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UNIT II: ELECTRIC PROPULSION UNIT

TOPIC: Configuration and control of DC motor drive





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DC motor drives are widely used in various applications due to their simplicity, ease of control, and good performance characteristics. Configuring and controlling a DC motor drive involves understanding the motor's components, drive circuitry, and control strategies. Here is an overview of the configuration and control of a DC motor drive:

Configuration of a DC Motor Drive

DC Motor Components:

- **Stator**: The stationary part that provides a magnetic field. In a DC motor, the stator often contains field windings or permanent magnets.
- **Rotor (Armature)**: The rotating part that interacts with the stator's magnetic field to produce torque.
- Commutator and Brushes: In brushed DC motors, the commutator and brushes ensure that the current direction in the armature windings reverses at the appropriate time to maintain torque in a consistent direction.

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Types of DC Motors:



- **Brushed DC Motor**: Uses brushes and a commutator for commutation. Simple and cost-effective but requires maintenance due to brush wear.
- **Brushless DC Motor (BLDC)**: Uses electronic commutation instead of brushes, offering higher efficiency, longer life, and less maintenance.

Power Supply:

- **DC Power Source**: The motor requires a DC power source, which can be a battery, rectified AC supply, or other DC sources.
- Voltage Rating: The supply voltage should match the motor's rated voltage for optimal performance.

Drive Circuitry:

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- H-Bridge: A common configuration for controlling the direction and speed of a brushed DC motor. It consists of four switches (transistors or MOSFETs) arranged in an H pattern.
 - **Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)**: Used to control the motor's speed by varying the duty cycle of the voltage applied to the motor. PWM provides efficient speed control without significant power loss.

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Control of DC Motor Drive



Speed Control:

Open-Loop Control: Adjusts the motor speed by varying the voltage or PWM duty cycle without feedback. Simple but less accurate.

Closed-Loop Control: Uses feedback from a speed sensor (e.g., tachometer or encoder) to adjust the voltage or PWM duty cycle to maintain the desired speed. More accurate and responsive.

Position Control:

PID Control: Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) control is a common method for precise position control. It adjusts the motor input based on the error between the desired and actual positions.

Encoder Feedback: Provides position information to the controller, enabling precise position control.

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Torque Control:



• **Current Control**: Since torque in a DC motor is proportional to the armature current, controlling the current can effectively control the torque. Current sensors and feedback loops are used for accurate torque control.

Protection and Safety:

- **Overcurrent Protection**: Prevents damage to the motor and drive circuitry by limiting the maximum current.
- **Overvoltage Protection**: Protects the motor from excessive voltage that could cause insulation breakdown or other damage.
- **Thermal Protection**: Monitors the motor's temperature to prevent overheating and potential damage.





Advanced Control Strategies

Field-Oriented Control (FOC):

For BLDC Motors: Also known as vector control, FOC decouples the motor's torque and flux control, providing precise and efficient control. It requires sophisticated algorithms and sensor feedback.

Sensorless Control:

For BLDC Motors: Eliminates the need for physical sensors by estimating the motor's position and speed from the back EMF (electromotive force) signals. Reduces cost and complexity.

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Practical Implementation

Selecting Components:

Choose a motor that meets the application's voltage, current, speed, and torque requirements.

Select appropriate drive circuitry (e.g., H-bridge, PWM controller) based on the motor type and control needs.







Designing the Control Algorithm:

Develop a control algorithm that meets the application's requirements for speed, position, or torque control.

Implement the control algorithm using a microcontroller or DSP if advanced control strategies are needed.

Testing and Tuning:

Test the motor drive system under various operating conditions to ensure it performs as expected.

Tune the control parameters (e.g., PID gains) to optimize performance and stability.

Understanding and implementing the configuration and control of DC motor drives requires a combination of theoretical knowledge and practical experience. Advances in electronics and control technologies continue to enhance the performance and capabilities of DC motor drive systems.

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