

Generator in 2D

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Introduction

This example shows how the circular motion of a rotor with permanent magnets generates an induced EMF in a stator winding. The generated voltage is calculated as a function of time during the rotation. The model also shows the influence on the voltage from material parameters, rotation velocity, and number of turns in the winding.

The center of the rotor consists of annealed medium carbon steel, which is a material with a high relative permeability. The center is surrounded with several blocks of a permanent magnet made of sintered NdFeB, creating a strong magnetic field. The stator is made of the same permeable material as the center of the rotor, confining the field in closed loops through the winding. The winding is wound around the stator poles. Figure 1 shows the generator with part of the stator sliced in order to show the winding and the rotor.



Figure 1: Drawing of a generator showing how the rotor, stator, and stator winding are constructed. The coils are connected in series in order to give the highest possible voltage.

Modeling in COMSOL Multiphysics

The COMSOL Multiphysics model of the generator is a time-dependent 2D problem on a cross section through the generator. This is a true time-dependent model where the motion of the magnetic sources in the rotor is accounted for in the boundary condition between the stator and rotor geometries. Thus, there is no Lorentz term in the equation, resulting in the PDE

$$\sigma \frac{\partial \mathbf{A}}{\partial t} + \nabla \times \left(\frac{1}{\mu} \nabla \times \mathbf{A}\right) = 0$$

where the magnetic vector potential only has a z component.

Rotation is modeled using a ready-made physics interface for rotating machinery. The center part of the geometry, containing the rotor and part of the air-gap, rotates relative to the coordinate system of the stator. The rotor and the stator are built as two separate geometry objects, so it is possible to use an assembly (see *Finalizing the Geometry* in the *COMSOL Multiphysics Reference Manual* for details). This has several advantages: the coupling between the rotor and the stator is done automatically, the parts are meshed independently, and it allows for a discontinuity in the vector potential at the interface between the two geometry objects (called slits). The rotor frame), whereas the stator problem is solved in a coordinate system that is fixed with respect to the stator (the stator frame). An identity pair connecting the rotating rotor frame with the fixed stator frame is created between the rotor and the stator. The identity pair enforces continuity for the vector potential in the global fixed coordinate system (the stator frame).

The stator and center of the rotor are made of annealed medium-carbon steel (soft iron), which is implemented in COMSOL Multiphysics as an interpolation function of the B-H curve of the material; see Figure 2.



Figure 2: The norm of the magnetic flux, $|\mathbf{B}|$, versus the norm of the magnetic field, $|\mathbf{H}|$, for the rotor and stator materials.

The generated voltage is computed automatically with the use of the Coil feature. In this simplified example all coils are series connected making out a single stator winding. The series connection of coils is realized in COMSOL Multiphysics by adding coil domains to a Coil group. In this way, the output voltage is the sum of voltages generated by each coils even though they are not geometrically connected in the 2D model.

The resistive and iron losses are computed with the use of a Loss Calculation subfeature and a Time to Frequency Losses study. In this 2D model, the magnets are modeled by using the Coil feature, which allows for the calculation of induced currents and resistive losses. The settings impose a zero net perpendicular current in each of the magnets by activating the Coil group checkbox. For the iron part of the generator, the Bertotti loss model is selected to compute the cycle averaged loss power density. A surface integration is then made to compute the total loss power of the generator. The generated voltage and the losses are compared with the 3D counterpart of this model, that is, Modeling of an Electric Generator in 3D.

Results and Discussion

The generated voltage in the rotor winding is close to a sinusoidal signal. At a rotation speed of 60 rpm the voltage has an amplitude of 700 V in total; see Figure 3.



Figure 3: The generated voltage over one quarter of a revolution. This simulation used a 100turn winding.

The norm of the magnetic flux, $|\mathbf{B}|$, and the **B** field lines are shown below in Figure 4 at time 0.20 s.



Figure 4: The norm and the field lines of the magnetic flux after 0.2 s of rotation. Note the darker regions, which indicate the position of the permanent magnets in the rotor.





Figure 5: The volumetric loss density of the generator.

Application Library path: ACDC_Module/Motors_and_Actuators/generator_2d

Modeling Instructions

From the File menu, choose New.

NEW

In the New window, click 🔗 Model Wizard.

MODEL WIZARD

- I In the Model Wizard window, click **Q** 2D.
- 2 In the Select Physics tree, select AC/DC>Electromagnetics and Mechanics> Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (rmm).
- 3 Click Add.

4 Click \bigcirc Study.

5 In the Select Study tree, select General Studies>Stationary.

6 Click 🗹 Done.

GLOBAL DEFINITIONS

Parameters 1

- I In the Model Builder window, under Global Definitions click Parameters I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Parameters, locate the Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
L	0.4[m]	0.4 m	Length of generator
rpm	60[1/min]	/s	Rotational speed of rotor
d_wire	3[mm]	0.003 m	Diameter of wire in the winding
Ν	100	100	Number of turns in the winding

Next, build the generator using rotor and stator parts from the geometry part library. Initialize the parts, and tick the selections that are pre-defined to make it convenient to assign material properties and magnetization direction.

PART LIBRARIES

- I In the Home toolbar, click 📑 Windows and choose Part Libraries.
- 2 In the Part Libraries window, select AC/DC Module>Rotating Machinery 2D>Rotors> Internal>surface_mounted_magnet_internal_rotor_2d in the tree.
- **3** Click **Add to Geometry**.

PART LIBRARIES

- I In the Home toolbar, click 📑 Windows and choose Part Libraries.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Geometry I.
- 3 In the Part Libraries window, select AC/DC Module>Rotating Machinery 2D>Stators> External>slotted_external_stator_2d in the tree.
- 4 Click 🖅 Add to Geometry.

GEOMETRY I

I In the Home toolbar, click 📗 Build All.



Internal Rotor – Surface Mounted Magnets 1 (pil)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Geometry I click Internal Rotor – Surface Mounted Magnets I (pil).
- 2 In the Settings window for Part Instance, locate the Input Parameters section.
- **3** In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
number_of_poles	8	8	Number of magnetic poles in rotor
number_of_modeled _poles	8	8	Number of magnetic poles included in the geometry
shaft_diam	10[cm]	0.1 m	Diameter of the shaft
rotor_diam	30[cm]+2*6.5[cm]	0.43 m	Diameter of the rotor
cont_diam	0.45[m]	0.45 m	Diameter of the stator- rotor continuity interface
magnet_h	6.5[cm]	0.065 m	Height of the magnets
magnet_w	10 [cm]	0.1 m	Width of the magnets (set to 0 to use all available space)
magnet_fillet_size	0.6[cm]	0.006 m	Radius of magnet fillet

4 Click to expand the **Domain Selections** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Кеер	Physics	Contribute to
Shaft		\checkmark	None
Rotor iron	\checkmark	\checkmark	None

Name	Кеер	Physics	Contribute to
Odd magnets	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Even magnets	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Rotor magnets	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Rotor solid domains	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Rotor air	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
All	\checkmark	\checkmark	None

External Stator – Slotted I (pi2)

I In the Model Builder window, click External Stator – Slotted I (pi2).

2 In the Settings window for Part Instance, locate the Input Parameters section.

3 In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Expression	Value	Description
number_of_slots	8	8	Number of slots in stator
number_of_modeled_slo ts	8	8	Number of slots included in the geometry
backiron_th	6 [cm]	0.06 m	Thickness of back-iron
stator_diam	80 [cm]	0.8 m	Diameter of the stator
external_air_size	O[cm]	0 m	Size of air external to stator
cont_diam	45[cm]	0.45 m	Diameter of the stator-rotor continuity interface
shoe_h	1.75[cm]	0.0175 m	Height of the shoe
shoe_w	11.5[cm]	0.115 m	Width of the shoe
tooth_h	10.5[cm]	0.105 m	Height of the tooth
tooth_w	9[cm]	0.09 m	Width of the tooth
shoe_fillet_size	0.4[cm]	0.004 m	Radius of the shoe fillet
<pre>slot_outer_fillet_size</pre>	0.4[cm]	0.004 m	Radius of the outer slot fillet
slot_inner_fillet_size	0.4[cm]	0.004 m	Radius of the inner slot fillet
slot_winding_type	2	2	Slot winding type: 1-No partition, 2-Radial partition, 3-Azimuthal partition, 4- Radial and azimuthal partition.

4 Locate the **Domain Selections** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Name	Кеер	Physics	Contribute to
Stator iron	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Stator slots	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
Stator air	\checkmark	\checkmark	None
All		\checkmark	None

DEFINITIONS

Iron

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click 📑 **Union**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Union, locate the Input Entities section.
- **3** Under Selections to add, click + Add.
- 4 In the Add dialog box, in the Selections to add list, choose Shaft (Internal Rotor Surface Mounted Magnets I), Rotor iron (Internal Rotor – Surface Mounted Magnets I), and Stator iron (External Stator – Slotted I).
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Union, type Iron in the Label text field.

Iron and Magnets

- I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click **H Union**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Union, locate the Input Entities section.
- **3** Under Selections to add, click + Add.
- 4 In the Add dialog box, in the Selections to add list, choose Iron and Rotor magnets (Internal Rotor Surface Mounted Magnets I).
- 5 Click OK.
- 6 In the Settings window for Union, type Iron and Magnets in the Label text field.

Create an assembly from the two geometry objects, connected by a pair boundary.

GEOMETRY I

Form Union (fin)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Geometry I click Form Union (fin).
- 2 In the Settings window for Form Union/Assembly, locate the Form Union/Assembly section.

- **3** From the Action list, choose Form an assembly.
- 4 In the Home toolbar, click 🟢 Build All.
- **5** Click the (-) **Zoom Extents** button in the **Graphics** toolbar.



DEFINITIONS

Cylindrical System 2 (sys2)

I In the **Definitions** toolbar, click Z Coordinate Systems and choose Cylindrical System. The cylindrical coordinate system you just added will be used to define the field of the permanent magnets.

ADD MATERIAL

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to open the Add Material window.
- 2 Go to the Add Material window.
- 3 In the tree, select Built-in>Air.
- 4 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the tree, select AC/DC>Soft Iron (Without Losses).
- 6 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 7 In the tree, select AC/DC>Hard Magnetic Materials> Sintered NdFeB Grades (Chinese Standard)>N50 (Sintered NdFeB).
- 8 Click Add to Component in the window toolbar.
- 9 In the Home toolbar, click 🙀 Add Material to close the Add Material window.

MATERIALS

Soft Iron (Without Losses) (mat2)

I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Materials click Soft Iron (Without Losses) (mat2).

- 2 In the Settings window for Material, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Iron.

N50 (Sintered NdFeB) (mat3)

- I In the Model Builder window, click N50 (Sintered NdFeB) (mat3).
- 2 In the Settings window for Material, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Rotor magnets (Internal Rotor Surface Mounted Magnets I).

ROTATING MACHINERY, MAGNETIC (RMM)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (rmm).
- 2 In the Settings window for Rotating Machinery, Magnetic, locate the Thickness section.
- **3** In the *d* text field, type L.

Next, use a Rotating Domain feature to specify the rotor's rotational velocity.

4 In the Definitions toolbar, click **Moving Mesh** and choose Domains>Rotating Domain.

MOVING MESH

Rotating Domain I

- I In the Settings window for Rotating Domain, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 2 From the Selection list, choose All (Internal Rotor Surface Mounted Magnets I).
- 3 Locate the Rotation section. From the Rotation type list, choose Specified rotational velocity.
- 4 From the Rotational velocity expression list, choose Constant revolutions per time.
- **5** In the *f* text field, type rpm.

ROTATING MACHINERY, MAGNETIC (RMM)

The permanent magnets on the rotor have a radial field. Use the cylindrical coordinate system specified earlier to define it.

Permanent Magnets Outward

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Coil.
- **2** In the **Settings** window for **Coil**, type Permanent Magnets Outward in the **Label** text field.
- 3 Locate the Domain Selection section. From the Selection list, choose Even magnets (Internal Rotor – Surface Mounted Magnets I).

- 4 Locate the Coordinate System Selection section. From the Coordinate system list, choose Cylindrical System 2 (sys2).
- 5 Locate the Coil section. Select the Coil group check box.
- **6** In the *I*_{coil} text field, type O[A].
- 7 Locate the Constitutive Relation B-H section. From the Magnetization model list, choose Remanent flux density.

Loss Calculation I

In the Physics toolbar, click 😋 Attributes and choose Loss Calculation.

Permanent Magnets Inward

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Permanent Magnets Outward and choose Duplicate.
- 2 In the Settings window for Coil, type Permanent Magnets Inward in the Label text field.
- 3 Locate the Domain Selection section. From the Selection list, choose Odd magnets (Internal Rotor – Surface Mounted Magnets I).
- 4 Locate the Constitutive Relation B-H section. Specify the e vector as

- 1	r
0	phi
0	a

Iron

- I In the Physics toolbar, click 🔵 Domains and choose Ampère's Law.
- 2 In the Settings window for Ampère's Law, locate the Constitutive Relation B-H section.
- 3 From the Magnetization model list, choose B-H curve.
- 4 Locate the Domain Selection section. From the Selection list, choose Iron.
- 5 In the Label text field, type Iron.

Add the Loss Calculation subfeature to compute iron losses.

Loss Calculation 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click and choose Loss Calculation. Set loss model to Bertotti.
- 2 In the Settings window for Loss Calculation, locate the Loss Model section.
- **3** From the **Loss model** list, choose **Bertotti**.

Coil 3

- I In the Physics toolbar, click **Domains** and choose **Coil**.
- 2 In the Settings window for Coil, locate the Domain Selection section.
- 3 From the Selection list, choose Stator slots (External Stator Slotted I).
- 4 Locate the Coil section. From the Conductor model list, choose Homogenized multiturn.
- **5** In the I_{coil} text field, type 0[A].
- 6 Locate the Homogenized Multiturn Conductor section. In the N text field, type N.
- 7 From the Coil wire cross-section area list, choose From round wire diameter.
- 8 In the d_{coil} text field, type d_wire.
- 9 Locate the Coil section. Select the Coil group check box.

Reversed Current Direction 1

- I In the Physics toolbar, click Attributes and choose Reversed Current Direction.
- **2** Select Domains 1, 4, 8, 10, 11, 13, 16, and 18 only.

STUDY I

Time Dependent

- I In the Study toolbar, click Control Study Steps and choose Time Dependent> Time Dependent.
- 2 In the Settings window for Time Dependent, locate the Study Settings section.
- 3 In the **Output times** text field, type range(0,0.005,0.25).

The problem is set and it would be essentially ready to solve. In the next section some adjustments to physics, mesh, and solver settings are presented. These offer a more stable solution which is also found in a shorter time.

Suggestion to make solution faster and more stable

There are several settings which, when applied to model like this, make solution faster and more stable. Even though not all of these are required for the presented simple generator model, all of these may turn to be useful for more complex problems. In particular, these settings are being applied:

- use of **Linear** elements for **Discretization** as this is offering a better alternative in models with magnetic saturation;

- use **Weak constraints** in the **Continuity** condition applied where the pair with sliding meshes is active; this offers an higher precision for a given mesh;

- use, in the **Continuity** identity pair, a destination mesh finer than the source as this simplifies continuity constraint handling;

- use tighter tolerances than default in stationary preliminary step as this will simplify the starting of the subsequent transient which is in general more demanding;

- use **Initial value basedScaling** of physical variables in time dependent study step; eventually set also scaling of rotation angle variable; such settings will make the time dependent solver able to better choose the time step;

- set **Nonlinear method** to **Automatic (Newton)** as this makes each of the time dependent solver step more stable;

- set **Exclude algebraic** in error estimate as this will enable time stepper to better balance equation among the actively inductive contributions and those corresponding to instantaneously adapting fields;

- set **Steps taken by solver** to **Intermediate** or **Strict** as this will offer a better value also for quantities which contains time derivatives as the electric potentials on the**Coil**.

DEFINITIONS

Identity Boundary Pair I (ap1)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Definitions click Identity Boundary Pair I (apl).
- 2 In the Settings window for Pair, locate the Destination Boundaries section.
- 3 Click here are a create Selection.
- 4 In the Create Selection dialog box, type destination in the Selection name text field.

5 Click OK.

MESH I

Free Triangular 1 In the **Mesh** toolbar, click **Free Triangular**.

Size

- I In the Model Builder window, click Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Element Size section.
- 3 From the Predefined list, choose Coarser.
- 4 Click the **Custom** button.

5 Locate the Element Size Parameters section. In the Maximum element size text field, type 0.015.

Size 1

- I In the Model Builder window, right-click Free Triangular I and choose Size.
- 2 In the Settings window for Size, locate the Geometric Entity Selection section.
- **3** From the **Geometric entity level** list, choose **Boundary**.
- 4 From the Selection list, choose destination.
- 5 Locate the Element Size section. From the Predefined list, choose Extremely fine.
- 6 Click 📗 Build All.

ROTATING MACHINERY, MAGNETIC (RMM)

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl) click Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (rmm).
- 2 In the Settings window for Rotating Machinery, Magnetic, click to expand the Discretization section.
- 3 From the Magnetic vector potential list, choose Linear.
- 4 From the Magnetic scalar potential list, choose Linear.
- 5 Click the 🐱 Show More Options button in the Model Builder toolbar.
- 6 In the Show More Options dialog box, in the tree, select the check box for the node Physics>Advanced Physics Options.
- 7 Click OK.

Continuity I

- I In the Model Builder window, under Component I (compl)>Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (rmm) click Continuity I.
- 2 In the Settings window for Continuity, click to expand the Constraint Settings section.
- **3** Select the **Use weak constraints** check box.

STUDY I

Solution I (soll)

- I In the Study toolbar, click **here** Show Default Solver.
- 2 In the Model Builder window, expand the Solution I (soll) node, then click Stationary Solver I.
- 3 In the Settings window for Stationary Solver, locate the General section.

- 4 In the **Relative tolerance** text field, type 1e-5.
- 5 In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations>Solution I (soll) click Dependent Variables 2.
- 6 In the Settings window for Dependent Variables, locate the Scaling section.
- 7 From the Method list, choose Initial value based.
- 8 In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations>Solution I (soll) click Time-Dependent Solver I.
- **9** In the **Settings** window for **Time-Dependent Solver**, click to expand the **Time Stepping** section.
- 10 In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations>Solution I (soll)> Time-Dependent Solver I click Fully Coupled I.
- **II** In the **Settings** window for **Fully Coupled**, click to expand the **Method and Termination** section.
- 12 From the Nonlinear method list, choose Automatic (Newton).
- I3 In the Model Builder window, under Study I>Solver Configurations>Solution I (soll)> Time-Dependent Solver I click Direct.
- 14 In the Settings window for Direct, locate the General section.
- IS From the Solver list, choose PARDISO.
- **I6** In the **Study** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

Postprocessing the results

Now, plot the solution in the spatial frame (the stator's fixed frame) at time t = 0.2 s.

- I In the Settings window for 2D Plot Group, locate the Data section.
- 2 From the Time (s) list, choose 0.2.
- 3 In the Magnetic Flux Density Norm (rmm) toolbar, click 💿 Plot.

As shown in Figure 4, it shows the rotor position at t = 0.2 s, the magnetic flux density norm and magnetic flux lines. Next, plot the induced EMF in a quarter of the cycle.

Induced Coil Voltage

- I In the Home toolbar, click 🚛 Add Plot Group and choose ID Plot Group.
- 2 In the Settings window for ID Plot Group, type Induced Coil Voltage in the Label text field.
- 3 Click to expand the Title section. From the Title type list, choose Manual.

- 4 In the **Title** text area, type Induced voltage.
- 5 Locate the Plot Settings section. Select the x-axis label check box.
- 6 In the associated text field, type Time (s).
- 7 Select the y-axis label check box.
- 8 In the associated text field, type Voltage (V).

Global I

- I Right-click Induced Coil Voltage and choose Global.
- In the Settings window for Global, click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the y-Axis Data section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>
 Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (Magnetic Fields)>Coil parameters>rmm.VCoil_3 Coil voltage V.
- 3 In the Induced Coil Voltage toolbar, click 🗿 Plot.

The resulting plot is Figure 3.

Next, add the Time to Frequency Losses study to compute the iron loss.

ADD STUDY

- I In the Home toolbar, click $\stackrel{\text{reg}}{\longrightarrow}$ Add Study to open the Add Study window.
- 2 Go to the Add Study window.
- 3 Find the Studies subsection. In the Select Study tree, select Preset Studies for Selected Physics Interfaces>Time to Frequency Losses.
- 4 Click Add Study in the window toolbar.
- 5 In the Home toolbar, click 2 Add Study to close the Add Study window.

STUDY 2

Step 1: Time to Frequency Losses

- I In the Settings window for Time to Frequency Losses, locate the Study Settings section.
- 2 From the Input study list, choose Study I, Time Dependent.
- 3 In the **Electrical period** text field, type 0.25.
- **4** In the **Home** toolbar, click **= Compute**.

RESULTS

Cycle Averaged Losses (rmm) The resulting plot is Figure 5. Finally, compute the total iron loss power.

Surface Integration 1

- I In the Results toolbar, click ^{8.85}_{e-12} More Derived Values and choose Integration> Surface Integration.
- 2 In the Settings window for Surface Integration, locate the Data section.
- 3 From the Dataset list, choose Study 2/Solution 3 (sol3).
- 4 Locate the Selection section. From the Selection list, choose Iron and Magnets.
- 5 Click Replace Expression in the upper-right corner of the Expressions section. From the menu, choose Component I (compl)>Rotating Machinery, Magnetic (Magnetic Fields, No Currents)>Heating and losses>rmm.Qh Volumetric loss density, electromagnetic W/m³.
- 6 Locate the **Expressions** section. In the table, enter the following settings:

Expression	Unit	Description
rmm.Qh*L	W	Total loss power

7 Click **=** Evaluate.

The computed total loss power is about 455 W.