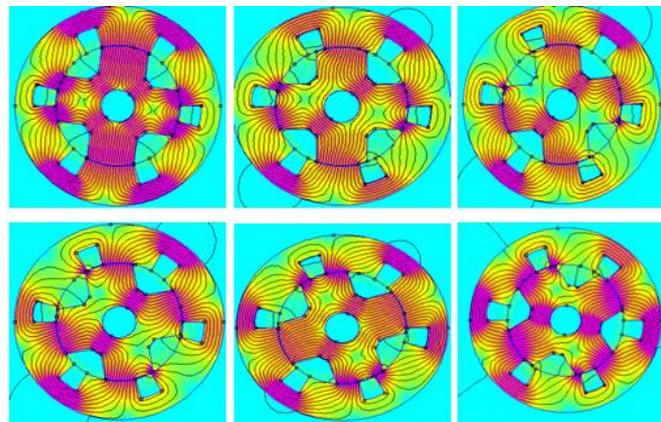


Figure 2. Induction and flow lines

3.4. Analysis results

3.4.1. Evolution of the inductances in linear mode

The inductance is estimated as follows for each value of θ ca be visualized as it is in Figure 3. The cycle presented in the previous figure is an idealized cycle, the variation of the inductance is linear. The duration of the complete alignment period is related to the relative geometry of the teeth and may be missing in the case of an identical width of the two teeth. The slopes of growth and decay of the inductors are important for the production of the torque. It should also be noted that the value of the inductance is never zero, even in the non-aligned position, there is an inductance between the stator tooth and the rotor yoke L_{\min} .

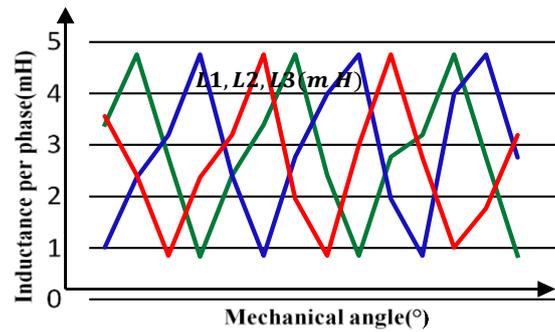


Figure 3. The evolution of inductances as a function of mechanical angles (Linear mode)

3.4.2. Evolution of the inductances in saturated mode

The evolution of the inductance variable in the saturated mode can be seen in Figure 00-01: the linear growth period of the inductance, when the rotor tooth is beginning to align with the stator tooth; in θ_1 the rotor tooth is completely aligned and the inductance reaches the maximum value L_{max} ; the torque produced in this zone is positive with respect to the direction of rotation. θ_1 - θ_2 : period of complete alignment of the two teeth; on this region the inductance remains at the maximum value and there is no production of torque. θ_2 - θ_3 : the misalignment period, with the rotor tooth away from the aligned position; the variation of inductance of the maximum value L_{max} up to the non-alignment value L_{min} produces a negative torque in the direction of rotation chosen as reference. θ_3 : the inductance value remains unchanged. L_{min} and consequently there is no production of torque.

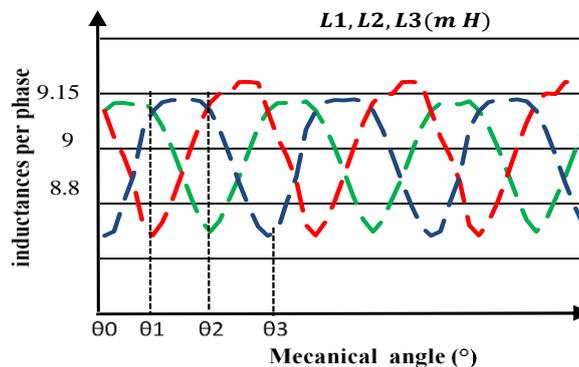


Figure 4. Evolution of the inductances in function of the mechanical angles (saturated mode)

4. ANALYTICAL MODEL

4.1. Linear mode

The motor's phase inductances are expressed by the (14) instead from (15) and (16). These (14) to (16) show all the studied parameters and gives the mathematical relationship.

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\text{if } 0 \leq \theta \leq A_{\text{dent1}} \\
 &L_1 = L_{C0} + C_i \times \theta \\
 &\text{if } A_{\text{dent1}} \leq \theta \leq 2 \times A_{\text{dent1}} \\
 &L_1 = L_{C0} + C_i \times A_{\text{dent1}} - C_i \times \theta \\
 &\text{if } \frac{2}{3} \times 2 \times A_{\text{dent1}} \leq \theta \leq \frac{7}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}} \\
 &L_2 = L_{C0} + C_i \times \left(\theta - \frac{2}{3} \times 2 \times A_{\text{dent1}} \right)
 \end{aligned} \tag{14}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{if } \frac{7}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}} \leq \theta \leq \frac{10}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}}; \\ L_2 &= L_{C0} + C_i \times A_{\text{dent1}} - C_i \times \left(\theta - \frac{7 \times A_{\text{dent1}}}{3} \right) \end{aligned} \tag{15}$$

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{if } \frac{4}{3} \times 2 \times A_{\text{dent1}} \leq \theta \leq \frac{11}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}}; \\ L_3 &= L_{C0} + C_i \times \left(\theta - \frac{4}{3} \times 2 \times A_{\text{dent1}} \right) \\ &\text{if } \frac{11}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}} \leq \theta \leq \frac{14}{3} \times A_{\text{dent1}} \\ L_3 &= L_{C0} + C_i \times A_{\text{dent1}} - C_i \times \left(\theta - \frac{11 \times A_{\text{dent1}}}{2} \right) \end{aligned} \tag{16}$$

Where:

$$C_i = \frac{N_{\text{dsp}}}{2} \times \frac{(\mu_0 \times \frac{D_{\text{st}}}{2} \times L_m) \times \left(\frac{N_{\text{sph}}}{\left(\frac{N_{\text{dsp}}}{2} \right)} \right)^2}{2 \times e} \tag{17}$$

$$L_{c1} = \frac{N_{\text{dsp}}}{2} \times \frac{(\mu_0 \times H_d \times L_m) \times \left(\frac{N_{\text{sph}}}{\left(\frac{N_{\text{dsp}}}{2} \right)} \right)^2}{L_{\text{enc}}} \tag{18}$$

The variation of the inductances according to the rotor angle is given by the Figure 5.

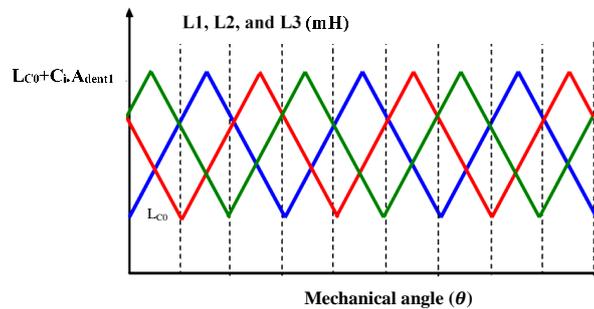


Figure 5. Evolution of the inductances in linear mode

4.2. Saturated mode

The synchronous variable reluctance machine construction is particular by the double saliency of the motor poles. The characteristics of the machine are generally nonlinear as they often operate in the saturated region of the magnetization characteristics. Then, its operation can't be represented by linearized analytical models, such as the synchronous and induction motor. Therefore, a nonlinear model taking into account the motor magnetization characteristic is mandatory in order to correctly represent our machine. This part will present the design and implementation of a nonlinear model of the machine to be used in the Simulink environment. The proposed model is implemented as a Simulink block containing six subsystems. It is based on two main inputs which are current and rotor positions. The output studied is the three-phase inductances L1, L2 and L3.

The saturation is calculated considering the induction in stator tooth can't achieve the saturation value of the iron B-H curve [17], [18]. The saturation values of inductances are measured using the linear model and the (19) to (22).

$$f_{\text{satt}} = f_0 + ds \times B_e = f_0 + \frac{D_{\text{st}}}{2} \times L_m \times B_e \times d\theta \tag{19}$$

$$f_{satt} = (L_{c0} + L(\theta)) \times I_{satt} \tag{20}$$

$$B_{dsatt} = 1.6 \tag{21}$$

$$B_{dsatt} \times S_{ds} = ds \times B_e \tag{22}$$

This magnetization characteristic can also be obtained by a finite element calculation if we know the geometry of the machine. The experimental tests carried out on the actual machine. An example of an application using the developed block (with specific models of a 6/4 motor) [19].

4.3. Simulink model

The global model of the power chain is composed of a speed and current regulator, a converter model and a dynamic equation model. The diagram in Figure 6, shows all the needed blocs and present how each bloc is connected to the other. Here, the reference speed is equal to 80Km.

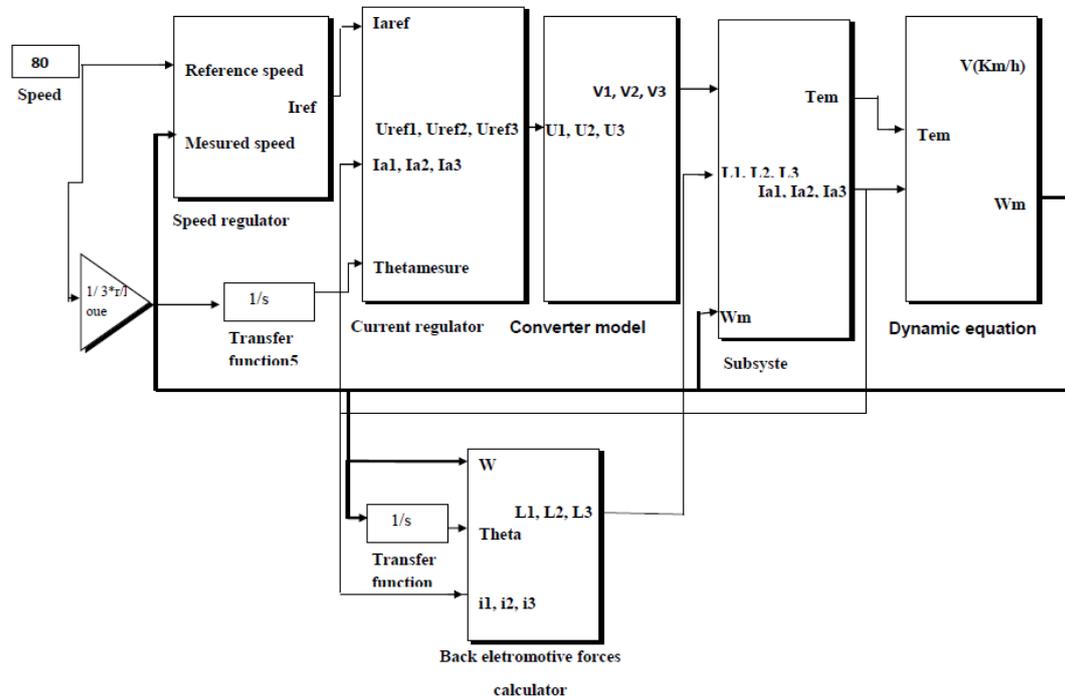


Figure 6. Global model of the power chain

4.3.1. Speed regulator

To provide the amplitude of the reference current while reducing the error between the reference and response speeds, a (PID) regulator form is used. This is for controlling the motor speed and supervising this variable in order to control the vehicle speed and acceleration.

4.3.2. Model of current regulator

Present regulators are used to change the strength and form of currents while minimizing torque fluctuation to reduce the disparity between the reference and reaction speeds. Currents can be separated into two parts: a direct current element and a component that differs in phase conflict with inductances. To obtain an optimized form of the motor torque for a constant reference rpm, two currents are positive and one is negative.

$$T_m = \frac{1}{\Omega} \frac{d\left(\frac{1}{2} \times (L_1 \times i_1^2 + L_2 \times i_2^2 + L_3 \times i_3^2)\right)}{dt} \tag{26}$$

The electrical-mechanical motor theory is implemented in the MATLAB/Simulink simulation framework. The basic interaction of mechanics is used to obtain the (27).

$$M_v \times R_{roue} \times \frac{dV}{dt} = r \times T_m - T_R \text{ (V)} \tag{27}$$

4.3.5. Inductance calculator

The inductances model is implanted under MATLAB/Simulink environnement according to Figure 8. It contains all the needed inputs and show clearly the output parameters as the three current waves. The inductances L1, L2 and L3 depend on the constant values of the inductances Lc0, Lc1 and Lc3 which are.

$$L_{C0} = N_{dsp} \sqrt{\frac{3 \times 4 \times \pi \times [10]^7 \times (N_{sph} / (N_{dsp} / 3))^2}{\times ((h_d \times L_m) / L_{enc})}} \tag{28}$$

$$L_{C1} = L_{C0} \tag{29}$$

$$L_{C2} = L_{C0} + \frac{\left(\frac{N_{dsp}}{3} \times \left(4 \times \pi \times [10]^7 \times \frac{D_{st}}{2} \times L_m \times A_{demi} \times \frac{\pi}{180} \times \frac{2}{3} \times \left(\frac{N_{sph}}{N_{dsp}} \right) \right) \right)^2}{(2 \times e)} \tag{30}$$

$$L_{C3} = L_{C2} \tag{31}$$

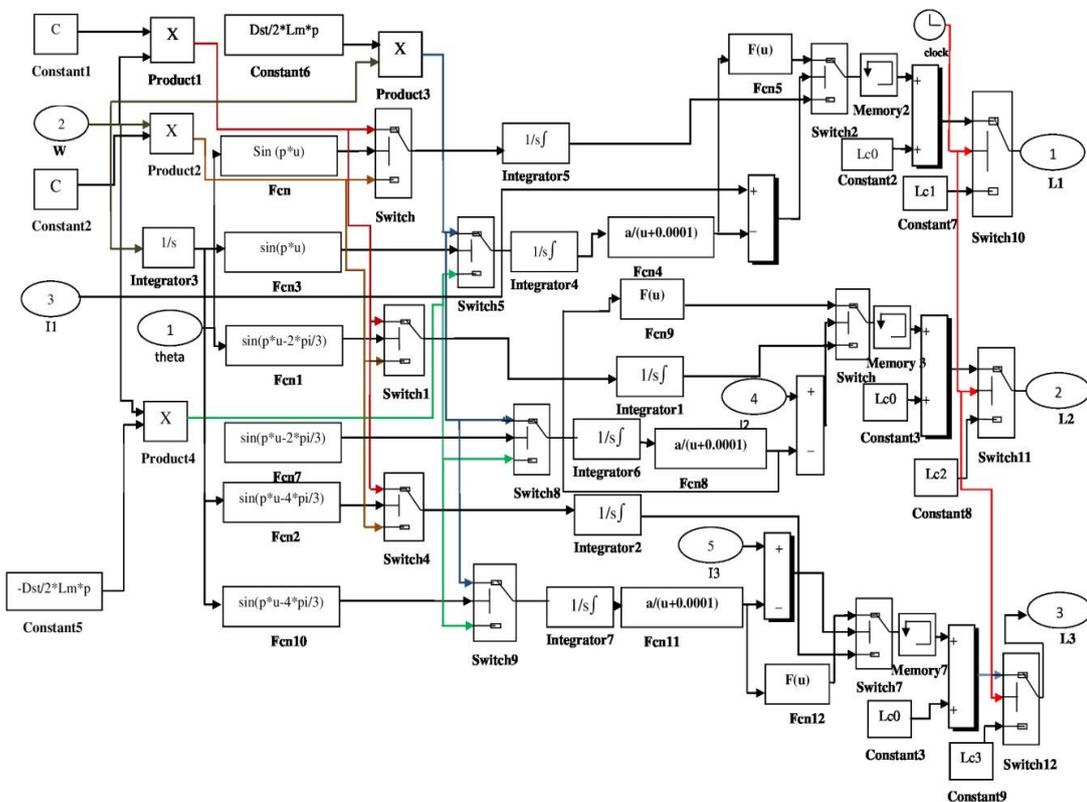


Figure 8. The inductances' Simulink model

4.3.6.Simulation results

For the simulation test we have based on this real motor characteristics, presented in Table 2. The variation of the inductances according to the rotor angle is given by Figure 9. The curves of variations of the inductances for the linear mode are given by the Figure 10. For the linear regime, we notice that the form of the inductance is triangular and that varies between two extreme values L_{min} and L_{max} . We note also that the percentage of error between the analytic model and the finite model does not exceed 5%. Then our model is validated for the case of a linear regime. For the saturated regime, the inductance curves are illustrated in the Figure 11.

Table 2. Motor paramaters

Parameters	Values	Units
R_{wheel}	0.26	m
U_{dc}	4.1	V
M_v	1000	Kg
r	3.6	/
R_{batt}	0.01	m
B_{cs}	1.6	T
B_d	0.7	T
M_{cs}	105.230	Kg
M_{ds}	331.742	Kg
C_i	0.072/1000	/
A_{dent1}	45	°
L_m	500/1000	mm
D_{st}	300/1000	mm
s_{dp}	3	
e	2/1000	mm
S_{ds}	$A_{dent1} * \pi / 180 * (D_{st} / 2) * L_m$	mm^2
L_{min}	32.318/1000	mm
N_{sph}	546	coil
a	$2 * 1.6 * S_{ds} * e / (4 * \pi / 10000000 * N_{sph})$	/
I_n	275	A
A_{enc}	15	°
r_{cu}	0.0176 * 0.000001	Ohm.m
k_r	0.65	/
δ	6	A/mm ²

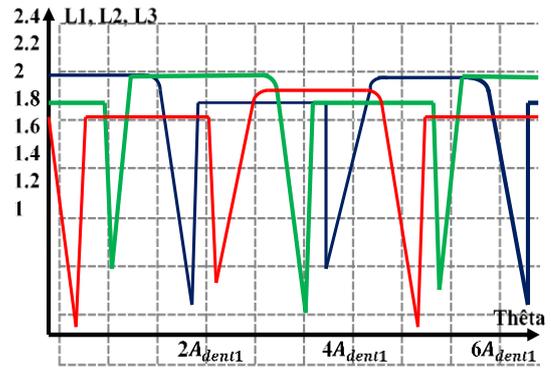


Figure 9. Inductances variation in saturated mode

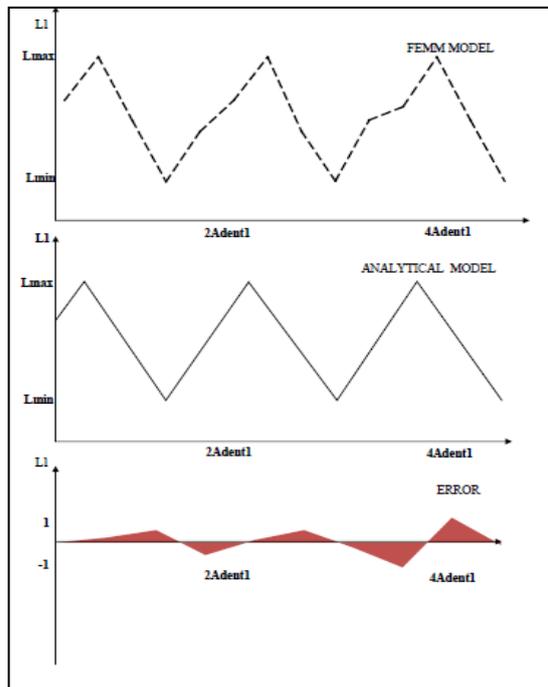


Figure 10. Inductances variation in linear mode

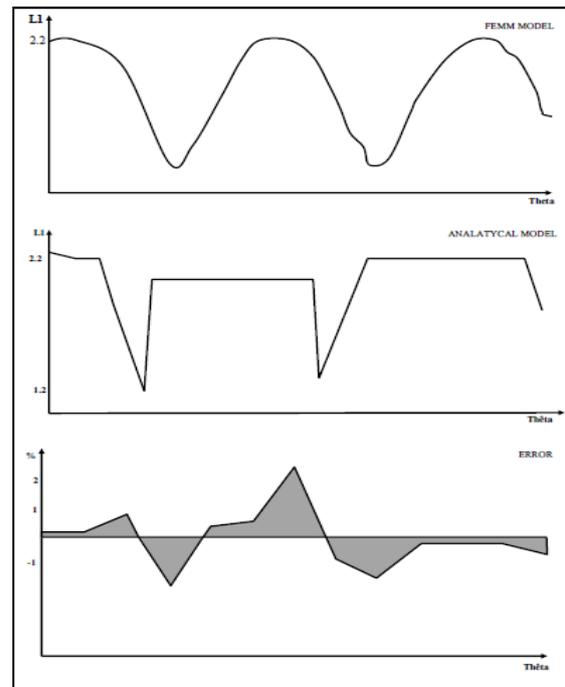


Figure 11. Inductances variation in saturated mode

5. CONCLUSION

The machine's finite element modeling is discussed in the first section. The simulation techniques are presented first, followed by the estimation of the model's parameters. The finite element model is used to validate the empirical model by studying the variance of stator inductances for various rotor positions.

The FEMM 4.2 software is used to perform the finite element analysis. The lengthy computation times and computational resources used to perform this method of investigation limit the number of cases that can be examined. The analytical model is the focus of the second section. The evolution of these inductances has been supported by this model. Finally, we contrasted the empirical and finite element models. We discovered that the error is not particularly high. The maximum error is around 4%, which is appropriate in our situation.

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