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Digital power take-off

Abstract

A digital power take-off system includes an input shaft and an output shaft connected to a planetary gear. An actuator is mechanically coupled to the planetary gear to mechanically control a rotational speed of the output shaft. An output shaft sensor detects the output shaft rotational speed. Controller circuitry receives a desired output shaft rotational speed, receives the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor, and determines a difference between the rotational speeds. The controller circuitry outputs an operating parameter, based on the determined difference, to the actuator such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.

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Background/Summary

TECHNICAL FIELD

(1) The present disclosure relates to power take-off devices for utility vehicles, and more particularly, digital power take-off devices configured to maintain a desired rpm value of an output shaft of the power take-off device when an input shaft RPM value of the power take-off is variable.

SUMMARY

(2) Service vehicles (e.g., refuse vehicles) include one or more power generation units such as an engine (e.g., an internal combustion engine). The engine supplies rotational power to at least one wheel of the service vehicle to drive or move the service vehicle. The engine can also be used to supply power to vehicle subsystems, such as a dumpster lift system or a refuse compactor.

(3) Service vehicles can use power take-off devices to direct power developed by the engine to one or more vehicle subsystems. The power take-off device helps reduce the need for service vehicles to support and operate a second power generation unit for the vehicle subsystems. In some particular examples, the power generation unit is an internal combustion engine providing a rotational power output.

(4) The rotational power output is often used as an input to a vehicle transmission to provide rotational power to a service vehicle drive train component over a range of rotational speeds and torque values. For example, the service vehicle may have several numbered forward driving “gears” and a reverse “gear.” Traditionally, the lower numbered forward driving gears are characterized by relatively low drive train rotational speeds and relatively high torque values. The higher numbered forward gears are characterized by relatively high drive train rotational speeds and relatively low torque values.

(5) Variability in the drive train rotational speed and torque value complicates directing drive train power, through the power take-off device, to the service vehicle subsystems. For example, typical use of a refuse vehicle can include directing drive train power through a power take-off device to a dumpster lift system or a refuse compactor. The dumpster lift system or the refuse compactor may, in turn, transfer the rotational power from the power take-off device output shaft to a hydraulic

pump input shaft to operate a hydraulic power system. However, the hydraulic pump may have a preferred input shaft rotational speed or a preferred range of input shaft rotational speeds for proper operation of the vehicle subsystem. The drive train component(s) of the service vehicle, though, typically provide a relatively wide range of shaft rotational speeds depending upon several factors including, but not limited to, the forward or reverse “driving gear” in which the transmission is positioned and the amount of acceleration applied to the engine at a particular time.

(6) A difference between the drive train component rotational speed and the preferred input shaft rotational speed of the vehicle subsystem can be particularly pronounced when the service vehicle is parked or the service vehicle transmission is in a “neutral” position. Often, the service vehicle is parked or the transmission is located in a neutral position when service vehicle subsystems are called into service. In many cases, when the service vehicle is idling at relatively low RPM, the engine does not provide enough rotational speed to the PTO-driven hydraulic pump to operate efficiently or operate a vehicle subsystem.

(7) Service vehicle processes of dumpster lifting, refuse compacting, service bucket maneuvering, aerial ladder and outrigger operating, etc. often include power provision tasks which could be made more efficient with a power take-off device providing relatively uniform output shaft rotational speed when provided a relatively wide range of input shaft rotational speeds. Additionally, a digital power take-off device can provide a power-on-demand feature to reduce power consumption during times when service vehicle subsystems are not in operation.

(8) According to an aspect of the present disclosure, a digital power take-off system includes an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system further includes a planetary gear including a sun gear located along a central axis. The planetary gear also includes a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear. The ring gear is removably connected to the input shaft. The planetary gear further includes at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis. The planetary gear still further includes a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier. The carrier is removably connected to the output shaft. The power take-off system still further includes an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear. The actuator is configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter. The power take-off system includes an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator. The controller circuitry is configured to receive a desired output shaft rotational speed, receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor, determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference, and output the operating parameter to the actuator, such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.

(9) According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a method includes providing power to one or more components of a subsystem of a service vehicle. The service vehicle includes a chassis supporting a wheel and an engine configured to provide mechanical power to drive the wheel. The service vehicle also includes a digital power take-off system includes an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system further includes a planetary gear including a sun gear located along a central axis. The planetary gear also includes a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear. The ring gear is removably connected to the input shaft.

The planetary gear further includes at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis. The planetary gear still further includes a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier. The carrier is removably connected to the output shaft. The power take-off system still further includes an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear. The actuator is configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter. The power take-off system includes an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator. The controller circuitry is configured to receive a desired output shaft rotational speed, receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor, determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference, and output the operating parameter to the actuator, such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.

(10) According to another aspect of the present disclosure, a service vehicle includes a chassis supporting a wheel and an engine configured to provide mechanical power to drive the wheel. The service vehicle also includes a digital power take-off system includes an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system further includes a planetary gear including a sun gear located along a central axis. The planetary gear also includes a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear. The ring gear is removably connected to the input shaft. The planetary gear further includes at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis. The planetary gear still further includes a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier. The carrier is removably connected to the output shaft. The power take-off system still further includes an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear. The actuator is configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter. The power take-off system includes an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed. The power take-off system also includes a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator. The controller circuitry is configured to receive a desired output shaft rotational speed, receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor, determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference, and output the operating parameter to the actuator, such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.

(11) The following description and the annexed drawings set forth certain illustrative embodiments of the disclosure. These embodiments are indicative, however, of but a few of the various ways in which the principles of the disclosure may be employed. Other objects, advantages and novel features according to aspects of the disclosure will become apparent from the following detailed description when considered in conjunction with the drawings.

Description

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

- (1) The annexed drawings, which are not necessarily to scale, show various aspects of the tool and its use.
- (2) FIG. 1 is a perspective view of an exemplary service vehicle including a digital power take-off device;
- (3) FIG. 2 is a schematic representation of an exemplary digital PTO system mated with the service vehicle of FIG. 1;
- (4) FIG. 3 is a perspective view of an exemplary dashboard environment of the service vehicle of FIG. 1;
- (5) FIG. 4 is a perspective view of an exemplary power take-off device and an actuator of the digital PTO system of FIG. 2;
- (6) FIG. 5 is similar to FIG. 4 with a housing and an actuator removed from view;
- (7) FIG. 6 is a cross-section view of the power take-off device taken along line 6-6 of FIG. 5;
- (8) FIG. 7 is a cross-section view of the power take-off device taken along line 7-7 of FIG. 5;
- (9) FIG. 8 is a schematic illustration of an exemplary controller circuitry of a PTO controller; and
- (10) FIG. 9 is a flow diagram of an exemplary digital PTO control process.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

- (11) While the described apparatus and methods can take many different forms, for the purpose of promoting an understanding of the principles of the disclosure, reference will now be made to the embodiments illustrated in the drawings and specific language will be used to describe the same. It will nevertheless be understood that no limitation of the scope of the disclosure is thereby intended.
- (12) The present disclosure is directed to power take-off devices to provide mechanical power developed in an engine to subsystems of a service vehicle. A disclosed digital power take-off system is configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of a portion of a planetary gear train to modify an output shaft rotational speed of a power take-off device. An actuator receives an operating parameter from a controller circuit based upon a difference between an actual output shaft rotational speed and a desired output shaft rotational speed. The operating parameter informs the actuator to urge motion of a control shaft to modify a gear ratio of the planetary gear train resulting in an actual output shaft rotational speed matching the desired output rotational speed.
- (13) Referring initially to FIG. 1, an exemplary service vehicle **100** including a power take-off device **102** is illustrated. In this embodiment, the service vehicle **100** is depicted as a refuse vehicle (e.g., a garbage truck, a waste collection truck, a sanitation truck, etc.). While illustrated as a refuse vehicle and referred to below as a refuse vehicle, the service vehicle **100** may be any suitable service vehicle that utilizes power take-off systems, such as utility trucks, fire trucks, construction vehicles, or other specialized vehicles requiring auxiliary power for subsystems.
- (14) The refuse vehicle **100** includes a chassis **104**, shown as a truck frame **104**, and a body assembly **106** coupled to the truck frame **104**. The body assembly **106** defines an on-board receptacle **108** and a cab **110**. The cab **110** is coupled to a front end **112** of the truck frame **104** and includes various components to facilitate operation of the refuse vehicle **100** by an operator (e.g., a seat, a steering wheel, hydraulic controls, etc.) as well as components that can execute commands automatically to control various vehicle subsystems within the vehicle (e.g., computers, controllers, processing units, etc.). The refuse vehicle **100** further includes a prime mover **114** coupled to the frame **104** at a position beneath the cab **110** or at any other suitable location.
- (15) The prime mover **114** provides power to a plurality of motive members, shown as wheels **116**, and to other subsystems of the vehicle (e.g., a pneumatic system, a hydraulic system, etc.). In some examples, the prime mover **114** is an internal combustion engine **114** attached to the frame **104**. The engine **114** may consume fuel from at least one on-board fuel tank **118** to provide power to the motive members and various subsystems of the refuse vehicle **100**.
- (16) In some examples, the refuse vehicle **100** is configured to transport refuse, recyclable

materials, etc. from various receptacles within a municipality to a storage or processing facility (e.g., a landfill, an incineration facility, a recycling facility, etc.). As shown in FIG. 1, the body **106**, the on-board receptacle **108**, and a tailgate **120** can define a collection chamber **122** of the on-board receptacle **108**. Collected refuse and recyclable items are placed into the collection chamber **122**, where it may be thereafter compacted. The collection chamber **122** provides temporary storage for refuse during transport. For example, refuse can be loaded the collection chamber **122** behind the cab **110** and compacted into a position further toward the rear of the refuse vehicle **100** such as the receptacle **108**. In some examples, a hydraulic system mounted to the tailgate **120** compacts refuse within the on-board receptacle **108**.

(17) As shown in FIG. 1, the refuse vehicle **100** can be a front-loading refuse vehicle **100** including a lifting system **124** that includes a pair of arms **126** coupled to the frame **104** on either side of the cab **110**. The arms **126** may be rotatably coupled to the frame **104** with a pivot (e.g., a lug, a shaft, etc.). In some examples, actuators **128** (e.g., hydraulic cylinders, etc.) are coupled to the frame **104** and the arms **126**, and extension of the actuators **128** rotates the arms **126** about an axis extending through the pivot. Additionally, interface members, shown as forks **130**, are coupled to the arms **126**. The forks **130** are configured to engage a refuse container **132** (e.g., protrude through apertures within the refuse container, etc.). During operation of the refuse vehicle **100**, the arms **126** are rotated to lift the refuse container **132** over the cab **110**. A second actuator **134** (e.g., a hydraulic cylinder) articulates the forks **130** to tip refuse out of the refuse container **132** and into the collection chamber **122**. The actuator **128** thereafter rotates the arms **126** to return the empty refuse container **132** to a ground surface. This front-loading system is described for illustrative purposes of an exemplary service vehicle subsystem only, and any suitable loading arrangements can be used with the devices and methods of the present disclosure. For example, a side-loading service vehicle including a lifting system configured for residential-style refuse containers or a rear-loading service vehicle are also contemplated. Various other types of vehicle subsystems for service vehicles are also contemplated.

(18) The described front-loading system (lifting system **124**) and the hydraulic compaction system associated with the tailgate **120** are provided as examples of vehicle subsystems that often collect rotational power developed in the engine **114** to operate the vehicle subsystem. Often, the power take-off device (PTO) **102** collects rotational power developed in the engine **114** and transfers the collected rotational power from the drivetrain of the service vehicle **100** to another application (e.g., the vehicle subsystem). Suitable PTO **102** can include a flywheel PTO attached to the engine **114**, a transmission PTO attached to the service vehicle transmission, a full-power PTO attached to a drive train component between the engine **114** and the service vehicle transmission, or any other suitable PTO. Selection criteria of the PTO type can include the amount of rotational power required to operate the various subsystems, whether the service vehicle **100** is stopped or moving during operation of the subsystems, necessary torque capacity of the PTO, the PTO operating speed, etc.

(19) Referring to FIG. 2, a schematic representation of an exemplary digital PTO system (DPTO) **200** is illustrated. The DPTO system **200** is configured to receive mechanical power from the engine **114**. Arrow **202** represents a transfer of rotational power. In some examples, a rotating output shaft transfers rotational power to a vehicle transmission **204**. While many service vehicles **100** include a vehicle transmission **204** to provide several forward drive gearing ratios and a reverse gear for a drive train of the service vehicle **100**, there are some examples that may not include a vehicle transmission between the engine **114** and the DPTO system **200**. As such, the vehicle transmission **204** is represented in dashed lines. For example, the engine **114** may supply rotational power directly to the DPTO **200** through various structures as represented by arrow **202** combined with arrow **206**. Regardless of whether the vehicle transmission **204** is located between the engine **114** and the DPTO **200**, arrows **202** and **206** can represent rotating shafts, direct gearing, and other suitable structures that transfer rotational power between service vehicle components.

(20) The DPTO **200** includes an input shaft represented by arrow **206** in FIG. 2. At least one of the engine **114** or the vehicle transmission **204** control the input shaft **206** rotational speed. In turn, the DPTO **200** is configured to receive mechanical power as the rotational speed of the input shaft **206** through shafts, gears, and other power transmission components.

(21) The DPTO **200** also includes a planetary gear **208** or epicyclic geartrain that will be further described below in reference to FIGS. 4-7. The planetary gear **208** can be a portion of a power take-off device. Generally, the planetary gear **208** receives the mechanical power of the input shaft **206** as a rotational speed, modifies the rotational speed through a gear ratio, and transfers the mechanical power to an output shaft as represented by arrow **210** in FIG. 2. For the purposes of this disclosure, the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208** is considered to be the ratio of the rotational speed of the input shaft **206** of the planetary gear **208** to the rotational speed of the output shaft **210**. The output shaft **210** is configured to transmit the mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed to one or more vehicle subsystems **212**, **214**, **216** that can include a hydraulic pump **218**.

(22) As a component of at least one vehicle subsystem **212**, **214**, **216**, the hydraulic pump **218** pressurizes hydraulic fluid onboard the refuse vehicle **100**, which can then be supplied to various hydraulic cylinders and actuators of the vehicle subsystems **212**, **214**, **216** through suitable hydraulic lines and fittings represented by the lines and arrows of flow direction at **220**. For example, the hydraulic pump **218** can provide pressurized hydraulic fluid to each of the hydraulic cylinders (actuators **128**) of the lifting system **124** on the refuse vehicle **100** which may constitute the vehicle subsystem **212**.

(23) Additionally or alternatively, the hydraulic pump **218** can provide pressurized hydraulic fluid to a hydraulic cylinder controlling a compactor of vehicle subsystem **214**. In some examples, the hydraulic pump **218** provides pressurized hydraulic fluid to the hydraulic cylinders that control a position and orientation of the tailgate **120** of vehicle subsystem **216**. The described vehicle subsystems are merely examples and any number of other suitable vehicle subsystems can be used with the DPTO **200**.

(24) Remaining with FIG. 2, the hydraulic pump **218** operates at a rotational speed or a range of rotational speeds to maintain pump performance within the preferred operating range (POR) of the pump curve relative to the best efficiency point (BEP). The POR is a range of flow rates above and below BEP where pump efficiency and pump reliability are optimal for particular flow rates. As such, it can be beneficial to modify the rotational speed of the output shaft **210** (output shaft rotational speed) to a desired output shaft rotational speed to match or more closely match the rotational speed that operates the hydraulic pump **218** within the POR. The desired output shaft rotational speed of the output shaft **210** can then be directly coupled to the hydraulic pump **218** for operation of the vehicle subsystems **212**, **214**, **216**.

(25) The DPTO **200** includes a controller circuit or controller circuitry **800** within a PTO controller **222** configured to control and monitor (e.g., by receiving data from a sensor) the rotational speed of the output shaft **210**. The controller circuitry **800** will be discussed in greater detail with reference to FIGS. 8 and 9. The DPTO **200** also includes an output shaft sensor **224**, located proximate to or adjacent to the output shaft **210**, configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed.

(26) The output shaft sensor **224** can be any suitable sensor for detection of rotational speed of rotating components such as output shaft **210**. The controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** is in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor **224** to receive an electrical signal indicative of the output shaft rotational speed. Simply put, the output shaft sensor **224** detects the rotational speed of the output shaft **210** and transmits a representation of the output shaft rotational speed to the PTO controller **222**.

(27) Remaining with FIG. 2, the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** is configured to receive a desired output shaft rotational speed. Often, the desired output shaft rotational speed is equal to or is relatively close to the rotational speed of the hydraulic pump **218** that maintains pump

performance within the POR. In some examples, the desired output shaft rotational speed is a range of rotational speeds that maintain hydraulic pump **218** performance within the POR. The desired output shaft rotational speed can be received in a number of suitable ways. For example, the desired output shaft rotational speed can be stored on a memory circuit of the PTO controller **222**. (28) In some examples, the DPTO **200** includes an optional primary controller **226** including processor circuitry in electrical communication with the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** that serves as a higher-level control unit within the service vehicle's control architecture.

(29) The primary controller **226** may include processor circuitry and is in electrical communication with the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222**. The primary controller **226** can be a programmable logic controller (PLC) or another suitable processing unit capable of executing complex control algorithms, handling multiple input and output signals, and interfacing with various vehicle systems.

(30) The primary controller **226** is configured to send electrical signals to the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** to modify the desired output shaft rotational speed based on a variety of operating parameters and conditions. For instance, the primary controller **226** may adjust the desired output shaft rotational speed in response to: the input shaft rotational speed, vehicle operating conditions, subsystem demands, operator inputs, and/or safety and efficiency parameters

(31) Regarding input shaft rotational speed, by receiving data from an input shaft sensor **236**, the primary controller **226** can monitor the rotational speed of the input shaft **206**. It can use this information to anticipate changes in engine load or vehicle speed and proactively adjust the desired output shaft rotational speed to maintain optimal performance of the DPTO **200**.

(32) Regarding vehicle operating conditions, the primary controller **226** may take into account the current gear selection of the vehicle transmission **204**, vehicle speed, engine load, or other operational data. By processing this information, it can optimize the DPTO system's performance under varying conditions, such as during acceleration, deceleration, or idling.

(33) Regarding subsystem demands, for vehicles with multiple subsystems (e.g., hydraulic pumps, compressors, generators), the primary controller **226** can coordinate the power requirements of each subsystem. It can adjust the desired output shaft rotational speed to ensure that all subsystems receive adequate power without overloading the engine **114**.

(34) Regarding operator inputs, the primary controller **226** can process inputs from manual control devices **228** located within the cab **110** or elsewhere on the vehicle. Operators can use these controls to set or adjust the desired output shaft rotational speed based on the specific tasks being performed, such as increasing power for heavy lifting or reducing speed for precision operations.

(35) Regarding safety and efficiency parameters, the primary controller **226** may incorporate safety protocols and efficiency algorithms. For example, it can prevent the DPTO **200** from exceeding predetermined rotational speed limits, reduce fuel consumption by adjusting power output during idle periods, or initiate automatic shutdown sequences in response to fault conditions detected by sensors.

(36) In addition to modifying the desired output shaft rotational speed, the primary controller **226** can facilitate communication between the DPTO **200** and other vehicle systems. It may interface with the vehicle's onboard diagnostic systems, telematics modules, or external devices for data logging, remote monitoring, or software updates.

(37) In some examples, the PTO controller **222** is configured to receive the desired output shaft rotational speed from a manual control device **228**, shown in in electrical communication with the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222**. In some examples, the manual control device **228** is configured to selectively send an electrical signal to the controller circuitry **800** to modify the desired output shaft rotational speed. In some examples, the manual control device **228** can be located in the cab **110** of the service vehicle **100** as shown in FIG. 3. As described, the manual control device may be used by an operator to adjust the desired output shaft rotational speed.

(38) An example dashboard environment of the service vehicle **100** is illustrated in FIG. 3, where the manual control device **228** can be controlled by an operator of the service vehicle **100**. From the cab **110**, the operator can select a desired output shaft rotational speed with the manual control device **228** such as a potentiometer **300**, however, any suitable manual control device can be used. The potentiometer can enable the operator to set the desired output shaft rotational speed to an infinite number of values between a low limit value and a high limit value, for example, between 0 RPM and 2,200 RPM. As such, the manual control device **228** can be used to selectively set the desired output shaft rotational speed to zero, meaning the output shaft **210** does not transfer rotational power to the hydraulic pump **218**. In this way, the operator can manually control the DPTO **200** to produce hydraulic power for vehicle subsystems **212**, **214**, **216** “on demand” rather than continuously.

(39) Additional manual control devices **302**, **304** can be included for control of additional performance aspects of the DPTO **200**, however these additional manual control devices **302**, **304** are also not required. In some examples, the manual control device **228** can also include a control device on an exterior surface of the service vehicle **100** including, but not limited to, a remote potentiometer within line-of-sight of a particular vehicle subsystem **214**, an emergency stop button, etc.

(40) Returning to FIG. 2, an actuator **230** is mechanically coupled to a portion of the planetary gear **208** as will be described below in reference to FIGS. 4-7. The actuator **230** is in electrical communication with the controller circuitry **800** of the DPTO **200**.

(41) As previously discussed, the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** is configured to receive the desired output shaft rotational speed (e.g., a desired output shaft RPM). The controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** is also configured to receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor **224** (e.g., an actual output shaft RPM). The controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** is further configured to determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed. In other words, if the actual output shaft RPM is not equivalent to the desired output shaft RPM, the PTO controller **222** will calculate the difference between the two rotational speeds. Based upon the determined difference, the PTO controller **222** will determine an operating parameter. The operating parameter can be an electrical signal such as a voltage value output to the actuator **230**.

(42) The controller circuitry of the PTO controller **222** is also configured to output the operating parameter to the actuator **230**. Upon receipt of the operating parameter, the actuator **230** urges motion of a component (e.g., rotates a shaft) according to the operating parameter. Motion of the component interacts with the planetary gear **208** such that the actuator **208** modifies the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208**. For example, the actuator **208** can modify the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208** by modifying a rotational speed of a sun gear **600** (shown in FIG. 6) of the planetary gear **208**.

(43) Referring to FIG. 4, a perspective view of an exemplary power take-off device **400** is illustrated including a planetary gear **208** and other components of the DPTO **200**. The power take-off device **400** can include a housing **402** that houses and protects the planetary gear **208** and various other components of the DPTO **200**. As previously described, the power take-off device **400** can be mounted at various locations of a drive train of the service vehicle **100**. In the example shown, and as described for the remainder of the disclosure, the power take-off device **400** is mounted directly to the vehicle transmission **204** (not shown in FIG. 4) located underneath the service vehicle for relatively easy access, however, any suitable location is satisfactory. The housing **402** can include one or more machined faces **404** to cooperate with a suitable mounting surface on the vehicle transmission **204** and may cooperate with threaded fasteners, gaskets, seals, and similar mounting equipment. In some examples, an input gear **406** can extend through an aperture **408** in the housing **402** to mesh with a cooperating gear in the vehicle transmission **204** to transfer rotational power from the vehicle transmission **204** to the planetary gear **208**. In some

examples, rotational power can be transferred from the vehicle transmission **204** to the planetary gear **208** via a rotating shaft, a clutch, or other structures.

(44) FIG. **4** also includes a representation of the actuator **230** which can be a motor such as a stepper motor configured to urge motion of a component such as rotate a motor output shaft **412**. As will be described, the motor output shaft **412** can be connected to a sun gear of the planetary gear **208** such that rotation of the shaft **412** urges rotation of the sun gear to modify the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208**. Generally speaking, rotational power is input to the power take-off device **400** at the front right portion of FIG. **4**. Through a power train, the input gear **406** will transfer rotational power to the planetary gear **208** for application of a gear ratio as defined by the geometry and rotational speeds of the planetary gear components. The planetary gear **208** transfers the rotational power to the output shaft **210** at the left of FIG. **4**. The output shaft sensor **224** is also shown proximate the output shaft **210** to determine or measure the output shaft rotational speed.

(45) Referring to FIG. **5**, a perspective view of the power take-off device **400** is illustrated without the housing **402** for clarity. The input gear **406** is connected through a shaft **500** to an idler gear **502**. The idler gear **502** is enmeshed with and transfers rotational power to a driver gear **504** centered about a central axis **506** of the planetary gear **208**. The driver gear is attached to the input shaft **206** of the DPTO **200**. The input gear **406**, the shaft **500**, the idler gear **502**, and the driver gear **504** are examples of transmission components and are not meant to be limiting.

(46) Any suitable arrangement of transferring rotational power to the input shaft **206** can be used with the present disclosure. Those of skill in the art will understand that the gearing ratio and various design aspects of the input gear **406**, the shaft **500**, the idler gear **502**, and the driver gear **504** can be engineered and manufactured to transfer rotational power to the input shaft **206** at a desired rotational speed and a desired rotational direction.

(47) Additionally, the motor output shaft **412** (shown in FIG. **4**) is attached to an intermediate control shaft **508** that is attached to and rotates a first control gear **510**. In turn, the first control gear **510** is enmeshed with and rotates a second control gear **512** that is attached to a control shaft **514**. The gearing ratio and various design aspects of the first control gear **510** and the second control gear **512** can be engineered and manufactured to transfer rotational power to the control shaft **514** at a desired rotational speed and a desired rotational direction.

(48) Referring to FIGS. **6** and **7**, a cross-section view of the power take-off device **400** taken along line **6-6** of FIG. **5** is illustrated in FIG. **6**. A cross-section view of the power take-off device **400** taken along line **7-7** of FIG. **5** is illustrated in FIG. **7**. The planetary gear **208** of the power take-off device **400** includes a sun gear **600** located along the central axis **506**. In some examples, the sun gear **600** is attached to the control shaft **514** using a key and keyway arrangement, however, any suitable attachment structures and methods such as splined connections, press fits, etc. are satisfactory.

(49) The planetary gear **208** also includes a ring gear **602** located around the sun gear **600** and sharing the central axis **506** with the sun gear **600**. The ring gear **602** can be removably connected to the input shaft **206** such that the rotational speed of the input shaft **206** is imparted to the ring gear **602**. The input shaft **206** can be rotatably mounted within the housing **402** (not shown in FIG. **6** for simplicity) with a ball bearing **604**, a roller bearing, or any suitable structure. In some examples, the ring gear **602** is attached to the input shaft **206** through a ring cap **606** using a threaded fastener **608**. The ring cap **606** can define a central aperture enabling the control shaft **514** to pass through the ring cap **606**. The ring gear **602** can be rotatably mounted within the housing **402** with a ball bearing **610**, a roller bearing, or any suitable structure.

(50) Remaining with FIGS. **6** and **7**, the planetary gear **208** further includes at least one planet gear **612** located between and engaged with the sun gear **600** and the ring gear **602**. Each planet gear **612** is rotatably mounted to a planet pin **614** centered along an offset axis **616**. As a set of teeth of the planet gear **612** are meshed with both the teeth of the sun gear **600** and the teeth of the ring gear **602**, the geometric relationship of the planetary gear **208** enables rotation of the planet gear **612**

about the offset axis **616** and revolution about the central axis **506**. While the shown example includes five planet gears **612**, any suitable number of planet gears **612** is satisfactory.

(51) The planetary gear **208** also includes a carrier **618** coupled to the at least one planet gear **612** through the planet pin **614** to promote alignment and uniform revolution of each planet gear **612**. The carrier **618** can include a cage **620** and a cage cap **622**. In some examples, the cage **620** includes an arm **624** extending longitudinally through a space between the at least one planet gear **612** and the ring gear **602** to secure the cage **620** to the cage cap **622**. Each planet pin **614** can be attached to the cage **620** at a first end of the planet pin **614** and attached to the cage cap **622** at a second end of the planet pin **614**.

(52) Rotation of at least one of the sun gear **600** or the ring gear **602** will urge the at least one planet gear **612** to revolve about the central axis **506** in most circumstances. This revolution of the at least one planet gear **612** urges rotation of the carrier **618** about the central axis **506**. The DPTO **200** includes the output shaft **210** which is attached or connected to the carrier **618** such that rotation of the carrier **618** urges rotation of the output shaft **210**. The output shaft **210** is configured to transmit mechanical power as the output shaft rotational speed transferred from the planetary gear **208** of the DPTO **200**.

(53) Referring to FIGS. 5 and 6, as discussed previously, the input gear **406** is connected through a shaft **500** or another satisfactory structure to an idler gear **502**. The idler gear **502** transfers rotational power to the driver gear **504** attached to the input shaft **206** of the DPTO **200**. The input shaft **206** is attached to the ring gear **602** through the ring cap **606** or another suitable structure, such as a clutch. The described power transmission components transfer rotational power from the vehicle transmission **204** through the input gear **406** to the ring gear **602**.

(54) As discussed previously, the actuator **230** includes or is attached to the motor output shaft **412** (shown in FIG. 4). The motor output shaft urges rotation of the control shaft **514** through the intermediate control shaft **508**, the first control gear **510**, and the second control gear **512**. The input shaft **206** can define an internal, axial passage **626** enabling the control shaft **514** to pass through the input shaft **206** along the central axis **506**. One or more bearings **628** can be provided within the axial passage **626** enabling relative rotation of the control shaft **514** relative to the input shaft **206**. After passing through the input shaft **206**, the control shaft **514** is then attached to the sun gear **600**. As such, the actuator **230** is mechanically coupled to a portion of the planetary gear **208** (e.g., the sun gear **600**).

(55) Generally, in known power take-off devices, the rotational speed input into the power take-off device can vary widely due to several factors including, but not limited to, the forward (or reverse) gear of the vehicle transmission at a particular time, the operator's call for acceleration to the engine from an idle condition to full acceleration, etc. Often, this relatively wide variation in rotational speed input to the power take-off device causes relatively wide variation in the output shaft rotational speed, particularly with fixed-gearing devices. Wide variation in the output shaft rotational speed can cause inefficient and/or unreliable operation of the service vehicle subsystems. With the described structures, the DPTO **200** employs a planetary gear **208** within a power take-off device **400** to modify the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208** by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a relatively wide range of input shaft rotational speeds.

(56) In order to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds, the actuator **230** can selectively urge rotation of the sun gear **600** such that, through the geometry and rotational speed of the planetary gear **208** components, the rotational speeds of the ring gear **602** and the sun gear **600** produce a planet gear **612** revolution speed equal to the desired output shaft rotational speed. The planet gear **612** revolution speed is then transferred through the carrier **618** to the output shaft **210**, enabling the output shaft **210** to transmit mechanical power at the desired output shaft rotational speed. The actuator **230** can alter the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** as needed based upon an operating parameter received from

the PTO controller **222** as the input shaft rotational speed varies over time.

(57) As such, the DPTO **200** is configured to mechanically control the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** (and thus the output shaft rotational speed) as the actuator **230** continually receives an operating parameter in discrete time intervals from the controller circuitry **800**. The operating parameter can be based solely on a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed.

(58) In some examples, the actuator **230** can alter the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** to a rotational speed that yields an output shaft rotational speed of zero RPM. In other words, the geometry of the sun gear **600**, the ring gear **602**, and the at least one planet gear **612** in combination with the rotational speeds of the sun gear **600** and the ring gear **602** produce rotation of each planet gear **612** about the offset axes **616**, but no revolution of the planet gears **612** about the central axis **506**. As such, the carrier **618** has zero rotational speed about the central axis **506** necessitating a zero rotational speed (RPM) of the output shaft **210**. In some examples, the output shaft rotational speed can be reduced to zero RPM using a clutch, a brake, or similar devices.

(59) Referring to FIG. **8**, an exemplary controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** within the DPTO **200** is schematically illustrated. The DPTO **200** and the controller circuitry **800** may be implemented and used by the service vehicle **100**. The DPTO **200** includes a sensor **224** (the output shaft sensor **224**) configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed. As described previously, the controller circuitry **800** is in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor **224** such that the data detected and/or recorded by the output shaft sensor **224** is received by the controller circuitry **800** of the DPTO **200**. The controller circuitry **800** is also in electrical communication with the actuator **230** such that the PTO controller **222** can output an operating parameter to the actuator **230** to control the actuator **230**.

(60) The controller circuitry **800** includes a processor **804** and a memory **806**. The processor **804** is in electrical communication with the memory **806**. The processor **804** can be a general purpose or specific purpose processor, a programmable logic controller (PLC), an application specific integrated circuit (ASIC), one or more field programmable gate arrays (FPGAs), a group of processing components, or other suitable processing components.

(61) The processor **804** is configured to execute computer code or instructions stored in the memory **806** or received from other computer readable media (e.g., a CD-ROM, a network storage device, a remote server, etc.).

(62) The memory **806** can include one or more devices (e.g., memory units, memory devices, storage devices, etc.) for storing data and/or computer code for completing and/or facilitating the various processes described in the present disclosure. The memory **806** may include random access memory (RAM), read-only memory (ROM), hard drive storage, temporary storage, non-volatile memory, flash memory, optical memory, or any other suitable memory for storing software objects and/or computer instructions. The memory **806** may be communicably connected to the processor **804** via the controller circuitry **800** and may include computer code for executing (e.g., by the processor **804**) one or more of the processes described herein.

(63) The memory **806** can include a data collection circuit **808** configured to collect and store data collected by the output shaft sensor **224**. The data collection circuit **808** is configured to store data representing a preferred output shaft rotational speed. For example, the data collection circuit **808** can store a preferred output shaft rotational speed that equals or approaches a rotational speed that operates the hydraulic pump **218** within the POR. Additionally, the data collection circuit **808** is configured to store operating parameters that the PTO controller **222** provides to the actuator **230** to modify the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208**. For example, the PTO controller **222** can output an operating parameter to the actuator **230** such that the PTO controller **222** controls the output shaft rotational speed.

(64) In some examples, though not necessary, the data collection circuit **808** can be configured to store threshold measurements for the output shaft sensor **224**. In certain embodiments, the

threshold measurement may represent both an upper threshold measurement (i.e., the upper bound) and a lower threshold measurement (i.e., a lower bound), such that a measurement of the output shaft sensor **224** below the lower bound or above the upper bound may be indicative of a critical event requiring an alert or notification.

(65) The memory **806** can include a detection circuit **810** that can be configured to receive a signal from the output shaft sensor **224** and compare this data to the preferred output shaft rotational speed data stored by the data collection circuit **808**. For example, the detection circuit **810** is configured to determine if an output shaft rotational speed reading from the output shaft sensor **224** differs from the preferred output shaft rotational speed stored in the data collection circuit **808**. For example, the detection circuit **810** may determine whether the output shaft rotational speed is less than or greater than the preferred output shaft rotational speed.

(66) As described, the PTO controller **222** can be a PLC controller having a single input and a single output. The single input can include a signal representing the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor **224** and the single output can include the operational parameter that is output to the actuator **230**.

(67) Optionally, the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** can be in electrical communication with an input shaft sensor **236** configured to detect the rotational speed of the input shaft **206**. The input shaft sensor **236** can be any suitable type of sensor capable of accurately measuring rotational speed, such as a magnetic pickup sensor, an optical encoder, or a Hall-effect sensor. By monitoring the input shaft rotational speed, the DPTO **200** gains additional data that enhances the control and responsiveness of the system.

(68) In some examples of the DPTO **200**, the detection circuit **810** collects and stores data from both the input shaft sensor **236** and the output shaft sensor **224**. Utilizing data from both sensors, the processor **804** can determine, based upon a stored algorithm, an appropriate operating parameter to output to the actuator **230**. This may enable the system to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed more effectively.

(69) With input from both sensors, the processor **804** can employ feedforward control strategies that use input shaft speed data to predict necessary adjustments, in addition to feedback control based on the difference between actual and desired output shaft speeds. By considering the ratio of input to output shaft speeds, the processor **804** can determine the most efficient operating parameter, improving the overall efficiency of the DPTO system. This efficiency reduces energy losses and minimizes wear on mechanical components.

(70) Monitoring the input shaft rotational speed also allows the system to detect abnormal operating conditions, such as excessive engine speeds or sudden drops in input power. In such cases, the controller circuitry **800** can initiate protective actions, such as reducing the output shaft speed or alerting the operator, to prevent damage to the DPTO system or connected subsystems. This enhances the safety and reliability of the entire system.

(71) The processor **804** may use the input shaft rotational speed data in conjunction with the output shaft speed to calculate the required rotational speed adjustment for the sun gear **600**. For instance, if the input shaft speed increases due to engine acceleration, the processor **804** can adjust the operating parameter sent to the actuator **230** to modify the sun gear's rotational speed appropriately. This adjustment compensates for the change in input speed, maintaining the output shaft rotational speed at the desired level.

(72) Furthermore, the input shaft sensor **236** can be used for diagnostic purposes. By comparing input and output shaft speeds over time, the system can detect inefficiencies or mechanical issues within the planetary gear **208** or other components. This data can be logged and analyzed to schedule maintenance or address potential problems before they lead to system failure, thereby enhancing the longevity and reliability of the system.

(73) The stored algorithm within the processor **804** may include proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control logic or other advanced control strategies that utilize both input and output shaft

speeds to determine the optimal operating parameter for the actuator **230**. For example, when the service vehicle **100** is climbing a hill or carrying a heavy load, the engine **114** might operate at higher RPMs. The input shaft sensor **236** detects this increase, and the processor **804** adjusts the sun gear **600**'s speed to prevent the output shaft **210** from exceeding the desired rotational speed. This protects the hydraulic pump **218** and other subsystems from damage due to over-speed conditions.

(74) While not required, the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** can be in electrical communication with additional features such as the primary controller **226** and the manual control **228** as described previously. The controller circuitry **800** can also be in electrical communication with a secondary battery **234**. The secondary battery **234** can enable the PTO controller **222** to operate independently of a main vehicle battery often associated with vehicles including internal combustion engines.

(75) Additional optional features of the controller circuitry **800** can include an alerting circuit **812** configured to perform one or more operations in response to receiving an indication of a critical event or a critical operating condition. In some examples, the alerting circuit **812** can signal a user interface **814** to provide notification of the event or condition to the operator of the service vehicle **100**. Another optional component of the controller circuitry **800** can include a network interface circuit **816** configured to enable the PTO controller **222** to exchange information over a network. The network interface circuit **816** can include programming logic that facilitates connection of the PTO controller **222** to an available network.

(76) Referring to FIG. **9**, a flow diagram of an exemplary DPTO **200** control process **900** is illustrated. For example, the control process **900** may be performed by the PTO controller **222**. The process **900** begins with process **902**, providing a rotational speed to an input shaft **206** of a power take-off device **400**. Often, process **902** will include operating the engine **114**, which may be an internal combustion engine. For example, an operator starts the engine **114** of the service vehicle **100** to accomplish required tasks of service vehicle **100**, such as driving to various locations of refuse containers to collect refuse. The engine **114** can provide mechanical power in the form of rotational speed of the power transmission components of the service vehicle **100** such as the input shaft **206**. The power take-off device **400** can be attached to the transmission components of the service vehicle to power various vehicle subsystems **212**, **214**, **216** from the existing power source (e.g., the engine **114**). The power take-off device **400** can be included in the DPTO **200**.

(77) The controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** receives the desired output shaft rotational speed as a part of process **904**, which may occur before or after process **902**. The controller circuitry **800** can receive the desired output shaft rotational speed by any suitable methods and structures. For example, the desired output shaft rotational speed can be: data stored in the data collection circuit **808**; a value manually input via an operator using the manual control **228**; a value input from the primary controller **230**; a value read from the hydraulic pump; etc. In some examples, the desired output shaft rotational speed may be predetermined based on modeling, testing, and/or prior performance of the vehicle subsystem **212**, **214**, **216**.

(78) After the controller circuitry **800** of the PTO controller **222** receives the desired output shaft rotational speed, the PTO controller **222** receives the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor **224** at process **906**. For example, the output shaft sensor **224** detects or reads the actual output shaft rotational speed and outputs a signal to the controller circuitry **800** representing the output shaft rotational speed.

(79) When the controller circuitry **800** has received the output shaft rotational speed, the detection circuit **310** may then compare the data from the output shaft sensor **224** to the desired output shaft rotational speed stored in the data collection circuit **808** as a part of process **908**. The detection circuit **310** can determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed. As discussed previously, the desired output shaft rotational speed can be a single value or a range of values that tends to keep the hydraulic pump **218** operating within

the POR.

(80) If the detection circuit **810** determines there is no difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, the controller circuitry **800** can output a first operating parameter to the actuator **230** at process **920** as a result of the decision process **910**. The actuator **230** is configured to receive the first operating parameter to maintain the rotational speed and rotational direction of the motor output shaft **412**. Maintaining the rotational speed and rotational direction of the motor output shaft **412** continues to rotate the sun gear **600** at the same rotational speed to maintain the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208**. As such, the output shaft rotational speed continues to match (or relatively closely match) the desired output shaft rotational speed.

(81) If the detection circuit **810** determines there is a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, the PTO controller **222** can output a second operating parameter to the actuator **230** at process **930** as a result of the decision process **910**. The actuator **230** is configured to receive the second operating parameter causing the actuator **230** to modify the rotational speed of the motor output shaft **412** as a part of the process **940**. Modifying the rotational speed of the motor output shaft **412** modifies the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** to modify the gear ratio of the planetary gear **208**. As such, the output shaft rotational speed increases or decreases (as appropriate) toward the desired output shaft rotational speed thereby making the power take-off system a digital power take-off system, or a DPTO **200**.

(82) Regardless of the result at the decision process **910**, the path of the process **900** returns to the process **904** to receive the desired output shaft rotational speed. In some examples, the desired output shaft rotational speed will not have changed from the previous process cycle. In some examples, the desired output shaft rotational speed will have changed through one of the previously described methods through which the controller circuitry **800** receives the desired output shaft rotational speed.

(83) The process **900** return paths from the processes **910** and **930** to the process **904** can form a closed loop feedback process. In some examples, the closed loop feedback process to control the output shaft rotational speed does not require detection of other system characteristics such as the rotational speed of the sun gear **600**, the rotational speed of the input shaft **206**, the hydraulic pressure generated at the hydraulic pump **218**, etc. In some examples, the sole input to the controller circuitry **800** is the actual output shaft rotational speed (e.g., actual output RPM) as detected by the output shaft sensor **224**.

(84) The controller circuitry of the PTO controller **222** (e.g., a PLC) compares the desired output shaft rotational speed (e.g., desired output RPM) to the actual output RPM. Based upon the comparison, the controller circuitry outputs an operating parameter to the actuator **230** to control the speed of the sun gear **600** to maintain or modify the actual output RPM at or toward the desired output RPM. The described process can also modify the actual output RPM to zero RPM if so desired.

(85) The controller circuitry **800** may use any suitable algorithm or logic to determine the appropriate operating parameter to output to the actuator **230**. For example, the controller circuitry **800** could implement a proportional control strategy. In proportional control, the operating parameter is adjusted in direct proportion to the error between the desired output shaft rotational speed and the actual output shaft rotational speed. The controller calculates this error and applies a correction factor proportional to the magnitude of the error, allowing for straightforward implementation and adequate performance in systems with relatively constant dynamics.

(86) Alternatively, the controller circuitry **800** may employ a proportional-integral-derivative (PID) control algorithm that considers not only the current error but also the accumulation of past errors and the prediction of future errors. The PID control algorithm continuously calculates an error value as the difference between the desired output and the measured output. It then computes the control signal (operating parameter) by combining three components: the proportional term (P),

which produces an output proportional to the current error; the integral term (I), which accounts for the accumulation of past errors by integrating the error over time and helps eliminate residual steady-state errors; and the derivative term (D), which predicts future errors by considering the rate of change of the error, improving the system's stability and response by dampening oscillations and reducing overshoot.

(87) By tuning the gains associated with each term—the proportional gain, integral gain, and derivative gain—the controller can be optimized to achieve the desired system performance, balancing responsiveness and stability. Implementing a PID controller allows the DPTO system to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed more precisely, even in the face of disturbances or varying load conditions.

(88) Other relevant control strategies may also be utilized by the controller circuitry **800**. For instance, adaptive control algorithms can adjust control parameters in real-time based on changes in system dynamics or operating conditions. This approach is particularly useful in systems where parameters may vary significantly over time or under different loads. Feedforward control can be incorporated to anticipate disturbances or changes in the input shaft rotational speed by using a mathematical model of the system. By predicting the necessary adjustments in advance, feedforward control enhances the system's ability to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed with minimal delay.

(89) Moreover, the controller circuitry **800** may implement model predictive control (MPC), which uses an internal model of the system to predict future behavior over a specified time horizon. MPC optimizes the control inputs by solving an optimization problem at each control interval, considering both current and future system states while respecting constraints. This method can handle multi-variable control problems and accommodate system constraints more effectively than traditional control strategies.

(90) The choice of control algorithm depends on various factors, including the complexity of the DPTO system, the computational resources available, and the specific performance requirements of the vehicle subsystems powered by the DPTO **200**. Implementing advanced control strategies like PID control or MPC can enhance the performance of the DPTO system by providing faster response times, reducing steady-state errors, and improving robustness against disturbances and parameter variations.

(91) By utilizing suitable algorithms and control logic, the controller circuitry **800** ensures that the actuator **230** adjusts the rotational speed of the sun gear **600** appropriately to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed. This precise control may improve operation of connected subsystems, such as hydraulic pumps, which require consistent rotational speeds for efficient performance. Consequently, the DPTO system may enhance the overall efficiency, reliability, and safety of the service vehicle's operations, contributing to reduced fuel consumption, lower maintenance costs, and improved longevity of mechanical components.

(92) The presently disclosed structures and methods of operating a DPTO can provide several benefits. For example, the DPTO can help provide a constant or relatively constant output shaft rotational speed (e.g., constant actual output RPM) despite RPM changes of the service vehicle engine typically experienced during regular operation of the service vehicle.

(93) The described system and processes can generate significant fuel savings. The operator can selectively modify the actual output RPM to zero when the vehicle subsystems are not in operation. As such, the service vehicle is not expending fuel to provide power to the hydraulic pump of the vehicle subsystems when the subsystems are not in use. In other words, the hydraulic pump can be operated solely “on demand” to prevent wasteful production of hydraulic pressure when not required.

(94) The disclosed structures and methods can provide a relatively simple solution for control of actual output shaft rotational speed from a power take-off device. The DPTO can also reduce maintenance frequency and expenses for vehicle subsystem hydraulic pumps that benefit from

significantly reduced operating time and reduced operating stress resulting from abrupt transmission gear changes.

(95) The disclosed DPTO can eliminate potential problems arising when different hydraulic pumps are added to the vehicle subsystems in an effort to remedy the variable rotational speed issue. For example, the DPTO can eliminate a wasted power issue when using hydraulic pumps that produce greater flow volume at higher pressure than typical vehicle subsystem hydraulic pumps. These replacement hydraulic pumps often produce unnecessarily high flow volume of hydraulic fluid at higher operating RPM which requires the hydraulic system to dump pressurized hydraulic fluid to a system reservoir, thus wasting power. In another example, the DPTO can eliminate hydraulic pump reliability issues when replacing typical vehicle subsystem hydraulic pumps with pressure compensating piston pumps. Often, the piston pumps can be relatively sensitive to contamination which is often incompatible with service vehicle use.

(96) The disclosed DPTO can also alleviate the need for clutches in the power take-off device to allow an operator to disconnect the input of the power take-off from the output of the power take-off at relatively high RPM operation. The clutch enables the operator to remove the mechanical power application to the hydraulic pump, thus avoiding excess hydraulic fluid flow at relatively high RPM engine operation.

(97) Although the apparatus and methods have been shown and described with respect to a certain embodiment or embodiments, it is obvious that equivalent alterations and modifications will occur to others skilled in the art upon the reading and understanding of this specification and the annexed drawings. In particular regard to the various functions performed by the above described elements (components, assemblies, devices, compositions, etc.), the terms (including a reference to a “means”) used to describe such elements are intended to correspond, unless otherwise indicated, to any element which performs the specified function of the described element (i.e., that is functionally equivalent), even though not structurally equivalent to the disclosed structure which performs the function in the herein illustrated exemplary embodiment or embodiments of the disclosure. In addition, while a particular feature of the disclosure may have been described above with respect to only one or more of several illustrated embodiments, such feature may be combined with one or more other features of the other embodiments, as may be desired and advantageous for any given or particular application.

Claims

1. A digital power take-off system, comprising: an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed; an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed; a planetary gear comprising: a sun gear located along a central axis; a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear, the ring gear removably connected to the input shaft; at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis; and a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier, the carrier removably connected to the output shaft; an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear and configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter; an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed; and a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator, and configured to: receive a desired output shaft rotational speed; receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor; determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed; determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference; and output the operating parameter to the actuator, such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of

input shaft rotational speeds.

2. The digital power take-off system of claim 1, wherein the desired output shaft rotational speed describes a preferred range of output shaft rotational speeds.

3. The digital power take-off system of claim 1, wherein: the controller circuitry is a programmable logic controller having: a single input comprising the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor; and a single output comprising the operating parameter.

4. The digital power take-off system of claim 1, further comprising a manual control device in electrical communication with the controller circuitry, wherein the manual control device is configured to selectively send an electrical signal to the controller circuitry to modify the desired output shaft rotational speed.

5. The digital power take-off system of claim 1, further comprising a primary controller including processor circuitry in electrical communication with the controller circuitry, wherein the primary controller is configured to send an electrical signal to the controller circuitry to modify the desired output shaft rotational speed.

6. The digital power take-off system of claim 1, further comprising an input shaft sensor configured to detect the input shaft rotational speed, the input shaft sensor in electrical communication with at least one of the controller circuitry or a primary controller.

7. The digital power take-off system of claim 6, wherein the primary controller is further configured to: receive from the input shaft sensor, the input shaft rotational speed; modify the desired output shaft rotational speed based on the received input shaft rotational speed data.

8. The digital power take-off system of claim 6, wherein the controller circuitry is further configured to determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference and the input shaft rotational speed.

9. A method comprising: providing power to one or more components of a subsystem of a service vehicle, the service vehicle comprising: a chassis supporting a wheel; an engine configured to provide mechanical power to drive the wheel; and a digital power take-off system attached to the chassis, the digital power take-off system comprising: an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed; an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed; a planetary gear comprising: a sun gear located along a central axis; a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear, the ring gear removably connected to the input shaft; at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis; and a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier, the carrier removably connected to the output shaft; an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear and configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter; an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed; a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator, and configured to: receive a desired output shaft rotational speed, receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor, determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed, determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference, and output the operating parameter to the actuator such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the engine is an internal combustion engine having a mechanical rotational output transferred to a transmission having a plurality of gearing configurations to provide a plurality of forward driving gears.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the one or more components of a subsystem of the service vehicle comprises a hydraulic pump, and the desired output shaft rotational speed is within a preferred range of shaft rotational speeds to operate the hydraulic pump.

12. The method of claim 9, wherein the controller circuitry is further configured to selectively reduce the output shaft rotational speed to zero revolutions per minute.
 13. The method of claim 9, wherein providing power to the one or more components of the subsystem of the service vehicle includes providing power to the one or more components of the subsystem of the service vehicle selectively on demand.
 14. The method of claim 9, wherein the controller circuitry is further configured to output an electrical signal warning indication in response to the output shaft rotational speed being less than a critical operation minimum rotational speed.
 15. The method of claim 9, wherein the operating parameter informs the actuator to rotate the sun gear at least one of slower or faster to modify the output shaft rotational speed to match the desired output shaft rotational speed.
 16. The method of claim 9, wherein the operating parameter informs the actuator to rotate the sun gear at least one of slower or faster to modify the output shaft rotational speed to be within a range of rotational speeds defined by the desired output shaft rotational speed.
 17. A service vehicle comprising: a chassis supporting a wheel; an engine configured to provide mechanical power to drive the wheel; a digital power take-off system attached to the chassis, the digital power take-off system comprising: an input shaft configured to receive mechanical power as an input shaft rotational speed; an output shaft configured to transmit mechanical power as an output shaft rotational speed; a planetary gear comprising: a sun gear located along a central axis; a ring gear located around the sun gear and sharing the central axis with the sun gear, the ring gear removably connected to the input shaft; at least one planet gear located between and engaged with the sun gear and the ring gear for rotation about an offset axis and revolution about the central axis; and a carrier coupled to the at least one planet gear such that revolution of the at least one planet gear urges rotation of the carrier, the carrier removably connected to the output shaft; an actuator mechanically coupled to the sun gear and configured to mechanically control a rotational speed of the sun gear based on a received operating parameter; an output shaft sensor configured to detect the output shaft rotational speed; and a controller circuitry in electrical communication with the output shaft sensor and the actuator, and configured to: receive a desired output shaft rotational speed; receive the output shaft rotational speed from the output shaft sensor; determine a difference between the output shaft rotational speed and the desired output shaft rotational speed; determine the operating parameter based on the determined difference; and output the operating parameter to the actuator, such that the actuator modifies a gear ratio of the planetary gear by modifying the rotational speed of the sun gear to maintain the desired output shaft rotational speed over a range of input shaft rotational speeds.
 18. The service vehicle of claim 17, wherein the service vehicle is a refuse truck.
 19. The service vehicle of claim 18, further comprising a compactor system to compact a quantity of refuse within an enclosed portion of the service vehicle, the compactor system is connected to and receives power from the digital power take-off system.
 20. The service vehicle of claim 18, further comprising a lifting system to lift a refuse container and tip the refuse container, the lifting system is connected to and receives power from the digital power take-off system.
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