

## Article

# Control and Analysis of a Hybrid-Rotor Bearingless Switched Reluctance Motor with One-Phase Full-Period Suspension

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**Abstract:** In the traditional control scheme of a 12/8-pole bearingless switched reluctance motor (BSRM), radial force and torque are usually controlled as a compromise due to the conflict between their effective output areas. Additionally, each phase requires individual power circuits and is excited in turn to produce a continuous levitation force, resulting in high power device requirements and high controller costs. This paper discusses a 12/8-pole single-winding hybrid-rotor bearingless switched reluctance motor (HBSRM) with a hybrid rotor consisting of cylindrical and salient-pole lamination segments. The asymmetric rotor of the HBSRM slightly increases the complexity of its structure and magnetic circuit, but makes it possible to generate the desired radial force at any rotor angular position. A control scheme for the HBSRM is developed to utilize the independent excitation of the four windings in one phase to generate the desired levitation force at any rotor angular position, and it requires only half the number of power circuits used in the conventional control scheme of a 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM. Different from the average torque chosen to be controlled in traditional methods, this scheme directly regulates the instantaneous total torque produced by all excited phases together and presents a current algorithm to optimize the torque contribution of each phase so as to reduce torque pulsation, and the improved performance of this bearingless motor is finally validated by simulation analysis.

**Keywords:** bearingless motor; switched reluctance motor; full-period suspension



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## 1. Introduction

Switched reluctance motors (SRMs), due to their inherent advantages such as simple structure, no permanent magnets on the rotor and strong environmental adaptability, have a wide range of applications in aerospace, flywheel energy storage and electric vehicles [1–4]. Magnetic levitation technology is often used to solve the problem of mechanical bearing support for SRMs at high speeds [5]. A bearingless switched reluctance motor (BSRM) may simultaneously generate radial force and torque by integrating both active magnetic bearing and SRM functions into the same structure, and it then has a shorter axial length, high critical speed and superior high-speed performance, thus it is considered suitable for operation in ultra-clean environments or in intense temperature variations, such as centrifugal blood pumps, flywheel storage and starters/generators in aircraft engines [6–8].

Based on the number of coils wound on one stator tooth, the BSRM may be classified into two types of topologies: single-winding and double-winding BSRMs. The 12/8-pole double-winding BSRM has received a lot of attention from researchers due to its simplicity of radial force generation and that it has been operated in levitation for the first time [9–11]. In this topology, a torque coil and a radial force coil are wound together on each stator tooth,

and these two types of coils on four stator teeth spatially separated by  $90^\circ$  are configured as one phase consisting of a torque winding and two radial force windings. Each torque winding is usually fed by an asymmetrical power circuit, as in a conventional SRM. Each radial force winding needs to be excited by a bipolar power circuit, and to reduce the number of power devices used, two three-phase half-bridge power converters are typically used to drive a total of six radial force windings in three phases [12,13].

The single-winding BSRM has the same structure as the classical SRM and is attracting more and more attention due to its flexible control [14–17]. Due to the need to independently control the current of each coil of a single-winding BSRM, the number of asymmetrical half-bridge power circuits used for this motor must be equal to that of its stator teeth. The two types of single-winding BSRMs, the 8/6 type and 6/4 type, require the simultaneous excitation of three windings belonging to two phases in order to generate the required levitation force in any radial direction, and therefore their control schemes are relatively complex [14,15]. For a 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM, only four windings per phase need to be excited unequally to generate the required radial force, which provides additional convenience in its control [16,17].

In the classical BSRM with single- and double-winding structures, there are two technical challenges to be addressed. Firstly, effective radial force generation occurs only at locations where there is a high overlap between its stator and rotor teeth; each phase winding is usually excited in turn to produce a continuous radial force, resulting in high power circuit usage and high costs, which greatly limits its application in price-sensitive areas. Secondly, when the BSRM is running at high speeds, there will be a suspended dead zone during the phase change due to poor current chopping and tracking caused by the increased anti-electromotive force, which is very detrimental to stable levitation operation and output performance improvement.

In order to solve the above challenges of traditional BSRMs, a class of BSRMs with hybrid stator teeth such as the 8/10 type, 12/10 type and 12/14 type have been developed in recent years [18–21]. In this type of BSRM, its stator consists of wide and narrow teeth; a radial force coil and a torque coil are wound on each wide and narrow tooth, respectively. The pole arc of the wide tooth is designed to be equal to one rotor angular cycle, and the inductance of radial force coils no longer varies with the rotor angular position, and then no back electromotive force in radial force windings is generated. Therefore, the significant advantage of this kind of topology is the natural decoupling of torque and radial force. Both types of coils are usually driven by asymmetrical half-bridge power converters; the radial force coils on the wide teeth are excited all the time to generate levitation forces, while the torque coils on the narrow teeth are powered in turn to generate positive torques. In the control scheme of the BSRM with a hybrid stator tooth, the radial force control is similar to radial magnetic bearings (RMBs), while the speed control is the same as SRMs. This type of BSRM has been shown to have better levitation properties and is well suited for higher speed suspension; however, it has a poor starting torque output due to the fact that it can only be operated as a two-phase motor.

In addition, an 8/6-pole single-winding BSRM with a hybrid rotor consisting of a salient rotor stack and a cylindrical rotor stack is discussed in [22]. Due to the contribution of the cylindrical rotor, the 8/6-pole hybrid-rotor BSRM (HBSRM) can generate the required radial force at any rotor angular position. In the control, the four coils in the two phases are always excited and individually controlled to generate the desired radial force, and the remaining two phases are powered in turn to produce a positive torque. Thus, it can be found that the 8/6-pole HBSRM is also a two-phase motor with a poor starting torque, and the torque fluctuation caused by the two always-excited phases is another problem that needs to be solved.

In the traditional control of a 12/8-pole BSRM, a single-phase conduction scheme with an excitation width of  $15^\circ$  has been widely used [9–11,13,16]. The average torque and instantaneous radial force were selected as the controlled targets for the speed and displacement regulations, respectively. When the 12/8-pole BSRM operates at high speed

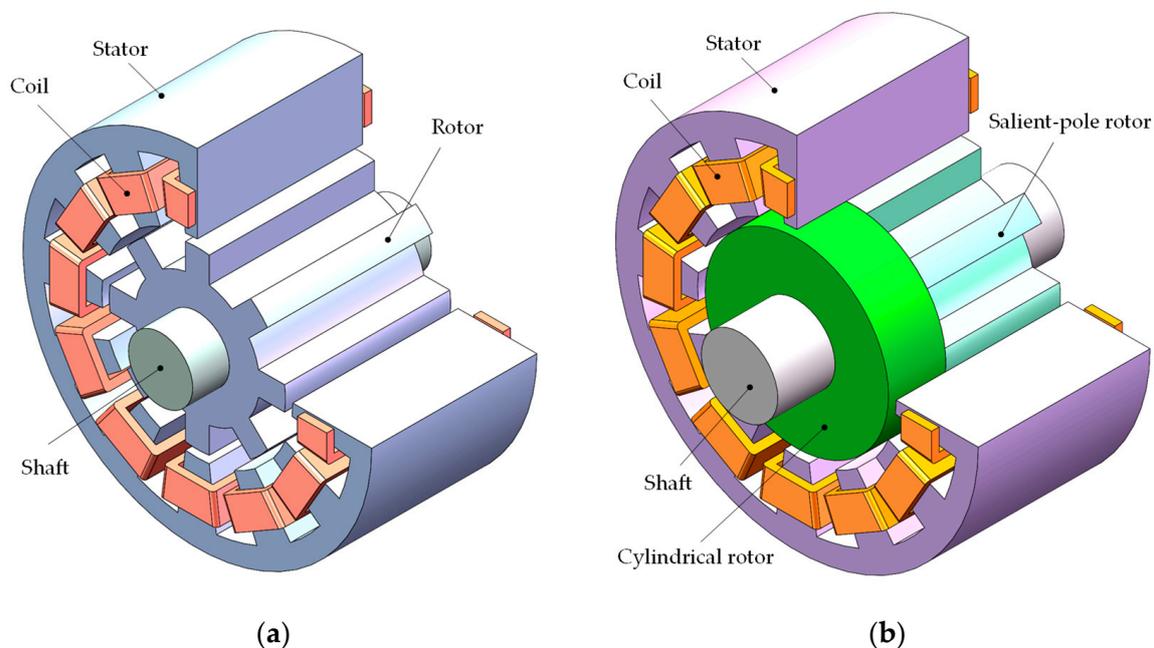
loads, the preferred excitation interval for each phase is from the start of the aligned position to the aligned position, which is a compromise between the effective outputs of radial force and torque, and in turn its performance of motion and levitation is underutilized by using this single-phase control scheme. In addition, the levitation at the starting point of the aligned position needs a bigger current because of the smaller radial force/current ratio, and then has a poor radial force control and may be at risk of failure due to the required current not being able to be quickly established with the increase of the anti-electromotive force.

In order to solve the above problems in the conventional control scheme for the 12/8-pole BSRM, this paper investigates the control and analysis for full-period suspension of a 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM using one-phase always excitation to generate levitation force at all rotor angular positions, so as to reduce the number of power circuits used and improve performance of suspended forces and torques. The arrangements of this paper are as follows: Firstly, the structure and operating principle of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM with A-phase full-period suspension are introduced in detail. Then, the mathematical models of radial force and torque for this bearingless motor are briefly derived and analyzed. Further, based on the derived mathematical model, a single-phase full-cycle levitation control method for the HBSRM is developed to simultaneously coordinate the radial force and instantaneous torque outputs. Finally, the method proposed in this paper is validated by simulation analysis.

## 2. Structure and Operating Principle of the 12/8-Pole HBSRM

### 2.1. Structure and Radial Force Production

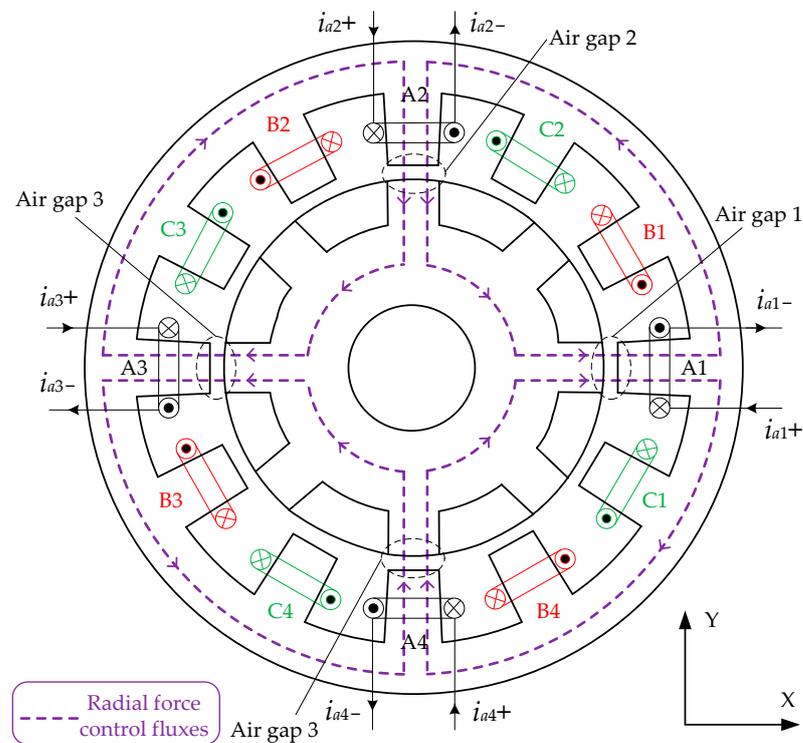
Different from a traditional 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM, the HBSRM's hybrid rotor consists of a cylindrical rotor stack and an 8-pole salient rotor stack, and both rotor stacks are closely arranged together, as shown in Figure 1. A coil is wound on each of the twelve stator teeth, and four coils spatially separated by  $90^\circ$  form one phase, phase A, B and C, respectively.



**Figure 1.** Three-dimensional schematic of the 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM and HBSRM. (a) BSRM; (b) HBSRM.

Figure 2 shows three-phase winding configurations and radial force control fluxes of the 12/8-pole HBSRM. Coils on poles A1, A2, A3 and A4 are set to A1-phase, A2-phase, A3-phase and A4-phase, and they together constitute the A-phase. Moreover, currents in phases A1, A2, A3 and A4 are independently controlled to produce two radial forces

in the X- and Y-axis directions, and at the same time a positive or negative torque will be generated at different rotor angular positions. Coils on poles B1, B2, B3 and B4 are connected in parallel to construct the B-phase, whereas coils on poles C1, C2, C3 and C4 are connected in parallel to form the C-phase. When phases B and C are excited in turn at the rising regions of the respective phase inductance, there will only be a positive torque and no radial force by the currents in phases B or C.



**Figure 2.** Three-phase winding configurations and radial force control fluxes of the 12/8-pole HBSRM.

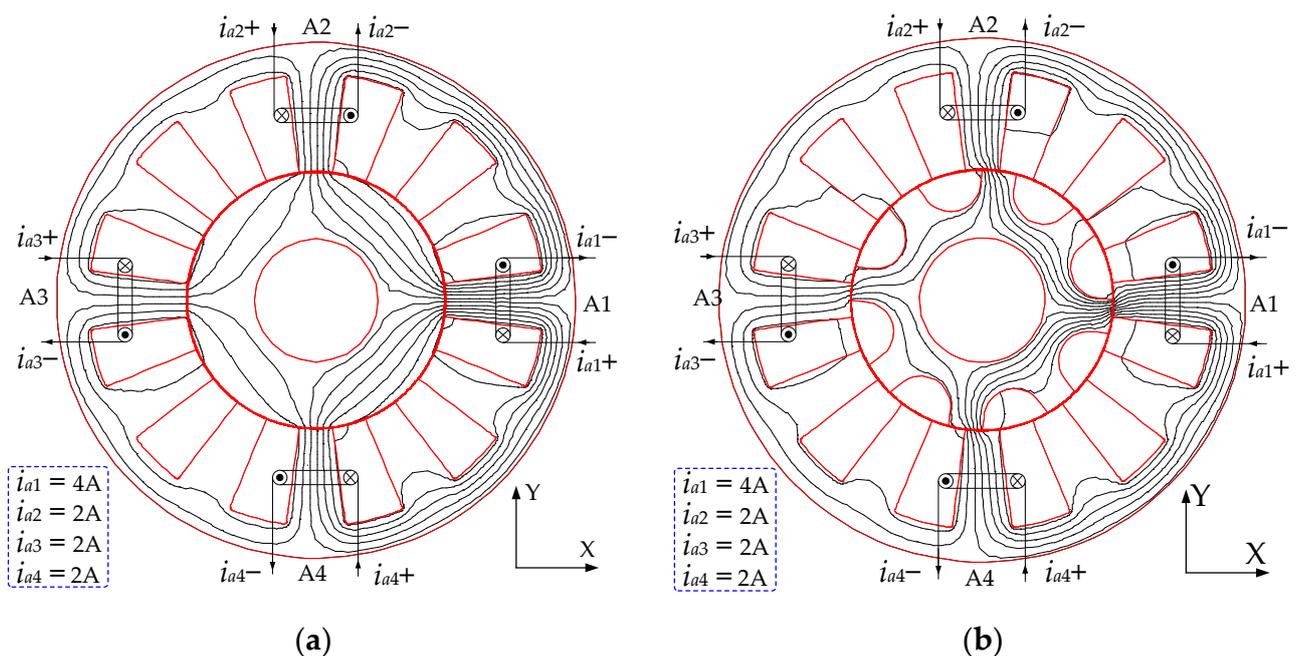
The radial force control fluxes produced by the A-phase are displayed as the purple dashed line in Figure 2; it is a four-pole magnetic flux and alternately distributed. When the current  $i_{a1}$  in the A1-phase is greater than the current  $i_{a3}$  in the A3-phase, the control flux in air gap 1 will be more than that in air gap 3, so there is a positive radial force acting on the shaft in the X-axis direction. In contrast, if the current  $i_{a1}$  is less than the current  $i_{a3}$ , a negative radial force will be produced in the X-axis direction. Similarly, the currents  $i_{a2}$  in the A2-phase and  $i_{a4}$  in the A4-phase are controlled independently, a positive or negative radial force in the Y-axis direction can also be generated. Therefore, a required radial force can be produced by reasonably controlling these four currents in A-phase windings. The rotor angular position  $\theta$  is defined as  $\theta = 0$  at the aligned position of the A-phase, and the rotor angular position  $\theta$  of Figure 2 is 0.

## 2.2. Analysis of A-Phase Full-Period Levitation Operations

To simplify the magnetic circuit analysis of the HBSRM discussed in this paper, based on radial force and torque distributions, it is divided into two parts, a 12-pole RMB and a 12/8-pole BSRM. The 12-pole RMB only produce radial forces, and the 12/8-pole BSRM can generate torques and radial forces simultaneously. Two 2D finite element analyses (FEAs) are carried out using the parameters of the prototype shown in Table 1, and magnetic flux distributions of two equivalent parts at the position of  $\theta = -7.5^\circ$  are shown in Figure 3.

**Table 1.** Parameters of the prototype.

| Parameter                         | Value   |
|-----------------------------------|---------|
| Outer diameter of stator          | 105 mm  |
| Inner diameter of stator          | 52.5 mm |
| Stator yoke                       | 6.5 mm  |
| Outer diameter of salient rotor   | 52 mm   |
| Salient rotor yoke                | 6 mm    |
| Shaft diameter                    | 25 mm   |
| Stator pole arc angle             | 15°     |
| Salient rotor pole arc angle      | 15°     |
| Number of stator poles            | 12      |
| Number of salient rotor poles     | 8       |
| Number of winding turns           | 60      |
| Number of parallel winding turns  | 2       |
| Length of salient rotor stack     | 75.0 mm |
| Length of cylindrical rotor stack | 25.0 mm |
| Silicon steel sheet grade         | 35DW270 |

**Figure 3.** Magnetic flux distribution of two equivalent parts. (a) RMB part; (b) BSRM part.

In radial force analysis, the currents in four windings of phase A are respectively set as follows:  $i_{a1} = 4 A$ ,  $i_{a2} = 2 A$ ,  $i_{a3} = 0$ , and  $i_{a4} = 2 A$ , and a positive radial force in the X-axis direction is generated at this time, as shown in Figure 4. In a traditional SRM, the smaller magnetic permeance near the unaligned positions results in very low radial force generations at these positions, such as the calculated radial forces in the two intervals  $[-22.5^\circ, -15^\circ]$  and  $[15^\circ, 22.5^\circ]$  in Figure 4, and thus there is a suspended dead zone in this motor. The radial force in the HBSRM can be considered as the sum of the BSRM and RMB parts, and the RMB has a continuous and large radial force at any rotor angular position, so the HBSRM provides a significant increase in radial forces and may eliminate

the suspended dead zones in a conventional BSRM, as shown in Figure 4. For traditional 12/8-pole single-winding BSRMs, due to the levitation dead zone at some rotor angular positions of each phase, as shown in Figure 4, a control strategy of three-phase intermittent excitation on turn is forced to be utilized to generate a continuous required radial force. This results in the four coils in each phase of this motor being needed to be individually excited, which in turn requires a half-bridge power circuit for each coil, ultimately increasing the costs of the controller and limiting the range of applications.

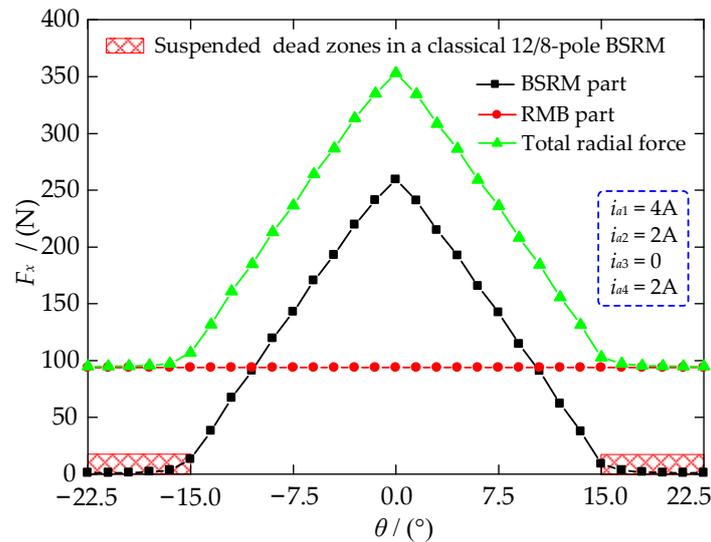


Figure 4. Radial force distributions in the 12/8-pole HBSRM.

Based on the principle of full-cycle levitation operation using the A-phase to generate radial forces, the power converter topology used for the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM is shown in Figure 5. The number of power converters and power devices required for three types of 12/8-pole BSRMs is shown in Table 2. Compared to conventional single- and double-winding structures, the number of power switches required for the 12/8-pole HBSRM in this paper is significantly reduced, by 12 and 6, respectively; the drive circuits and digital control resources required for this bearingless motor are also considerably decreased; thus, all of these help to further reduce its controller costs and improve system reliability.

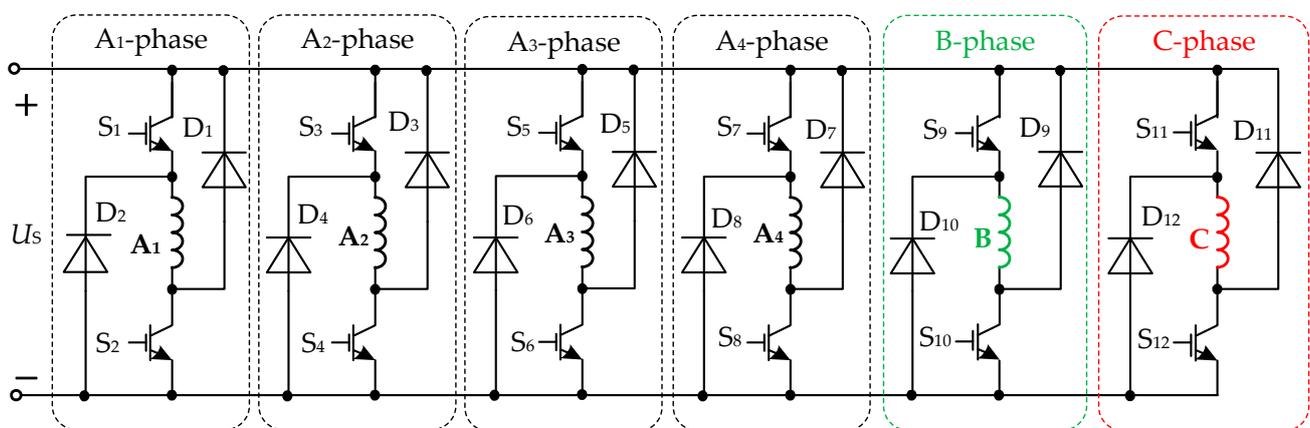
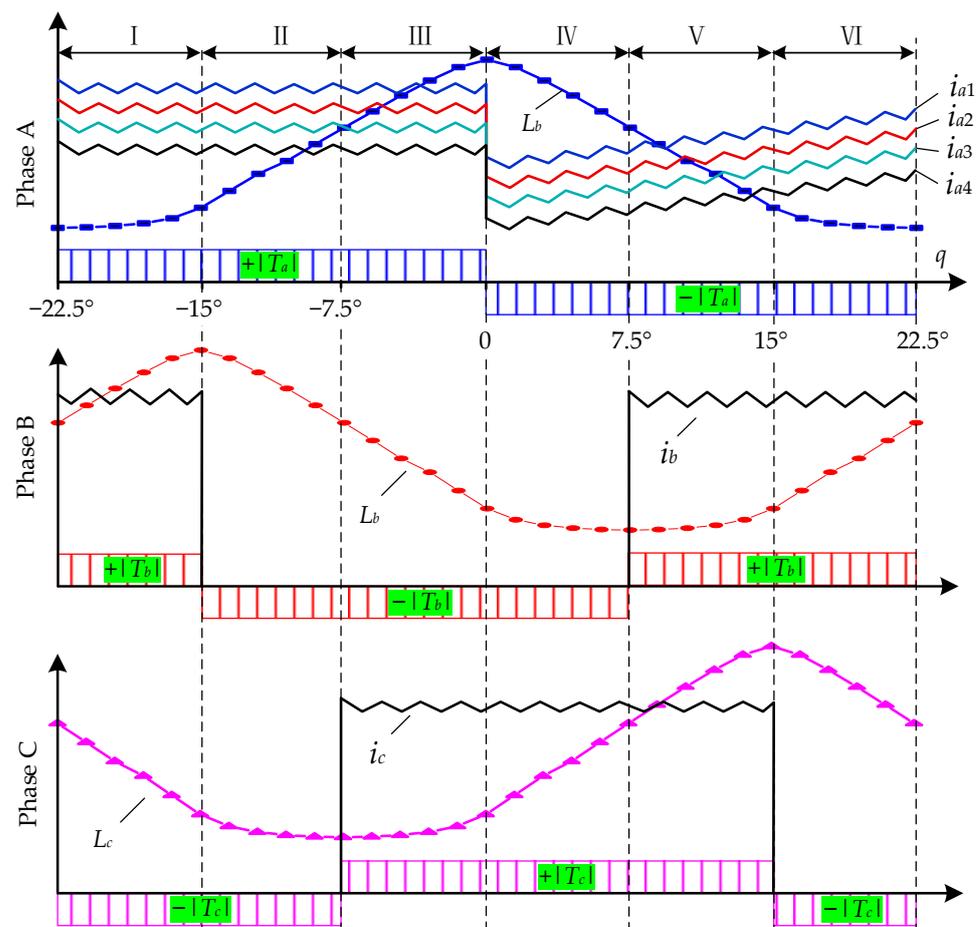


Figure 5. Three-phase power converters of the 12/8-pole HBSRM.

**Table 2.** Number of power converters and power devices required for the three types of 12/8-pole BSRMs.

| Three Types of 12/8-Pole Structures | Power Converters Required       |                                  | Power Devices Required |        |       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|--------|-------|
|                                     | Asymmetric Half-Bridge Circuits | Three-Phase Half-Bridge Circuits | Power Switches         | Diodes | Total |
| Single-winding BSRM                 | 12                              | 0                                | 24                     | 24     | 48    |
| Double-winding BSRM                 | 3                               | 2                                | 18                     | 6      | 24    |
| Single-winding HBSRM in the paper   | 6                               | 0                                | 12                     | 12     | 24    |

Figure 6 shows three-phase inductances, currents and torque distributions of the 12/8-pole HBSRM presented in this paper. For a 12/8-pole BSRM, one rotor position cycle angle is  $45^\circ$  and divided into six regions, such as Sectors I–VI. In a traditional SRM, each phase is excited sequentially in the rising regions of phase inductance to generate positive torques. However, in the presented HBSRM, phase A is excited all the time to generate a continuous radial force, which results in a negative torque that will be generated in the decreasing regions of A-phase inductance. Table 3 shows three-phase torque contributions in six sections for the 12/8-pole HBSRM with A-phase full-period suspension, where  $L_a$ ,  $L_b$  and  $L_c$  indicate the inductance of the A-, B- and C-phase windings, respectively;  $T_a$ ,  $T_b$  and  $T_c$  represent the instantaneous torques generated when phases A, B and C are individually excited, respectively, and  $T_{sum}$  is the instantaneous total torque.



**Figure 6.** Three-phase inductances, currents and torque distributions of the 12/8-pole HBSRM.

**Table 3.** Three-phase torque contributions in six sectors.

| Sectors | $T_a$ | $T_b$ | $T_c$ | $T_{sum}$                          |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|------------------------------------|
| I       | +     | +     | 0     | $T_{sum} =  T_a  +  T_b $          |
| II      | +     | 0     | 0     | $T_{sum} =  T_a $                  |
| III     | +     | 0     | +     | $T_{sum} =  T_a  +  T_c $          |
| IV      | −     | 0     | +     | $T_{sum} = - T_a  +  T_c $         |
| V       | −     | +     | +     | $T_{sum} = - T_a  +  T_b  +  T_c $ |
| VI      | −     | +     | 0     | $T_{sum} = - T_a  +  T_b $         |

As shown in Figure 6 and Table 3, when the rotor angular position changes from Sector I to VI, the total torque of the 12/8-pole HBSRM may be generated by one, two or three phases. In addition, there are two radial forces that need to be controlled simultaneously. Therefore, it is necessary to establish accurate mathematical models of radial forces and torques in order to calculate and assign their required values in each sector.

### 3. Mathematical Models of the Radial Force and Torque

For a 12/8-pole HBSRM with one-phase full-cycle suspension, there are five mathematical expressions to be derived: the X-axis radial force  $F_x$ , the Y-axis radial force  $F_y$ , the torque  $T_a$  generated by the four currents  $i_{a1}$ – $i_{a4}$  of phase A, the torques  $T_b$  and  $T_c$  produced by the B-phase current  $i_b$ , and the C-phase current  $i_c$ , respectively. In this paper, the mathematical models of the radial force and torque of a 12/8-pole HBSRM are derived by combining its equivalent magnetic circuit and the virtual displacement method. In the derivation, the 12/8-pole HBSRM is divided into a 12-pole RMB part and a 12/8-pole BSRM part in order to simplify this motor's magnetic circuit analysis and facilitate modelling.

The brief derivation may be described as follows: Firstly, the equivalent magnetic circuit and the air-gap permeance of phase A are established. Then, the magnetic circuit equation is solved to obtain expressions for the A-phase inductance, which in turn establishes its magnetic energy storage. Moreover, the radial forces  $F_x$  and  $F_y$  can be obtained by solving the derivative of the magnetic energy storage with respect to the respective radial displacement, and the torque  $T_a$  may also be derived by calculating the derivative of the magnetic energy storage with respect to the rotor angular position. Similarly, the torques  $T_b$  and  $T_c$  can also be written directly with reference to the formula of  $T_a$ . The difficulty in modelling the radial force and torque for this bearingless motor structure is the resolution of the fringe flux and the derivation of the air-gap permeance, and the detailed procedure is described in [23].

In this paper, the X-axis radial force  $F_x$  and the Y-axis radial force  $F_y$  of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM are directly given as

$$\begin{cases} F_x = K_{f(\theta)} \left( \frac{N^2}{8} \right) (i_{a1} + i_{a2} + i_{a3} + i_{a4})(i_{a1} - i_{a3}) \\ F_y = K_{f(\theta)} \left( \frac{N^2}{8} \right) (i_{a1} + i_{a2} + i_{a3} + i_{a4})(i_{a2} - i_{a4}) \end{cases} \quad (1)$$

$$K_{f(\theta)} = \begin{cases} \frac{\mu_0 h_f r \pi}{6l_0^2} + \frac{2\mu_0 h_t r (\pi/12 - |\theta|)}{l_0^2} + \frac{8\mu_0 h_t r |\theta| (l_0 + 2|\theta| r)}{l_0 (l_0 + |\theta| r) (2l_0 + \pi |\theta| r)}, & 0 \leq |\theta| \leq \frac{\pi}{12} \\ \frac{\mu_0 h_f r \pi}{6l_0^2} + \frac{8\mu_0 h_t r}{2l_0^2 + r\pi^2/12} \left( \frac{[l_0 + 2r(|\theta| - \pi/12)](\pi/6 - |\theta|)}{[l_0 + r(|\theta| - \pi/12)][2l_0 + \pi r(|\theta| - \pi/12)]} \right. \\ \left. + \frac{[l_0 + 2r(\pi/6 - |\theta|)](|\theta| - \pi/12)}{[l_0 + r(\pi/6 - |\theta|)][2l_0 + \pi r(\pi/6 - |\theta|)]} \right), & \frac{\pi}{12} < |\theta| \leq \frac{\pi}{8} \end{cases} \quad (2)$$

where  $K_{f(\theta)}$  is the radial force coefficient,  $N$  is the number of turns of a coil,  $\mu_0$  is the air permeability,  $h_t$  is the stack length of the salient rotor,  $h_f$  is the axial length of the cylindrical rotor,  $r$  is the rotor radius, and  $l_0$  is the average length of the air gap.

The A-phase torque  $T_a$  of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM can be expressed as

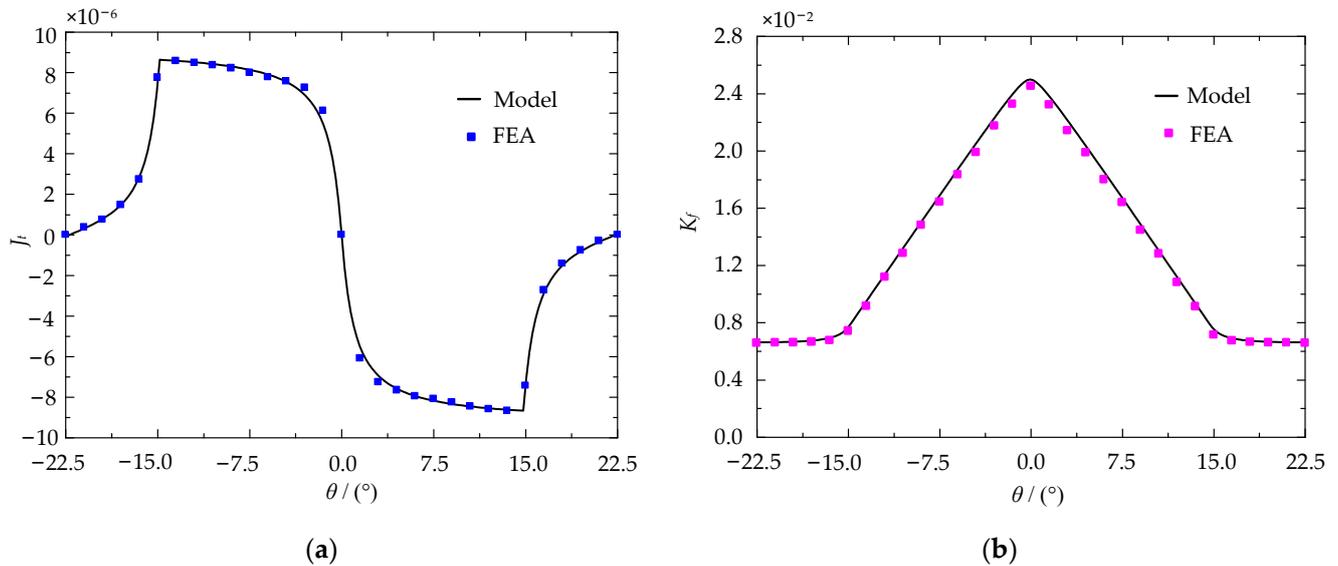
$$T_a = J_t(\theta) \left( \frac{N^2}{8} \right) \left( (i_{a1} + i_{a2} + i_{a3} + i_{a4})^2 + 2(i_{a1} - i_{a3})^2 + 2(i_{a2} - i_{a4})^2 \right) \quad (3)$$

$$J_t(\theta) = \begin{cases} 2\mu_0 h_t r \left( \frac{l_0 - 2r(\theta + \pi/12)}{[l_0 - r(\theta + \pi/12)][2l_0 - \pi r(\theta + \pi/12)]} - \frac{l_0 + 2r(\theta + \pi/6)}{[l_0 + r(\theta + \pi/6)][2l_0 + \pi r(\theta + \pi/6)]} \right), & -\frac{\pi}{8} \leq \theta < -\frac{\pi}{12} \\ \frac{\mu_0 h_t r}{l_0} - \frac{2\mu_0 h_t r(l_0 - 2\theta r)}{(l_0 - \theta r)(2l_0 - \pi \theta r)}, & -\frac{\pi}{12} \leq \theta < 0 \\ -\frac{\mu_0 h_t r}{l_0} + \frac{2\mu_0 h_t r(l_0 + 2\theta r)}{(l_0 + \theta r)(2l_0 + \pi \theta r)}, & 0 \leq \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{12} \\ 2\mu_0 h_t r \left( -\frac{l_0 + 2r(\theta - \pi/12)}{[l_0 + r(\theta - \pi/12)][2l_0 + \pi r(\theta - \pi/12)]} + \frac{l_0 + 2r(\pi/6 - \theta)}{[l_0 + r(\pi/6 - \theta)][2l_0 + \pi r(\pi/6 - \theta)]} \right), & \frac{\pi}{12} < \theta \leq \frac{\pi}{8} \end{cases} \quad (4)$$

where  $J_t(\theta)$  is the torque coefficient, and then the torques  $T_b$  and  $T_c$  can also be directly obtained by

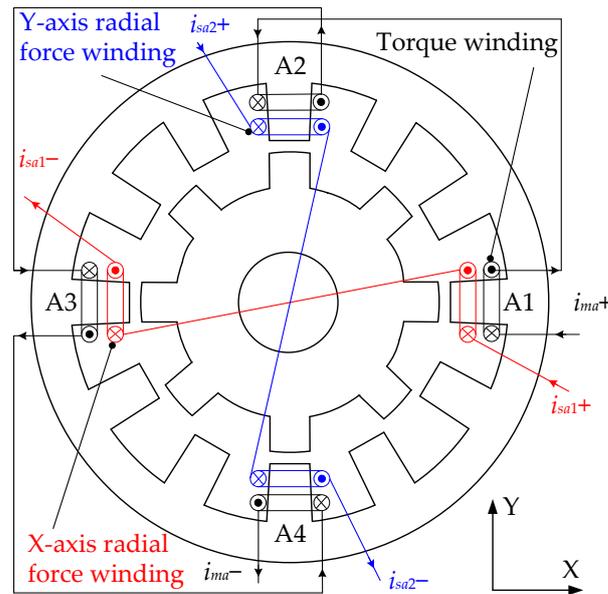
$$\begin{cases} T_b = J_t(\theta + \pi/12) \left( \frac{N^2}{8} \right) i_b^2 \\ T_c = J_t(\theta - \pi/12) \left( \frac{N^2}{8} \right) i_c^2 \end{cases} \quad (5)$$

Figure 7 shows the calculated results of radial force and torque coefficients using the parameters of the prototype shown in Table 1. It can be found from Figure 7 that the mathematical models of radial forces and torques for the 12/8-pole HBSRM derived in the paper have a good accuracy, and the expressions for radial forces and torques are continuous at all the rotor angular positions.



**Figure 7.** Comparison of radial force and torque coefficients. (a) Torque coefficient; (b) radial force coefficient.

In control, to reduce the number of current variables to be solved, combined with the equivalent principle of magnetomotive forces, the four coils of phase A can be equivalent to three windings: the torque winding, the X-axis radial force winding and the Y-axis radial force winding. The torque winding consists of four torque coils connected in series, and two radial force coils in the X- or Y-axis direction are connected in series to form the X- or Y-axis radial force winding, respectively. At this moment, the bearingless motor is converted from a single-winding structure to a double-winding structure, as shown in Figure 8.



**Figure 8.** A-phase winding configurations of the 12/8-pole double-winding BSRM.

Based on the principle of equivalent magnetomotive force, the relationship between single- and double-winding structures can be expressed as

$$\begin{cases} N_m i_{ma} = \frac{1}{4} N (i_{a1} + i_{a2} + i_{a3} + i_{a4}) \\ N_b i_{sa1} = \frac{1}{2} N (i_{a1} - i_{a3}) \\ N_b i_{sa2} = \frac{1}{2} N (i_{a2} - i_{a4}) \end{cases} \quad (6)$$

where  $i_{ma}$  is the current in the torque winding of A-phase,  $i_{sa1}$  is the current in the X-axis radial force winding of A-phase,  $i_{sa2}$  is the current in the Y-axis radial force winding of A-phase,  $N_m$  is the number of turns of a torque coil, and  $N_b$  is the number of turns of a radial force coil.

Moreover, the A-phase torque and radial force can be rewritten as

$$\begin{cases} F_x = K_f(\theta) N_m N_b i_{ma} i_{sa1} \\ F_y = K_f(\theta) N_m N_b i_{ma} i_{sa2} \end{cases} \quad (7)$$

$$T_a = J_t(\theta) \left( 2N_m^2 i_{ma}^2 + N_b^2 i_{sa1}^2 + N_b^2 i_{sa2}^2 \right) \quad (8)$$

## 4. Control Strategy and Simulation Analysis

### 4.1. Control Strategy

Figure 9 is the control block diagram of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM with A-phase full-period suspension. The deviation signal of the given speed  $n^*$  and the real-time speed  $n$  is transmitted to the PI controller, and its output is the reference value of the instantaneous total torque  $T_{sum}^*$ . The difference between the reference radial displacement and the real-time displacement is transmitted to the respective PID controller to obtain the needed radial forces in the two mutually perpendicular directions, such as the X-axis instantaneous radial forces  $F_x^*$  and the Y-axis instantaneous radial forces  $F_y^*$ . Based on the real-time rotor angular position  $\theta$ , judge which sector the rotor is in, and then the constraint equations for the corresponding sectors can be obtained. Moreover, the three given values  $F_x^*$ ,  $F_y^*$ ,  $T_{sum}^*$  and the constraint formulae in corresponding sectors are fed into a three-phase current calculator, which has outputs of the given currents  $i_{ma}^*$ ,  $i_{sa1}^*$ ,  $i_{sa2}^*$ ,  $i_b^*$  or  $i_c^*$ . Further, three currents  $i_{ma}^*$ ,  $i_{sa1}^*$  and  $i_{sa2}^*$  are transformed by the double-single winding conversion to obtain the four given values of A-phase currents  $i_{a1}^*$ ,  $i_{a2}^*$ ,  $i_{a3}^*$  and

$i_{a4}^*$ . Finally, the current chopping control is independently applied to these three phases. In addition, when the motor is running at different speeds, the switching angle of the B- or C-phase can be also adjusted in real time to increase the output torque performance.

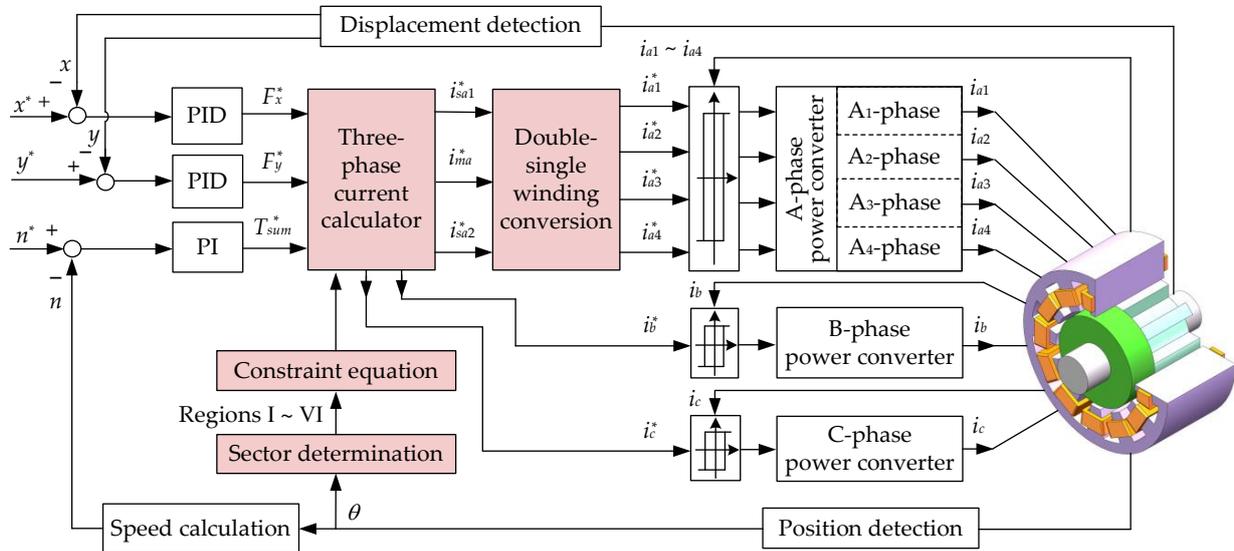


Figure 9. Control block diagram of the 12/8-pole HBSRM with A-phase full-period suspension.

It can be seen from Figure 9 and Table 3 that there are three given values,  $F_x^*$ ,  $F_y^*$  and  $T_{sum}^*$ , in the control scheme, but the number of unknown currents and the unknown variables to be calculated vary in the six sectors. Sectors I, III, IV and VI require one current constraint equation, Sector V needs two constraint formulae, and no constraint expression is needed in Sector II, so matching current constraint equations need to be designed in each sector.

In Sector I or III, phase A and the other phase (B or C) together produce a positive torque. Based on the principle of single-double winding conversion and combining Equation (6), a current constraint formula for Sector I or III is developed as

$$\begin{cases} N_m i_{ma}^* = N i_b^* / 4 & \rightarrow \text{Sector I} \\ N_m i_{ma}^* = N i_c^* / 4 & \rightarrow \text{Sector III} \end{cases} \quad (9)$$

It can be found from Equation (9) that, when  $i_{a1} = i_{a2} = i_{a3} = i_{a4}$  and  $N = N_m$ , currents in four coils of phase B or C are equal to that of phase A, which helps to keep the output power of each phase balanced.

In Sectors IV–VI, phase A generates a negative torque, and it is necessary to increase the current in phase B or C to supplement the negative torque produced by phase A to keep the total output torque smooth. At this point, A-phase current should meet the minimum requirements for radial force generation and then produces as little negative torque as possible. Based on Equations (7) and (8), it can be obtained as

$$\begin{cases} 2(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}) / K_f^2(\theta) = 2N_m^2 i_{ma}^{*2} \cdot N_b^2 (i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}) \\ T_a^* / J_t(\theta) = 2N_m^2 i_{ma}^{*2} + N_b^2 (i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}) \end{cases} \quad (10)$$

Thus, it can be seen from Equation (10) that, when the bearingless motor operates from Sectors IV to VI, the minimum possible negative torque of phase A can be obtained if it is satisfied as follows:

$$\sqrt{2} N_m i_{ma}^* = N_b \sqrt{i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}} \quad (11)$$

In Sector V, the B- and C-phase together produce a positive torque; to reduce calculations in control, the second constraint is that both phase currents are equal, i.e.,  $i_b^* =$

$i_c^*$ . Current constraint equations within six sectors are summarized in Table 4. Moreover, combined with Equations (5)–(8) and current constraint equations in Table 4, the given values of three-phase currents can be calculated as shown in Table A1 of Appendix A.

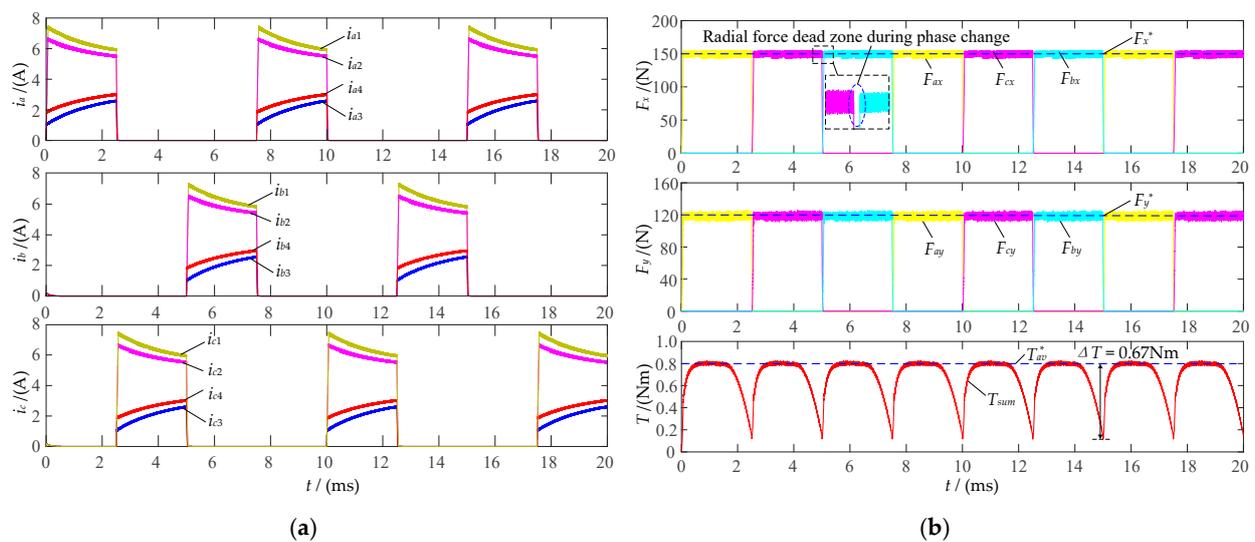
**Table 4.** Current constraint equations in six sectors.

| Sectors | $T_{sum}^*$                    | Given Values                      | Unknown Currents           | No. of Constraints | Current Constraint Equations  |
|---------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---|
| I       | $ T_a^*  +  T_b^* $            |                                   | $i_b^*$                    | 1                  | $N_m i_{ma}^* = N i_b^* / 4$  |
| II      | $ T_a^* $                      |                                   | —                          | 0                  | —   |
| III     | $ T_a^*  +  T_c^* $            |                                   | $i_c^*$                    | 1                  | $N_m i_{ma}^* = N i_c^* / 4$  |
| IV      | $- T_a^*  +  T_c^* $           | $F_x^*$<br>$F_y^*$<br>$T_{sum}^*$ | $i_{sa1}^*$<br>$i_{sa2}^*$ | 1                  | $\sqrt{2} N_m i_{ma}^* = N_b \sqrt{i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}}$                    |
| V       | $- T_a^*  +  T_b^*  +  T_c^* $ |                                   | $i_b^*, i_c^*$             | 2                  | $\sqrt{2} N_m i_{ma}^* = N_b \sqrt{i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}}$<br>$i_b^* = i_c^*$ |
| VI      | $- T_a^*  +  T_b^* $           |                                   | $i_b^*$                    | 1                  | $\sqrt{2} N_m i_{ma}^* = N_b \sqrt{i_{sa1}^{*2} + i_{sa2}^{*2}}$                    |

#### 4.2. Simulation Analysis

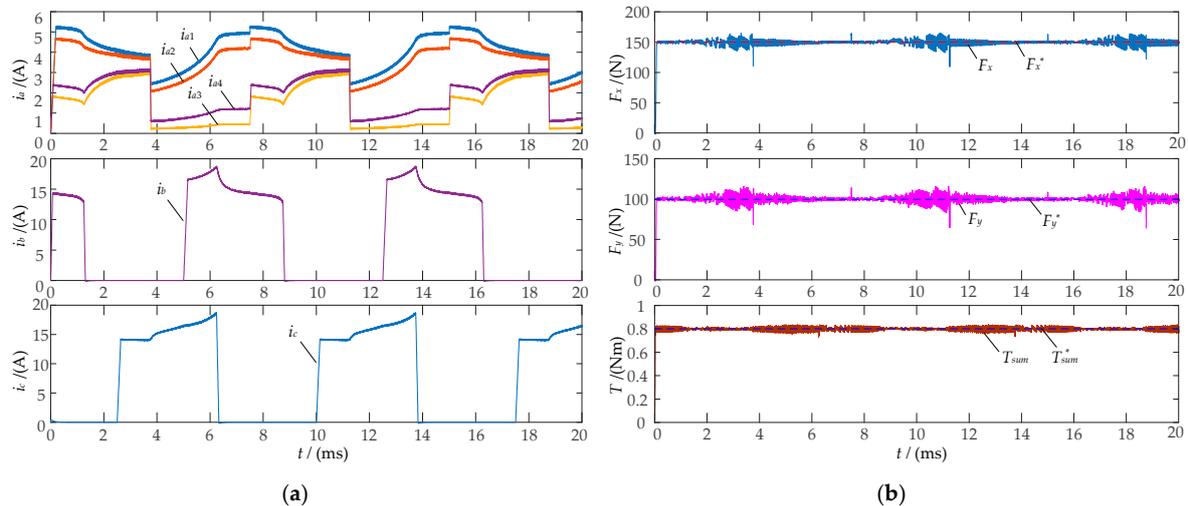
In order to validate the presented control scheme, a simulation of the 12/8-pole HBSRM control system is performed using Matlab/Simulink. The parameters of the prototype are shown in Table 1, and its rated speed, rated power and rated voltage are 20,000 rpm, 1.5 kW and 310 V, respectively.

Figure 10 shows the simulated results of a 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM at a speed of 1000 rpm using a conventional control scheme of single phase excitation, where the parameters of the BSRM part of the prototype are used, and  $F_x^* = 150$  N,  $F_y^* = 100$  N and the reference average torque  $T_{av}^* = 0.8$  Nm.  $F_{ax}$ ,  $F_{bx}$  and  $F_{cx}$  represent the X-axis radial forces generated independently by the A, B and C phase currents. Similarly,  $F_{ay}$ ,  $F_{by}$  and  $F_{cy}$  are the Y-axis radial forces. Due to the use of average torque control in the speed loop and an excitation width of only 15° per phase, there is a very large torque pulsation, and the maximum change in torque output is about 0.67 Nm when the conventional control scheme is used for this bearingless motor. In addition, it can also be known from Figure 10 that there is a dead zone in the radial force output during excitation phase change because of the desired current not being able to be built up quickly enough.



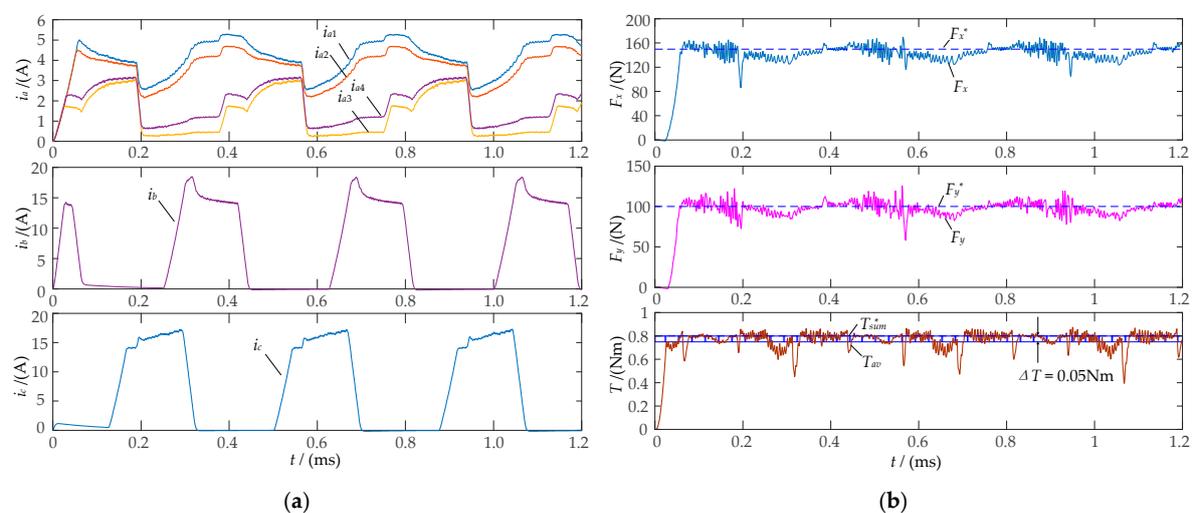
**Figure 10.** Simulated results of the 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM at 1000 rpm using a conventional control scheme. (a) Current; (b) radial force and torque.

Figure 11 shows the simulated results of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM at a speed of 1000 rpm, where  $F_x^* = 150$  N,  $F_y^* = 100$  N and  $T_{sum}^* = 0.8$  Nm. It can be seen from Figure 11 that the two radial forces and the total torque are essentially the same as the respective given values, and all three of them have a good output. As a result of the one-phase full-period levitation control for the HBSRM, the levitation dead zone during phase change due to the limited current rate of change found in the traditional control scheme for a 12/8-pole BSRM, as shown in Figure 10, has also been eliminated.



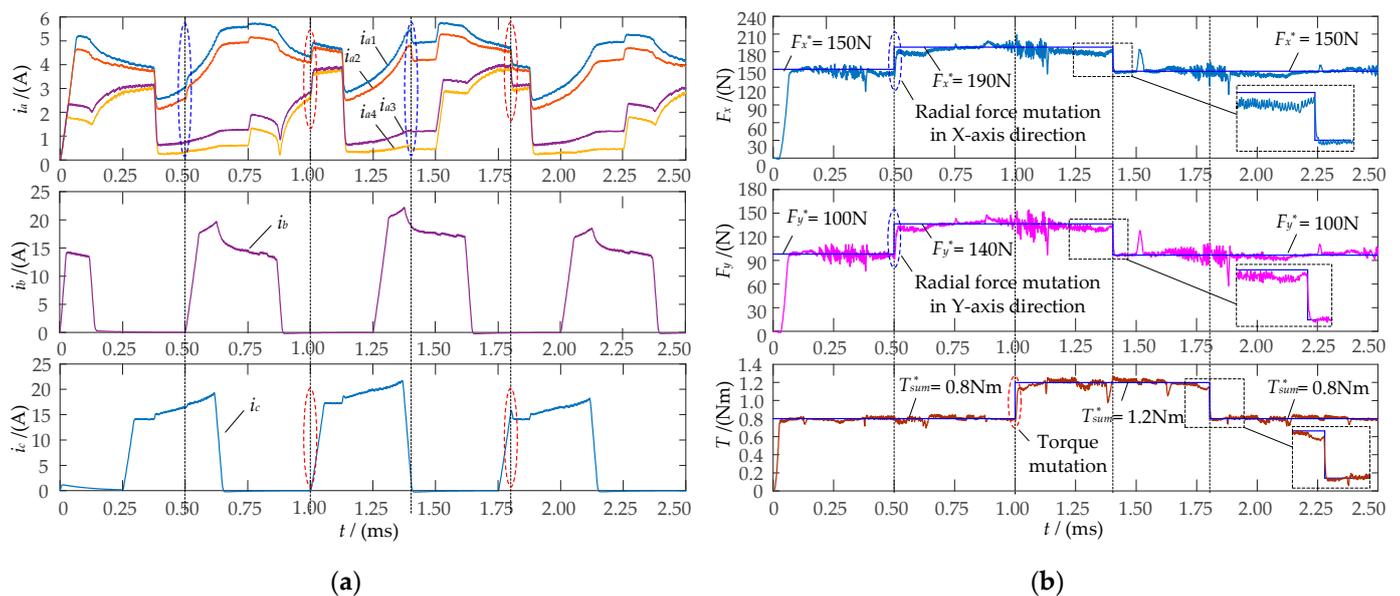
**Figure 11.** Simulated results of the 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM at 1000 rpm. (a) Current; (b) radial force and torque.

The simulation results when the bearingless motor is running at the rated speed of 20,000 rpm are shown in Figure 12. At this moment, due to the increase in the back electromotive force, the rate of change of each phase current becomes smaller, and then the real-time tracking and chopping control of currents in three-phase windings becomes not very effective; ultimately, the control accuracy of the two suspended forces and the total torque is also reduced. It can be noted from Figure 12 that, despite the increase in radial force fluctuations, there is no dead zone of suspended force production. In addition, the given total torque  $T_{sum}^*$  and the real-time average torque  $T_{av}$  are 0.8 Nm and 0.75 Nm; the error between the two is less than 6.5%, which is acceptable at such high operating speeds.



**Figure 12.** Simulated results at 20,000 rpm. (a) Current; (b) radial force and torque.

In order to verify the interaction between the two-control channels of radial force and torque, the radial force and torque mutation is simulated while this motor working at a speed of 10,000 rpm, as shown in Figure 13. In simulation, the X-axis radial force changes suddenly between 150 N and 190 N, the Y-axis radial force varies sharply between 100 N and 140 N, and the total torque changes abruptly between 0.8 Nm and 1.2 Nm. The simulation results show that, when radial force mutations happen, the required radial force can be quickly established and precisely controlled, with basically no impact on the torque channel; similarly, while a sudden change in torque occurs, the output torque can also be well tracked and controlled, with basically no influence on the radial force channel as well. Therefore, it can be obtained from Figure 13 that the radial force channel and the torque channel of the 12/8-pole HBSRM with one-phase full-period suspension almost do not affect each other under the presented control strategy.



**Figure 13.** Simulated results at 10,000 rpm. (a) Current; (b) radial force and torque.

## 5. Conclusions

The 12/8-pole single-winding HBSRM, due to its hybrid rotor consisting of a salient stack and a cylindrical stack, can produce a required radial force to suspend its shaft at any rotor angular position. A single-phase full-cycle levitation control method is proposed for the HBSRM in this paper. The HBSRM with one-phase full-period suspension requires only half the number of power devices used in a traditional 12/8-pole single-winding BSRM, and in turn needs significantly less digital resources and auxiliary drive circuits, which will reduce controller costs and lower the risk of power converter failures. Simulation results demonstrate that the radial force in both directions can be stably controlled with good torque output performance, and the levitation dead zone during phase change usually found in traditional BSRMs adopting a control strategy in which each phase generates suspended forces on turn can also be eliminated. In addition, the radial force and torque mutation simulations show that both radial force and torque control channels have no effect on each other. Further, it should be noted that the method presented in this paper is also applicable to the co-excitation of a 4-pole or 8-pole RMB and a 12/8-pole SRM using six asymmetrical half-bridge power convertors, and only requires that the four torque coils in one phase of the SRM be connected in series with each of the four radial force windings in the RMB.

**Author Contributions:** Conceptualization, Z.L.; methodology, Z.L. and X.W.; validation, Z.L., X.W., Y.Y. and C.L.; writing—original draft, Z.L., Y.Y. and W.Z.; writing—review and editing, Z.L., C.L. and X.W.; funding acquisition, Z.L. and W.Z.; data curation, X.W. and W.Z. All authors have read and agreed to the published version of the manuscript.

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**Data Availability Statement:** The raw data supporting the conclusions of this article will be made available by the authors, without undue reservation.

**Conflicts of Interest:** The authors declare no conflicts of interest.

## Appendix A

**Table A1.** Results of three-phase current calculations.

| Sectors | Results of Current Calculations  | Sectors | Results of Current Calculations   |
|---------|--|---------|---|
| I       | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{2N_m} \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_b^* &= \frac{2}{N} \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \end{aligned} \right.$ | IV      | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{N_m} \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_c^* &= \frac{2}{N} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}T_{sum}^*K_f(\theta) + 8 J_{l(\theta)} \sqrt{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}}{ J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)}  +  J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)} } \sqrt{2K_f(\theta)}} \end{aligned} \right.$           |
| II      | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{2N_m} \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{J_{l(\theta)}} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{J_{l(\theta)}^2} - \frac{8(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{J_{l(\theta)}} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{J_{l(\theta)}^2} - \frac{8(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{J_{l(\theta)}} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{J_{l(\theta)}^2} - \frac{8(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{K_f^2(\theta)}} \end{aligned} \right.$  | V       | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{N_m} \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_b^* &= i_c^* = \frac{2}{N} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}T_{sum}^*K_f(\theta) + 8 J_{l(\theta)} \sqrt{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}}{( J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)}  +  J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)} ) \sqrt{2K_f(\theta)}}} \end{aligned} \right.$ |
| III     | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{2N_m} \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{2F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \\ i_c^* &= \frac{2}{N} \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^*}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})} + \sqrt{\frac{T_{sum}^{*2}}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})^2} - \frac{8J_{l(\theta)}(F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2})}{(J_{l(\theta)} + J_{l(\theta-\pi/12)})K_f^2(\theta)}} \end{aligned} \right.$ | VI      | $\left\{ \begin{aligned} i_{ma}^* &= \frac{1}{N_m} \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa1}^* &= \left( \frac{F_x^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_{sa2}^* &= \left( \frac{F_y^*}{K_f(\theta)N_b} \right) / \sqrt{\frac{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}{2K_f(\theta)}} \\ i_b^* &= \frac{2}{N} \sqrt{\frac{2\sqrt{2}T_{sum}^*K_f(\theta) + 8 J_{l(\theta)} \sqrt{F_x^{*2} + F_y^{*2}}}{ J_{l(\theta+\pi/12)} } \sqrt{2K_f(\theta)}} \end{aligned} \right.$                                    |

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