

Fluid Power Design Data Sheet



REVISED SHEET 51 - EVOLUTION DESIGN DATA FILE

SPEED REGULATION OF HYDRAULIC MOTORS - PART 1

Speed regulation must not be confused with speed control of a hydraulic motor. Speed regulation refers to the undesirable slow down of the motor when it picks up a load. It is an indicator of how well the motor will perform under changing loads and how wide an adjustable speed range can be covered satisfactorily.

Speed regulation is not a fixed characteristic of a motor that can be catalogued. Rather, it is a measure of the ability of a motor to resist slowing down as load is increased. It is the result not only of the motor characteristic but of the circuit in which it is used. It depends on the speed control method, the brand or type of flow control valve, and sometimes the characteristics of the associated pump may influence speed regulation. If any of these factors should change, the speed regulation also changes. So, while the internal slippage of the motor may be the most influential factor, other circuit components or operating conditions can also contribute to good or poor speed regulation. Good circuit design involves an understanding of these factors and how their effect can be minimized when it is important to have the best possible speed regulation. It is the purpose of this issue and the one following to examine these factors.

Speed regulation is expressed as the percentage of speed loss between no-load and full-load operation and is different at each no-load speed, being best at maximum speed and becoming progressively worse as the no-load speed is reduced. Finally, it becomes so poor at low speeds that the motor can no longer operate satisfactorily.

A speed regulation of 0% would mean there is no loss of speed whatsoever as load increased from zero to full. All motors, in practice, suffer a speed loss under load increases, and the purpose of good design is to hold this loss of speed to an acceptable minimum.

A speed regulation of 100% would mean that the motor would stall as the load was increased.

HOW IMPORTANT IS GOOD SPEED REGULATION?

This depends on how important it may be on the particular application to prevent motor speed from dropping below an acceptable minimum as load is applied.

If the motor is running a load that remains constant at a given speed, the speed regulation is of little importance. It is on applications where the load may abruptly change, causing an abrupt speed change, that good speed regulation may be one of the more important design considerations.

HOW DOES SPEED REGULATION AFFECT SPEED RANGE?

If motor operation will be at a fixed speed, then speed regulation will be less important than if an adjustable range of speed must be covered although it still may be important.

Speed regulation becomes of utmost importance on applications where a wide range of adjustable speed must be covered and where the load may change abruptly, particularly at lower speeds. Not only must the hydraulic motor be carefully selected for these applications, but the method of speed control and type of speed control valve are critical.

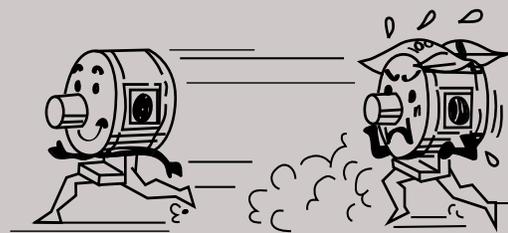
EVALUATION OF THE APPLICATION

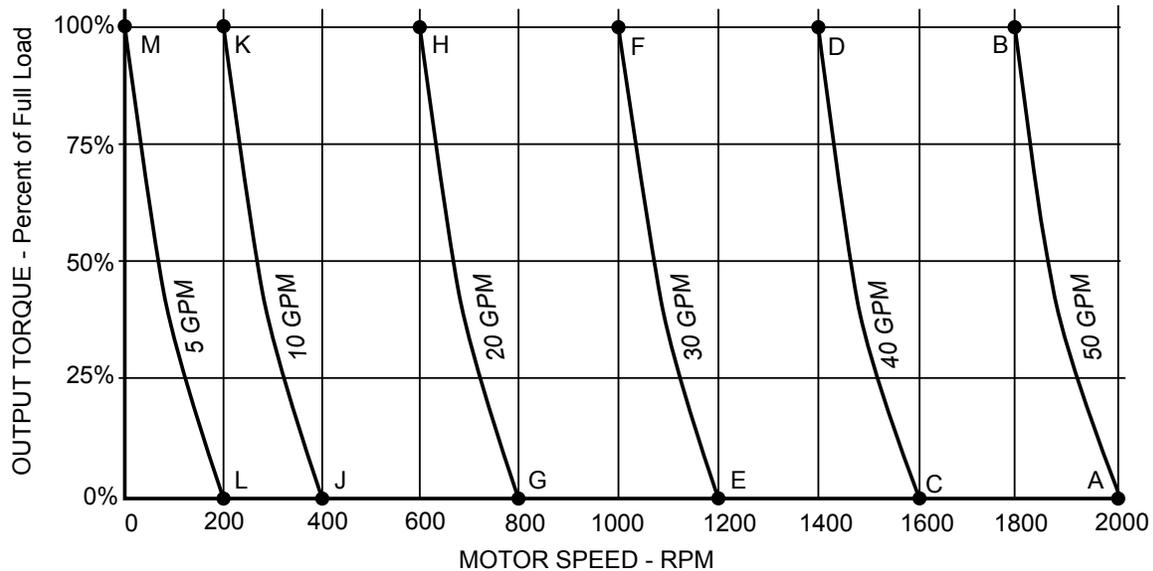
To decide how important speed regulation may be on a given application, these questions should be considered:

1. Will the load on the hydraulic motor be reasonably constant or will it be subject to abrupt changes of major magnitude?
2. If abrupt load changes can occur, will they be a regular part of the machine operation or cycle, or will they occur only occasionally and under abnormal circumstances?
3. Will these abrupt changes in load be more likely to occur or will they occur more often in the upper range of adjustable speed, or in the lower range of speed?
4. If and when these abrupt load changes occur, how important is it to machine operation or to the product being produced that speed changes be minimized?
5. If a speed change should occur as a result of an abrupt change in load, and if this results in motor stall, how important would this be?
6. How wide a range of adjustable speed is to be covered, and will the majority of operation be at maximum speed or at a greatly reduced speed?

DEFINITION OF SPEED REGULATION

Speed regulation is a measure of motor and circuit performance and defines the amount of automatic slow down as load is applied. It does not refer to "speed control" of the motor by an operator. It is stated in percentage of speed loss, and is calculated by taking the loss of RPM between no-load condition and full-load condition, dividing by no-load RPM, and expressing it in per cent.





Speed/Torque Performance of a Typical Gear - Type Hydraulic Motor

ILLUSTRATION OF MOTOR SPEED REGULATION

The above graph shows the performance of a hypothetical gear-type hydraulic motor over a speed range of 0 to 2000 RPM, and over a load range of 0 to 100% of its rated torque (or horsepower).

Percentage torque loading is plotted along the left side of the graph, speed along the bottom. Motor RPM is in direct proportion to GPM. Lines curving upward to the left show motor performance at several GPM flows in various tests. The leftward curvature shows a loss of speed as torque load increases. This is due to internal slippage. Notice that curvature of all GPM lines is about the same. This indicates that internal slippage, in GPM, remains about the same at all speeds but increases with load increase and is a higher percentage at lower no-load speeds.

To interpret the graph, start at Point A. When a flow of 50 GPM is supplied to the motor, it will run at a no-load speed of 2000 RPM. As load is increased to 100% (full load), operation is at Point B. With pick-up of full load, motor speed has dropped from 2000 to 1800 RPM because of internal loss of working oil through clearance leakage.

According to the definition of speed regulation given on the opposite side of this sheet, regulation would be:

$$200 (\text{speed loss}) \div 2000 (\text{no-load speed}) = 0.10 \text{ or } 10\%$$

PLOT OF SPEED REGULATION FOR GRAPH ABOVE

GPM	Points	No Load	Full Load	Speed Loss	Regul.
50	A to B	2000 RPM	1800 RPM	200 RPM	10%
40	C to D	1600 RPM	1400 RPM	200 RPM	12½%
30	E to F	1200 RPM	1000 RPM	200 RPM	16¾%
20	G to H	800 RPM	600 RPM	200 RPM	25%
10	J to K	400 RPM	200 RPM	200 RPM	50%
5	L to M	200 RPM	0 RPM	200 RPM	100%

Note from the chart that the actual amount of speed loss, 200 RPM, is approximately constant at all speeds. A loss of 200 RPM does not affect motor performance much while it is running at 2000 RPM but has a tremendous effect on performance when the motor is operating at speeds less than 800 RPM.

SPEED RANGE OF A HYDRAULIC MOTOR

To show how speed regulation becomes progressively worse at the lower end of the speed range, the regulation has been calculated for each of the GPM/speed lines and is shown in the far right column of the chart below.

If performance charts like the above are available for the motor under consideration for a certain application, its drop in speed under various load increases can be estimated, and the range of adjustable speed over which its performance will be acceptable can also be determined.

As a rule, a motor should be evaluated at the maximum load change that can occur at minimum speed.

Example: Assume that on a certain application and using the motor graphed above, that a speed loss of 200 RPM is all that can be tolerated from zero to full load when operating at a reduced speed of 800 RPM. What is the maximum adjustable speed range over which this motor can be operated with acceptable performance?

Solution: Since 800 RPM is the minimum acceptable speed of this motor under any range of adjustable speed for the conditions stated, the only way to get a wider range of adjustable speed is to raise the top speed. From 800 minimum to 2000 RPM maximum is a range of 2½:1. From 800 up to 2400 (if possible) is a range of 3:1, etc.

Although motor performance is of prime importance for obtaining good speed regulation, the type of speed control circuit and the type of flow control valve used are very important also. In the next issue we will give recommendations for improving speed regulation when as wide a range of adjustable speed as possible must be covered.