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A Global Approach for the Design of a Rim-Driven Marine Turbine Generator for Sail Boat.

L. Drouen, J.F. Charpentier, E. Semail, S. Clenet

Abstract – Development of new ways to provide clean onboard electric energy is a key feature for the sailing boat industry and sail race teams. This is why marine turbines (MT), are considered to provide onboard energy. These turbines can be used to harness kinetic energy of the water flow related to the ship motion. In this paper we propose to study an unconventional design of such a turbine where the electrical generator is located in the periphery of the blades and where the magnetic gap is water filled.

This kind of solution called “RIM DRIVEN” structure allows to increase the compactness and the robustness of the system. Due to the strong interaction of the multi physical phenomena, an electromagnetic model and a thermal model of the PM generator are associated with a hydrodynamic model of the blades and of the water flow in the underwater air gap. These models are used in a global coupled design approach in order to optimize, under constraints, the global efficiency of the system. This solution allows to optimize the system design.

Index Terms—Ship Power, Marine Turbines, PM Machine, Analytical models, multi physical approach.

I. INTRODUCTION

PROVIDING clean onboard energy in a sailing ship is a key feature for the sail industry and the sailing race teams. The classical solutions to provide electrical energy in sailing boats are often based on the use of the secondary propulsion internal combustion engine associated with batteries and generator systems. However these systems are often noisy and generate pollution emission. This is why some secondary electrical propulsion systems are now proposed for sail ship [1]. Furthermore race regulation rules have recently strongly limited the use of fossil fuel in race ships. In a modern ship, equipments, such as systems of propulsion, security, navigation and comfort, are highly energy consuming. This is why some compact and powerful clean sources of energy are now needed in the sailing boats dedicated to boating and racing activities. One of the most interesting solutions to provide onboard clean energy, in terms of compactness and efficiency, is to put a marine turbine fixed to the ship hull. This turbine can harness the kinetic energy of the water flow created by the sail ship speed. The design challenges of such a system are to increase compactness, and robustness and also minimize the cost of the generator and turbine. The use of an unconventional solution based on the use of a Rim-Driven Turbine (RDT) is studied in this paper. In this solution a PM generator is fully integrated in the periphery of the turbine. This paper describes a global and multi-physical approach for the design of such a system. In this approach

the electromagnetic and thermal models of the generator are associated with two hydrodynamic models: one of the turbine and the other one for the water flow in the generator gap. The technical work presentation is divided in 3 parts: in section II the specificities of RDT systems are presented, in section III the models and their association are described and finally section IV shows and discusses the design results corresponding to a typical race boat specifications.

II. RIM-DRIVEN TURBINE TECHNOLOGY

In a rim driven system the active parts of an electrical radial flux PM machine are located in a duct which surrounds the blades of a horizontal-axis turbine or propeller as shown in Fig. 1. This kind of systems has been tested successfully for marine propulsion [2-4], and also for kinetic tidal energy systems [5,6]. It has been proved that this kind of solution allows to minimize the volume of the active part and to maximize the compactness and the robustness of the system as shown in [7] and [8]. It is also well known that using a ducted turbine leads to increase the hydrodynamic efficiency of the blades, and minimize vibration and cavitation phenomena and improve the protection of blades.

This is why this kind of system can be a very attractive solution to reach the design goals of a marine turbine dedicated to onboard energy generation in a sail ship.

To minimize the sealing problems (the classical systems need a rotating seal) and to improve the thermal behavior of the generator, the immersion of the gap in sea water can be envisaged. However, since most of the active elements are sensitive to sea water, they need to be covered, in this case, with a layer of specific coating (for example a specific polymer resin). This coating layer which appears in yellow in Fig. 1 increases significantly the value of the magnetic gap (distance between magnet and stator iron).

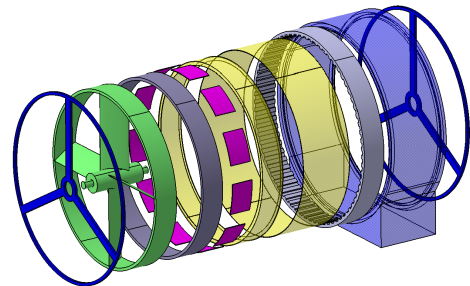


Fig 1. Principle of a rim-driven turbine

In this kind of system the main physical phenomena are related to electromagnetism, heat transfer (electromechanical and thermal behaviour of the generator) and also fluids mechanics (turbine blades performance and gap water flow behaviour). It must be noticed that other phenomena related to mechanical structure deformation

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linked to hydrodynamic drag and magnetic forces are not modelled in this work. However they may be a strong constraint in the system structure design and material choice. This is why some strong constraints on geometrical dimensions are introduced in the design process.

Fig. 2 shows the main phenomena which are considered and modelled in this study.

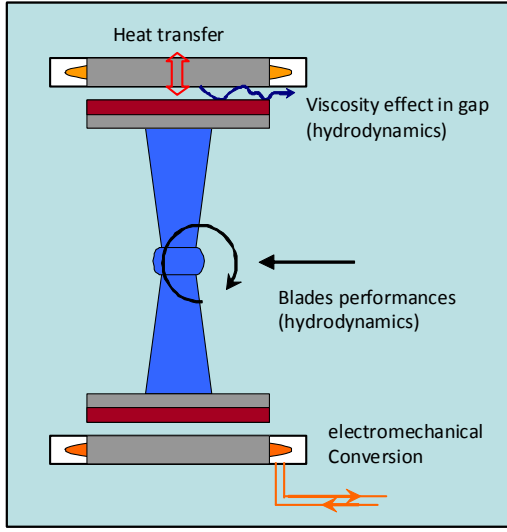


Fig 2. Multi physical phenomena in a RDT

The classical way to design a turbine/generator association is to design separately and sequentially the turbines blades and the generator parts. In this classical approach turbine blades are designed first and the “best” generator, for the rated point of the turbine, is determined in a second time.

It is obvious that the physical phenomena occurring in a RDT may have a contradictory influence on the global system behaviour if some main design parameters vary.

As a first example, for a given rotation speed, increasing the gap value makes it possible to minimize the viscosity losses in the immersed gap. However a high value of the gap is a highly penalising factor for the electromechanical performance of the PM generator. As a second example, the choice of the rated speed of the system must be a compromise between the hydrodynamics performance of the blades, the electromagnetic constraints on the machine design related to electrical frequency, iron losses and pole number and the heat transfer capability of the immersed gap. This is why it seems necessary to consider an approach where multi-physical models are coupled in a global approach of the RDT design. In this global approach turbine blades and the PM generator are designed simultaneously.

III. DESIGN MODELS

A. Global description of the design method

The models used in such a global approach are described in this section. These models are coupled as shown in Fig 3 which gives the global design optimization scheme. In this scheme the specifications are associated with the rated speed of the sail ship (speed of the ship used for the turbine calculation point).

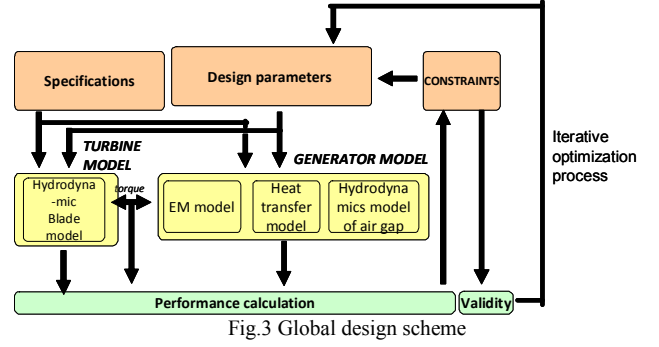


Fig.3 Global design scheme

The design parameters are the geometrical parameters of the generator and the blades (twist law) as well as the rotating speed of the turbine. The constraints are related to geometrical constraints (mechanical, machining, etc.), to material constraints (induction level, demagnetization constraints, etc.), or to thermal constraints (maximal temperature). The used optimization method consists in a systematic estimation of the design parameters set in an iterative process to find the best compromise in terms of global efficiency (parametric analysis). This systematic method has been preferred to some more elaborated optimization methods because the used models are analytical and relatively simples. This simplicity allows using such a method in an iterative process with a reasonable calculation time (a few hours on a PC).

B. Electromechanical Generator Model

Fig. 4 describes the main geometrical parameters of the generator (for clarity reason the curvature of the machine, is not represented in the figure).

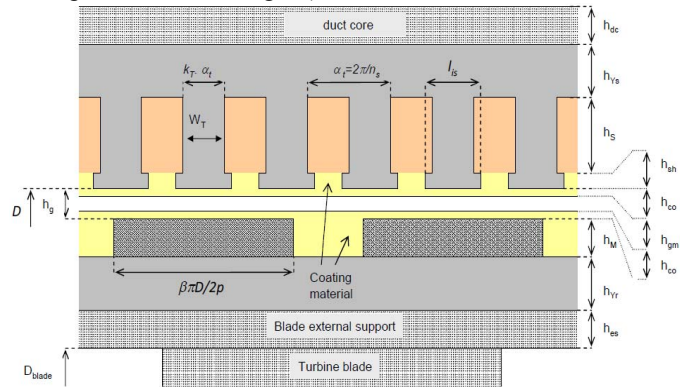


Fig. 4. Main dimensions of the electrical machine

In this figure α_t , p , n_s , k_t , β , are respectively the angular slot pitch, the number of slots, the number of pole pairs, the proportion of teeth and the magnet to pole width ratio. The parameters h_{dc} , h_{ys} , h_{yr} , h_s , h_{sh} , h_{co} , h_{gm} , h_{es} , h_m (in meters) are respectively the duct core, stator and rotor yoke, slot, slot shoes, coating layer, mechanical gap, blade external rim, and magnet radial heights. The magnetic gap, h_g , comprises the mechanical gap and the coating layers (in stator and rotor sides). D (m) is the internal diameter of stator iron. D_{blade} (m) is the external diameter of the turbine blades.

The electrical machine is supposed to be connected to an AC/DC converter. In this first order model we suppose that the currents in the electrical machine windings are sinusoidal, so the medium EM torque can be expressed as follow

$$T_{EM} = \sqrt{2} \cdot k_{w1} \cdot A_L \cdot B_1 \cdot (\pi \cdot D^2 \cdot L / 4) \cdot \cos \psi \quad (1)$$

where k_{w1} is the winding factor, A_L (A/m) is the stator rms electric load, B_1 (T) is the peak value of the fundamental of the flux density created by the magnets at the stator surface, L (m) is the iron axial length and ψ is the electrical angle between the stator current and the electromotive force induced by the rotor. The calculation of the flux density created by the magnets is derived from a 2D model [9] that solves the magnetic field equations in the gap by separating the polar and radial variables. This solution enables to express the flux density in a slotless PM machine as a Fourier series of spatial harmonics.

With the previous hypothesis, only the first spatial harmonic of this flux density is considered. The relationship between B_1 , h_G , the magnets height h_M and the number of pole pairs can then be expressed (eq.(2)).

$$B_1 = k_\beta B_r \frac{R_{sm}^{p-1} (p-1 + 2R_{rm}^{p+1} - (p+1)R_{rm}^{2p}) 2p/(p^2-1)}{(\mu_r+1)(R_{sm}^{2p} - R_{rm}^{2p}) - (\mu_r-1)(1 - R_{rm}^{2p} R_{sm}^{2p})}$$

$$R_{rm} = 1 - h_M / (D/2 - h_G) \quad (2)$$

$$R_{sm} = 1 / (1 - 2h_G / D)$$

Where B_r is the magnetization value of the magnets, β is the magnet to pole width ratio and μ_r is the magnets relative permeability. In addition, a coefficient k_s , which takes into account the slotting effect, is applied to the gap and magnet heights

$$k_s = 1 + \mu_o R_{eq} / (h_G + h_M / \mu_r) \quad (3)$$

Two formulas are used for the reluctance R_{eq} , depending on the gap thickness. These formulas can be found in [10]. The first one shall be used in the case of a thin gap and correspond to the well known Carter's coefficient. The second expression shall be used for thick air gaps.

Equation (1) allows to link the EM model to the hydrodynamic model of the immersed gap (calculation of the torque related to the viscosity, T_v) and the turbine blade hydrodynamics torque calculated by the hydrodynamics model of the blade, Q and the iron losses in the generator which are mainly caused by the rotation of the rotor.

$$T_{EM} = Q - P_{Fe} / \Omega - T_v \quad (4)$$

Additional constraints are added to this model. The rotor and stator yoke minimum heights and the minimum proportion of teeth are chosen by using classical magnetic flux conservation considerations such as the flux density into the iron that must be lower than a maximum value B_{max} (that generally corresponds to the saturation limit of the magnetic material). These heights are determined by considering both superposed effects of magnets and windings on the flux density in iron. Another constraint concerns the magnet height minimal value. This minimal value is limited by demagnetization consideration taking into account the magnetic fields created by magnets and windings.

An additional constraints set concerns mechanical integrity: the tooth shape must follow the following criterion

$$h_S / w_T \leq R_{max} \quad (5)$$

R_{max} is a ratio that represents a limit in terms of mechanical integrity of the teeth. Similarly, the magnets shape is chosen such that the ratio between magnet height and magnet width remains realistic

$$h_M / (\beta \pi D / 2p) \leq R_{max2} \quad (6)$$

Electromagnetic losses are calculated for each set of design

parameters. These losses allow to estimate the generator efficiency and also to link the EM, the heat transfer and the hydrodynamic turbine performance models (as shown in (4)). The iron losses, are calculated thanks to classical estimations of specific losses p_{Fe} (W/kg) per unit mass in each part of the stator magnetic circuit.

$$p_{Fe} = p_{Fe_o} \cdot (f / f_o)^b (B_{Fe} / B_{Fe_o})^c \quad (7)$$

where f (Hz) and B_{Fe} (T) are respectively the electrical frequency and flux density in the iron, p_{Fe_o} (W/kg) is the iron losses per unit mass at a given frequency f_o and with a flux density B_{Fe_o} . Typical values corresponding to typical medium quality Fe-Si laminated steel datasheets are used ($b=1.5$ and $c=2.2$). The Joule losses are estimated from the calculated value of the coils resistance ($R_c = R_a + R_{ew}$). This value is calculated from the knowledge of the slot geometry, the slot fill factor and takes into account the contribution of both active part (R_a) and endwindings (R_{ew}).

$$P_{Cu} = 3 \cdot (R_a + R_{ew}) \cdot I^2 \quad (8)$$

C. Heat transfer Model

The proposed stator heat transfer model is based on a steady state simple thermal resistance network established for a slot pitch. This network is globally presented in Fig. 5. One original contribution of the heat transfer study in our case consists in considering the heat transfer through the gap that can contribute significantly to the heat transfer of the generator, in the particular case of an immersed gap machine. The detailed expressions of the thirteen thermal resistances of Fig. 5 are not given in this paper for clarity reasons. However the thermal resistance values are directly derived from the classical heat transfer equations under steady-state conditions as in classical models which have been established for electrical machines as in [11]. Two modes of transfer are considered: conduction that occurs in the solid parts and convection that appears between the stator internal or external surfaces and the sea water. Thermal conductivity of iron, copper and coating material are established from material datasheets. The slot is estimated to be a homogenous material with an equivalent thermal conductivity that is established by the following expression.

$$\lambda_{eq} \approx \lambda_{ins} (1 - \gamma + \gamma / (1 - \gamma)) \quad (9)$$

Where $\gamma = 2k_f / (1 + k_f)$ and λ_{ins} is the insulation material conductivity. The convective heat exchanges are modeled with a surface resistance

$$R_{cv} = (hS_h)^{-1} \quad (10)$$

where S_h is the heat exchange surface and h is the convective transfer coefficient. The convective coefficient at the stator external surface is evaluated by using classical test cases of fluid mechanics (flow along a plane surface). Concerning the gap, a model for a forced flow in an annular space is used: the Nusselt number is calculated thanks to the following correlated formula

$$N_{Nu} = 0.023 R_e^{0.8} P_r^{0.4} (D / D_e)^{0.14} \quad (11)$$

where R_e is the Reynolds number and P_r is the Prandtl number. The gap convective coefficient, h_{gap} , is then deduced

$$h_{gap} = N_{Nu} \lambda_w / 2h_g \quad (12)$$

where λ_w is the water thermal conductivity.

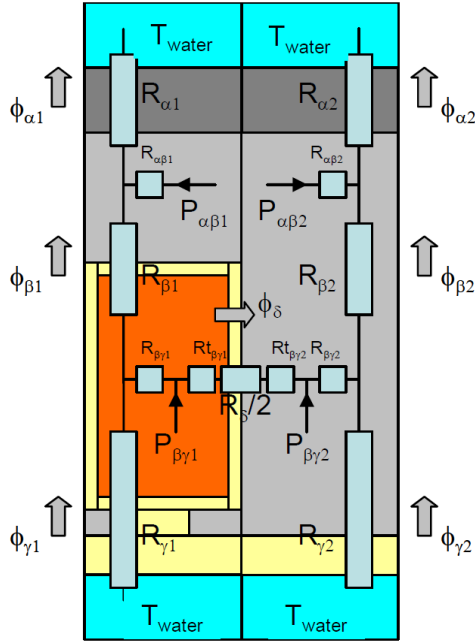


Fig.5 Considered thermal network

This thermal model allows to calculate the temperatures in the different parts of the generator. Thanks to this model, a constraint on the temperature level on the winding conductors can be taken into account in the global design process.

$$T_{Cu}(\max) \leq T_{\max} \quad (13)$$

Where T_{cu} is the copper temperature and T_{\max} is a limit temperature related to thermal class of the conductor.

D. Hydrodynamic model of the mechanical gap

This model which takes into account the viscosity effects related to the water flow in the mechanical gap of the generator, is based on the fully turbulent established flow between two plane plates. In this basic model, the influence of axial flow and curvature are neglected. In this analysis, one of the plates moves with a relative speed, V_e ($V_e = \pi ND/60$) where N is the rotating speed of the turbine in rpm. In this case the local Reynolds number can be calculated as follow.

$$Re_e = \frac{V_e \cdot D_h}{\nu_{\text{water}}} \quad (14)$$

Where ν_{water} is the water viscosity and D_h is a characteristic hydraulic diameter (In this particular case, this diameter is equal to the mechanical gap: $D_h = h_{gm}$). In this case the following expression from reference [12] links the friction coefficient, C_d to the Reynolds number.

$$1/\sqrt{C_d} = 2.04 + 1.768 \ln(Re_e \sqrt{C_d}) \quad (15)$$

The determination of the C_d coefficient allows us to calculate the expression of the viscosity losses in the gap.

$$P_v = C_d \pi D L \rho_w V_e^3 / 2 = T_v \cdot 2\pi N / 60 \quad (16)$$

Where ρ_w is the water density and T_v is the torque related to the viscous phenomena in the gap.

This model allows us to link the generator model to the hydrodynamic turbine model as presented in (4).

It can be noted that the heat production, related to these viscous phenomena in the gap, is not considered in the thermal model, as it is considered to be evacuated by the water axial open flow.

E. Hydrodynamic model of the turbine

In the Rankine Froude actuator disk model, the turbine rotor is considered as a zero thickness disk. It reduces the fluid upstream velocity by an induced factor $(1-a)$ in the rotor disk. The downstream velocity is then reduced by a factor $(1-2a)$ as shown in fig.6. This theory makes it possible to the power coefficient of the turbine as a function of the induced velocity factor a .

$$C_p = 4a(1-a)^2 \quad (16)$$

With

$$C_p = P_m / P_{kin} \text{ and } P_{kin} = \frac{1}{2} \rho_w A_T V^3$$

Where A_T is the cross-sectional area of the turbine, V is the fluid velocity and P_{kin} is the kinetic power in the turbine. Equation (16) allows to establish the well known Betz limit which corresponds to the maximum value of C_p , $C_{p,max} = 16/27 \approx 0.59$ which is reached for $a = 1/3$.

This very simple model can not be used to determine the performance of a turbine because the induced speed is unknown and depends both on the blade geometry and on the local flow in each part of the blades. This is why the model, used in this work, to determine the hydrodynamic performances of the turbine, from geometrical characteristics of the turbine blade and flow conditions, is an extension of the Rankine-Froude actuator disk model. This model is called “Blade Element Momentum” (BEM) method. It is used classically for the modeling of the blades of wind turbines. It has also been used for modeling the behavior of marine current turbines [13,14] and has been validated in this case with experimental data [13]. In the BEM method the fluid velocity in each blade is supposed to be only dependent on the local radius of the blades r as well as the blade speed and geometry. This is why the flow tube near the turbine disk is divided in a set of small annular coaxial tubes. Each of these tubes is characterized by a radial position r and a radial thickness dr as shown in Fig. 7.

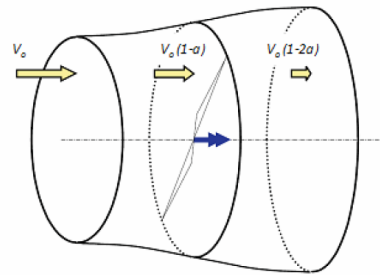


Fig. 6 Reduction of the fluid velocity (actuator disk theory)

For each blade element represented in Fig.8 (each element is characterized by a radial position, r , and a thickness, dr), the fluid velocity is modified by the blades. This modification is taken into account introducing the axial and tangential induced speed factors a and b .

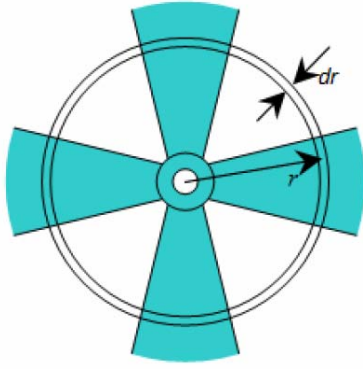


Fig. 7 : radial split of the turbine disk in disk element.

Thus the expression of the local relative velocity V_R in the blade element frame (axial and tangential components) is

$$V_R(r) = \begin{pmatrix} (1-a(r)).V_o \\ (1+b(r)).2\pi r.N/60 \end{pmatrix} \quad (17)$$

To be able to determine these induced factors a and b , for a given upstream incoming water speed V_o and a given rotation speed N (in rpm) the local force exerted on the blade element can be calculated thanks to two method.

The first way is to express the force component as a function of local drag and lift coefficients, $C_L(r)$ and $C_D(r)$, as well as of the value of the relative velocity, V_R , and the attack angle, α .

$$dF_z(r) = -dL(r). \cos \phi(r) - dF_v(r). \sin \phi(r) \quad (18)$$

$$dF_x(r) = dL(r). \sin \phi(r) - dF_v(r). \cos \phi(r) \quad (19)$$

with $\phi(r) = \alpha(r) + \phi_o(r)$ and

$$dL(r) = C_L(r).(\rho_w C(r) dr V_R^2(r)/2)$$

$$dF_v(r) = C_D(r).(\rho_w C(r) dr V_R^2(r)/2)$$

$C(r)$ is the chord value at radius r .

Like the incoming upstream velocity, V_o and the rotational speed N , these local drag and lift coefficients are inputs of the algorithm. Classically these coefficients have to be determined 'a priori', for each studied 2D foil shape (NACA foils for example), from experimental tests as functions of the local Reynolds Number ($Re(r) = C(r)V_R(r)/\nu_w$) and the attack angle α . That means that the expressions of dF_z and dF_x in (18) and (19) can be considered as implicit functions of the induced factors a and b (it is obvious that V_R , α and ϕ are functions of a and b).

A second method can be used to express the local force. This force can be calculated from the rate of change of momentum in the blade element. Two additional expressions are thus established.

$$dF_z(r) = \frac{-(2a(r)V_o).\rho_w(2\pi r dr).V_o(1-a(r))}{Z} \quad (20)$$

$$dF_x(r) = \frac{(2b(r)2\pi r N/60).\rho_w(2\pi r dr).V_o(1-a(r))}{Z} \quad (21)$$

Where Z is the number of blades of the turbine.

dL : lift force in the B.E.
 dF_v : drag force in the B.E.
 dF_x : tangential force in the B.E.
 dF_z : axial force in the B.E.

V_R : relative fluid velocity
 $V_o(1-a)$: axial relative fluid velocity
 $V_o(1+b)$: tangential relative velocity

ϕ_o : rotor blade local pitch angle
 α : angle of attack (relative to V_R)

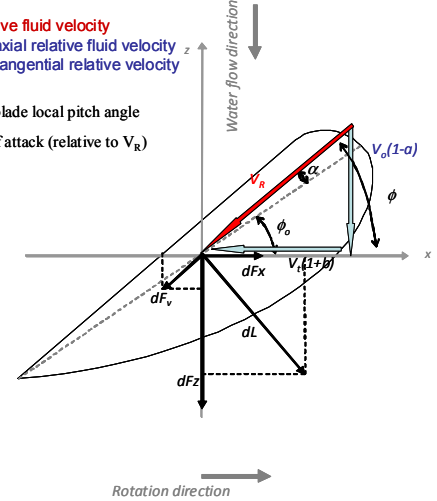


Fig.8 : Forces and water relative water speed in a blade element

Equations (18), (19), (20) and (21) lead to a set of 2 equations which are implicit and non-linear functions of the induced factor a and b .

$$\sigma(r).(C_L(r).\cos \phi(r) + C_D(r).\sin \phi(r)).V_R^2(r)/(4V_o^2) = a(r)(1-a(r)) \quad (22)$$

$$\sigma(r).(C_L(r).\sin \phi(r) - C_D(r).\cos \phi(r)).V_R^2(r)/(8\pi r N V_o) = b(r)(1-a(r)) \quad (23)$$

Where $\sigma(r) = ZC(r)/(2\pi r)$

Some additional correction factors are used in this algorithm. The Grauert empirical expression is used in place of (22) if a turbulent wake condition appears (the condition of turbulent wake apparition is tested at each iteration).

$$a(r) = 0.143 + \sqrt{0.6427.C_{dax}(r) - 0.55106}$$

$$\text{If } C_{dax}(r) = Z dF_z(r)/(\rho_w.V_o^2.\pi r dr) \geq 0.96$$

The Prandtl correction factor is also introduced in the right part of (22) and (23) in order to take into account blade root effects (a is replaced by $F_l(r).a$ and b by $F_l(r).b$).

$$\text{with } F_L(r) = \frac{2}{\pi} \arccos[(\exp(Z(1-r/r_h)/(2 \sin \phi(r))))]$$

Where r_h is the internal radius of the blades.

It can be noted that the blade tip effects can be neglected in a ducted turbine.

For each of the blade element it is then possible to calculate the a and b factors by an iterative resolution process of the obtained set of equations. In our case this resolution is based on Newton-Raphson method.

Then the global thrust, T , and the global mechanical torque, Q , of the turbine can be determined by summation of the N_{sp} small sectors contributions of thickness dr .

$$Q = Z \sum_{k=1}^{N_{sp}} (r_h + (k-1/2).dr) \times dF_x(r_h + (k-1/2).dr) \quad (24)$$

$$T = Z \sum_{k=1}^{N_{sp}} dF_z(r_h + (k-1/2).dr) \quad (25)$$

This method allows to determine the hydrodynamic performance (torque, power, thrust) of a given turbine geometry (number of blade, foil shape, chord law, shrill law) for each value of the upstream incoming water speed and rotation speed.

IV. DESIGN RESULTS

The presented methodology is applied to the specifications of a small marine turbine generator for a race sail boat. The design is done by considering the average velocity of the “Orange II” maxi-catamaran during the “Jules Verne’s trophy” in 2005. This operating point corresponds to a water velocity of 9.20 m/s (around 20 knots) in the turbine disk. We have also chosen a turbine diameter of 20cm. These diameter and velocity can generate a theoretical total kinetic power in the turbine disk around 12.5 kW. It can be noted that the corresponding additional drag is not significant in comparison of the global sail propulsion force. We have fixed the number of blades of the turbines (5 blades) and the chord of the blades which is equal to the 1/8 of the turbine radius. The shape of the blades corresponds to a NACA0018 hydrofoil. The optimization of the blades is done determining an optimal twist law. This twist law ($\phi_o(r)$) is characterized by 5 design variables: k_o , k_1 , k_2 , λ_o and α_o and defined as follow

$$\phi_o(r/R) = \tan^{-1} \left(\frac{f(r/R)}{\lambda_o \cdot r/R} \right) - \alpha_o \quad (26)$$

with $f(r/R) = k_o + k_1 \cdot r/R + k_2 \cdot (r/R)^2$

The design variables of the electrical machine are its main geometrical variables defined in fig.4. Some constraints are fixed for these geometrical parameters. The number of slots by phase and by pole is fixed to 0.5 which corresponds to concentrated windings. Some constraints are fixed to limit the geometrical dimensions. These constraints are linked to maximal induction level in iron, maximal electric frequency or mechanical constraints. As an example the electrical frequency is limited to 140Hz to be able to use classical soft magnetic laminations. The radial thickness of the machine is limited to 20% of the diameter of the turbine for hydrodynamics reasons (the duct radial dimensions are constrained in order to limit the global drag forces on the turbine structure).

Two approaches are then considered. In the first one the blades and the generator are designed separately and in a sequential way. This first approach is the classical design approach for this kind of systems. The second approach is based on a global design process where the turbine and the generator are designed at the same time as shown in fig.3

A. Separate design approach results

In the first approach, the blades of the turbine are determined firstly, to optimize the power coefficient of the turbine. Then a design process is used to optimize the electrical machine in terms of efficiency. As shown in fig.9 (red line). The obtained optimal turbine design leads to an optimal operating speed of the turbine around 3900 rpm and an optimal power coefficient of the turbines blades around 0.5. (The corresponding tip speed ratio $\lambda = 2\pi R N / (60 \cdot V_o)$

around 4.3.) Unfortunately in this case, it becomes impossible to respect simultaneously both constraints related to the electrical frequency and the radial thickness. Indeed, the limitations on the electrical frequency, lead to the choice a small number of pole pairs. It leads to high values of the thicknesses of rotor and stator cores. So the electrical machine can not be integrated in the duct surrounding the blades. Thus no machine respecting all the design constraint can be found. This example shows that the classical design approach, where blade and generator designs are separated, is not really efficient to design such a rim driven system.

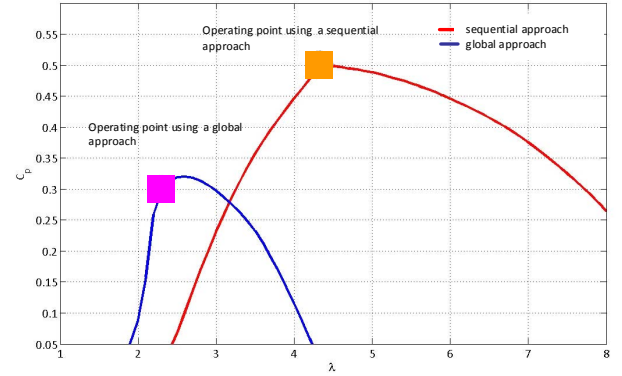


Fig.9 : Power coefficient, C_p , versus tip speed ratio ($\lambda = \text{TSR} = 2\pi R N / (60 \cdot V_o)$) of the two designed turbines (hydrodynamic characteristic only)

B. Global design approach

A global design approach using the scheme of Fig.3 is used in a second step. In this case all the constraints and the model presented in section III are used in a unique optimization approach, in order to maximize the global efficiency of the turbine. An optimal turbine and machine design has been found and is presented in fig. 10 and 11 and table I. In this case the efficiency of the electrical generator is 83% (taking into account the gap viscosity losses).

The electrical power extracted by the system, at the rated operating point, is 3.12kW. The Joule losses, Iron losses and viscosity losses in the gap are respectively 196W, 45W and 375W. We can notice that the viscosity effects limit the efficiency of the system. These results show that a global coupled approach is necessary for the design of this kind of system.

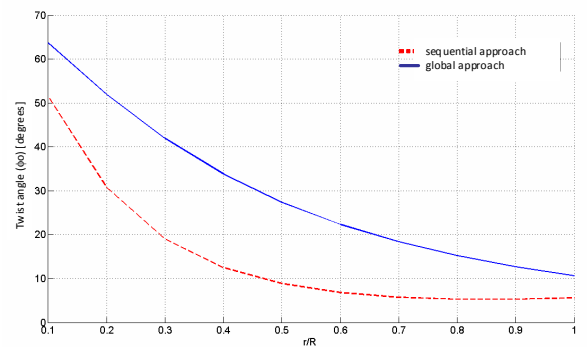


Fig.10 : Twist law of the two blade designs as a function of the reduced radius (r/R)

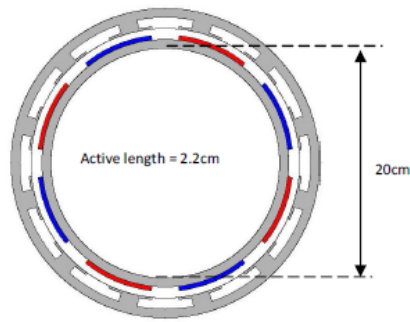


Fig.11 electrical generator design obtained by a global coupled approach.

TABLE I
MAIN DIMENSIONS OF THE ELECTRICAL GENERATOR

Active length	$L=2.2\text{cm}$
Number of pole pairs	$p=4$
Magnet height	$h_m=4\text{mm}$
Slot height	$h_s=8\text{mm}$
Total mechanical gap (including sealing material)	$h_g=4\text{mm}$
Proportion of teeth	$k_T=0.25$
Magnet to pole width ratio	$\beta=0.72$
Stator rms electric load	$A_t=34.1\text{kA/m}$
Current density in copper	$J=9.5\text{A/mm}^2$

V. CONCLUSION

In this paper a global approach for the design of a rim-driven marine current generator to provide onboard energy a sail race ship is proposed. In this particular system, the generator is located in a duct surrounding the turbine blades and the gap of the generator is immersed. The approach proposed in this paper, associates, in a global efficiency optimization process, several models of the physical phenomena in the system. EM and thermal models of the generator and hydrodynamics models of the turbine blades and of the flow in the immersed gap are associated. For the studied example, it is shown that the classical approach where the turbine blade and the electrical machine are designed separately is not relevant. A global approach is thus proposed in order to obtain relevant design results.

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VII. BIOGRAPHIES

Laurent Drouen was born in Mantes-la-Jolie, France, in 1973. He received the M.Sc. degree in electrical engineering from Supélec, Gif sur Yvette, France in 1997. From 1997 to 2005, he worked as an electrical engineer on various projects related to HV Networks and Power Electronics. He obtained a Ph.D degree at the Research Institute of the French Naval Academy in the field of electrical machines applied to naval propulsion and tidal energy extraction in 2010. He is now working as a Power electrical Engineer in Alstom Company, Tarbes, France.

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