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Abstract: Permanent magnet torque motor (PMTM) is widely used in aerospace, computer numerical control (CNC) machine tools, and industrial robots with many advantages such as high torque density, strong overload capacity, and low torque ripple. With the upgrading of industrial manufacturing, the requirements for the performance of torque motors have become more stringent. At present, how to achieve high output torque and low torque ripple has become a research hotspot of torque motors. In the optimization process, it is necessary to increase the output torque while the torque ripple can be reduced, and it is difficult to get a good result with the single-objective optimization. In this paper, a multi-objective optimization method based on the combination of design parameter stratification and support vector machine (SVM) is proposed. By analyzing the causes of torque ripple, the output torque, efficiency, cogging torque, and total harmonic distortion (THD) of back electromotive force (EMF) are selected as the optimization objectives. In order to solve the coupling problem between the motor parameters, the calculation formula of Pearson correlation coefficient is used to analyze the relationship between the design parameters and the optimization objectives, and the design parameters are layered ac-cording to the sensitivity. In order to shorten the optimization cycle of the motor, SVM is used as a fitting method of the mathematical model. The performance between initial and optimal motors is compared, and it can be found that the optimized motor has a higher torque and lower torque ripple. The simulation results verify the effectiveness of the proposed optimization method.

Keywords: permanent magnet torque motor (PMTM); multi-objective optimization; design parameter stratification; SVM

1. Introduction

With the in-depth research of permanent magnet materials, permanent magnet materials with excellent performance have been invented, which can improve the performance of permanent magnet motors [1]. In order to improve the performance of the motor, researchers have done a lot of research work. One type of method is to improve the topology of motors, such as: skewed slot [2], fractional slot winding [3], offset asymmetric rotor poles [4], etc. Another type of method is to improve the design parameters of motors through optimization methods to achieve the purpose of improving the electromagnetic performance of motors. Motor optimization is an important research topic in the field of motors. Because the traditional single-objective optimization method cannot meet the needs of motor optimization, researchers have explored the optimization method of the motor for many years. At present, the multi-objective optimization method of motors is widely used in the field of motor optimization. Taguchi method is proposed by a Japanese quality control expert, and this method is an optimization method based on orthogonal experiment and signal to noise ratio [5,6]. Taguchi method is used to select the best combination of design parameters to improve the electromagnetic performance of motors [7–9]. With the development of artificial intelligence, researchers have gradually introduced optimization algorithms such as genetic algorithm, particle swarm algorithm, and bee colony algorithm



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into process of motor optimization [10–13], and these algorithms have a better search ability than Taguchi.

In the process of motor optimization, a mathematical model needs to be used. This model is used to describe the relationship between the optimization objective and the design parameters, and it is taken as the optimization objective function. The finite element model is generally used, and the development of finite element software in the field of motor design is becoming mature, such as Maxwell, Motor CAD, Flux, etc. These software integrate intelligent optimization algorithms such as particle swarm algorithm and genetic algorithm, which can be directly called during the motor optimization process [14]. However, finite element simulation needs to consume a lot of simulation time, and with the increase of motor design parameters, the time consumed increases exponentially. Some researchers used response surface model instead of finite element model, and have achieved certain results [15–18], but the number of design parameters that can be fitted by response surface method is relatively small. There are many design parameters in PMTM, and the coupling relationship between design parameters and optimization objectives also increases the difficulty of motor optimization.

To solve these problems, a multi-objective optimization method based on the combination of design parameter stratification and support vector machine (SVM) is proposed. Different design parameters have different sensitivities for different optimization objectives. It is unreasonable to fit the mathematical model without distinguishing the design parameters, which can increase the simulation time and reduce the accuracy of the model [19,20]. In this paper, idea of design parameter stratification is introduced, and the sensitivity of each design parameter to different optimization objectives is calculated. The design parameters are divided into different levels according to the sensitivity. SVM is introduced into the fitting process of the mathematical model, and the mathematical model obtained by the SVM is used to replace the finite element model to complete the subsequent motor optimization, which can shorten the simulation time and the motor optimization cycle. SVM is an intelligent algorithm based on statistics and the principle of structural risk minimization [21,22]. Because of its kernel function, SVM has a strong nonlinear fitting ability. The relationship between motor design parameters and optimization objectives is non-linear, and SVM can be used to solve this problem. By using SVM, a relatively accurate mathematical model can be quickly obtained. The particle swarm algorithm has a strong ability to find optimization, fewer parameters need to be adjusted, and the algorithm converges quickly, so it is widely used in various optimization fields, and particle swarm will be used as the search algorithm [23,24].

In this paper, in order to reduce the torque ripple of the torque motor and shorten the optimization cycle of the motor, this paper proposes a multi-objective optimization method. After determining the optimization objectives, first, the Pearson correlation coefficient calculation formula is used to obtain the sensitivity of each parameter to the optimization objectives, and design parameters are classified. Then, the optimization based on SVM and FEA is completed. The simulation results verify that the optimization method can improve torque performance of PMTM, and the optimized motor performance can meet engineering needs.

2. Materials and Methods

2.1. Determination of Optimization Objectives

2.1.1. Structure of the PMTM

The design of motor is the premise of motor optimization. By comparing performance of different poles and slots, the number of poles and slots of the motor are finally determined to be 16 and 18. The model structure of the PMTM proposed in this paper is shown in Figure 1. In order to reduce torque ripple, bread-shaped magnetic pole and concentrated fractional slot windings are adopted in the motor. According to relative theory and experience of motor design, the design of the PMTM is completed. The design parameters and initial dimensions of the PMTM are shown in the Table 1.

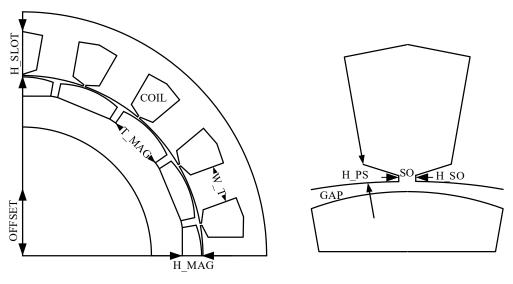


Figure 1. Structure of the PMTM.

Table 1. Parameters and initial values of the PMTM.

Symbol	Quantity	Initial Value
T_MAG/°	Angle of PM	20
H_MAG/mm	Thickness of PM	4
GAP/mm	Length of air gap	0.5
W_T/mm	Width of stator tooth	10
H_SLOT/mm	Depth of slot	15
SO/mm	Width of slot open	1
H_SO/mm	Height of slot open	0.8
H_PS/mm	Height of pole shoe	1.5
OFFSET/mm	Magnetic pole eccentricity	20
COIL	Turn of coil	60

2.1.2. Analysis of Torque Ripple

Torque ripple is an important factor that affects control accuracy of servo systems, and it is also easy to cause permanent magnet motor vibration and mechanical noise. If the situation is serious, it will affect the reliability of the motor. Smooth motor torque is required for most applications. Suppression of torque ripple is an important content in the design of high-precision permanent magnet motor. The motor torque ripple is shown as [25]:

$$T_{rip} = \frac{T_{\max} - T_{\min}}{T_{avg}} \times 100\%$$
⁽¹⁾

where T_{rip} is motor torque ripple, T_{avg} is the average value of output torque, T_{max} the maximum value of output torque, T_{min} is the minimum value of output torque. Due to problems of meshing, the finite element software has the problem of non-convergence of a certain unit, which can cause inaccurate measurements of the maximum or minimum value. Therefore, it is necessary to analyze the cause of motor torque ripple and find out the substitute index of torque ripple. The torque formulas in permanent mag-net motor are as follows [26]:

$$\begin{cases} T = T_{cog} + T_{em} \\ T_{em} = N_p(\psi_d i_q - \psi_q i_d) = N_p \Big[(\psi_{fd} i_q - \psi_{fq} i_d) + (L_d - L_q) i_d i_q \Big] \\ T_{pm} = N_p(\psi_{fd} i_q - \psi_{fq} i_d) \\ T_r = N_p(L_d - L_q) i_d i_q \end{cases}$$
(2)

where *T* is output torque of the motor, T_{cog} is cogging torque, T_{em} is electromagnetic torque. N_p is the number of pole pairs of the motor, T_{pm} is permanent magnet torque, T_r is reluctance torque. After the above analysis, it is easy to know that torque ripple is related to cogging torque, harmonics of permanent magnets, and reluctance torque.

Because the research object of this paper is a surface mount motor, its reluctance torque can be ignored, and THD of no-load back EMF can reflect the sine of the magnetic density waveform. In summary, output torque, THD of no-load back EMF, and cogging torque are selected as optimization objectives in the optimization of the PMTM. By optimizing the design parameters, these objectives are improved, and the purpose of improving the torque performance of the motor can be achieved.

2.2. Multi-Objective Optimization

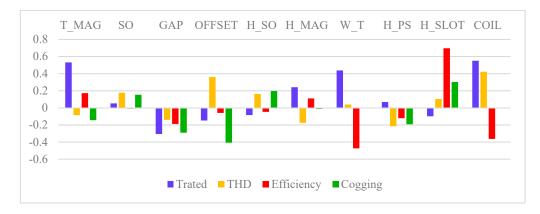
2.2.1. Sensitive Analysis

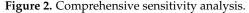
As mentioned above, there are many design parameters in the PMTM. The sensitivity of each design parameter to different optimization objectives is different. When the number of design parameters is too large, the accuracy of the surrogate model can be decreased. In order to analyze the relationship between design parameters and optimization objectives, this paper uses orthogonal experiments to obtain data, and the Pearson correlational coefficient is used to perform the sensitivity analysis [19,20]. It can be calculated as:

$$\rho_{Y_i,X_i} = \frac{N\sum Y_i X_i - \sum Y_i \sum X_i}{\sqrt{N\sum Y_i^2 - (\sum Q_i)^2} \sqrt{N\sum X_i^2 - (\sum X_i)^2}}$$
(3)

where Y_i is the *i*th optimization objective, X_i is the design parameters, and N is sample size.

Thus, the sensitivity of each parameter to the objectives is shown in Figure 2. It can be noted that the sensitivity of each parameter to the objectives varies greatly, and T_MAG, GAP, H_MAG, W_T, and COIL have great influence on torque and effectiveness. SO, H_PS, OFFSET, and H_SO have little influence on torque and effectiveness, but they are sensitive to Cogging and THD.





According to the different sensitivities of design parameters to the optimization objectives, the design parameters are divided into two levels, as shown in the following Tables 2 and 3. The design parameters can be divided into different levels according to the sensitivity of the parameters to the optimization objectives. Because the primary requirement for the motor is to ensure the output torque, the optimized parameters in the first level are sensitive to efficiency and output torque. The parameters of the second level are sensitive to cogging torque and THD. The reason for this arrangement is also that the accuracy of the surrogate model of cogging torque and THD is slightly lower. In the second-level optimization, model is not used, and the finite element method is used to obtain the relationship between the optimization objective and the parameters. Thus,

a double level optimization method is proposed in this paper, and the flowchart of the multi-objective optimization is shown in Figure 3.

Table 2. Parameters of the first level.

Symbol	Ranges
$T_MAG/^\circ$	[17, 20]
H_MAG/mm	[4.5, 6.5]
GAP/mm	[0.5, 1.2]
W_T/mm	[9.5, 12.5]
H_SLOT/mm	[14, 16]
COIL	[63, 67]

Table 3. Parameters of the second level.

Symbol	Ranges
SO/mm	[0.5, 1]
H_SO/mm	[0.3, 0.7]
H_PS/mm	[1.5, 2.5]
OFFSET/mm	[20, 40]

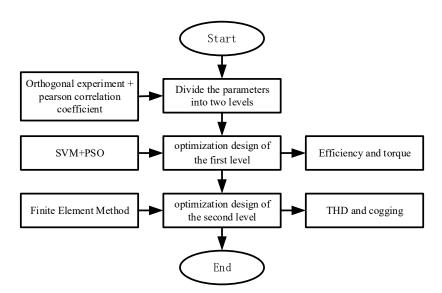


Figure 3. The flowchart of the multi-objective optimization.

2.2.2. Optimization of First Level

Motor optimization is a non-linear problem. There is a non-linear relationship between design parameters and motor performance. Traditional statistical methods cannot guarantee the accuracy of the proxy model. In this paper, SVM is introduced for the optimization of PMTM, and the model can be obtained by SVM.

The initial application of SVM is in the field of sample classification. When some sample points cannot be linearly separated in low-dimensional space, they are mapped to high-dimensional space through a kernel function to achieve the purpose of linear separability of samples. Due to the kernel function, SVM has a strong data-fitting ability. In the paper, SVM is used to fit the data and the relationship between the design parameters and the optimization objective can be obtained. The SVM formula is expressed as [25]:

$$f(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i} \cdot K(x_{i}, x) + b^{*}$$
(4)

where ω_i is the regression parameter vector, K(x) is kernel function. n is the number of support vector, x_i is support vector, x is predicted vector, b^* is the Bias factor. The structure of SVM is shown in Figure 4.

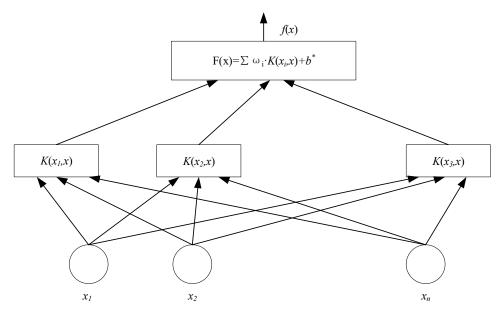


Figure 4. Structure of SVM.

The core of the SVM is the kernel function, and the main types of kernel functions of SVM are linear kernel function, polynomial kernel function, Gaussian radial basis kernel function, exponential radial basis kernel function, and multilayer perceptron kernel function respectively, which are shown as [27]:

$$\begin{cases}
K(x_{i}, x) = x^{T}x_{i} \\
K(x_{i}, x) = (x^{T}x_{i} + r)^{p} \\
K(x_{i}, x) = \exp(-\frac{\|x - x_{i}\|^{2}}{\sigma^{2}}) \\
K(x_{i}, x) = \exp(-\frac{\|x - x_{i}\|}{\sigma^{2}}) \\
K(x_{i}, x) = \tanh(\gamma x^{T}x_{i} + r)
\end{cases}$$
(5)

where p, r, γ , and σ are the parameters of kernel function. The Gaussian radial basis kernel function has the best generalization performance, so in this paper it is selected as the kernel function in SVM.

The parameters of first level are sensitive to torque and efficiency, and some of the parameters such as length of air gap, has an influence on cogging and THD. For these parameters, the mathematical model can be obtained by using SVM. First, orthogonal experiment is used for the complete collection of sample data of training set, and then SVM is used to obtain SVM model of the optimization objectives, which can be represented as:

$$Trated(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i_Trated} \cdot K(x_i, x) + b^*_{Trated}$$

$$Efficiency(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i_Efficiency} \cdot K(x_i, x) + b^*_{Efficiency}$$

$$THD(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i_THD} \cdot K(x_i, x) + b^*_{THD}$$

$$Cogging(x) = \sum_{i=1}^{n} \omega_{i_Cogging} \cdot K(x_i, x) + b^*_{Cogging}$$

(6)

where *x* is the parameter of the first level, Trated(x) is output torque of the SVM model, *Efficiency*(*x*) is the efficiency of the SVM model, THD(x) is the THD of back EMF SVM model, and Cogging(*x*) is the cogging torque of the SVM model.

After obtaining the SVM model, the usability of the model needs to be verified. The finite element method is used to obtain 15 sets of test data, which are compared with the data of the SVM model, and the 15 sets of data are shown in Table 4.

Label	Trated	Efficiency	THD	Cogging
1	36.38160	84.1	0.81	305.9
2	47.08480	83.6	1.32	122.8
3	39.11010	80.4	1.13	64.3
4	37.254500	84.1	0.86	245.5
5	37.88260	84.4	1.02	132.2
6	44.4506	80.2	1.37	57.1
7	44.10130	87.4	1.01	355.8
8	46.83510	83.2	1.31	351.0
9	45.30450	80.7	1.29	42.5
10	49.96070	83.5	1.11	246.1
11	42.90750	87.6	0.74	351.7
12	39.02500	86.80	1.23	146.4
13	42.056800	84.60	1.54	63.2
14	40.81640	84.8	1.42	217.7
15	43.95690	88	0.97	420.3

Table 4. Parameters of the first level.

The formula of mean square error and determining factor is expressed as:

$$MSE = \frac{1}{l} \sum_{i=1}^{l} (\hat{y}_i - y_i)^2$$

$$R^2 = \frac{\left(l \sum_{i=1}^{l} \hat{y}_i y_i - \sum_{i=1}^{l} \hat{y}_i \sum_{i=1}^{l} y_i\right)^2}{\left(l \sum_{i=1}^{l} \hat{y}_i^2 - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l} \hat{y}_i\right)^2\right) \left(l \sum_{i=1}^{l} y_i^2 - \left(\sum_{i=1}^{l} y_i\right)^2\right)}$$
(7)

where *MSE* is the mean square error, R^2 is the determining factor, l is the number of samples in the test set, y_i is the true value of the *i*th sample, and \hat{y}_i is the predicted value of the *i*th sample. The value of MSE and R^2 can be used to judge the accuracy of SVM models. According to the above formula, MSE and R^2 can be calculated and be shown in the following Table 5.

Table 5. Parameters of the first level.

Symbol	MSE	<i>R</i> ²
Trated	0.002	0.991
Efficiency	0.001	0.994
THD	0.012	0.893
Cogging	0.011	0.914

It can be seen from the data in the table that the accuracy of SVM model of output torque and efficiency is very high, these SVM models are almost consistent with the finite element models. However, the accuracy of SVM model of THD and cogging torque is relatively poor. Due to the existence of slots, the change trend of the air gap permeability can become more diverse, and the high-precision model cannot be fitted when the amount of data is insufficient.

The data of the finite element model is compared with the data of the SVM model, and the results are shown in Figures 5–8. The x-axis in these figures is the serial number

of 15 sets of data. It can be noted that there are differences between the finite element model and the SVM model in individual values, but the trend of the predicted value is consistent with the trend of the actual value. In engineering, the values of optimization objective serve as a reference, and the design parameters are focused on, so these models are available. In this paper, the parameters that have a strong influence on cogging torque and THD, but the parameters that have little influence on torque and efficiency are placed in the optimization of the second level.

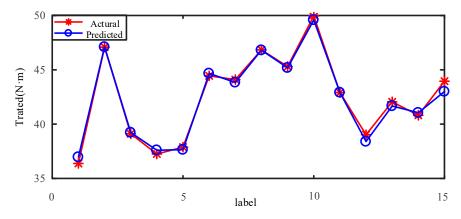


Figure 5. Actual value vs. predicted value of torque.

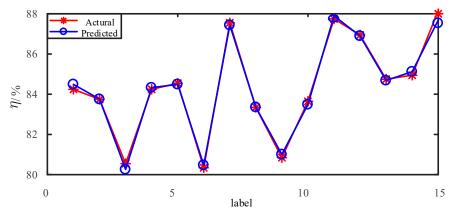


Figure 6. Actual value vs. predicted value of efficiency.

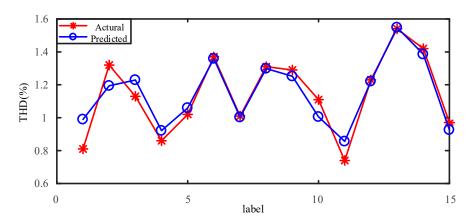


Figure 7. Actual value vs. predicted value of THD.

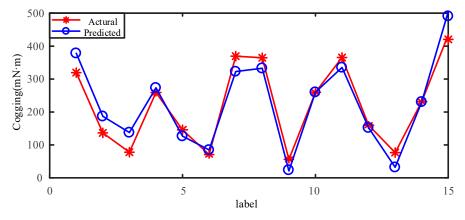


Figure 8. Actual value vs. predicted value of cogging.

After getting four SVM models, according to the actual needs of performance, a multiobjective optimization mathematical model can be established, and can be represented as:

$$\begin{array}{l} \max \ F(X) = (f_1(X), \ f_2(X), \ f_3(X)) \ X \in \mathbb{R}^n \\ f_1(X) = \operatorname{Trated}(X) \\ f_2(X) = \frac{1}{\operatorname{THD}(X)} \\ f_3(X) = \frac{1}{\operatorname{Cogging}(X)} \\ f_4(X) = \operatorname{Efficiency}(X) \\ s.t. \ \operatorname{Trated}(X) > 38 \\ \operatorname{Efficiency}(X) > 82 \\ \operatorname{THD}(X) < 1.7 \\ \operatorname{Cogging} < 250 \\ \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} (8) \\ \end{array}$$

where X is the parameter, $f_1(X)$ is the fitness function of torque, $f_2(X)$ is the fitness function of cogging torque, $f_3(X)$ is the fitness function of THD, $f_4(X)$ is the fitness function of efficiency. Trated(X), THD(X), Cogging(X), and Efficiency(X) are the SVM model of four optimization objectives respectively.

In this paper, particle swarm algorithm is used to optimize the multi-objective optimization mathematical model. The PSO algorithm is expressed as follows:

$$\begin{cases} v_i^{k+1} = \omega v_i^k + c_1 r_1 (p_i^k - x_i^k) + c_2 r_2 (p_g^k - x_i^k) \\ x_i^{k+1} = x_i^k + v_i^{k+1} \\ \omega = \omega_{\max} - \frac{k(\omega_{\max} - \omega_{\min})}{k_{\max}} \end{cases}$$
(9)

where ω is the weight of inertia, c_1 and c_2 are self-learning factor and social learning factor, r_1 and r_2 are two random numbers respectively, ω_{max} and ω_{min} are the maximum and minimum values of the inertia weight respectively, k and k_{max} are the current number of iterations and maximum number of iterations respectively.

In the particle swarm algorithm, the inertia weight is a quantity that reflects the inheritance of the particle to the velocity. Although the convergence speed of ordinary particle swarm algorithm is fast, it is easy to fall into the local optimum. Changing the value of the inertia weight in the iterative process is beneficial to improve the optimization ability of the algorithm. In the improved particle swarm algorithm, the maximum and minimum inertia weights are introduced to achieve the above effects. In the early iteration of the algorithm, the inertia weight is larger, and the particle speed of the particle swarm is faster, so the algorithm, and the particle speed of the particle swarm is slower, so the local search ability of the algorithm is stronger. It balances the global search and local

search in the process of the whole algorithm, and the values of the relevant parameters of the particle swarm are shown in the following Table 6.

Table 6. Parameters of the first level.

Parameter	Value
Size	30
k_{\max}	100
ω_{\max}	1
ω_{\min}	0.8
c_1	1.5
c_2	1

According to obtaining the multi-objective model and the search algorithm, the program of motor optimization of the first level can be written. The pareto front of the multi-objective optimization is obtained, as is shown in Figure 9. According to the requirements and processing conditions, the values of the parameters of the first level are determined. The optimization result of first level is shown in Table 7.

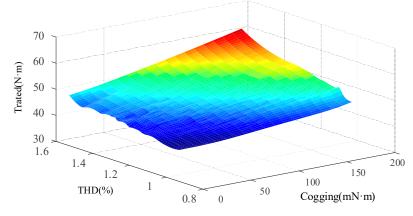


Figure 9. Pareto front of the multi-objective optimization.

Table 7. Optimization results of the first level.

Symbol	Initial Value	Optimized Value
$T_MAG/^\circ$	20	18.6
H_MAG/mm	4	5
GAP/mm	0.5	1
W_T/mm	10	12.2
H_SLOT/mm	15	14.5
COIL	60	65
Trated/N·m	38.2	41.0
Trip/%	3.7	2.5

2.2.3. Optimization of Second Level

After finishing optimization of the first level, parameters of the first level are kept unchanged and the second level optimization is carried out. The parameters of second level have little influence on torque and efficiency, but they are sensitive to cogging torque and THD. The finite element method is used to obtain the relationship curve between the optimization objective and the design parameters, as shown in Figure 10.

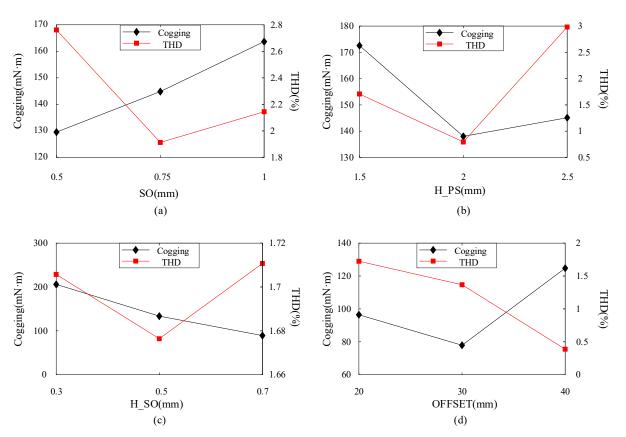


Figure 10. Variation curve of cogging torque and THD with various parameters. (**a**) Variation curve of cogging torque and THD with SO. (**b**) Variation curve of cogging torque and THD with H_PS. (**c**) Variation curve of cogging torque and THD with H_SO. (**d**) Variation curve of cogging torque and THD with OFFSET.

Both THD and cogging torque have an optimal value in the optimization process of H_PS, so H_PS is selected as 2 mm. H_SO and SO are taken at the minimum value of THD curve, and H_SO and SO are determined to be 0.5 mm and 0.75 mm respectively. If the OFFSET is too large, the magnetic flux density will be affected. When OFFSET is 40 mm, the output torque is lower than the requirements of technical index, so OFFSET is selected as 30 mm. The optimization result of second level is shown in the Table 8.

Table 8. Optimization results of the first level.

Symbol	Initial Value	Optimized Value
SO/mm	1	0.75
H_SO/mm	0.8	0.5
H_PS/mm	1.5	2
OFFET/mm	20	30
Trated/N·m	41.0	40.2
Trip/%	2.5	1.7

3. Results

Through the above optimization method, the multi-objective optimization of output torque and torque ripple is completed. The optimized performance is compared with the initial motor performance, as shown in Figures 11–13.

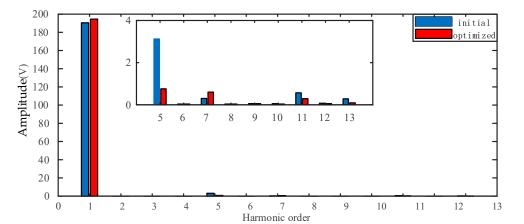


Figure 11. Comparison chart of back EMF.

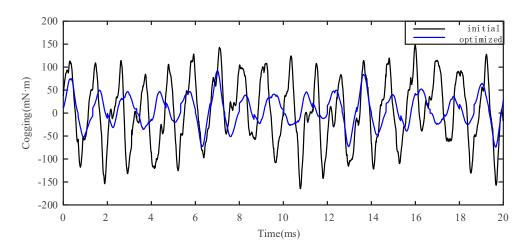


Figure 12. Comparison chart of cogging torque.

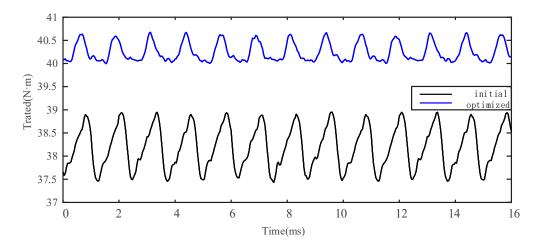


Figure 13. Comparison chart of output torque.

Figure 11 shows the comparison of the amplitude of the no-load back EMF before and after the optimization. It can be noted that the fundamental wave amplitude is increased from 190.4 V to 194.5 V, which is beneficial to increase output torque of the PMTM. After optimization, the THD is decreased from 2.06% to 1.02%, which proves that the sine of the air gap flux density is improved. It is beneficial to reduce the torque ripple when the motor is running under load. Figure 12 shows the comparison of the cogging torque before and after the optimization, and cogging torque of the PMTM is reduced from initial 313 mN·m to 165 mN·m. Cogging torque is one of the main causes of torque ripple, so

reducing the cogging torque of the motor also helps to reduce the torque ripple of the motor. Figure 13 shows the waveform of output torque of the motor before and after the optimization. Torque ripple of the motor is reduced from 3.7% to 1.7%, and output torque is increased from $38 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$ to $40.2 \text{ N} \cdot \text{m}$, which proves the rationality of the above optimization.

4. Conclusions

This paper proposes a multi-objective optimization method based on the combination of design parameter stratification and SVM. The effectiveness of the proposed optimization method is proved by simulation. The main conclusions are the following:

- (1) Through the analysis of the causes of torque ripple, the optimization objectives are determined. The simulation results show that the optimization of THD and cogging torque is helpful to reduce torque ripple and improve torque performance of the motor.
- (2) Aiming at the coupling problem between parameters and performance of motor, the Pearson formula is used to calculate the sensitivity of the design parameters for the optimization objectives. The design parameters are divided into two levels, which can achieve decoupling to a certain extent.
- (3) Aiming at the long time-consuming problem of finite element simulation, SVM is used to fit mathematical models which can replace the finite element models. The models can have high accuracy and meet engineering needs.
- (4) Compared with the initial design, the output torque of the motor becomes larger and the torque ripple becomes smaller, which can prove the effective-ness of the proposed method.

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Abbreviation

Symbol	Unit
T_MAG	0
H_MAG	Mm
GAP	Mm
W_T	Mm
H_SLOT	Mm
N_COIL	turn
SO	mm
H_SO	Mm
H_PS	Mm
OFFSET	Mm
Trated	Nm
Efficiency	%
THD	%
Cogging	$mN{\cdot}m$
Trip	%

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