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used, it is also possible for the power to be fed back to the sources rather than dissipated as heat.

There are several types of motors used in electric drives – choice of type used depends on applications, cost, environmental factors and also the type of sources available. Usually, they can be classified as either DC or AC motors they can be classified as either DC or AC motors:

- DC motors (wound or permanent magnet)
- AC motors
 - Induction motors – squirrel cage, wound rotor
 - Synchronous motors – wound field, permanent magnet
 - Brushless DC motor – require power electronic converters
 - Stepper motors – require power electronic converters
 - Synchronous reluctance motors or switched reluctance motor – require power electronic converters

b) Power processor or power modulator

Since the electrical sources are normally uncontrollable, it is therefore necessary to be able to control the flow of power to the motor – this is achieved using power processor or power modulator. With controllable sources, the motor can be reversed, brake or can be operated with variable speed. Conventional methods used, for example, variable impedance or relays, to shape the voltage or current that is supplied to the motor – these methods however are inflexible and inefficient. Modern electric drives normally used power electronic converters to shape the desired voltage or current supplied to the motor. In other words, the characteristics of the motor can be changed. It will power electronic converters have several advantages over classical methods of power conversion, such as

- 1) More efficient – since ideally no losses occur in power electronic converters
- 2) Flexi ble – voltage and current can be shaped by simply controlling switching functions of the power converter.
- 3) Compact – smaller, compact and higher ratings solid-state power electronic devices are continuously being developed – the prices are getting cheaper

Converters are used to convert and possibly regulate (ie, using closed-loop control) the available sources to suit the load (ie, motor). These converters are efficient because the switches operate in either cut-off or saturation modes. Several conversions are possible.

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