[[1]](#footnote-1)*Abstract* -- In this study, design procedure of an Integrated Modular Motor Drive (IMMD) is presented focusing on high power density. The design is based on a permanent magnet synchronous motor (PMSM) and GaN FETs. Various slot/pole combinations and winding configurations are compared in order to reduce the space harmonics on the motor. An extended motor drive inverter topology is proposed where 2-level voltage source inverters are connected both in series and parallel. Optimum selection of number of modules is discussed and device selection is performed based on loss characterization. Selection of optimum DC link capacitor bank is performed and the effect of interleaving is investigated. The performance of the motor is validated with ANSYS/Maxwell simulations. Motor drive performance is obtained with MATLAB/Simulink simulations. The efficiency of the motor drive is enhanced by 2% compared to a conventional motor drive. An overall power density of 1 kW/lt has been achieved.

Design of a GaN Based Integrated Modular Motor Drive

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*Index Terms*—Gallium Nitride, Integrated motor drive, Modular motor, Permanent magnet synchronous motor, Power Density

# Introduction

IT

N conventional motor drive systems, the drive units are placed in separate cabinets which increases the overall weight and volume and decreases the power density of the system. Furthermore, the drive units are connected to the motor by means of long cables which cause transient voltage overshoots due to the high frequency pulse width modulation (PWM) operation.

A novel concept called Integrated Modular Motor Drives (IMMDs) has been proposed suggesting that all the components of the motor drive system can be integrated onto the motor including power electronics, control electronics, passive components and heat sink [1]. By doing so, the power density of the system can be enhanced significantly which is very critical in aerospace and electric traction applications [2], [3]. In addition, cost reduction up to 20% is possible thanks to the elimination of enclosures and connection equipment [1]. The absence of connection cables yields less leakage current on the winding insulation which will extend the lifespan of the motor as well as minimize electromagnetic interference (EMI) problems [4].

With modularization, the overall system is segmented with modules sharing the total power equally. By this way, the fault tolerance of the system is increased [2]. The current and voltage stress on the power semiconductor devices can also be decreased by modularization. Moreover, the components which produce heat due to power loss are distributed in a wider surface area which makes the thermal design more convenient as well as decreases the chance of hot spots. Finally, the manufacturing, installation and maintenance costs decrease thanks to the modular structure [1].

However, integration of the motor and drive brings several challenges. Firstly, fitting all the drive components to the available space requires size optimization and careful layout design [4]. Secondly, it is difficult to cool the motor and drive simultaneously since they both produce heat. Furthermore, all the electronic components are subjected to a higher ambient temperature and continuous vibration and should be selected accordingly [5].

To overcome these challenges, it has been proposed in the literature that wide band gap (WBG) power semiconductor devices such as Gallium Nitride (GaN) can be used which are capable of operating at high frequencies [4]. By doing so, the size of the passive components can be reduced with acceptable heat sink size thanks to superior efficiency of GaN based converters compared to conventional ones [6]. However, high frequency operation highlights the parasitic components on the power stage and gate drive circuits which makes layout design critical.

In this paper, design of an IMMD system is presented with enhanced power density, increased efficiency and enhanced fault tolerance capability. A detailed design procedure is given for both motor and the drive and the resultant design parameters are verified by ANSYS/Maxwell and MATLAB/Simulink simulations. Comparison of the IMMD performance with a conventional counterpart having IGBTs is also provided. In Section 2, basic structure and current technology prospects of IMMDs are introduced. In section 3, design of the system including the motor and the drive is explained. In section 4, simulation results are presented and in section 5, conclusions are given.

# Basıc Structure of IMMD

There are several types of integration of the motor drive onto the motor. In this paper, integration into the stator back iron is considered, which also allows the modularization of the system. In this configuration, one module is composed of a stator pole piece, a concentrated coil and a power converter dedicated to its own winding along with its controller [5]. Two prototype examples of such a structure from the literature are shown in Fig. 1 [4], [7].

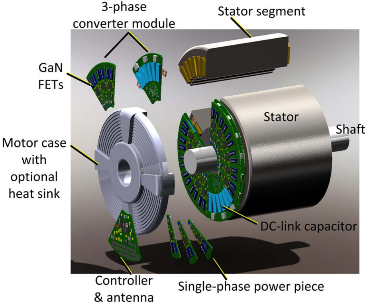
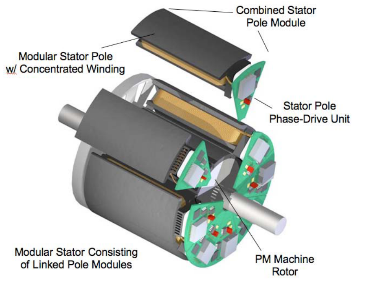
 

Fig. 1. IMMD prototype examples with stator back-iron integration [4], [7]

In conventional (non-modular) motors, each stator coil belonging to different pole pairs on the stator are usually connected in series to form one phase of the stator. On the other hand, the windings in different poles can be connected to separate motor drive units in modular motors. These types of motors are also called split-winding machines [8], as the redundancy and fault tolerance of the system is enhanced thanks to this modularization. Moreover, the motor drive modules can be connected with different configurations which makes the design more flexible.

A general block diagram of one module of an IMMD system is shown in Fig. 2 [5], in which concentrated windings are preferred for their easy manufacturing and suitability for split-winding stators, especially in modular motors. Fractional slot concentrated winding (FSCW) permanent magnet synchronous motors (PMSMs) are very common in IMMD studies thanks to their high torque density, low torque ripple and fault tolerance capability [9].

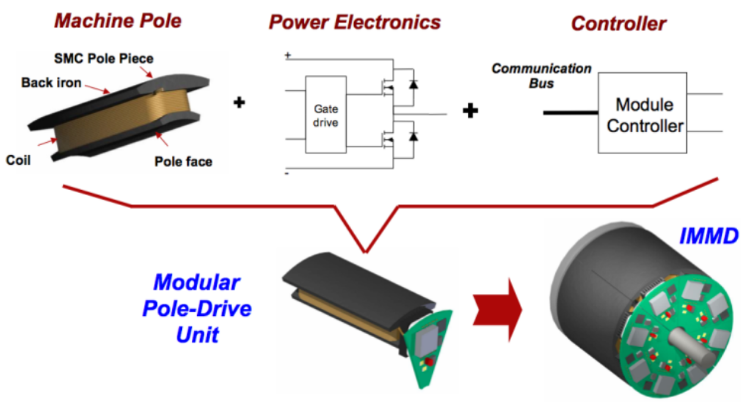
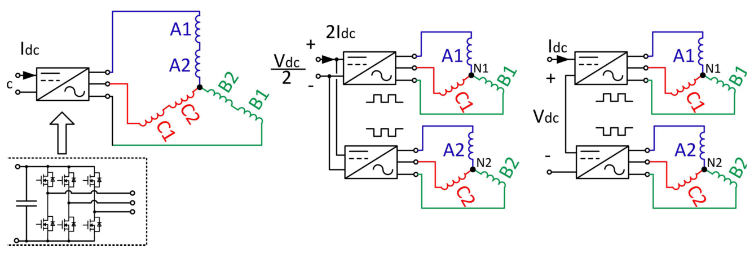


Fig. 2. Block diagram of one module of an IMMD [5]

As for the power electronics, many different topologies have been proposed for AC motor drive systems such as, 2-level voltage source inverter (VSI), multilevel neutral point clamped (NPC) VSI, multilevel flying capacitor (FC) VSI, cascaded H-bridge (CHB) etc. [8]. As mentioned previously, for a modular motor drive, several other motor drive topologies become available thanks to the design flexibility. Connection of separate 2-level VSIs in series or parallel are shown in Fig. 3, with a conventional motor drive [10]. Furthermore, the aforementioned topologies can also be connected in series and/or parallel on the DC link to form a new topology. These types of connections are possible thanks to the fact that the windings, which are split and hence electrically isolated, do not cause any in-circulating currents between the inverter modules. The major advantage of this possibility is to be able to split the voltage and/or current requirement of each inverter. One practical usage of this fact is making low voltage power semiconductor device viable such as GaN transistors by dividing the DC link voltage.



(a) Conventional (b) Parallel (c) Series

Fig. 3. Different motor drive connections for a modular motor [10]

Employment of GaN transistors is especially crucial for IMMDs because these devices are one of the so-called Wide Band-Gap (WBG) type semiconductor devices. These devices have much higher switching speeds compared to conventional silicon based devices such as IGBTs and admissible on-state losses which make them more efficient [11]. Moreover, they can withstand to higher junction temperatures. The volumes of the integrated motor drives can be reduced by utilizing GaNs thanks to their higher efficiency which makes cooling easier, and higher switching frequencies reducing the size of passive components. In high power applications, the maximum switching frequency for an IGBT device is limited to 20 kHz, whereas the switching frequency of GaNs can go up to 100 kHz in applications with kW range [11]. As a matter of fact, although IGBTs were used in the early IMMD prototypes [5], [7], latest IMMD prototypes utilize GaNs FETs as power semiconductor devices [4].

Selection of DC bus capacitors is also very critical in integrated drives in terms of power density as they usually constitute more than 20% of the system volume and 30% of the system weight [6]. Moreover, the height of the motor drive is mostly determined by these capacitors [4]. In conventional motor drives, aluminum electrolytic type capacitors are mostly used thanks to their low cost and high capacitance per volume. However, they have relatively low RMS current handling capability per unit volume and relatively shorter lifetime which is also dependent on the operating parameters [6]. On the other hand, metal film type capacitors are better in terms of RMS current ratings, lifetime and reliability. It is also possible to significantly reduce the size of the capacitor bank if required capacitance can be decreased somehow. Therefore, metallized polypropylene film capacitors are the most common types in the DC bus of integrated motor drives.

# Desıgn of the IMMD System

The design process of the IMMD system can be divided into two parts: design of the motor and design of the drive. The first assumption in the design process is that the motor drive input is a passive diode bridge rectifier with an LC DC link pre-filter. The effects of this rectifier module on the rest of the system are kept out of the scope of this study. The machine is a 3-phase low speed PMSM having a modular stator with fractional slot concentrated winding. The system parameters used in the design process are presented in Table 1.

The first parameter to be decided is the total number of 2-level voltage source inverter (2L-VSI) modules. As stated before, the number of series or parallel connected modules can be varied according to the voltage and current requirements and the system parameters such as the DC link voltage and total output power. It has also been specified that GaN transistors are used to reach to the efficiency and power density target. Highest blocking voltage ratings of the currently available GaN transistors is 650V [11]. In case of 2L-VSIs are used, the minimum power semiconductor blocking voltage required is 810V. This value is calculated based on a safety margin considering the voltage overshoot effects due to parasitic inductances and high switching speed, and possible swell or overvoltage events on the grid side. It is clear that, at least two series modules should be used with the aforementioned GaN devices to reduce the voltage per transistor below 650V. This also ensures the total number of modules an even number.

There are various parameters which affect the number of parallel connected modules. One of them is the required power rating of each module which effect the current ratings of the semiconductor devices and the drive efficiency. Another one is the number of stator slots. Instead of number of stator slots per pole per phase (*qs*) which is a common factor for conventional systems, a new parameter, number of stator slots per module per phase (*ws*) is defined in this paper. For a double layer stator, *ws* can be selected as an even number. As an example, for an IMMD having 2 series and 3 parallel modules, and stator slots per module per phase is 2, the number of stator slots (*Qs*) turns out to be 36. Finally, the effect of interleaving and its utilization for minimization of DC link capacitor bank size is considered to determine the number of modules. In [6], the effect of the number of modules and applied interleaving angle to the current ripple on the DC link capacitor bank is studied for an IMMD, and it has been shown that selecting four modules gives the best results in terms of DC link capacitor size. Using that result, it is decided to use a total number of 4 modules which are connected in 2-series and 2-parallel configuration. The schematic diagram of the suggested IMMD system topology is shown in Fig. 4.

TABLE I

The system parameters used ın the IMMD desıgn process

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Value** |
| Total output power, *Pout* | 8 kW |
| Rated speed, *Nr* | 600 rpm |
| DC link voltage, *Vdc* | 540 V |
| Motor efficiency aim, *ηm,a* | 94% |
| Drive efficiency aim, *ηd,a* | 98% |



Fig. 4. Schematic diagram of the suggested IMMD topology with 2-series and 2-parallel 2-level VSIs

## Design of the Motor Parameters

The main dimensions of the motor are determined according to the torque requirement (*Tm*) and shear stress (*σ*) using magnetic loading (*B*) and electrical loading (*A*) limits selected for the IMMD application, as expressed in (1). *Vm* stands for the motor air gap volume which is shown in (2), where *Dis* is the air gap (bore) diameter and *La* is the axial length of the motor. The aspect ratio, which is the ratio of the axial length to the bore diameter is selected as 0.5 for this application. The number of slots should be an integer multiple of 24 since the number of 3-phase modules is 4. For the given dimensions, increasing the number of slots per module per phase makes the outer diameter too large. It has been observed that better results in terms of copper fill factor are achieved when *ws* is 2. Moreover, the number of rotor poles is selected as 20 by using previously obtained winding factor tables for different slot/pole combinations [9].

The number of turns per coil side can be determined by the induced voltage requirement of each phase on each module, which can be expressed as in (3), in rms, where *Nph-m*is number of turns per phase per module, *fs* is the applied fundamental frequency at rated conditions, *Φpp* is the flux under a pole and *kw* is the fundamental winding factor. The flux per pole can be calculated using the machine dimensions and air gap flux density (*Bg*) as in (4), where *p* is the number of rotor poles. The winding factor is determined using the pre-calculated tables created for fractional slot machines in terms of slot/pole combinations as 0.933 [9]. The fundamental frequency is also determined by the rated speed and pole number of the synchronous motor, as in (5). Assuming that the motor drive inverters are switched with sinusoidal pulse width modulation (SPWM) technique, the terminal voltage of one phase of each module is determined using (6), where *ma* is the modulation index and *Vdc-m* is the nominal DC link voltage on one module. The required number of turns per coil side, *zQ1* equal to 60 using (7), where *l* is the number of layers.

The resultant motor parameters are shown in Table 2. In Fig. 5, the proposed winding diagram of one module is shown. The main purpose behind the selection is having large enough winding factor while keeping the space harmonic content low.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (1) |
|  | (2) |
|  | (3) |
|  | (4) |
|  | (5) |
|  | (6) |
|  | (7) |

TABLE II

The Resultant Motor Parameters

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Parameter | Value |
| Number of stator slots, *Qs* | 24 |
| Number of rotor poles, *p* | 20 |
| Motor axial length, *La* | 100 mm |
| Stator outer diameter, *Dos* | 270 mm |
| Stator inner diameter, *Dis* | 200 mm |
| Air gap length, *lg* | 1.5 mm |
| Magnet thickness, *lm* | 4.5 mm |
| Number of turns per coil side, *zQ* | 60 |
| Stator fill factor, *kcu* | 0.6 |
| Stator winding factor, *kws* | 0.933 |



Fig. 5. Proposed winding diagram of one module

## Design of the Drive Parameters

Power semiconductor devices are chosen according to voltage and current requirements. Among the suitable alternatives, motor drive efficiency is the main concern for device selection. The voltage requirement of each device has already been established. There are two GaN transistor types which have breakdown voltage ratings as high as 650V, cascade GaNs manufactured by Transphorm and enhancement mode (e-mode) GaNs manufactured by GaN Systems [11]. The next step is to determine the current rating. By using the phase voltage calculated in the previous step, the phase current of each module can be found using (8).

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (8) |

One device from each type is selected having similar ratings along with an IGBT for comparison purposes, as shown in Table 3 [11]. Power semiconductor device losses can be categorized as transistor forward conduction loss (*Ptc*), transistor switching loss (*Pts*), transistor reverse conduction loss (anti-parallel diode conduction loss for IGBT case, *Pdc*) and loss on *Coss* capacitance (*Poss*) or diode reverse recovery loss for IGBT case, (*Pdr*). The analytical model used in the loss calculations is shown in (9)-(15). An approximate method which is well-established and commonly used for sinusoidal motor drive inverters is utilized to simplify the analysis. In this model, *Icp* and *Iep* are the forward and reverse peak currents, respectively, *fsw* is the switching frequency, *φ* is the power factor angle, *Eon*, *Eoff* and *Eoss* stand for turn-on, turn-off and *Coss* energies, *Vce-sat* is saturation voltage drop for the IGBT, *Rds-on* is the on-state resistance for GaN, *Vec* is the reverse voltage drop for the diode, *Irr* and *trr* are the diode reverse recovery current and time, respectively, and *Vce-p* is the reverse recovery peak voltage.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (9) |
|  | (10) |
|  | (11) |
|  | (12) |
|  | (13) |
|  | (14) |
|  | (15) |

TABLE III

Alternatıve Devıces for Transıstor Selectıon [11]

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Device** | **FP35R12KT4P** | **TPH3205WSB** | **GS66508B** |
| Type | IGBT | Cascode GaN | E-mode GaN |
| Manufacturer | Infineon | Transphorm | GaN systems |
| Voltage | 1200 V | 650 V | 650 V |
| Current | 35 A | 35 A | 30 A |
| Vce,sat | 2,15 V | - | - |
| Rds,on | - | 60 mΩ | 50 mΩ |

Selection of the DC bus capacitors is performed for the designed system using metal film type capacitors. To be able to compare the IMMD design with a conventional motor drive in terms of power density, the same design procedure is also applied to the conventional system with IGBTs. The parameters affecting the capacitor selection are DC voltage (*Vdc*), capacitance requirement to meet the voltage ripple constraint (*Cdc*), the current requirement due to the RMS rating of capacitor bank current ripple (*Ic,rms*) and temperature rise of each capacitor (*Tcore*). The analytical model used for these parameters are shown in (16)-(19), where *Vdc-r* is the maximum allowed peak-to-peak voltage ripple in percent, *Ta* is the ambient temperature, *Pc* is the power loss on capacitor which is also dependent on core temperature, *Rth-c* is the thermal resistance of the capacitor and *Rc* is the ESR value of the capacitors [6], [12].

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (16) |
|  | (17) |
|  | (18) |
|  | (19) |

# Sımulatıon Results

The performance of the motor is analyzed using ANSYS/Maxwell simulation environment. The analytical results are shown in Table 4 which have been obtained via the RMxprt tool of Maxwell. The designed motor is also simulated using 2D FEM analysis tool to obtain transient characteristics. The phase induced voltage, current waveforms and machine torque are presented in Figs. 6, 7 and 8, respectively. The flux density distribution over one module is shown in Fig. 9. The efficiency of the motor is close to the targeted value, however the fill factor is made around 10% higher than the expected value to achieve this, which is still acceptable for concentrated windings. The torque ripple and cogging torque values are also below the specified limits.

TABLE IV

Motor Sımulatıon Results (RMxprt)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Value** | **Parameter** | **Value** |
| Eph-m | 78 Vrms | Jrms | 3.8 A/mm2 |
| Iph-m | 10 Arms | Pcu | 411 W |
| Tm | 127 Nm | Pcore | 117 W |
| kcu | 68 % | ηm | 94.8 % |



Fig. 6. Induced phase voltages (2D FEM analysis)



Fig. 7. Line currents of one module (2D FEM analysis)



Fig. 8. Motor output torque (2D FEM analysis)

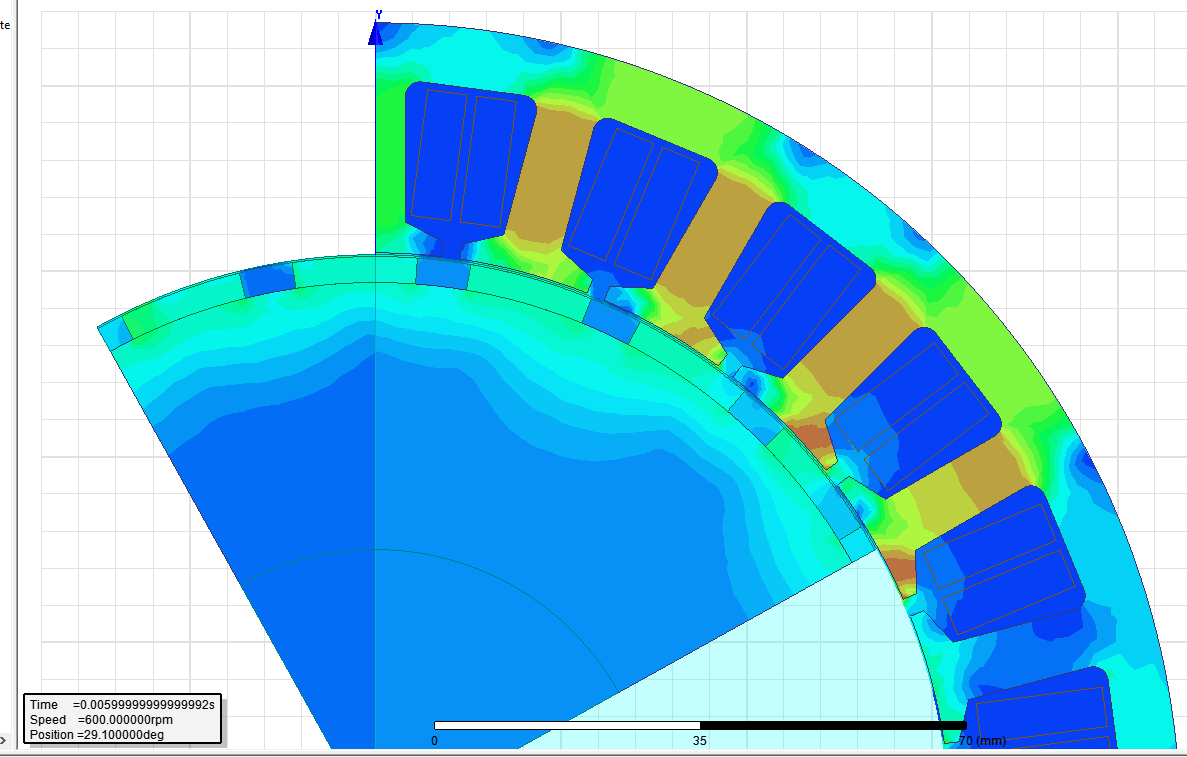
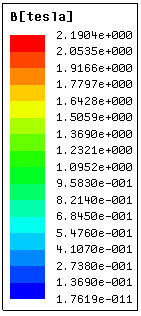


Fig. 9. Flux density distribution over one module

Loss analysis for the drive is performed using the presented model, which includes the selected devices with a conventional system having IGBTs and two IMMD systems with different types of GaNs. The comparative loss results are shown in Fig. 10. The results show that, even with a switching frequency five times higher than IGBTs, the total system loss is halved with GaN devices. The switching frequency of IGBT simulations are limited to 20 kHz, due to the practical limits of those devices. It is observed that the main reduction is on switching losses, as expected. However, transistor conduction losses are a little bit higher with GaNs, although reverse conduction losses are similar. There are two main reasons for this. First of all, IGBT conduction performance in high current applications is good. However, the GaN technology has not been proven itself in terms of on-state voltage drop, while it has developed to have comparable performance. Secondly, the IMMD system has 2-series structure so that each module carries two times the current they would have when there are 4 parallel modules. In conclusion, both cascade and e-mode GaN FETs reach 98% drive efficiencies at 100 kHz switching frequency. Motor drive simulations are performed using 4 modules used with the proposed configuration, with 900 phase shift and suitable DC link capacitor which results in less than 1% voltage ripple. The DC link current of each parallel connected module and the total DC link current with and without interleaving at 50kHz switching frequency are shown in Fig. 11. The DC link voltage ripple of each series connected module and the total DC link voltage with and without interleaving are also shown in Fig. 12.



Fig. 10. Comparative loss analysis having a conventional system with IGBT and two different IMMD systems with GaN



(a)



(b)

Fig. 11. (a) The DC link current of each module, (b) total DC link current with and without interleaving



(a)



(b)

Fig. 12. (a) DC link voltage of each module, (b) Total DC link voltage with and without interleaving

The line-to-line output voltage and line current of one module are shown in Fig. 13. The performance of the proposed IMMD system and its conventional counterpart are listed in Table 5 including the RMS ripple current of each capacitor (*Icrms*), the required capacitance for each capacitor to meet the DC link voltage ripple constraint (*Cdc*), required voltage for each capacitor (*Vc*), number of total capacitors used, total harmonic distortion of the line-to-line voltage (*THDv*) and total harmonic distortion of the line current (*THDi*). In this analysis, switching frequencies used for IMMD is 50kHz and for the conventional motor drive is 20kHz.



(a)



(b)

Figure 13. (a) Line-to-line voltage, (b) Line current

The results show that, the required RMS ripple current rating of the capacitors is decreased to almost half with the application of interleaving in the IMMD case. Metallized film capacitors are known to have high current handling capability, therefore decreasing the capacitance requirement is more critical and the most convenient way to achieve this is increasing the switching frequency. However, the current rating does not depend on the switching frequency and therefore it may be a deciding parameter for conventional motor drives. The capacitance requirement also decreases almost to its half value with interleaving. It can be reduced further with higher switching frequencies using GaN devices when IMMD configuration is used. One drawback of using the modular configuration is the necessity of using two capacitor banks due to the series connection. Interleaving between series connected modules does not contribute to any of the parameters of the DC link voltage ripple is to be kept below 1% for each module separately. On the other hand, the voltage of each capacitor is lower which decreases the size of the capacitor significantly.

For better visualization, capacitors from commercially available products are selected for the conventional and proposed systems, parameters of which are listed in Table 6. Using the thermal model, the temperature rise of the capacitors is also analyzed and shown in Table 6. Finally, the resultant power density of both the capacitor bank and overall IMMD is analyzed to verify the performance of the design. Using the motor dimensions, PCB dimensions and capacitor heights, the power density of the capacitor bank and overall system (excluding the heat sink) are calculated as 184 W/cm3 and 1.1 kW/lt, respectively. This result shows that, the performance criteria defined for the design process have been achieved in terms of power density, efficiency and reliability.

TABLE V

Performance of the Proposed IMMD and Comparıson wıth the Conventıonal System

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Conventional System** | **Proposed System** |
| Ic,rms | 10.13 A | 5.76 A |
| Cdc | 97 µF | 18 µF |
| Vc | 630 V | 300 V |
| Total capacitor | 1 | 2 |
| THDv | 79.91 % | 89.15 % |
| THDi | 0.48 % | 0. 47 % |

TABLE VI

Parameters of the Selected Capacıtor Banks

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Parameter** | **Conventional** | **Proposed** |
| Voltage | 600 V | 300 V |
| Capacitance | 100 µF | 20 µF |
| Current | 100 A | 20 A |
| ESR | 0.9 mΩ | 4 mΩ |
| ESL | 25 nH | 11 nH |
| Width/Length | 101mm x 101mm | 28mm x 42mm |
| Height | 40 mm | 37 mm |
| Total volume | 408 cm3 | 43.5 cm3 |
| Thermal resistance | 6.9 0C/W | 12 0C/W |
| Power loss | 92 mW | 132 mW |
| Temperature rise | 0.6 0C | 1.6 0C |

# Conclusıons

In this study, an integrated modular motor drive system is proposed which can replace conventional motor drive systems, and its design process is presented. The proposed system brings several advantages such as increased power density, enhanced fault tolerance and reliability, reduction in EMI problems and voltage stress across devices, and increased surface area for better cooling.

The design is based on 2-level inverter modules which can be connected in series and/or parallel on the DC link thanks to the modular structure. The number of series/parallel modules are established based on the reduction in the size of the DC link capacitor with proper interleaving angle, and the available device voltage and current ratings. Dimensioning of a PMSM having FSCW stator is performed and a suitable modular winding configuration is proposed. The design of the modular motor drive is based on WBG GaN power FETs selected from two different manufacturers. Loss characterization and analysis is performed using these devices along with a conventional converter in which IGBT is utilized for comparison.

It has been shown that both GaN devices yield superior efficiency performance even with a switching frequency five times the conventional one. Moreover, selection of DC bus capacitor banks is performed for these systems and the effects of interleaving, which is only applicable for modular structure, to the size of capacitors are presented. It is shown that, a power density higher than 1 kW/lt can be achieved with 98% motor drive efficiency for an IMMD having 8 kW output power. Considering also the improvements on the system reliability and fault tolerance, the performance of the IMMD system has been proven to be successful to replace the conventional motor drive systems using the design process presented here.

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