

5. Increasing Electromagnet Force

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1 Abstract

Since the concept of an electromagnet is present in both motors and generators we find it interesting to study the relationship between the parameters describing the electrical power the coil draws and the mechanical force with which the coil attracts a piece of ferromagnetic material or a magnet.

2 Clues

Go to any site with detailed information on electromagnets of various sizes, like Highcap[3], and collect the data, normalize it and calculate F/P :

d mm	h mm	F N	P W	F/P	A mm²	F/PA
20	15	20	3	6.5	300	0.022
25	20	49	4	12.3	500	0.025
30	22	98	4	24.5	660	0.037
34	18	177	4	44.1	612	0.072
40	20	196	8	24.5	800	0.031
49	21	392	10	39.2	1029	0.038
60	34	686	13	52.8	2040	0.026
65	30	785	13	60.3	1950	0.031

As you can see we have also calculated A as a kind of cross-section area $A = dh$ and F/PA which seems as if it could be a constant. We plot F/P as a function of A :

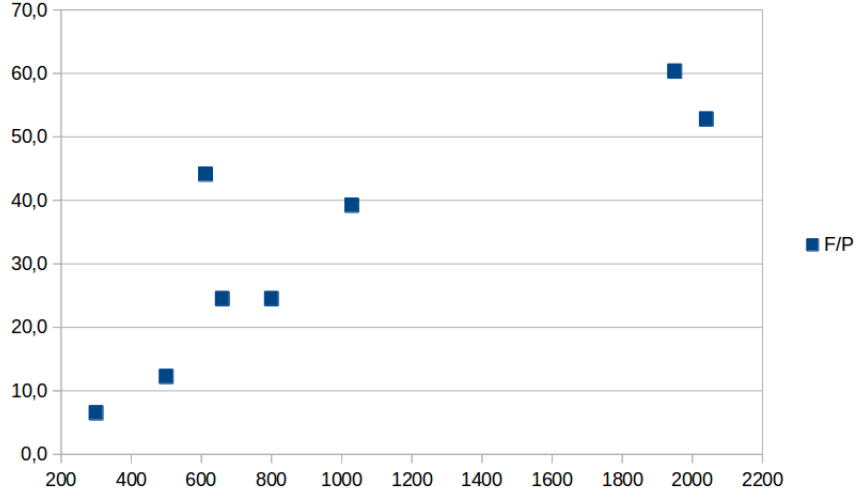


Figure 1: F/P(A)

The only outstanding data-point in this collection seems to be the forth electromagnet.

The same investigation can be done on PMDC motors. Plot the torque times speed to input power ratio as a function to its size and you will see that bigger motors gives higher values.

3 Formula

Searching for a formula on this relationship we found[2, 1]:

$$F = \frac{\mu^2}{2\mu_0 g^2} N^2 I^2 A \quad (1)$$

where g is the air-gap. Let us introduce A_F to make it easier to read:

$$A_F = \frac{\mu^2 A}{2 \mu_0 g^2} \quad (2)$$

and we get:

$$F = A_F N^2 I^2 \quad (3)$$

Let us introduce a new concept; the relationship between the resistance and the number of turns in an inductor:

$$R = A_R N^2 \quad (4)$$

A_R is the form-factor of the windings of the inductor. Roughly we have:

$$A_R = 11 \rho \frac{r}{dl} \quad (5)$$

where ρ is the resistivity of the material in the wire, which for copper is $16.78 \text{ n}\Omega \text{ m}$, r is mean radius, d is depth and l is length.

The definition of A_R makes it possible to rewrite the formula:

$$F = A_F \frac{R}{A_R} I^2 \quad (6a)$$

$$F = A_F \frac{P}{A_R} \quad (6b)$$

$$\frac{F}{P} = \frac{A_F}{A_R} \quad (6c)$$

It seems that the F/P ratio for an electromagnet is not a function of the number of turns, but apart from core-related parameters rather the amount of copper-wire; the more wire-mass, the bigger the form, the smaller the A_R the stronger force per input-power.

We can also say that for any electromagnet, the force is proportional to the power, when we increase the power the force increase:

$$F = \frac{A_F}{A_R} P \quad (7)$$

4 Experiment

Eight coils a-h have been tested, five on a small form and three on a big form. They all had welding rods as core.

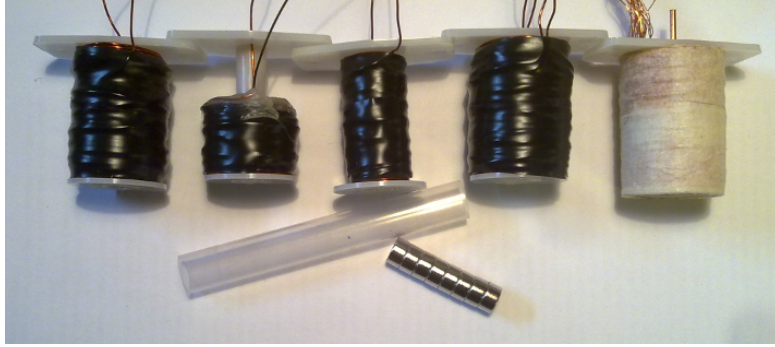


Figure 2: Coils a-e



Figure 3: Coils f-h

The testing was conducted using a small plastic tube and a stack of small magnets that could easily slide in the tube. The coil to be tested was placed on a table with its core in vertical position, the tube with the magnets where placed on top of the core so the magnets would be lifted once current starts to flow. Voltage and current was measured when the magnets was lifted to the same height as for coil c. The current chosen for coil c was related to the limits of the power-supply. Both voltage and current was measured with meters external to the power-supply.

coil	comment	r	d	l	ϱ	A_R	A	m_{tot}	m_{Cu}	W_d	N	R	A_R	L	A_L	V	I	P	$N^2 I^2 A$	P_m
	air core, no wire	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	4.2												
a	welding rods core, no wire	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	11.0												
b	1 x 1, full	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	94.4	83.4	0.6	693	2.4	5.1	8.13	16.93	3.8	1.4	5.35	29.4	446
c	1 x 1, half length	8.4	8.7	17.3	1	10.4	30	54.9	43.8	0.6	350	1.2	10.1	2.57	20.98	3.3	2.1	7.01	16.5	307
d	1 x 1, half depth	6.2	4.3	34.5	1	7.7	30	44.3	33.3	0.6	350	1.0	8.5	2.04	16.65	4.0	2.9	11.67	31.8	388
e	1 x 2, (in series)	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	99.7	88.6	0.6	700	2.5	5.2	8.25	16.84	3.9	1.4	5.50	29.4	487
f	1 x 1, (half wires)	8.4	8.7	34.5	0.5	10.4	30	99.7	44.3	0.6	350	1.3	10.4	2.06	16.82	4.3	2.8	11.84	28.2	525
g	2 x 1, (in parallel)	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	99.7	88.6	0.6	350	0.7	6.0	2.07	16.90	2.6	2.8	7.49	29.9	664
h	1 x 1, full	8.4	8.7	34.5	1	5.2	30	107.3	96.3	0.2	6000	177.0	4.9	672.00	18.67	26.3	0.1	3.89	23.8	375
	air core, no wire	28.7	32.5	77.6	1	2.1	302	39												
	welding rods core, no wire	28.7	32.5	77.6	1	2.1	302	241												
f	4 x 1, not full	24.5	24.4	77.6	1	2.4	302	1438	1197	1	300	0.3	2.8	4.07	45.22	0.8	1.7	1.38	78.7	1650
g	5 x (3*2), overfull	29.2	33.7	77.6	1	2.1	302	2576	2335	0.6	1224	2.7	1.8	68.89	45.98	1.2	0.4	0.50	77.1	1171
g	5 x 3, overfull	29.2	33.7	77.6	0.5	4.1	302	2576	1168	0.6	612	1.5	4.1	17.14	45.77	1.2	0.8	0.98	70.3	1141
h	(2*5) x 3, overfull	29.2	33.7	77.6	1	2.1	302	2576	2335	0.6	612	0.7	2.0	17.15	45.79	0.8	0.8	0.62	74.3	1458
	1 x 1, almost full	26.7	28.4	77.6	1	2.2	302	2322	2081	0.5	7200	92.6	1.8	2760.00	53.24	7.1	0.1	0.52	83.4	1082

header	unit	definition
coil		label
comment		p x s number of strands in parallel times number of strands in series
r	mm	mean radius for the windings
d	mm	depth for the windings
l	mm	core-length
q		windings density, how much used, times 8/11
A_R	$\mu\Omega$	calculated from dimensions using formula
A	mm^2	core area
m_{tot}	g	mass
m_{Cu}	g	copper mass
W_d	mm	wire diameter
N		number of turns
R	Ω	resistance
A_R	$\mu\Omega$	calculated from resistance
L	mH	inductance
A_L	nH	calculated from inductance
V	V	voltage applied
I	A	current drawn
P	W	power drawn
$N^2 I^2 A$	$A^2 mm^2$	part of the original expression for F
P_m	$W g$	power times mass

The pole-area of the magnets was 50mm^2 , very well suited for coils a-e, but coil f-h has a much greater core-area than the magnets which makes comparisons between the two sets of coils difficult.

One surprise was the power drawn by coil f which we will have to look deeper into.

Watch a short, hasty and inexact version of the experiment with coil a,b and e at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IIeRR6NjMPQ>.

5 Conclusion

Although more can be explored in this area the general rule to get the best performance out of an electromagnet is to have the electromagnet as big as possible, which leads us to believe that motors should have as few and big coils as possible[5] to increase torque per power. We also believe that the reverse is true, that generators should have as many and small coils as possible to decrease torque per power.

A In Plain English

Whenever we spend something, be it time, money, energy or power, we want to get the most value back, so we calculate the performance per input ratio. In this paper we have proposed a way of doing the same with electromagnets. The amount of copper in an electromagnet is one important factor that affects the force per power ratio, not the number of turns or the wire thickness in the coil. The general rule is; the more copper the greater force.

B På Ren Svenska

När vi spenderar något, vare sig det är tid, pengar, energi eller kraft, vi vill få ut mesta möjliga tillbaka, så vi beräknar förhållandet mellan prestanda och input. I den här artikeln har vi föreslagit ett sätt att göra samma sak med elektromagneter. Mängden koppar i en elektromagnet är en viktig faktor som påverkar förhållandet mellan kraft och effekt, inte antalet varv eller trådtjocklek i spolen. Den generella regeln är; ju mer koppar desto större kraft.

C A_F , A_R and A_L

A_F was introduced to bundle the core-related parameters together.

A_R is the form-factor of the windings of the inductor. If W is the wire then we have:

$$R = \rho \frac{W_{length}}{W_{area}} \quad (8a)$$

$$N = \frac{d}{W_{diam}} \frac{l}{W_{diam}} \quad (8b)$$

$$W_{length} = 2\pi r N \quad (8c)$$

$$W_{area} = \frac{\pi d l}{4 N} \quad (8d)$$

$$R = \frac{\rho 2\pi r N 4N}{\varrho \pi d l} \quad (8e)$$

$$R = 8 \frac{\rho}{\varrho} \frac{r}{d l} N^2 \quad (8f)$$

$$A_R = 8 \frac{\rho}{\varrho} \frac{r}{d l} \quad (8g)$$

$$R = A_R N^2 \quad (8h)$$

where ρ is the resistivity of the material in the wire, which for copper is $16.78 \text{ n}\Omega \text{ m}$, ϱ is the tightness of the windings, r is mean radius, d is depth and l is length. A realistic value for ϱ seems to be 8/11 which gives us:

$$A_R = 11 \rho \frac{r}{d l} \quad (9)$$

which is what we use. A_R is similar in its definition to A_L .

A_L is frequently specified by transformer-core manufacturers. The definition is and can for a multilayer air-core coil be calculated as[4]:

$$L = A_L N^2 \quad (10a)$$

$$A_L = \frac{4}{5} \frac{r^2}{6r + 9l + 10d} \quad (10b)$$

The time-constant for a coil can now be expressed as:

$$\tau_L = \frac{L}{R} = \frac{A_L N^2}{A_R N^2} = \frac{A_L}{A_R} \quad (11)$$

and is therefore constant for a given core and form regardless of choice of wire gauge as long as the form is equally filled with wire.

D This Paper

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Figure 4: 1B79p75vQw4Rb1GQdmGYpDapFwEytFJDqw

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