

Principles of electromechanic energy conversion

Actuators - IRO6

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Mercedes Herranz Gracia

- ① Advantadges and Disadvantages of e-drives
- ② Principle of operation of e-drives + 3 main types
- ③ Design variants + "right" choice for robotics

08.04.2024

Advantages and disadvantages of electric drives

- ⊕ Availability of electric power
 - ↳ no energy storage needed, except for mobile robots
- ⊕ Motors in a very wide power range (from mW to 6W)
- ⊕ Energy efficiency (70% - >99% depending on the size / effort)
- ⊕ Easy to maintain (almost maintenance free)
- ⊕ Simple control and fast!
- ⊕ No emissions and almost no noise
- ⊕ Constant torque / force
- ⊕ Possibility to recuperate energy
- ⊖ Acquisition price
- ⊖ EMC
- ⊖ Force density (N/kg) $\downarrow \Rightarrow$ Compensated often with high speed and a gear box

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using electrical energy (from the supply network) as input

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Disadvantages of electric drives:

- Lower force density than pneumatic and hydraulic drives
- Higher acquisition costs (but generally lower total cost of ownership)

Introduction - Actuators in robotics

Electric drives

Mostly used in robotic applications \Rightarrow Focus on this course

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Niche application in industrial robots with high force density requirement

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Pneumatic drives

Used in some soft-robotic applications and grippers

Principles of electromechanic energy conversion

- 1 **Electrodynamic Principle**
- 2 Basic configuration and types of electrical machines
- 3 Power balance
- 4 Design variants
- 5 Relevance for robot systems

Electrodynamic Principle

$$[\vec{B}] = T$$

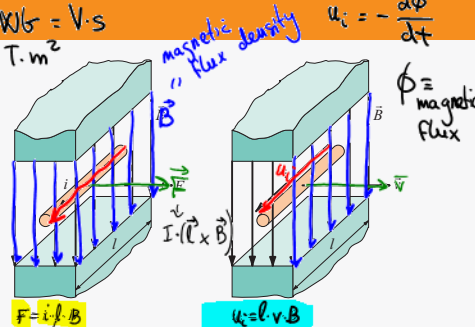
$$[\phi] = Wb = V \cdot s$$

$$= T \cdot m^2$$

$$u_i = - \frac{d\phi}{dt}$$

Two phenomena as a basis for the energy conversion:

- **Lorentz force**: a conductor carrying a current inside an external magnetic field experiments a force.
- **Induced voltage by movement**: in a moving conductor placed in an external magnetic field, a voltage is induced.



$$P_{\text{mech}} = F \cdot v = (i \cdot l \cdot B) \cdot \frac{u_i}{l \cdot B} = u_i \cdot i = P_{\text{el}} \quad (2.1)$$

$$P_{\text{mech}} = M \cdot \underbrace{2\pi n}_{\Omega_m} = \left(F \cdot \frac{D}{2} \right) \cdot \left(\frac{v}{D/2} \right) = F \cdot v = u_i \cdot i = P_{\text{el}} \quad (2.2)$$

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Construction of rotating electrical machines

stationary part
///

rotating part
///

- Two parts: stator (also field excitation) and rotor (also armature)

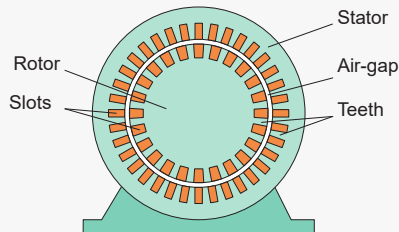


Figure Basic configuration of electrical machines

Construction of rotating electrical machines

- Two parts: stator (also field excitation) and rotor (also armature)
- Structure: ferromagnetic material (iron, electrical steel)

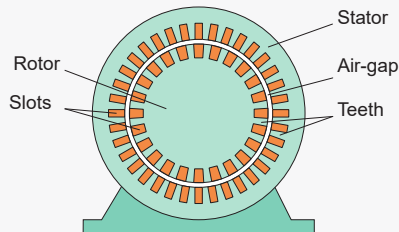


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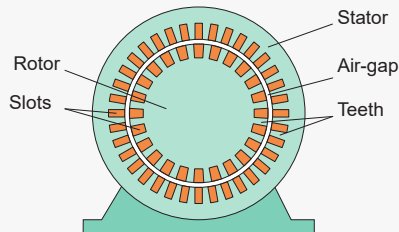


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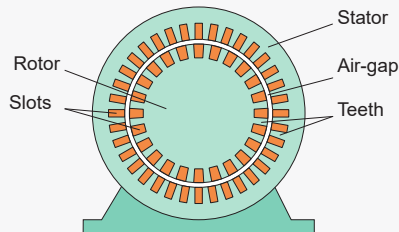


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To maximize the power output:

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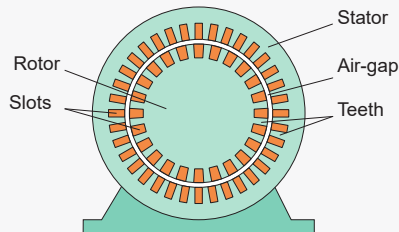


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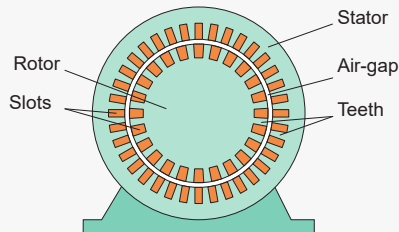


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To maximize the power output:

- Field lines always perpendicular to the current direction
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- fields can be described as vectors:
 - \vec{B}_s : excitation or stator field
 - \vec{B}_r : armature field or rotor field

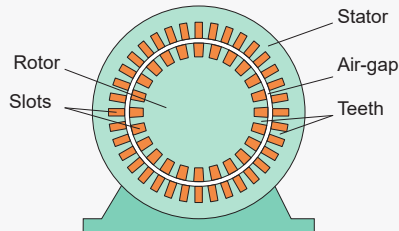


Figure Basic configuration of electrical machines

Optimal position between stator and rotor field

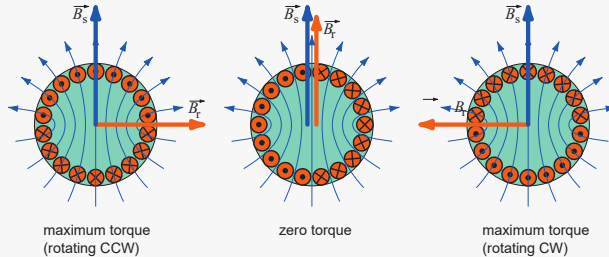


Figure Torque depending on the position of excitation and armature field

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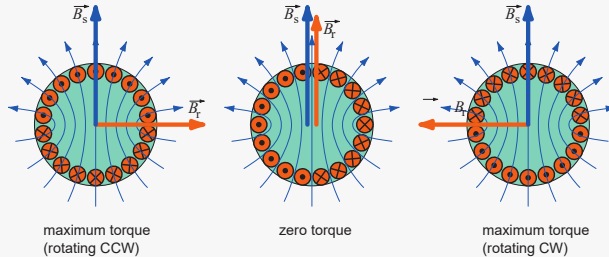


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γ : angle between \vec{B}_s and \vec{B}_r : $M \sim B_s \cdot B_r \cdot \sin \gamma$ $B_r \sim i$

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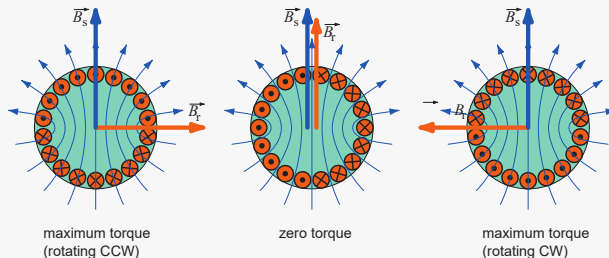


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Basic types of rotating electrical machines:

- Machines with a fixed magnetic field (DC machines)
- Machines with rotating magnetic field (3 phase machines)

DC machine

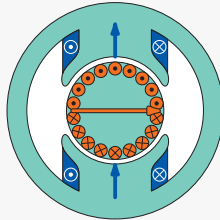


Figure Working principle DC machine

■ $f_S = 0$

■ $f_R \neq 0$

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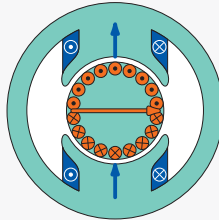


Figure Working principle DC machine

- $f_S = 0$
⇒ Coil with direct current or permanent magnet in the stator
- $f_R \neq 0$

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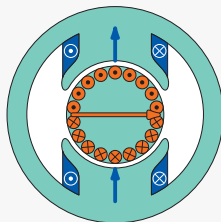


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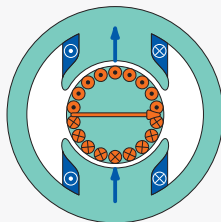


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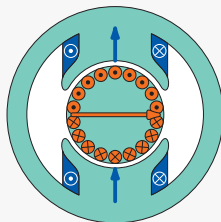


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 - ⇒ f_R depends on the speed

Synchronous machine

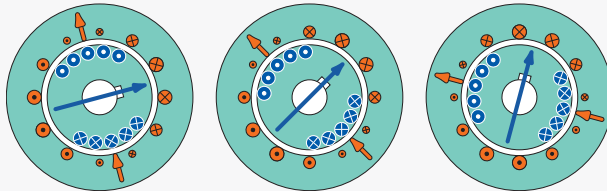


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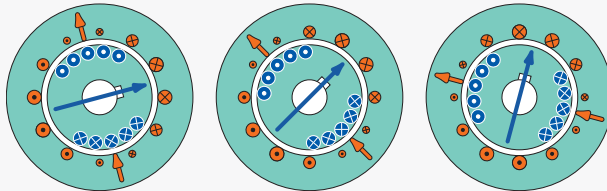


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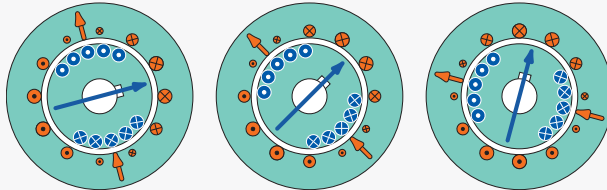


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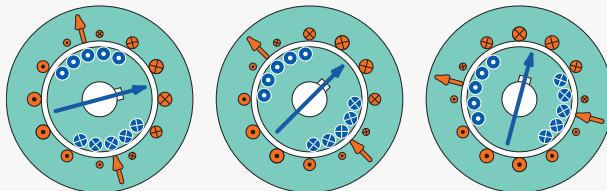


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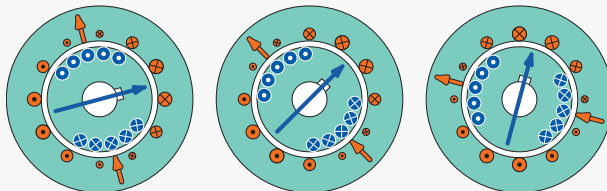


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 - ⇒ Rotor speed = Speed of stator field,
so that the angle between the stator and rotor field remains constant
⇒ constant torque

Asynchronous machine

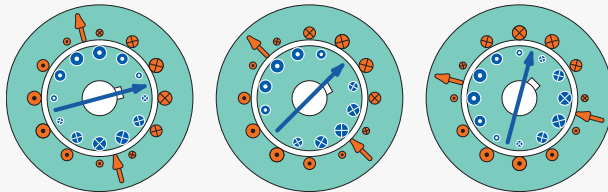


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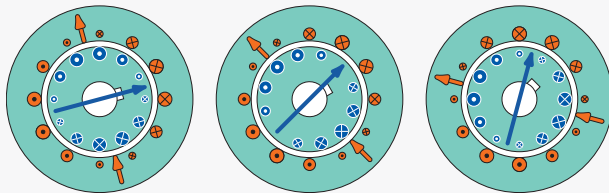


Figure Working principle of asynchronous machines

- $f_S \neq 0$
 - ⇒ **phase-shifted** currents provided from the outside (like the stator of a synchronous machines)
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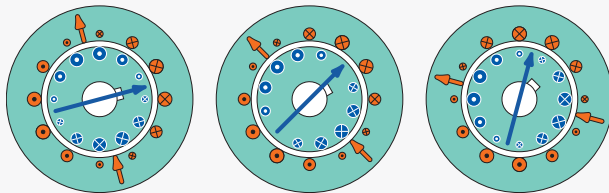


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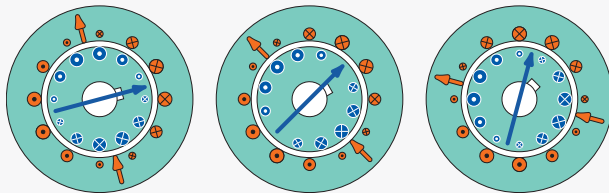


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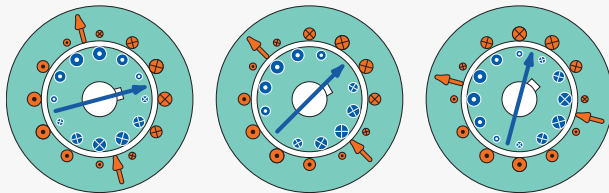


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 - ⇒ mechanical speed $n = n_0 - n_R$,
so that the angle between the stator and rotor field remains constant

Asynchronous machine with squirrel cage rotor

Construction

- Stator: 3-phase winding with frequency $f_s \Rightarrow$ Stator field with $\frac{f_s}{p}$
- Rotor: short-circuited polyphase winding

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- Due to the short-circuit in rotor, current flows with the frequency f_s .
- Rotor current generates rotor field rotating with f_s .
- Interaction of stator and rotor field produces torque.

2 $0 < n < f_s$

- Rotor coils see the stator field rotate with $f_s - n \Rightarrow$ induced voltage with frequency $f_s - n$.
- Due to the short-circuit in rotor, current flows with the frequency $f_s - n$.
- Rotor current generates rotor field rotating with $f_s - n$.

Asynchronous machine with squirrel cage rotor

Construction

- Stator: 3-phase winding with frequency $f_s \Rightarrow$ Stator field with $\frac{f_s}{p}$
- Rotor: short-circuited polyphase winding

Three different cases (example for $p = 1$)

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Asynchronous machine with squirrel cage rotor

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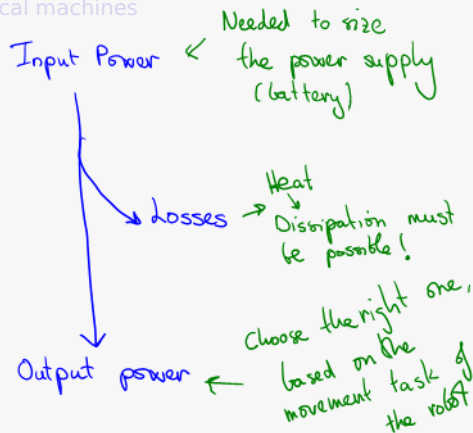
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 - Rotor coils see a constant stator field ($f_s - n = 0$)
 - \Rightarrow no voltage is induced in the rotor, no rotor current and field, no torque.

Principles of electromechanic energy conversion

- 1 Electrodynamic Principle
- 2 Basic configuration and types of electrical machines
- 3 Power balance
- 4 Design variants
- 5 Relevance for robot systems



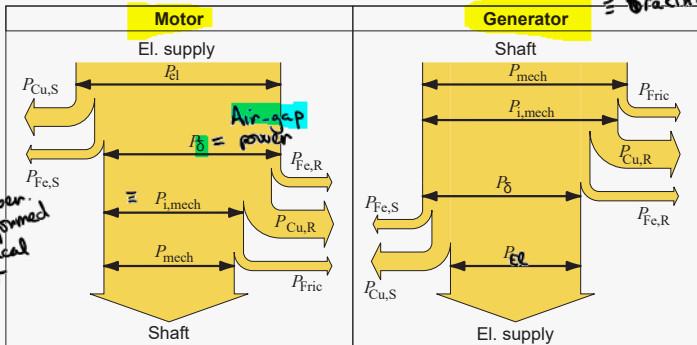
Power balance

Magnetic or iron losses: $P_{Fe,S}$ \equiv Power loss only if the magnetic flux in the magnetic material changes $\propto B^2 \cdot f^2$

Transformation electrical energy \leftrightarrow mechanical energy produces losses:

$$\eta = \frac{P_{mech}}{P_{el}}$$

Internal power being transformed into mechanical power



$$\eta = \frac{P_{el}}{P_{mech}}$$

Efficiency

Figure Power flow in electrical machines

- Mechanical friction: P_{Fric} (Bearings $\propto n$, Air friction $\propto n^3$)
- Current conduction losses: $P_{Cu,S} = \text{Stator} \propto R \cdot I^2$
 $P_{Cu,R} = \text{Rotor}$

	DC - Motor	SM	ASM
Stator	PM or DC-coil (permanent magnet)	3 phase AC winding	=
Rotor	"Commutated" coil	PM or DC-coil	Shorted AC winding
P_{cws}	= 0, with PM, > 0 with coil	> 0	> 0
P_{cwr}	> 0	= 0 with PM, > 0 with coils	> 0
P_{FeS}	= 0	> 0	> 0
P_{FeR}	> 0	= 0	> 0 (but small)
P_{fric}	← > 0 →		

Power losses

- Joule heat losses P_{Cu}

Power losses

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- iron losses P_{Fe}

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$$P_{mech} = P_{i,mech} \mp P_{Fric} \quad (2.3)$$

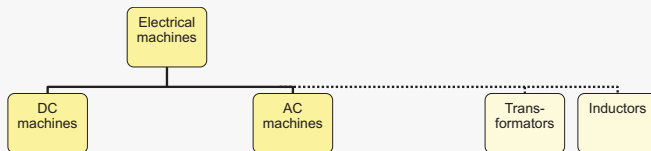
$$M \cdot 2 \pi n = M_i \cdot 2 \pi n \mp M_{Fric} \cdot 2 \pi n$$

$$\text{bzw.} \quad M = M_i \mp M_{Fric} \quad (2.4)$$

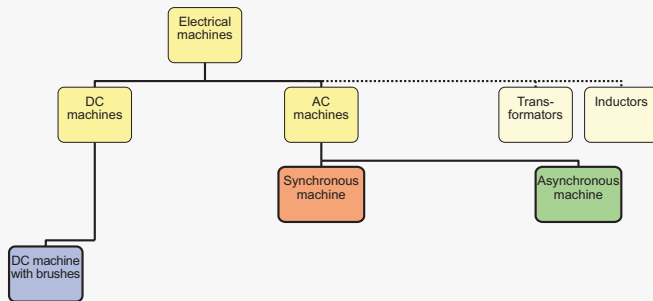
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Version variants



Version variants

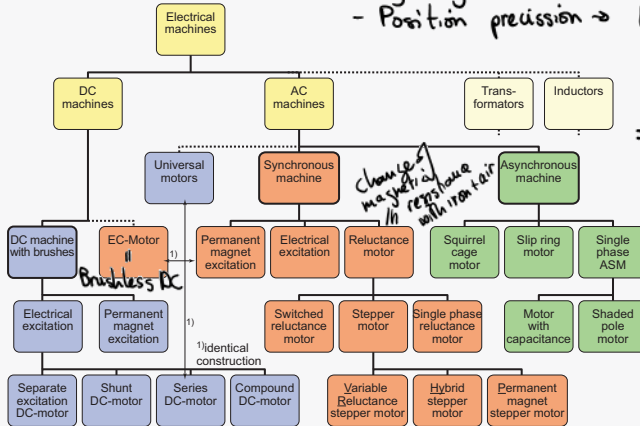


Version variants

Robotic requirements?

- High torque and speed
- High dynamic \rightarrow low inertia i.e. weight
- Position precision \rightarrow Easy and accurate control of position

\Rightarrow Servo motors
 \downarrow
High dynamic motors used for position control



Design variants - Summary 1/2

lower torque than other PM

	Separate excited DC motor	Series DC motor	Perm. excited DC motor	Synchronous machine Permanent excited SM
Construction				
Connection				
Min characteristics				
Parameter: U_b, U_f				
Parameter: U_b				
Parameter: U_b				
Parameter: $f_s (U_b)$				
Power balance	$P_{V,Cu,S} = R_f I_f^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} = 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_A I_A^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} > 0$ $P_\delta = U_b \cdot I_A$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$	$P_{V,Cu,S} = R_f I_f^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} = 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_A I_A^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} > 0$ $P_\delta = U_b \cdot I_A$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 0$ $P_{V,Fe,S} = 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_A I_A^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} > 0$ $P_\delta = U_b \cdot I_A$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 3 R_g I_g^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} > 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_f I_f^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_\delta = 3 U_p I_g \cos \varphi$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$
Regulation and control	Easy controllable if variable voltages are available (power electronics). Torque can be controlled via armature current. Speed can be controlled via armature voltage. Excitation voltage can be reduced to increase speed (field weakening).	Practically only speed regulation (no control). Very strong speed dependent speed. Simple control effective in single-phase AC main (universal motor).	Easy controllable if variable voltages are available (power electronics). Torque can be controlled via armature current. Speed can be controlled via armature voltage. Field weakening not possible.	Can be controlled easily if variable frequency or voltage is available (converter). The torque can be controlled via the current, the speed via the frequency. Limited possibility of field weakening ("active" field weakening).
Main applications	Was widely used as a servo motor in many applications (machine tools, manufacturing technology, paper machines, etc.). Today strongly declining market shares, used still in market niches.	Starts motor in motor vehicles, speed-controlled universal motor in AC-operated power tools, kitchen appliances.	Very high volume in automotive equipment (windshield wipers, window regulators, etc.), battery-powered power tools, some still used as servo motors.	Has practically replaced the DC machine as a servo motor, used in automotive equipment from approx. 300 W instead of DC motors as an EC motor, drive for electric/hybrid cars, propeller drive for cruise ships and ferries.

Coils in Rotor
↓
High inertia
→ low dynamic

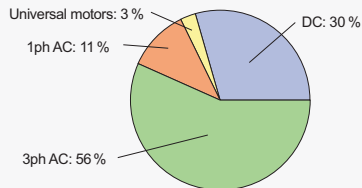
	Electrical excited SM	Synchronous machine Reluctance machine	Stepper motor
Construction			
Connection			
Min characteristics			
Parameter: $f_s (U_b)$			
Power balance	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 3 R_g I_g^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} > 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_f I_f^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_\delta = 3 U_p I_g \cos \varphi$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 3 R_g I_g^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} > 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = R_f I_f^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_{V,Fe,R} = 0$ $P_\delta = \frac{3}{2} (X_d - X_q) I_g^2 \sin 2\varphi$ $P_{mech} = P_\delta$	Losses and efficiency of stepper motors are not of prime importance and cannot be specified in general terms due to the large number of different designs.
Regulation and control	Speed is constant on the network. Via the excitation current, the reactive power can be controlled for inductive reactive power compensation in the mains. Motor runs up asynchronously on the mains and "falls" into synchronism. If the reluctance motor is not too heavily loaded, the speed remains constant or strictly proportional to the main frequency.	As with the PMSM, the motor runs synchronously with the stator rotating field. If the reluctance motor is not loaded too much, the speed remains constant or strictly proportional to the supply frequency.	Stepper motors are only regulated not controlled. Phases are fed cyclically with the step frequency. Pulse number and step number are identical, so that positioning drives without position encoder are possible.
Main applications	Generator in power plants. Drives with outputs up to 40 MW: compressors or gas production, blowers for blast furnaces, etc.	Applications in the field of production and process engineering, when constant speed or synchronously running axes are required without having to control the speed.	Positioning drives of low power (up to a few watts), IT terminals (printers, scanners), clock (hand) drives, automotive equipment (e.g. mirror adjustment).

Design variants - Summary 2/2

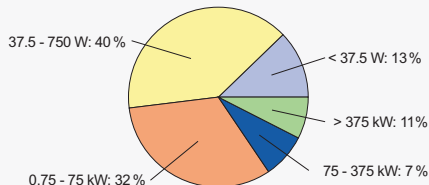
Control is more complex than for the SM with PM.
Accuracy depends on the rotor temperature
→ hard to estimate
High inertia
↓
ASM is not used for robotics

	Asynchronous machine (ASM)			
	Squirrel-cage ASM	Slip-ring ASM	Single-phase ASM	Shaded pole motor
Construction				
Connection				
Mechanical characteristics				
	Parameter: f_s (U_s)	Parameter: f_s		
Power balance	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 3R_S I_S^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} > 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = \frac{1-n}{n_0} P_\delta$ $P_{V,Fe,R} \approx 0$ $P_\delta = 2\pi n_0 \cdot M_i$ $P_{mech} = 2\pi n \cdot M_i$	$P_{V,Cu,S} = 3R_S I_S^2$ $P_{V,Fe,S} > 0$ $P_{V,Cu,R} = 3R_R I_R^2$ $P_{V,Fe,R} \approx 0$ $P_\delta = 2\pi n_0 \cdot M_i$ $P_{mech} = 2\pi n \cdot M_i$	Power losses cannot be specified in a standardized way. Winding resistances are not the same in both phases, rotating field is often elliptical.	Power losses cannot be specified in a standardized way. Relatively strong harmonics in the air gap field generate additional losses and strongly influence the operating behavior.
Regulation and control	Well controllable if variable frequency or voltage (converter) but less precise than SM. Field weakening possible with additional power reduction.	Good controllability if variable frequency or voltage (converter) is available. Speed is set via the rotor frequency.	Used only if no speed adjustment is required.	Used only if no speed adjustment is required.
Main applications	As the "workhorse" of the drive technology, it can be used in practically all areas with outputs from approx. 250 W to several 10 MW. Usually represents the most cost-effective solution.	Wind power generator. In the past, often used with external starting resistors on the slip rings as conveyor belt, cement mill or pump drives.	Low-power drive (usually up to a few 100 W) on a single-phase AC mains supply without the possibility of speed adjustment. Used in power tools, production and process engineering.	Simplest possible AC motor, very poor efficiency (about 10%), cheap to produce. Drive for small fans, pumps (e.g. dye pump washing machine), power up to some 10 W.

Market Shares



Distribution by drive type



Distribution by drive power

Figure Market shares in the EU-27 (2020), total 11.3 Mrd.€ (determined from: Prodcom production statistics NACE Rev. 2 , ec.europa.eu/eurostat, April 2022)

- Electric motors with $P > 37.5 \text{ W}$ in 2020 approx. 11.3 bil.€
- 3ph AC has stagnated at 6.4 bil.€ to 6.5 bil.€ since 2014
- DC since 2015 from 2.4 bil.€ to 3.3 bil.€ up!
- Micro ($< 37.5 \text{ W}$) and small motors ($< 750 \text{ W}$): 6.7 bil.€ in 2020!
- Small motors: sometimes several 100,000/day in one(!) manufacturing site

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- High dynamic behavior
 - high maximum torque
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 - Accurate position control without sensors