

Lecture 10

Motor Drive, Polling and Interrupt

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PYKC 7 Feb 2025

Pybench Board and its components



ARM Cortex-M4 Processor



STM32F405 Microcontroller in Pyboard



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The Pyboard



Driving a DC Motor – H-Bridge

- The DC motor needs four transistors to control its speed and direction.
- In Lab 5, we used the TB6612 chip to drive the motor with four transistors.
- The combination of transistors is called an H-Bridge, due to the obvious shape. (See diagram.)
- Transistors are switched diagonally to allow DC current to flow in the motor in either direction.
- The transistors can be Pulse Width Modulated to reduce the average voltage at the motor, useful for controlling current and speed.

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Driving the motor with TB6612



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Controlling the speed with potentiometer





Measuring Motor speed with Hall Effect Sensors



- Circular magnet has 13 pole pairs
- The gearbox of the motor has a 1:30 gear ratio
- How many pulses are produced for each revolution of the motor?
- Speed of motor (in rps) can be measured by counting the number of pulses in a given time window (say 100msec)



Define pins for motor speed sensors
A_sense = Pin('Y4', Pin.PULL_NONE) # Pin.PULL_NONE = leave this as input pin
B_sense = Pin('Y6', Pin.PULL_NONE)

Pseudo code to measure speed by polling

- Initialize variables to zero: motor_speed, sensor_state, pulse_count
- Repeat forever:

```
Mark current time (as tic)

If sensor has gone from low to high (rising edge)

increment pulse_count

Update sensor_state by reading hall effort sensor value

If elapse_time >= 100ms

motor_speed = pulse_count

reset pulse_count

display speed on OLED as motor_speed/39
```

Discuss: what is the limitation of polling?

Measure motor speed by polling

- Polling means checking for some event in a loop, then do something
- Here we check sensor signal of motor A changing from low to high in the polling loop
- When this occurs, increment a counter A_count
- We also check elapsed time = 100msec in polling loop (tic-toc)
- If time out, save count as speed measurement
 A_speed, and reset
 counter



Lab 5: The idea of interrupt



Lab 5: Interrupt Service Routines

- Need to detect and handle two types of events:
 - 1. Rising edge on Hall effect sensor signal on Y4
 - 2. 100ms elapsed time on a Timer
- Need two ISRs for these two interrupt events
- Need to provide a dummy variable as shown here



Lab 5: setting up the interrupts

- Allocate some buffer space to handle errors
- Specify Pin Y4 as source of interrupt, rising edge
- Define timer 4 as a 100msec period timer (10Hz)
- timer.callback (ISR) tell timer to generate an interrupt at end of period, and execute ISR



Lab 5 – Interrupt MAGIC



• There is no reference to 100ms time window, nor counting of edges.

Three Big Ideas

- PWM is the efficient way to drive motors or LEDs. The H-bridge motor driver allows PWM signal to control the speed with separate digital signals to control the direction of the motor.
- 2. Interrupt is a much better way of detecting hardware events than using polling method.
- 3. Interrupt makes software hard to debug because once set up, it runs in the background all the time and is difficult to stop. So make interrupt service routine as simple as possible.