

TITLE

FLUX MACHINE

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RELATED APPLICATIONS

[001] In full or in part, this application describes the same apparatus and method as presented in co-pending utility application 14/162,611, filed on January 23, 2014, and provisional application 61/756,404, filed on January 24, 2013, and claims international date priority thereof as a Patent Cooperation Treaty application. The subject matter of these two applications is hereby incorporated herein by reference in their entirety.

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BACKGROUND

[002] The industrial field of this disclosure relates to electric motors and generators and their methods of construction and operation. In particular this disclosure is directed to a flux machine (FM) that may be operated as a motor or generator. Efficiency in motors and generators is critically important to commercial feasibility. Therefore arrangement of the magnets and coils that generate the flux and electromotive force has a large impact on the operating efficiency of a motor and generator. As more essential products, including vehicles, are moving to electricity, there is a significant need for a motor and generator with greater efficiency.

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BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[003] Figure 1 is an example proximal perspective view of a flux machine described, illustrated, and claimed herein;

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[004] Figure 2 is an example distal perspective view thereof;

[005] Figure 3 is an example proximal perspective expanded view in accordance

with Fig. 1;

[006] Figure 4 is an example distal perspective expanded view in accordance with Fig. 2;

[007] Figure 5 is an example vertical section view taken at A-A in Fig. 1 and
5 passing through a central rotational axis;

[008] Figure 6 is an example distal perspective view of an outer rotor-magnet assembly thereof;

[009] Figure 7 is an example proximal perspective view of an inner rotor-magnet assembly thereof;

10 [0010] Figure 8 is an expanded view of Fig. 7;

[0011] Figure 9 is an example proximal perspective view of a radial fan thereof;

[0012] Figure 10 is an example proximal perspective view of a stator assembly thereof with only a small number of representative core and coil
15 elements shown;

[0013] Figure 11 is an example perspective expanded view of one core and coil assembly thereof;

[0014] Figure 12 is an example perspective distal view of a full complement of core-coil assemblies thereof showing coil wires routed to a circumventing wire harness;
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[0015] Figure 13 is an example electrical wiring diagrams of a 12 pole, 2-parallel star connection diagram in accordance with the present disclosure.

[0016] Like reference symbols in the drawing figures indicate like elements.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0017] A flux machine (FM 10) that may function as a motor or generator has been developed that increases efficiency significantly in laboratory testing. This new design that is disclosed herein relies on a novel arrangement of magnets and coils that produces
30 superior flux and therefore is more efficient in operation. The apparatus described herein

is an electric motor-generator of a type generally referred to in the art as a “flux machine” (FM 10). In some embodiments, the flux machine operates as a longitudinal flux machine. In other embodiments, the machine operates as a transverse flux machine (TFM). In still other embodiments the flux machine may be a hybrid longitudinal and transvers flux machine. For example, in recent years transverse flux machines have found favor in a wide range of applications. Whereas in standard electric motors, the electromagnetic force vector is parallel to its magnetic flux lines, in TFM's the electromagnetic force vector is perpendicular to the magnetic flux lines. The TFM design allows the pole number to be increased without reducing the magnetomotive force per pole, and is therefore capable of producing power densities higher than in a conventional machine. A TFM with a large number of poles and short current passages is attractive because a high torque/weight ratio, a high power/weight ratio and low copper losses are achievable.

[0018] An arrangement of coils and magnets has been developed that allows flux to be separately directed toward three different sides of the coils or coil assemblies. For instance, there may be two magnets that are oriented with poles facing inward or outward to direct flux in a radial direction on opposite sides of the coils, and a third that has poles facing axially, to direct flux in an axial direction on a third side of the coils. Additionally, the coils may be oriented so that the windings and current flows in a plane that is perpendicular to a vector pointing in an established circumferential direction of motion. This arrangement allows the three magnets to each be adjacent to a different side of the coils but since the coil frame is in a plane perpendicular to the plane of motion, each magnet only interacts with one of the sides of the coils. This allows three magnets to simultaneously interact with the coils providing a superior flux inducing arrangement.

[0019] Figs. 1 and 2 shows an embodiment of the FM 10 which may be generally circular in shape and relatively short axially. In other embodiments, it also may be relatively longer axially, linear, or have other suitable configurations. Electrical connections may be made to FM 10 within a connection box 20 shown on top and a mechanical

engagement with the FM 10 may be made distally. In this description a “distal” view or element is as seen from the rear (**Fig. 4**) and a “proximal” view or element is as seen from the front (**Fig. 3**) of the machine. Alternate mechanical and electrical interfacing may be employed.

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[0020] **Fig. 3** illustrates the several components and sub-assemblies of FM 10 according to one embodiment, showing such items in the relative respective positions which they occupy during machine operation. Moving from left to right in **Fig. 3** shown are: shroud 30, outer rotor-magnet assembly 40, fan 60, inner rotor-magnet assembly 70, stator assembly 100, rotor hub 150, flywheel 160, and flywheel housing 170. Flywheel 160 is not a part of FM 10 but is shown and described to enable an understanding of one manner by which FM 10 may be mechanically engaged for being driven as an electrical generator or for producing useful rotational output work as an electrical motor. Shown also in **Fig. 3** are the common hardware screws which may be used to secure the several components and sub-assemblies together as a completed and assembled machine. Any other suitable attachment means may be used in place of screws to secure the several components and sub-assemblies together. All of the above identified parts of FM 10 are aligned axially on common axis 5 which is also the center of rotation of the rotor, that is: elements 40, 60, 70, and 150. **Fig. 4** is a distal view of the same elements.

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[0021] **Fig. 5** shows an embodiment of a FM 10 in vertical cross section illustrating an embodiment of how rotor hub 150 is joined to flywheel 160, inner rotor-magnet assembly 70 is joined to rotor hub 150, fan 60 to inner rotor-magnet assembly 70; outer rotor-magnet assembly 40 to inner rotor-magnet assembly 70; stator assembly 100 to flywheel housing 170, and shroud 30 to stator assembly 100. **Fig. 5** also shows the locations of permanent magnets 46, 50, and 76 as well as core-coil assembly 120. Alternative embodiments and constructions may be applied, including the selection and connectivity of the various components described herein. For instance, in some embodiments, the rotor and stator may be reversed, with appropriate electrical and mechanical connectivity adjusted.

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[0022] Referring now to **Fig. 6**, it is shown that in some embodiments the outer rotor-magnet assembly **40** may have a cylindrical wall **42** and an end wall **44**. Additionally, the outer rotor magnet assembly may be made of any other suitable configuration of rings, cylinders or other suitable connective components. Mounted on the cylindrical wall **42** may be OD radial magnets **46** and mounted on the end wall **44** may be axial magnets **50**. The OD radial magnets **46** may be mounted on an inner surface of the cylindrical wall **42**, an outer surface, in slots or spaces on the cylindrical wall **42**, or any other suitable mounting. The axial magnets may be mounted on an inwardly facing surface 48 of an end wall **44**, an outwardly facing surface, in slots or spaces in an end wall **44**, or any other suitable arrangement. Each of the sets of magnets **46** and **50** may be arranged circularly or in other embodiments linearly. The magnets **46** and **50** may have planar pole faces producing flux lines normal thereto so that magnets **46** produce a radial flux and magnets **50** produce an axial flux. The magnets **46** and **50** are secured to their respective surfaces or any other suitable portions by a bonding agent such as an epoxy type or otherwise, and may be additionally secured by common hardware such as threaded screws installed into end wall **44** as shown or other suitable methods or devices.

[0023] Referring now to **Figs. 7 and 8**, it is shown that inner rotor-magnet assembly **70** may be a cylinder having a cylindrical outer wall **72** and an annular internal flange **74** at a distal end of outer wall **72**. In other embodiments, the inner/rotor/stator may be construction of any suitable arrangement of materials, rings, walls, flanges, or connective pieces. Mounted, in a circular arrangement, on an outer surface of outer wall **72** may be ID radial magnets **76**. Magnets **76** may also be mounted in spaces or connected with bars or other suitable means known in the art. Magnets **76** may be arc-shaped to coincide with the curved surface of outer wall **72** upon which they are set, and the pole surfaces may be facing outwardly to produce a radially directed magnetic flux. Magnets **76** may also be flat or any other suitable shapes. Magnets **76** may be secured to wall

72 or another suitable portion of the inner rotor/stator assembly 70 by a bonding agent such as an epoxy type or otherwise, and may be additionally secured by common hardware such as screws threaded into wall 72 or otherwise. As shown in Figs. 7 and 8 an external non-ferrous circular cover 80 may be fitted over magnets 76 for improved securement thereof.

[0024] Magnets 46, 50, and 76 may be permanent magnets or electromagnets or a combination of both. In other embodiments, the outer and inner rotor-magnet assembly 70 and outer rotor magnet assembly 40 may be combined into a single rotor assembly, or the end wall 44 of the outer rotor magnet assembly may be attached to the inner rotor-magnet assembly 70. Additionally, the stator may be the rotor and the rotor the stator with appropriate adjustments to electrical and mechanical connectivity.

[0025] In other embodiments, inner rotor-magnet assembly 70 or outer rotor magnet assembly 40 may include two end walls 44, and with two mutually facing magnets 50 with axially directed flux each connected to one of the end walls 44, and one cylindrical wall 42, with a radial magnet 76 connected to the cylindrical wall 42 with radially directed flux. In this embodiment, the stator coils would be inside the rotor, with axial-radial-axial flux directed to three different sides of the coils. In this embodiment, the coils may be oriented so that current flows in a plane perpendicular to a vector circumferentially directed in the direction of motion.

[0026] The fan 60 shown in Fig. 9 may be made up of a circular flat plate 62 upon which may be mounted, by welding or otherwise, radial vanes 64. During operation of FM 10 fan 60 may rotate about axis 5 to draw air into the machine axially through screen 31 (Fig. 1) whereby it is redirected radially by the vanes 64 for cooling coils 126 and cores 122 and 124. The air exits through slots 34 in shroud 30 (Fig. 1). As should be understood, fan 60 is engaged with inner rotor-magnet assembly 70 with axial fingers 78 thereof engaged with peripheral slots 66 in plate 62.

[0027] Stator assembly **100** which in one embodiment may function as the rotor of FM **10**, may have a metal structural frame shown in **Fig. 10** which includes a frame disc **102** incorporating a circular array of mutually spaced-apart radial partitions **104** mounted on a proximal surface **106** of disc **102** as shown. In **Fig. 10** several coils **126** are shown in their respective operating positions and are electrically interconnected through circular harness **127** which encircles partitions **104**. Wires in harness **127** terminate at three lead conduits **129** adjacent to an electrical box flange **125**, the latter being integral with, or attached to disc **102**. In some embodiments, channels between adjacent partitions **104** may be used for routing electrical wires of coils **126** as shown at “A.” Also shown in **Fig. 10** there may be three cores **120**. Cores **120** may be permeable cores, composites, laminates, or combinations of laminates and composites, or other suitable core construction.

[0028] A full complement of core-coil assemblies CCA 110 or coil assemblies, shown in **Fig. 12**, are mounted as part of stator assembly **100**, with each CCA 110 mounted onto one of partitions **104** (**Fig. 10**). A typical CCA 110 is shown expanded in **Fig. 11** illustrating a core **120** made up of two abutting silicon steel lamination stacks, a larger stack **122** with laminations aligned radially when mounted on stator assembly **100**, and a smaller stack **124** with laminations aligned axially when so mounted. As shown, stacks **122**, **124** are connected together using common hardware, or otherwise, and use common hardware **132** for bolting CCA 110 to frame disc **102** or may be connected through any other suitable means including welding. Other suitable coil-core assemblies **110** may include other suitable components, including a single core assembly. For instance, the core **120** may be of any conductive material including copper, or other suitable materials. In other embodiments, the core-coil assemblies **110** may be oval or circular or other suitable shapes.

[0029] Stack alignments may be orientated in a direction of magnetic flux from

their respective adjacent magnets **46**, **50**, and **76**. Core **120** may alternately be made of a single shaped block of compressed carbonyl iron particles or otherwise. Coil **126** may be made up of a flat or rounded, or other shaped copper, or other material of wire wound in a rectangular, oval or circular shape to fit within accommodating channels in core **120** as shown in **Fig. 11** at “B.” In some embodiments, the flat wire of coil **126** is insulation coated and the several legs of coil **126** are further insulated from core **120** by U-shaped insulating sleeves **128** and tape covered corners **130**. As can be seen in **Fig. 11**. In some embodiments magnetic flux in stacks **122** and **124** will be oriented at right angles to current flowing in the windings of coil **126** and thus produces a force in the third orthogonal direction which is the direction of rotation of the rotor. **Fig. 12** is a distal view illustrating a full complement of CCA 110 showing coil wires extending to harness **127** and hardware **132** which penetrates partitions **104** and frame disc **102** (see **Fig. 10**) for securing all of the CCA 110 as a part of stator assembly **100**.

[0030] As illustrated in Figure 10, the core-coil assemblies **110** or coil assemblies **110** may be oriented so that the coils **126** are wrapped in a rectangular shape and oriented with respect to the rotor or stator so that the current flows in a plane that is perpendicular to a vector oriented in the circumferential direction of motion or rotation. In the embodiment illustrated in Figure 10, the coils have three sides exposed for interaction with magnetic flux, including two sides exposed for interaction with flux of radial magnets **76** and **46**, and one side exposed for interaction with flux of axial magnets **50**. These interactions all occur in the same plane, and accordingly, each magnet only interacts with one side of each coil **126**. This is advantageous because it allows three magnets to simultaneously interact with the coils and produce flux that contributes to the motive force and/or electricity generation.

[0031] When inner rotor-magnet assembly **70** is positioned within the circular arrangement of CCA 110, magnets **76** may be positioned in parallel and adjacent to

inwardly facing surfaces of core-coil assemblies **110** and may be spaced apart therefrom by an air gap. When outer rotor-magnet assembly **40** is positioned around the outside of the circular arrangement of CCA **110**, magnets **46** may be positioned in parallel with outwardly facing surfaces of stacks **122** and may be spaced apart therefrom by an air gap. It is further clear that when outer rotor-magnet assembly **40** is positioned around the circular arrangement of CCA **110**, magnets **50** may be positioned in parallel with outwardly facing surfaces (in the axial direction) of stacks **124** and may be spaced apart therefrom by an air gap. **Fig. 5** illustrates the positions of the magnets relative to the coil-core **120**. It is clear than that with the sets of magnets **46**, **50** and **76** positioned in close proximity to three sides of the sets of CCA **110**, an electric current flowing in coils **126** will produce forces in a direction of rotation of the rotor about axis **5**.

[0032] **Fig. 13** shows an electrical interconnection that may be made in a **12** pole, **3** phase, 2 parallel star connected version of FM **10**. In **Fig. 13**, the outer circular diagram shows a method of wiring the poles of the three phases, and the inner diagram shows the Y-arrangement indicating which poles are interconnected in a series-parallel interconnection arrangement. FM **10** may be configured with a larger or smaller number of poles and with other electrical arrangements.

[0033] Embodiments of the subject apparatus and wiring arrangement have been described herein. Nevertheless, it will be understood that modifications by those of skill in the art may be made without departing from the spirit and understanding of this disclosure. Accordingly, other embodiments and approaches are within the scope of the following claims.

CLAIMS

1. A flux machine comprising:

a rotor having a plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies, each of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies including a core and a corresponding coil, each core being separate and distinct from the cores of all of the other ones of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies, each core defining at least one channel and being disposed at least partially within its corresponding coil such that each corresponding coil is at least partially disposed within the at least one channel defined by its core; and

a stator having a plurality of sets of magnets, each of the plurality of sets of magnets including a first magnet, a second magnet, and a third magnet,

wherein each of the plurality of sets of magnets is positioned adjacent to a respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies;

wherein in each of the plurality of sets of magnets:

pole faces of the same polarity of the first magnet, the second magnet, and the third magnet face toward the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies;

the pole faces of the same polarity of the first magnet and the second magnet face toward each other; and

the pole face of the same polarity of the third magnet is perpendicular to the pole faces of the same polarity of the first magnet and the second magnet, such that the third magnet is configured to direct magnetic flux transversely relative to magnetic flux of the first magnet and the second magnet.

2. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the core of each of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies includes a first laminated stack and a second laminated stack, the first laminated stack having a first plurality of laminations stacked in a first direction that is parallel to the pole faces of the same polarity of the first magnet and the second magnet, the second laminated stack having a second plurality of laminations stacked in a second direction

that is parallel to the pole face of the same polarity of the third magnet, the first direction being generally perpendicular to the second direction.

3. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the pole faces of the same polarity of the first magnet and the second magnet face each other and toward the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies along a radial direction with respect to the axis of rotation, and wherein the pole face of the same polarity of the third magnet faces toward the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies along an axial direction.

4. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the pole face of the same polarity that faces towards the respective coil of the plurality of core-coil assemblies is a north pole.

5. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the pole face of the same polarity that faces towards the respective coil of the plurality of core-coil assemblies is a south pole.

6. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the at least one channel defined by each core has a generally U-shaped cross-section with a base and two opposing sidewalls.

7. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the at least one channel defined by each core is generally U-shaped.

8. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein each core includes a first portion and a second portion separated by the at least one channel defined the core, the first portion of each core being configured to be disposed within its corresponding coil, the second portion of each core being configured to be disposed about at least a portion of a periphery of its corresponding coil.

9. The flux machine of claim 1, further comprising an electrical insulating material disposed within the at least one channel of each core, the electrical insulating material of each core electrically insulating the core from its corresponding coil.

10. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein each core includes a first portion and a second portion, and wherein, for each core, the at least one channel includes (i) a first channel and a second channel defined by the first portion, and (ii) a third channel defined by the second portion.
11. The flux machine of claim 10, wherein the first portion of each core includes a first plurality of sheets of material stacked together and the second portion of each core includes a second plurality of sheets of material stacked together.
12. The flux machine of claim 10, wherein the first channel and the second channel are parallel and the third channel is perpendicular to both the first and second channels.
13. The flux machine of claim 10, wherein a first segment of each corresponding coil is disposed within the first channel of its core, a second segment of each corresponding coil is disposed within the second channel of its core, and a third segment of each corresponding coil is disposed within the third channel of its core.
14. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein the first magnet is configured to direct flux in a first direction toward a first side surface of the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies, the second magnet is configured to direct flux in a second direction toward a second side surface of the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies, and the third magnet is configured to direct flux in a third direction toward a third side surface of the respective coil of the plurality of electrical core-coil assemblies.
15. The flux machine of claim 14, wherein the first direction and the second direction are radial directions, and wherein the third direction is an axial direction.
16. The flux machine of claim 14, wherein the first direction and the second direction are axial directions, and wherein the third direction is a radial direction.
17. The flux machine of claim 14, wherein at least a first portion of each core is positioned between the first magnet and the first side surface of the corresponding coil.

18. The flux machine of claim 17, wherein at least a second portion of each core is positioned between the second magnet and the second side surface of the corresponding coil.

19. The flux machine of claim 18, wherein at least a third portion of each core is positioned between the third magnet and the third side surface of the corresponding coil.

20. The flux machine of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of each corresponding coil is surrounded on three sides by the at least one channel of its core.