

Detent Force Analysis and Optimization for Vertical Permanent-magnet Linear Synchronous Motor with Fractional-slot Windings

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Abstract—This paper investigates the detent force modeling and optimization of a iron-core type 16-pole 15-slot permanent magnet linear synchronous motor (PMLSM) for ropeless elevator applications. Variable network non-linear magnetic equivalent circuit (VNMEC) model is established to predict the detent force of PMLSM. The topology structure of equivalent magnetic circuit is developed and the permeance are derived and calculated. The end effect of two end teeth is essential for detent force analysis and it is focused in the modeling. Magnetic saturation of primary tooth also is taken into account and nonlinear permeance is calculated. Some 3-D finite-element numerical calculations are used to validate the feasibility of the proposed method. Then proposed VNMEC is employed to calculate and optimize the detent force considering the end tooth dimensions. In final, experimental results are further used to verify the validation of proposed model.

Index Terms—permanent-magnet linear synchronous motor, 16-pole 15-slot structure, detent force, equivalent magnetic network, optimization design

I. INTRODUCTION

Recently, following the increasing height of the buildings and depth of mines, the traditional rope hoist system such as elevator and mine hoist is limited in lifting height and speed and effective weight due to the ropes exist. It is urgent to develop a new hoist mode instead of the traditional ones. The vertical hoist system driven by linear motor is of potential best choice to solve the hoisting problems for the high-rise buildings and ultra-deep mine [1-4]. And it attracts much more attentions because of its many advantages such as large thrust density, high efficiency, fast response, accurate positioning, simple structure and no height limit and so on[5-6].

In comparison with linear switched reluctance motor (LSRM) and linear induction motor (LIM), the permanent magnet linear synchronous motor (PMLSM) is most suitable drive source for vertical hoist system because of the high force density. Especially, the slotted iron core

PMLSM with fractional-slot concentrated windings has larger force density and shorter end windings than that with distribution windings, and more suitable for long stroke ropeless hoist applications [7]. However, PMLSM with primary core opening slots and both breaking ends has the detent force caused by the cogging effect and end effect, which will lead to thrust fluctuations, affecting the low-speed performance and positioning accuracy. Therefore, prediction and reduction of detent force are highly important research aspects in permanent magnet linear motor [8-10]. Currently, there are mainly three ways to calculate the detent force of PMLSM, i.e., numerical method [8], analytical method, and magnetic equivalent circuits. Numerical method mainly refers to the finite-element method, which is accurate and suitable for evaluating final designs, but is computationally complexity and time consuming in pre- and post-processing, especially in the stage of optimization design which often changes the motor structure parameters. The analytical method mainly uses layer linear models to analyze the fundamental and harmonic components of detent force quickly by means of Fourier series [9-10], however, many simplifications are done in physical models like ignoring detail structure, magnetic saturation and magnetic flux leakage of permanent magnet, and this decreases the accuracy of results. Magnetic equivalent circuits can provide a compromise between finite element and analytical method, which has higher accuracy than analytical method and far less computation time than the finite element method. Currently, this method has been used to calculate the air-gap magnetic field, back-EMF and other cases [11-12], but rarely used to investigate the detent force of PMLSM.

In addition, researchers have proposed some detent force reduction techniques such as using stair shape auxiliary teeth, skewing PM poles or slots, optimizing iron-core length, but some of them affect machine output or driving characteristics [13]. The detent force in slotted iron-core PMLSM is composed of the end component and the cogging component. Generally, the former is much larger than the latter. Recently, fractional-slot

concentrated windings is adopted in PMLSM[14-16], greatly reduces the slot cogging force and remains large force density, but the end component of detent force still exists and dominates the major part. In [17], the end tooth length is optimized to reduce the detent force using general magnetic circuit analytical model ignored the iron-core saturation effect.

In this paper, the targets are to predict and reduce the detent force of 16-pole 15-slot structure PMLSM. A simplified nonlinear magnetic equivalent network model is established considering the structural characteristics of PMLSM. Tooth tip local saturated permeance is calculated according to the magnetization curve of the iron-core considering the local saturation. Two end teeth of the iron-core are focused in modeling process and their optimal length and width are also calculated and discussed. The results are verified by three-dimensional finite element calculations and experiments.

II. ROPELESS ELEVATOR AND LINEAR MOTOR MODEL

A. Ropeless Elevator Driven by PMLSM

The ropeless elevator system as the main future vertical transportation mode is of breakthrough the limitation of the buildings height. Two types linear motor elevator developed by author's group are shown in Fig.1.



(a) double-sided stator (b) single-sided stator
Figure 1. Ropeless hoist system driven by PMLSM.

The left one with vertical travel 3 meters and effective load 20 Kg, is composed of two double-side PMLSM stator with distribution windings and permanent magnet mover. The right one is called home ropeless elevator with vertical travel 4 meters and rated load 2 adults, composed of single-side PMLSM stator with fractional-slot concentrated windings and permanent magnet mover. The 16-pole 15-slot PMLSM has larger thrust-volume-ratio than other pole-slot combinations and so it is chosen as the standard unit motor with 15slots length. Meanwhile, the caliper brake with the force amplifier was designed and developed independently in ropeless elevator applications and it has smaller size and larger braking force, operating faster and more reliably than the existing

ordinary brake. In addition, the home ropeless elevator has four security protections such as working caliper brake, safety gear over-speed protection and bottom buffer protection, and especially employing specific power failure emergency protection due to the inherent character of PMLSM that the primary windings are shorted automatically when power failure occurs and then moving secondary permanent magnets cut the closed coils and the brake force is generated by Lenz's law.

B. PMLSM with Fractional-slot Concentrated Windings

Considering the practical application of vertical ropeless hoist system, such as suitable unit motor weight, maximum thrust-volume ratio, economical metal materials and easy installation, fractional-slot concentrated windings PMLSM is selected as the driving motor of ropeless elevator.

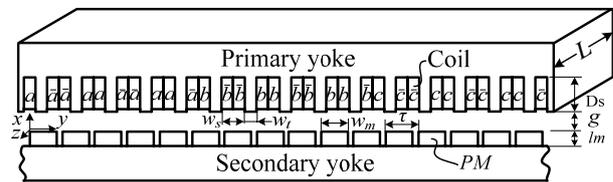


Figure 2. Model of 16-pole 15-slot iron-core PMLSM.

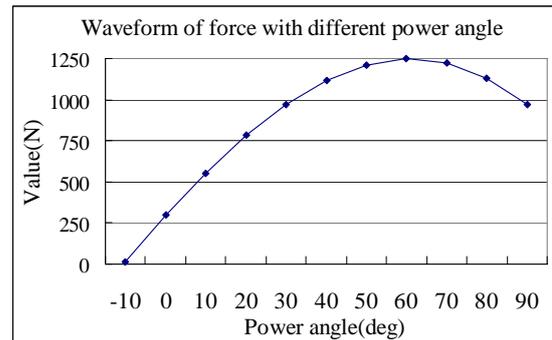


Figure 3. Waveform of thrust with different power angle.

TABLE I.
SPECIFICATION OF PMLSM

Items [units]	value	Items [units]	value
Iron-core length [mm]	336	Number of slot	15
Limitation thickness [mm]	100	PM height [mm]	9
Slot width [mm]	14	PM width [mm]	18
Tooth height [mm]	20	Pole pitch [mm]	21
Tooth width [mm]	8.4	Air-gap [mm]	2.6

Fig.2 shows the main physical structure and winding configuration. Table I shows the main parameters of fractional-slot concentrated windings PMLSM. Fig.3 shows the characteristic of thrust vs. power angle in steady status. This motor has two prominent advantages that having small cogging torque due to fractional-slot

iron-core structure, and having high winding factor and low loss and saving metal martial due to adopting primary concentrated windings which has more shorter end than distribution windings.

III. DETENT FORCE MODELLING

A. Variable Network Magnetic Equivalent Circuit Model

Variable network magnetic equivalent circuit model (VNMEC) is discussed in this section. Fig.4 shows the open-circuit field distribution. Fig.5 shows the magnetic equivalent circuit model of the whole motor. During the movement of mover, the magnetic network changes when all the permeance changes with the distance Δx shown in Fig.5, therefore, it is a variable network equivalent magnetic circuit model.

The VNMEC model consists of the equivalent permeance of the primary and secondary, the air-gap permeance and edge permeance. The symbols in Fig. 5 are explained as follows. F_m is magnetic motive force (MMF); G_{ma} , G_{mb} , G_{mc} are magnet inner permeance; G_{ys} is secondary yoke permeance; G_{PML} is permeance caused by the self leakage flux of a PM pole; G_{PMM} is permeance caused by adjacent magnets leakage flux; G_n is air-gap permeance; G_L is leakage permeance between adjacent teeth; G_{L3D} is 3-D leakage permeance in the end region of motor; G_t is primary middle tooth permeance; G_{te} is primary end tooth permeance; G_{tp} is primary middle permeance tip; G_{tpe} is primary end tip permeance; G_y is primary yoke presence.

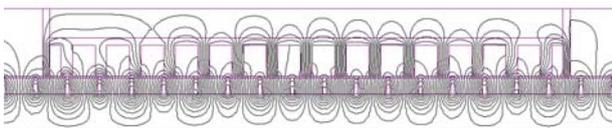


Figure 4. Flux distribution of 16-pole 15-slot PMLSM.

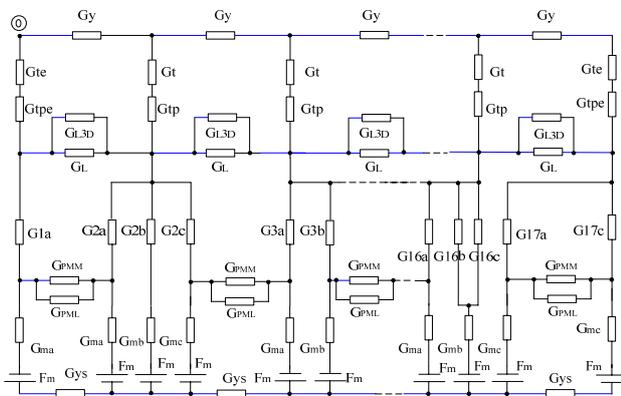


Figure 5. Equivalent magnetic model of 16-pole 15-slot PMLSM.

B. Air-gap Permeance Calculation

To simplify the calculation of air-gap permeance, we assumed that the surfaces of the stator and rotor core are magnetic equipotential surface respectively. The magnetic flux lines are vertical to the surface of the core. The flux paths at the boundary flowing to adjacent teeth are moving in the same length [18].

According to different relative positions of the stator and mover, the air-gap permeance are obtained based on magnetic flux tubes with boundaries determined by straight line and semicircular segments instead of the actual magnetic flux lines. The main schematic diagrams are shown as Fig.6.

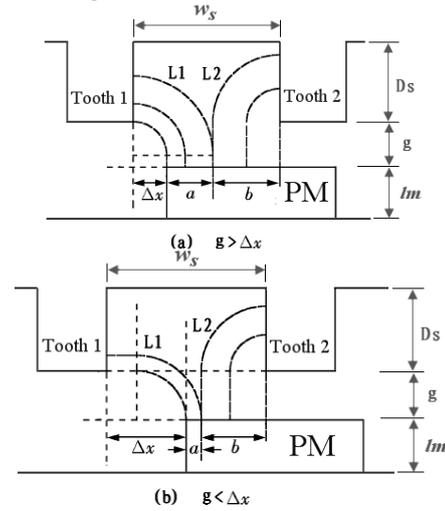


Figure 6. Flux path of one stator segment for different rotor positions.

When the relative position of the PM and the tooth is shown in Fig.4(a), that is $g > \Delta x$, the average length flowing to tooth 1 and tooth 2 L_a and L_b are given by

$$L_a = g - \Delta x + \frac{\pi}{2}(\Delta x + \frac{a}{2}), \quad L_b = g + \frac{\pi}{4}b \quad (1)$$

where

$$a = \frac{w_s}{2} - \Delta x + \frac{\Delta x}{\pi}, \quad b = \frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} \quad (2)$$

The corresponding permeance are given by

$$G_a = \frac{\mu_0 a L}{L_a} = \frac{\mu_0 L (\frac{w_s}{2} - \Delta x + \frac{\Delta x}{\pi})}{g - \frac{3}{4} \Delta x (\pi - 1) + \frac{\pi}{8} w_s} \quad (3)$$

$$G_b = \frac{\mu_0 b L}{L_b} = \frac{\mu_0 L (\frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{\pi})}{g - \frac{1}{4} \Delta x + \frac{\pi}{8} w_s} \quad (4)$$

When the relative position of the PM and the tooth is shown in Fig.4(b), that is $g < \Delta x$, the average length flowing to tooth 1 and tooth 2 L_a and L_b are given by

$$L_a = g - \Delta x + \frac{\pi}{2}(g + \frac{a}{2}), \quad L_b = g + \frac{\pi}{4}b \quad (5)$$

where

$$\begin{cases} a = \frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} + \frac{2g}{\pi} - \frac{g}{2} \\ b = \frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} + \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} - \frac{2g}{\pi} + \frac{g}{2} \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

The corresponding permeance are given by

$$G_a = \frac{\mu_0 a L}{L_a} = \frac{\mu_0 L (\frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} + \frac{2g}{\pi} - \frac{g}{2})}{\frac{3}{4} \Delta x - \frac{1}{2} g - \frac{\pi}{4} (\frac{1}{2} w_s - \frac{1}{2} \Delta x + \frac{3g}{2})} \quad (7)$$

$$G_b = \frac{\mu_0 b L}{L_b} = \frac{\mu_0 L (\frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} + \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} - \frac{2g}{\pi} + \frac{g}{2})}{\frac{g}{2} + \frac{\pi}{4} (\frac{w_s}{2} - \frac{\Delta x}{2} + \frac{\Delta x}{\pi} + \frac{g}{2})} \quad (8)$$

The air gap permeance includes two parts. The permeance taking into account the cross-section area of the mover and the stator can be calculated using air-gap length by geometric methods. The average permeance modeling the flux paths which flow from the stator PM to two sides of mover teeth is calculated by (3), (4), (7) and (8). Then the air-gap permeance corresponding to different branches can be obtained through adding two parts together.

C. The Primary Equivalent Permeance

The primary equivalent permeance consists of yoke permeance G_y , tooth permeance G_t and G_{ip} and leakage permeance between adjacent teeth G_L . In order to consider the local magnetic saturation in the tooth, the tooth tip permeance G_{ip} is provided within a certain distance from the tooth tip (near the air gap side) considering the magnetic saturation effect, composed of G_{br} , G_{tr} , G_{bl} , G_{tl} and G_{ia} discussed later.

Tooth permeance G_t and leakage permeance between adjacent teeth G_L are given by

$$G_t = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_{Fe} w_t L}{D_s (1 - \alpha)}, \quad G_L = \frac{\mu_0 D_s L}{2 w_s} \quad (9)$$

Meanwhile, the leakage permeance G_{LSD} is expressed by

$$G_{LSD} = 2\mu_0 (w_t - \frac{w_s}{2}) \left[0.268 + 0.318 \ln(1 + \frac{w_t}{w_s}) \right] \quad (10)$$

D. The Secondary Equivalent Permeance

The MMF source produced by the permanent magnets in secondary can be represented as $F_m = \frac{B_m H_m}{\mu_m}$, where

H_m , B_m , μ_m are the magnet thickness, the magnetic density and magnet permeability, respectively. The leakage permeance G_{PMM} and G_{PML} are given by

$$\begin{cases} G_m = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_{tm} w_m L}{D_s}, G_{PML} = \frac{\mu_0 L (\tau - w_m)}{l_m} \\ G_{PMM} = \frac{2\mu_0 L}{\pi} \ln(1 + \frac{g\pi}{\tau - w_m}) \end{cases} \quad (11)$$

E. Saturation Effect in Stator Tooth

Fig. 6 shows the local magnetic field distribution when the stator and mover poles are partly overlapping. In Fig. 6(a), the heavy line represents the leakage flux path. The flux loops are short circuited via the pointed end of the stator tooth. In order to capture the local magnetic saturation, an analytical model of air-gap permeance is presented and shown in Fig. 6(b). G_{br} , G_{tr} , G_{bl} , G_{tl} and G_{ia} are saturation permeance tips in the stator tooth and are given by

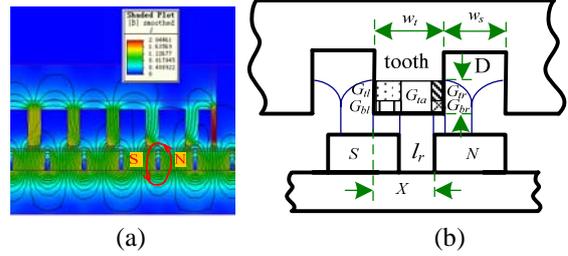


Figure 7. Magnetic field distribution with a stator tooth aligns with magnet pole spacer.

$$\begin{cases} G_{br} = \frac{2\mu_0 \mu_{br} k_i L (X - w_s)}{D}, G_{tr} = \frac{2\mu_0 \mu_{tr} k_i L (X - w_s)}{D} \\ G_{bl} = \frac{2\mu_0 \mu_{bl} k_i L (\frac{w_s}{2} + w_t - X)}{D}, G_{tl} = \frac{2\mu_0 \mu_{tl} k_i L (\frac{w_s}{2} + w_t - X)}{D} \\ G_{ia} = \frac{\mu_0 \mu_{ia} k_i L D}{l_r} \end{cases} \quad (12)$$

where $D = \min(T_s - X, X - l_r)$.

IV. DETENT FORCE PREDICTION AND OPTIMIZATION

A. Equivalent Network Equations

In Fig.5, the number of branches of the equivalent magnetic circuits varies with mover position while the number of nodes in the circuit is fixed. So the nodal analysis is used to solve the magnetic circuit. The magnetomotive source due to the magnets can be represented by two possible magnetic branches as shown in Fig.6, in which k_{i1} and k_{i2} represent the nodes connected by branch i , $F_m(k_{i1})$ and $F_m(k_{i2})$ are the magnetic potential, $\phi(i)$ is the flux through branch i , $G_m(i)$ is the branch permeance, $F_{m0}(i)$ is the branch magnetomotive source, and $\phi_0(i)$ is the branch magnetic flux source. These parameters have the following relationship:

$$\begin{cases} \phi(i) = P_m(i) [F_m(k_{i1}) - F_m(k_{i2})] + \phi_0(i) \\ \phi_0(i) = P_m(i) F_{m0}(i) \end{cases} \quad (13)$$

$$\begin{bmatrix} G(1,1) & G(1,2) & \dots & G(1,m) \\ G(2,1) & G(2,2) & \dots & G(2,m) \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots \\ G(m,1) & G(m,2) & \dots & G(m,m) \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} F_m(1) \\ F_m(2) \\ \vdots \\ F_m(m) \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} \phi_s(1) \\ \phi_s(2) \\ \vdots \\ \phi_s(m) \end{bmatrix} \quad (14)$$

where m is number of independent nodes; $G(i, j)$, for $i, j=1,2,\dots,m$, is the node permeance; $F_m(i)$, for $i=1,2,\dots,m$,

is the node magnetic vector potential; $\phi_m(i)$, for $i=1,2,\dots,m$, is the node magnetic flux source.

In short form, it can be written as

$$G_m(\mu_i)F_m = \phi_s(\mu_i) \tag{15}$$

where μ_i is permeability of branch i ; $G_m(\mu_i)$ is node permeance matrix; F_m is vector of node magnetic potential; $\phi_s(\mu_i)$ is vector of node magnetic flux source.

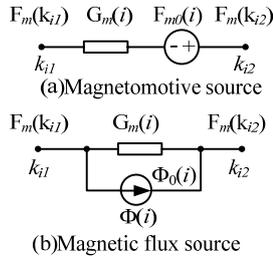


Figure 8. representation of possible magnetic branches.

Gauss-Seidel iteration method is employed to solve (5), nonlinear iterative process is shown as follow.

$$G(\mu_i)^{(k)} F_m^{(k)} = \phi_s(\mu_i)^{(k)} \tag{16}$$

Where, $G(\mu_i)$ is composed of air-gap permeance, leakage permeance and iron-core permeance. Air-gap permeance and leakage permeance is linear and can be calculated directly when mover has a displacement Δx . Iron-core nonlinear permeance $G_m(\mu_i)$ is iterated through B-H curve of iron-core material as follow.

$$G_n(\mu_i)^{(k)} = \mu_i^{(k)} \frac{S_m}{L_m} \tag{17}$$

$$\mu_i^{(k)} = \frac{B_i^{(k-1)}}{H_i^{(k-1)}} \tag{18}$$

B. Magnetic Field and Detent Force Prediction

The magnetic energy storage for each branch is given by

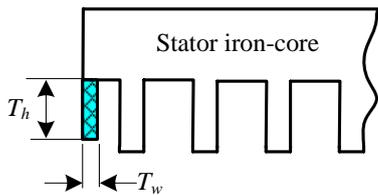


Figure 11. End tooth configuration (side view).

$$W_{mi} = \frac{1}{2} F_{mi} \Phi_{fi} \tag{19}$$

The total magnetic energy storage can be expressed as follows.

$$W_{MA} = \sum W_{mi} = \sum \frac{1}{2} F_{mi} \Phi_{fi} = \sum \frac{1}{2} F_{mi} (G_i F_{mi}) = \frac{1}{2} \sum (F_{mi}^2 G_i) \tag{20}$$

The detent force produced by PMLSM is given by

$$F_{cog} = \frac{\partial W_{MA}}{\partial x} \tag{21}$$

When the mover position is changed, the permeance of each branch should be recalculated again, and then the detent force of mover can be obtained in every position.

Fig.9 and Fig.10 show the calculated curves about the air-gap flux density distribution and the detent force with the mover position. The proposed method is validated by the 3-D finite element analysis (FEA).

Fig.9 shows the comparison of the calculated detent force by VNEMC and 3-D FEA results within a pole pitch. From this figure, the maximum error is calculated at 9.8%. This method basically meets the engineering needs and the calculated speed are greatly increased, the computing time reduced to 55seconds, while the time of three-dimensional FEA is up to 8 hours. Proposed method provides a way to design optimization of PMLSM quickly.

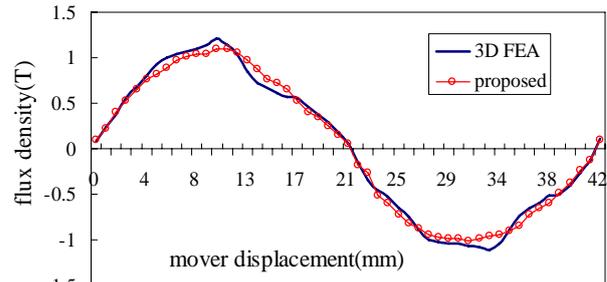


Figure 9. Flux distribution of 16-pole 15-slot PMLSM.

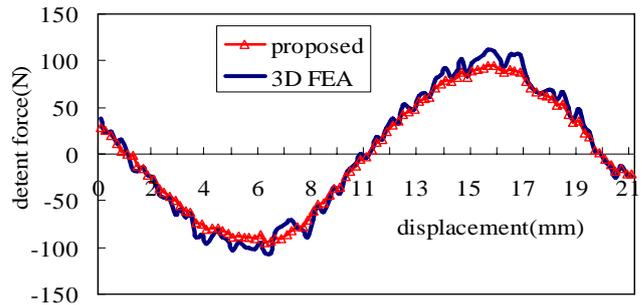


Figure 10. Flux distribution of 16-pole 15-slot PMLSM.

C. Detent Force Optimization

The finite length of the armature core results in a detent force [19]. Two end teeth of PMLSM have obviously contributions to the detent force fluctuating with pole pitch periodically. Optimizing the end tooth dimensions, can be used to reduce the detent force.

We analyzed the detent force of the basic model with two edge end teeth using the proposed VNEMC method by adjusting the tooth heights and widths. Fig.11 shows the end tooth configuration (side view).

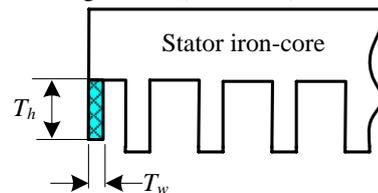


Figure 11. End tooth configuration (side view).

Fig.12 shows detent force characteristics comparison with different end tooth heights by proposed VNEMC at the 2.6-mm air gap. From Fig.13, it can be summarized

that the end tooth heights extremely influence the detent magnitude, when the height is smaller than $13mm$, equal to the air-gap is longer than $7mm$, the detent force is reduced by 70% than full height and almost less affected by end tooth height.

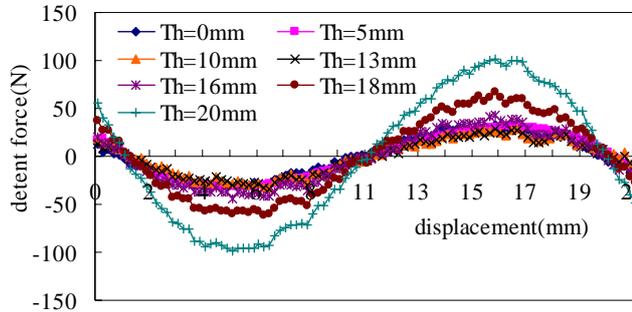


Figure 12. detent force comparison by different end tooth height.

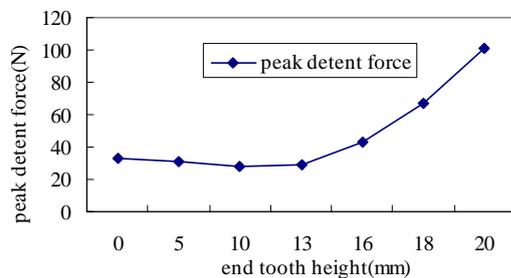


Figure 13. Trend of detent force with tooth height variation.

Meanwhile, with a constant air-gap $2.6mm$, varying the end tooth widths, detent force characteristics are shown in Fig.14 and Fig.15. We can see that there is tooth width ($=15mm$) producing a minimal detent force magnitude ($=21N$). When end tooth width is smaller than $4mm$ or bigger than $18mm$, detent force increases significantly.

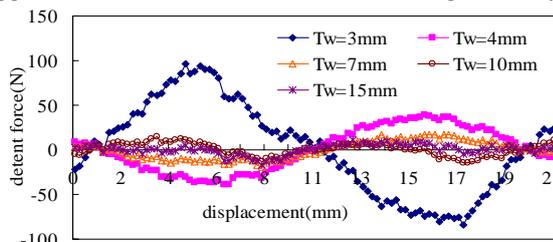


Figure 14. Detent force comparison by different end tooth width.

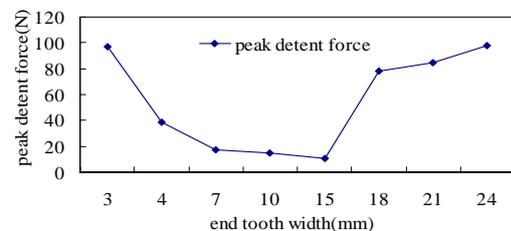


Figure 15. Trend of detent force with tooth width variation.

V. MEASUREMENTS

A. Laboratory Prototype and Set-up

The studied laboratory prototype is shown in Fig.16. The parameters used for the active parts of the machine

are given in Table I. The experiment setup is equipped with test motor, drive motor and its driver and force sensor are shown in Fig.17. In this paper, we use two test motors that one has end teeth and another has no end tooth. The mover displacement is also measured by using linear encoders. When do the tests, firstly, remove the test motor and remain the drive motor has a constant velocity to run, and then we can test the frictional force of the whole mover system. Then add the test motor to the experiment bench and record the thrust force data. The net detent force is the thrust force minus the frictional force.

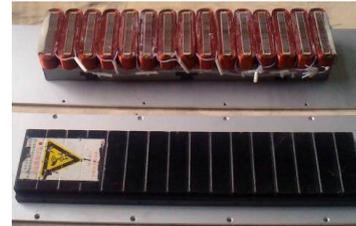


Figure 16. Experimental 16pole-15slot motor.

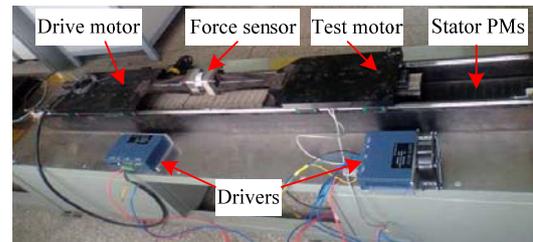


Figure 17. experiment setup.

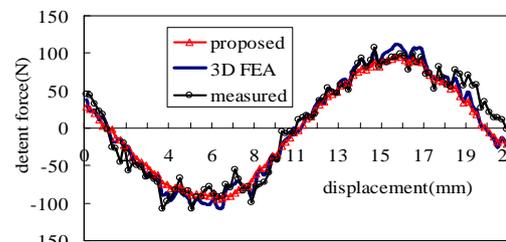


Figure 18. Detent force curve with end tooth $T_h=20mm, T_w=4mm$.

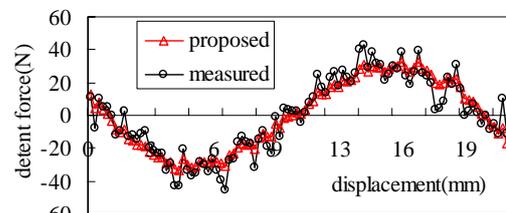


Figure 19. Detent force curve with no end tooth

B. Experimental Results

The measured detent force with end tooth ($T_h=20mm, T_w=4mm$) is shown in Fig.18. After the optimal design of the edge tooth dimensions, another motor prototype with no end tooth are test and the data are shown in Fig.19. From Fig.18 and Fig.19, we can see that the experiment results well agree with the proposed results.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

This paper studies the detent force modeling and optimization of PMLSM using for ropeless elevator and establishes the variable network non-linear magnetic equivalent circuit model of PMLSM. The end effect of two end teeth and magnetic saturation of primary iron-core are taken into account in the modeling. 3-D finite-element analysis and experiment measured data is employed to evaluate the proposed method. It shows that the proposed method can solve the problem effectively without much time consuming, could be used to study the PMLSM characteristics and optimal design of ropeless elevator.

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