





## **Three-Phase Induction Motors**

The  $(3\Phi)$  Three-Phase Induction Motor, also referred to as an Asynchronous Motor, is the most commonly used motor in an industrial setting, for which its operating characteristics and its availability in a variety of both configurations and standard sizes ranging from fractional horsepowers up to 50,000hp, make it suitable for a wide variety of applications.

This presentation covers the **Squirrel-Cage** Induction Motor, which is the considered to be the workhorse of industry due to its extreme durability and reliability<sup>\*</sup>.

\* – Unlike other (larger-sized) motors, the **squirrel-cage** induction motor requires **no external electrical connection to its rotor**, simplifying its construction and decreasing its overall maintenance requirements.



#### **This Presentation**

Note that this presentation is **not intended** to provide the audience with either a comprehensive view of the underlying theory upon which the design of an induction motor is based or an in-depth analysis the induction motor's operational characteristics, as would be suitable for a course that focuses on machine design.

Instead, this presentation is meant to provide the audience with an "overview" of the induction motor's design and operational characteristics, along with a spattering of both electromagnetic theory and practical considerations, in order to make sure that everyone entering this course has at least a base set of knowledge from which we can begin our investigation into the operation and control of these motors in an industrial setting.



#### Basic Construction of the

**3Φ Squirrel Cage Induction Motor** 





































![](_page_11_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_12_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_13_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_14_Figure_1.jpeg)

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![](_page_15_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_16_Picture_0.jpeg)

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![](_page_17_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_17_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_0.jpeg)

#### Stator Field – Rotor Interaction Rotor Conductor Currents

Thus, the opposite-polarities of the opposing conductor voltages allow those voltages to work together to induce **currents** that flow in the closed-loop paths provided by the **rotor conductors** and the end-rings.

![](_page_18_Figure_3.jpeg)

![](_page_18_Picture_5.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_19_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Developed Torque vs. Load Torque**

**Developed Torque**,  $T_D$ , is the total torque (rotational force) developed by the rotor, at a specific speed and in the rotational direction of the stator field, due to the interaction between the rotor conductors and the stator field.

Developed Torque relates to an acceleration force that "tries" to increase the rotor speed.

**Load Torque**,  $T_{Load}$ , is the torque applied to the shaft of the rotor by an externally-coupled device, at a specific speed, that opposes the rotation of the rotor.

Load Torque relates to a deceleration force that "tries" to <u>decrease</u> the rotor speed.

![](_page_20_Picture_6.jpeg)

![](_page_20_Picture_7.jpeg)

![](_page_21_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Rotation of the Rotor Load Torque

![](_page_21_Picture_2.jpeg)

The total load torque,  $T_{Load}$ , experienced by the machine's rotor is the total torque, applied to its shaft, that opposes rotation.

In this case,  $T_{Load}$  includes both the stopping force provided by any mechanical load coupled to the shaft, along with any friction, windage, or other rotational loss experienced by the rotor.

![](_page_21_Figure_5.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_22_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_23_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_24_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_25_Picture_0.jpeg)

# A Deeper Operational Analysis

of the 3Φ Squirrel Cage Induction Motor

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![](_page_25_Picture_4.jpeg)

#### **Ideal Operation vs. No-Load Operation**

With respect to the operation of a motor, **ideal operation** refers to the motor's internal losses, while **no-load operation** refers to any external forces (torques) being applied to its shaft.

\*~~

**Ideal Operation** is a <u>theoretical</u> state of operation during which all internal "losses" are considered negligible, such that 100% of the electric energy supplied to the motor is converted to a mechanical form and delivered to the load that is coupled to the shaft.

**No-Load Operation** is a <u>practical</u> state of operation during which there is no physical load ( $T_{Load} = 0$ ) coupled to the shaft of the motor that opposes its rotation, such that 100% of the electric energy supplied to the motor is being consumed by the motor's internal losses.

![](_page_26_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Ideal Operation vs. No-Load Operation**

- Despite their distinct separation, where **ideal operation** refers to the internal losses and **no-load operation** refers to externally applied forces, <u>the line between the two often becomes blurred</u>:
- Along with any **electrical losses** that may exist within the stator windings and rotor conductors of a practical motor, and any **magnetic losses** (hysteresis or eddy current) that may exist within its magnetic core, **<u>ideal</u>** operation is also considered to include any **rotational losses** that exist within the motor's "mechanical system" (friction, windage, etc.).
- The motor's **mechanical system** includes the bearings that hold the shaft in place while allowing rotation, and any components that are attached to the rotor for cooling purposes, such as fins that circulate air during rotation.

![](_page_26_Picture_5.jpeg)

## **Ideal Operation vs. No-Load Operation**

Despite their distinct separation, where **ideal operation** refers to the internal losses and **no-load operation** refers to externally applied forces, <u>the line between the two often becomes blurred</u>:

On the other hand, **no-load operation**, during which there is no physical load coupled to the shaft that opposes its rotation, is <u>often</u> **considered to include** any of the **rotational losses** that exist within the motor's mechanical system, because those losses relate to an additional torque being applied to the rotor that also oppose its rotation.

Thus, despite resulting from components that are an integral part of the motor's construction and required for its operation, the **rotational losses** are often neglected during "no-load" operation, <u>even if</u> the electrical and magnetic losses that occur within the motor as still being included during the analysis.

![](_page_27_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_27_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_28_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_29_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### Slip

Since the developed torque is proportional to effective speed and not the actual rotor speed, operation of an induction motor is often characterized in terms of "**slip**".

Slip, *s*, is defined as the relative difference between the motor's synchronous speed and the actual rotational speed:

$$s = \frac{n_s - n_r}{n_s} = \frac{n_{effective}}{n_s}$$

and is either expressed as a "unit" value (as defined above), or as a "percent" value when multiplied by 100%.

![](_page_30_Figure_0.jpeg)

Ideal Operation of the Induction Motor<br/>Slip $n_s$  $n_r$  $n_r$  $n_r$ 

![](_page_31_Figure_0.jpeg)

Practical Operation of a 3Φ Squirrel Cage Induction Motor

# **Practical Operation of an Induction Motor**

Now that we've discussed the basic operational characteristics of an "ideal" induction motor, both under no-load conditions and when a load is coupled to the shaft of the motor, we need to begin taking a look at:

#### The operational characteristics of an Induction Motor if it is no longer considered ideal...

I.e. – if it's a **Practical Induction Motor**.

But, due to the fact that we could spend several weeks simply discussing and analyzing the different loss components that occur within the motor, the remaining portion of this presentation will instead focus on:

• the operational characteristics of a practical induction motor,

- methods that can be used to determine those characteristics and/or predict the motor's operation, and
- the impact to those characteristics, along with other concerns, from a motor-control perspective.

![](_page_32_Picture_9.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_33_Picture_1.jpeg)

The non-linear torque-speed curve introduces many changes in the overall operation of the motor, especially when a load is coupled to its shaft.

But, in order to help clarify the importance of both the changes due to the torque-speed curve, and several of the motor's other operational characteristics that we've yet to discuss, there are a few terms that must be defined.

![](_page_33_Figure_4.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_34_Picture_2.jpeg)

#### **Determining the Characteristics/Parameters**

There are many possible methods for obtaining the operating characteristics or parameters of a specific motor, including:

- Obtain the information from the motor's nameplate\*.
- Obtain the information from the **manufacturer**.
- Obtain the information from a NEMA Standards Publication\*.
- Take **measurements** to determine the motor's parameters.
- Create a **theoretical model** for the machine and analyze the model in order to determine the motor's operational characteristics and/or parameters.

\* - We will discuss both of these topics later in the semester during a different presentation.

# **Determining the Characteristics/Parameters**

The first three options:

- Obtain the information from the motor's **nameplate**.
- Obtain the information from the **manufacturer**.
- Obtain the information from a NEMA Standards Publication.

tend to be the easiest and quickest, although each may provide only a limited amount of information, and the values obtained are typically average values for motors with those ratings.

Yet, taking **measurements** in order to determine a specific motor's parameters may be impractical due to the equipment needed to perform such measurements, especially when testing large motors or when needing mechanical parameters (torque, speed, ...).

![](_page_35_Picture_7.jpeg)

On the other hand, if highly detailed information is required and direct measurements are not feasible, a **theoretical model** for the machine that can be used to determine the motor's operational characteristics under various conditions.

The **complexity of the models** can vary greatly, ranging from a simple circuit model of the motor's electrical components to a highly-complex finite-element model that encompasses every aspect of the machine's construction, including the exact dimensions of each component, the mass of the components, and even the magnetic material properties of the steel used for the construction of the motor.

![](_page_36_Figure_0.jpeg)

#### **Induction Motor Modeling Example**

Given a 150 hp, 1160 rpm, 460 V, 160 A, 3Φ, SC Induction Motor,

where: 
$$T_{rated (lb \cdot ft)} = \frac{P_{rated (hp)} \cdot 5252}{n_{rated (rpm)}} = \frac{150 \cdot 5252}{1160} = 679 (lb \cdot ft),$$

utilize the following  $1\Phi$  equivalent circuit in order to determine the line current,  $I_{line}$ , that the motor will draw and the torque,  $T_D$ , that the motor will develop, at rotor speeds ranging from:

(locked-rotor)  $0 \le n_r \le n_s$  (synchronous speed)

![](_page_36_Figure_7.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_37_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_38_Figure_0.jpeg)

Analysis of the Results – Torque Let's begin by taking a closer look at the torque-speed response curve to which the associated motor ratings have been added: 679 lb·ft, 1160 rpm Note that, if the rated speed is 1160 rpm, **Developed Torque** then this must be a 6-pole motor. 3000 2500 Also note that 2000 Torque (Ib-ft) a rated speed 1500 of 1160 rpm relates to a slip 1000 of 3.33%. **Rated Torque Rated Speed** 200 400 600 800 1000 1200 679 lb.ft 1160 rpm Rotor Speed (rpm)

![](_page_39_Figure_0.jpeg)

**Linear Region of Operation** Within the region of **normal operation**<sup>\*</sup>, the torque-speed curve is relatively **linear**, and thus torque is proportional to slip:  $T_D = k \cdot s$ \* – with respect to loads ranging from "no-load" to "rated-load". **Developed Torque** 3000 2500 2000 Torque (Ib-ft) 1500 Linear Region of Operation 1000  $T_D \equiv \text{slip}$ **Rated Torque Rated Speed** 1000 200 400 600 800 1200 679 lb.ft 1160 rpm Rotor Speed (rpm)

![](_page_40_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_40_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_41_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_42_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_0.jpeg)

# **Predicting the Motor's Operation**

Although we have a fair amount of information regarding the motor's operational characteristics, there's still one important piece of the puzzle that's missing...

the characteristics of the load that's coupled to the motor's shaft.

![](_page_43_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_43_Picture_6.jpeg)

## **Motor Loads**

A motor's **load** is any mechanical device that is coupled to the shaft of the motor with the intent of using the motor to provide the torque required, and in-turn the energy required, to rotate the device at a specific speed.

Common motor loads include fans, pumps, elevators, conveyors, hoists, compressors, and winches.

Despite their differences, motor loads often fall into one of three categories based on their **torque-speed** characteristics:

- Constant Torque
- Quadratic Torque
- Constant Power

![](_page_44_Figure_0.jpeg)

Motor Operation with a Load If a load having the torque characteristic,  $T_{Load}$ , (shown below) is coupled to the motor's shaft, how will this affect the mechanical operation of the motor? Note that, although **Developed Torque and Load Torque** the plots have been 3000 slightly reformatted, Developed Torque (T<sub>D</sub>) the values shown in 2500 the next several plots 2<sup>2000</sup> are the values previously obtained Torque (lb 1500 using the model of the induction motor. 1000 **Rated Torque**  $(T_{rated})$ 500 200 1000 400 600 800 1200 Rated Speed (n<sub>rated</sub>) Rotor Speed (rpm) Load Torque (T<sub>Load</sub>)

![](_page_45_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_45_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_46_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_47_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_48_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Figure_0.jpeg)

And if  $T_{D(new)}$  is equal to  $T_{Load(new)}$ , then the new  $T_{accel(new)} = 0$ , once again resulting in steady-state operation, but now at a slightly-slower rotational speed.

![](_page_49_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_49_Picture_4.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_50_Picture_1.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_51_Figure_2.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Figure_0.jpeg)

![](_page_52_Picture_2.jpeg)