



# The Effects of Induction Motor's Steel Sheet Thickness on Efficiency, Losses and Electrical Cost

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**Abstract:** Application of the induction motor in industry is common transversely the world. Performance evaluation of its energy efficient was increased the attention as it will convey important energy and commercial funds. This research considered the effects of electrical steel sheet's thickness for rotor material of 0.5Hp 3-phase induction motor on energy efficiency, losses reductions and utility bill cost. The outcome for this research work is thru reducing the lamination thickness of steel sheet (from 0.50 mm to 0.35 mm) for rotor frame, the energy efficiency was increased by 1.4% and 13.27Watt of losses have been decreased. Uncertainty the new design is applied to 100, 000 pieces a new rotor of motor, it is assessed that 40.32kWh/year of energy might be saved also the utility bill will be saved up to RM 1.35million.

**Keywords:** induction motor, thickness lamination, energy saving, cost saving, losses reduction, energy efficiency, rotor frame

## 1. Introduction

Energy is the backbone of economic development and imperative part of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Globally, energy consumption was expected to increase by 40% to 50% in 2010 and global fuel mix is expected to remain substantially the same as today. In the United States (1997), more than 2 billion electric motors were operated, of which around 1.9 billion is fractional horsepower motors, 35 million is direct current (DC) motors and 65 million is induction alternating current (AC) induction motors [1]. Since electric power is generally generated and distributed in AC current form, a converter is needed to convert the AC current to DC current for DC motor application [2]. This will cause some losses and impairment of the current signal. In certain applications such as solar photovoltaic (PV) system, a DC-DC boost converter is required to ensure a high-quality voltage output [3]. In that sense, induction motor is more efficient compared to DC motors.

According to M.Y. Hassan, in terms of energy conservation, the energy can be stored in different ways with different energy industries via machines. Attention of this work is to identify the energy use of major apparatus and apply energy-saving opportunities for the equipment via the primary energy. As a major investor of the motor using the whole energy



industrial, the energy savings through energy-efficient motors have been considered. The formula of annual energy savings (AES) was used when replace the standard motor with higher energy-efficient motor can be predictable [4].

A magnetic field rotating was produced thru stator part (winding), transfers an alternating emf and current in rotor part. Nikola Tesla has created the induction motor in 1888. It involves electrical connections with the rotating part which is the electromagnet was transferred energy beginning at stator part to the rotor (rotating) part of the induction motor. Motor torque will be produced when the secondary interface was induced rotor current at the rotating field of the stator winding. The induction machines signify a classification of rotating field that comprises induction motor, generator, frequency and phase converter and electromagnetic slip coupling [5].

Loss, material type and thickness are the important parameter in designing an induction motor's electrical steel sheet. Loss is defined as; of the induction motor power supply in the system of 3-phase voltage and current. The losses from motor electric such as losses in the stator windings was named the stator copper loss. Then, a total of power loss in hysteresis and eddy current in the material lamination thickness as heat was named core loss. Subsequently the power was transferred to the rotor part, there is a loss was named the rotor loss, and also converted from electrical to mechanical form. In conclusion, the friction and windage and stray loss was subtracted. Staying power is the motor output [6].

In terms of material type, the electrical steel sheet remains commonly used in stator and rotor part for rotating motors. Intended aimed at individuals' requests, there is higher demands for high energy efficiency. Each year, a new lamination steel ranking was developed to present a high in magnetic permeability and low in magnetic loss [7]. This research work was supported by Flat Carbon Europe (2010) which dealt with fully processed electrical steels can separate in two main types of material which are grain-oriented (was used in transformer as shown in Fig. 1) and non-grain oriented (was used in induction motor as shown in Fig. 2). A fundamental difference between two types of material is magnetization direction which is the grain-oriented symbols shows the optimal magnetic behavior in one direction, while the non-grain oriented symbols shows the magnetic properties are isotropic behavioral [8].

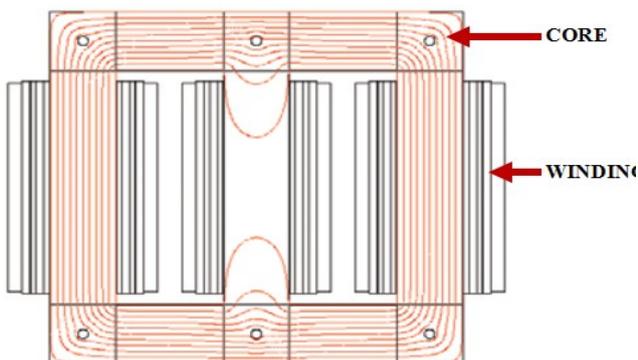


Fig. 1 – Transformer Field Lines [6]

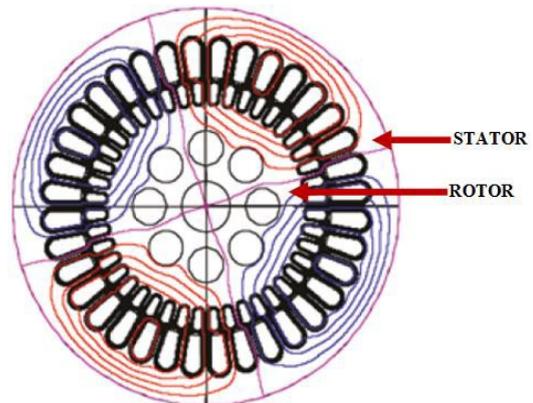


Fig. 2 – Induction Motor Field Lines [6]

Meanwhile, thickness is an important property of electrical steel since it affects the eddy current losses hold, but expensive and tend to decrease the lamination thickness of the vault occupancy declined. A power loss was measured at specified peak operating inductions, aimed at 1.5 Tesla, and this quantity was identified as an active cross-sectional area of metal required. Eddy current was blocked via the laminate. Iron is a good electricity conductivity. The iron core was divided into thin lamination which is the resistance and emf of eddy current was induced in modification to the total power dissipation in the core completely reduce [9].

Yun-Yong Choi mentions that a magnetic property of motor material thru non-oriented silicon steel, commonly used in designing of electrical equipment. The structures of silicon electrical steel were measured via the instruments only and it was dedicated in measuring for each specimen. This is a significant design factor in accomplishing the objectives to improve the efficiency and predict the performance of electrical apparatus. A comparative analysis was conducted regarding to the characteristics of the silicon electrical steel in considering the design of electrical apparatus by referring to the specimen [10].

Katsumi Yamazaki in their research paper work “Calculation of Iron Loss in Rotating Machines by Direct Consideration of Eddy Currents in Electrical Steel Sheets” found that the method used to calculate the iron loss in rotating machineries was proposed. The electromagnetic field distribution and iron loss is numerous types of electrical steel sheets was calculated by the proposed method, formulated as a one-dimensional model. The results are compared with the

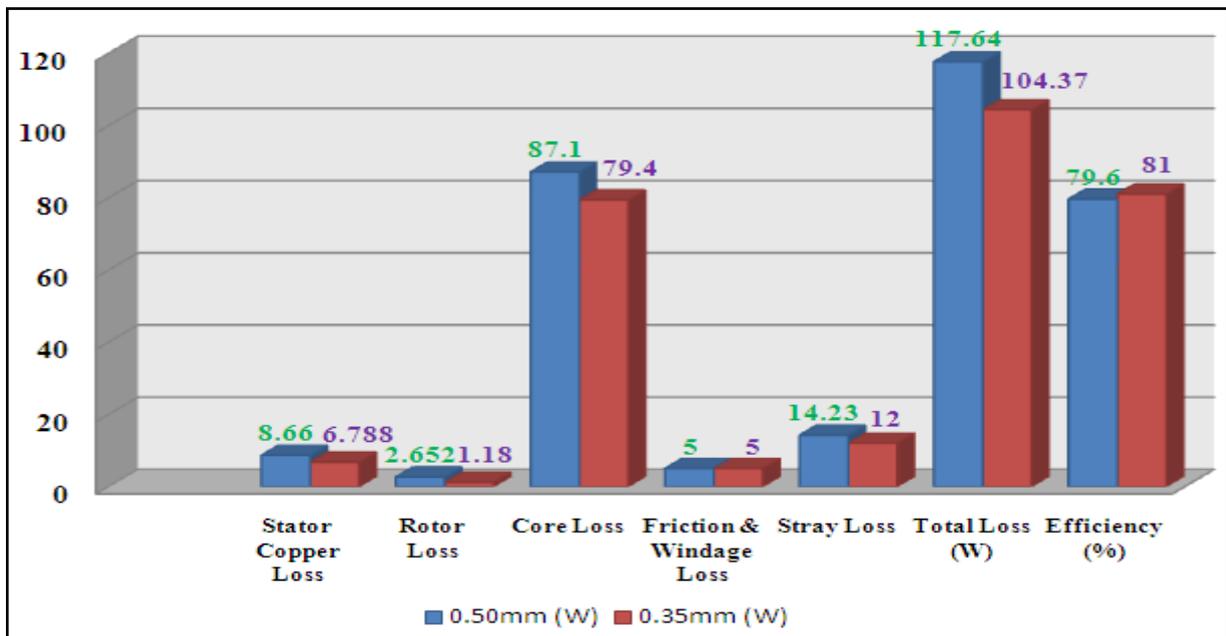


1 below, it shows that the 0.35 mm consumes definitely decrease the total losses compared to the 0.50mm thickness for a rotor frame.

**Table 1 – The Material of Rotor Frame Losses Comparison for both thickness**

Losses Measurement	Rotor Frame Thickness (W)		Energy Saved (W)
	0.50 mm	0.35 mm	
<b>Stator Copper Loss</b>	8.66	6.788	1.872
<b>Rotor Loss</b>	2.652	1.18	1.472
<b>Core Loss</b>	87.1	79.4	7.7
<b>Friction &amp; Windage Loss</b>	5	5	0
<b>Stray Loss</b>	14.23	12	2.23
<b>Total Loss (W)</b>	117.64	104.37	13.27
<b>Efficiency (%)</b>	79.6	81	Approximately Increased = 1.4%

Fig. 4 demonstrates the separation losses (such as stator copper loss, rotor loss, core loss, friction & windage loss and stray loss), total loss and efficiency for both thickness (which as 0.35mm and 0.50mm thickness) with a copper bar. According to the bar graph below, it shows that the 0.35mm was reduced the total losses by 13.27Watt and increase efficiency of 1.4% compared to the 0.50mm thickness. Its show that the 0.35mm thickness can increase the efficiency and reduce the copper loss of induction motor.



**Fig. 4 – The Bar Graph of Separated Losses and Efficiency for Both Thicknesses**

Based on Table 1, the efficiency of induction motor using 0.35mm has increased nearly to 1.4% compared to 0.50mm thickness. Its shows that the 0.35mm thickness was increased the energy efficiency of the motor and will reduces the losses namely stator copper loss and rotor copper loss even though it has a slight increase in the core loss.

### 3. Energy Saving and Economic Benefits

The energy that can be saved depends on motor size, annual hours of use, efficiency improvement, and the serving utility's charges. The annual energy saving, *AES* (kWh) was estimated using equation 2:

$$AES = h \times L \times 0.746 \times hr \times \left[ \frac{100}{E_{std}} - \frac{100}{E_{cr}} \right] \quad (2)$$

Where;

L	Load Factor
hr	Yearly Operating Hour
$E_{std}$	Efficiency of 0.50mm thickness
$E_{cr}$	Efficiency of 0.35mm thickness

The annual bill savings ( $h_{a \&g}$ ) was attained thru multiplying the operating hours number with specified load was used equation 3 below:

$$h_{a \&g} = h \times L \quad (3)$$

Where

- $h_{a \&g} \Rightarrow$  the expected annual bill savings (RM)
- AES*  $\Rightarrow$  the annual energy savings
- hr*  $\Rightarrow$  24  $\times$  336 working days.

Total cost savings (TCS) can be explained through equation 4 below:

$$TCS = (AES \times 12 \times \text{tariff}) + (h_{a \&g} \times \text{demand charge}) \quad (4)$$

The load factor and running time were assumed to be 100 % and 8,064 hr respectively. Table 2 shows the results of efficiency, losses, and energy saving for both thicknesses.

**Table 2 – The Comparison of Energy and Total Amount Saving for Both Thickness**

	0.50 mm	0.35 mm
<b>Energy Saving (W)</b>	1	5
<b>Annual Energy Saving (AES)</b> <b>(8,064 Hours / year)</b>	8.06 kWh	40.32 kWh
<b>Total Cost Saving (TCS)</b>	RM 2.71	RM 13.54
<b>Monthly Demand Charge</b>	RM 7.20	RM 7.20
<b>Monthly Energy Charge</b> <b>(Tariff D)</b>	32.5 sen/kWh	32.5 sen/kWh
<b>Saving for 100,000 motors</b>	RM 271,000.00	RM 1,354,000.00

The total amount of energy was preserved thru the copper rotor bar for induction motor throughout each hour of use 40.32 kWh/year. The total cost saving per copper rotor motor when using 0.35mm thickness compared to 0.50mm is RM 13.54. Assuming this design was applied to 100,000 pieces of motor, 1.35million of electricity cost could be saved.

### 4. Conclusion

Rotor frames of 0.35 mm and 0.50 mm thickness were fabricated and tested. Based on MotorSolve's simulation and analysis, we found that the rotor with 0.35 mm thickness could reduce the total loss and the annual energy by 40.32

kWh/year/motor. Meanwhile, in terms of the total cost saving, the usage of rotor frame of 0.35mm thickness would offer higher utility bill saving by RM 13.54/year/motor compared to rotor frame of 0.50 mm thickness which offers RM 2.71. Assuming that 100,000 was used, the total potential saving is up to RM 1.35 million a year.

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