

1.1 Introduction Electrical Drives:

Nowadays, modern power electronics and drives are used in electrical as well as mechanical industry. The power converter or power modulator circuits are used with electrical motor drives, providing either DC or AC outputs, and working from either a DC (battery) supply or from the conventional AC supply. Here we will highlight the most important aspects which are common to all types of drive converters. Although there are many different types of converters, all except very low-power ones are based on some form of electronic switching. The need to adopt a switching strategy is emphasized in the Wrist example, where the consequences are explored in some depth. We will see that switching is essential in order to achieve high-efficiency power conversion, but that the resulting waveforms are inevitably less than ideal from the point of view of the motor.

Motion control is required in large number of industrial and domestic applications like transportation systems, rolling mills, paper machines, textile mills, machine tools, fans, pumps, robots, washing machines etc.

Systems employed for motion control are called DRIVES, and may employ any of prime movers such as diesel or petrol engines, gas or steam turbines, steam engines, hydraulic motors and electric motors, for supplying mechanical energy for motion control. Drives employing electric motors are known as Electrical Drives.

An Electric Drive can be defined as an electromechanical device for converting electrical energy into mechanical energy to impart motion to different machines and mechanisms for various kinds of process control.

Classification of Electric Drives

According to Mode of Operation

- ✓ Continuous duty drives
- ✓ Short time duty drives
- ✓ Intermittent duty drives

According to Means of Control

- ✓ Manual
- ✓ Semi-automatic
- ✓ Automatic

According to Number of machines

- ✓ Individual drive
- ✓ Group drive
- ✓ Multi-motor drive

According to Dynamics and Transients

- ✓ Uncontrolled transient period
- ✓ Controlled transient period

According to Methods of Speed Control

- ✓ Reversible and non-reversible uncontrolled constant speed.
- ✓ Reversible and non-reversible step speed control.
- ✓ Variable position control.

They have flexible control characteristics. The steady state and dynamic characteristics of electric drives can be shaped to satisfy the load requirements.

1. Drives can be provided with automatic fault detection systems. Programmable logic controller and computers can be employed to automatically control the drive operations in a desired sequence.
2. They are available in wide range of torque, speed and power.
3. They are adaptable to almost any operating conditions such as explosive and radioactive environments
4. It can operate in all the four quadrants of speed-torque plane
5. They can be started instantly and can immediately be fully loaded.