Introduction to Relays

- A relay is a device that responds to a small current or voltage change by activating a switch or other devices.
- Used to remotely switch signals or power.
- Input control usually electrically isolated from output.
- Input signal determines whether switch is open or closed.

Various Relay Configurations

Types of Relays

- Classic general-purpose relays have EM coils and can switch power.
- Solid-state relays (SSR) have input-triggered semiconductor switches.
- Reed relay has an EM coil and can switch low level DC signals.
- The bilateral switch uses CMOS, FET, or bIFET transistors (technically not a relay but behaves similarly).

Drawing of an EM Relay
**Electromagnetic Relay Basics**

- Input circuit is an EM coil with an Iron Core.
- Output switch includes two sets of silver or silver-alloy contacts (poles).
- One set is fixed to the relay frame, and the other is located at the end of leaf spring poles connected to the armature.
- Contacts held in “normally closed” position by the armature return spring.
- When input circuit energizes EM coil, a “pull-in” force is applied to the armature and “normally closed” contacts break while “normally open” contacts are made.

**Solid State Relays**

- Developed to solve limited life expectancy and contact bounce problems since they have no moving parts.
- Also, faster, insensitive to vibrations, reduced EMI, quieter, and no contact arcing.
- Optocoupler provides isolation between the input circuit (pseudocoil) and the triac (pseudocountact).
- Signal from phototransistor triggers the output triac so that it switches the load current.
- Zero-voltage detector triggers triac only when AC voltage is zero, reducing surge currents when triac is switched.
- Once triggered, triac conducts until next zero crossing.

**Solid State Relays**

![Solid State Relay Circuit](image1)

**Reed Relays**

![Reed Relay Diagram](image2)

**Solenoids**

![Solenoid Diagram](image3)

**Pulse-Width Modulated DC Motors**

- DC motor also has frame that remains motionless and an armature that moves in this case in a circular manner.
- When current flows through EM coil, magnetic force created that causes rotation of the shaft.
- Brushes positioned between frame and armature used to alternate the current direction through the coil so that a DC current generates a continuous rotation of the shaft.
- When current removed, shaft is free to rotate.
- Pulse-width modulated DC motor activated with fixed magnitude current but duty cycle varied to control speed.
Interfacing EM Relays, Solenoids, and DC Motors

- Interface circuit must provide sufficient current and voltage to activate the device.
- In off state, input current should be zero.
- Due to inductive nature of the coil, huge back electromotive force (EMF) when coil current is turned off.
- Due to high speed transistor switch, there is a large $\frac{di}{dt}$ when the coil is deactivated (activation also but smaller).
- Voltages can range from 50 to 200V.
- To protect the driver electronics, a snubber diode is added to suppress the back EMF.

Relay and Motor Interfaces

Isolated Interfaces

H-Bridge

Isolated H-Bridge with Direction Control

Stepper Motors

- Very popular due to inherent digital interface.
- Easy to control both position and velocity in an open-loop fashion.
- Though more expensive than ordinary DC motors, system cost is reduced as they require no feedback sensors.
- Used in disk drives and printers.
- Can also be used as shaft encoders to measure both position and speed.

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Stepper Motor Sequence

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PortB</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>A'</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>B'</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Activate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
<td>activate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Activate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
<td>activate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Deactivate</td>
<td>activate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
<td>activate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Deactivate</td>
<td>activate</td>
<td>activate</td>
<td>deactivate</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Stepper Motor Basic Operation

- Stator
- Rotor
- Electromagnets
- Shaft
- Tooth pitch
- North
- South

Stepper Motor Basic Operation (cont)
A slip is when computer issues a sequence change, but the motor does not move.

- Occurs if load on shaft exceeds available torque of motor.
- Can also occur if computer changes output too fast.
- If initial shaft angle known and motor never slips, computer can control shaft angle and speed without position sensor.

### Data Structures to Control Stepper Motor

```c
const struct State{
    unsigned char Out; // Output
    const struct State *Next[2]; // CW/CCW
};
typedef struct State StateType;
typedef StateType *StatePtr;
#define clockwise 0 // Next index
#define counterclockwise 1 // Next index

StateType fsm[4]=
{ 10,(&fsm[1],&fsm[3])},
{ 9,(fsm[2],&fsm[0])},
{ 5,(fsm[3],&fsm[1])},
{ 6,(fsm[0],&fsm[2])};

unsigned char Pos; // between 0 and 199
StatePtr Pt; // Current State
```

### High-Level Control of Stepper Motor

```c
void Seek(unsigned char desired){
    short CWsteps;
    if((CWsteps=desired-Pos)<0){
        CWsteps+=200;
    } // CW steps is 0 to 199
    if(CWsteps>100){
        while(desired!=Pos){
            CCW();
        }
    } else{
        while(desired!=Pos){
            CW();
        }
    }
}
```
Stepper Motor as Shaft Position Sensor

Timing of Stepper Motor as Shaft Position Sensor