

# **ELECTRONIC SYSTEM DESIGN**

#### SENSORS (2)

Prof. Yasser Mostafa Kadah

# Position Sensor Example: Fuel Level

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- Fuel sensor consists of a float that rides on the surface of fuel in a fuel tank, a lever arm connected to the float at one end, and, at the other end, connected to the shaft of a potentiometer
  - As the fuel level changes, the float moves and rotates the variable contact on the potentiometer



Hall Effect: If there is current in a conductor and a magnetic field is applied perpendicular to the direction of the current, a voltage will be generated in the conductor that has a direction perpendicular to both the direction of the current and the direction of the magnetic field



#### Hall effect switch



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#### Hall effect linear position sensor



#### Hall effect brake pedal sensor

- Stepping on the brake moves a magnet away from the Hall-effect sensor and its output switches to a low voltage level turning on the brake light
- When the brake is released, the magnetic field is again strong enough to switch the output V<sub>0</sub> to a high level, turning off the brake light.



- Hall effect linear position sensor
  - As the magnet is moved over the sensor the magnetic field produces an output V that is proportional to the strength of the field



Meter reads position

- Hall effect angular position sensor
  - As the magnet turns the magnetic field varies and produces an output VO that is proportional to the angular rotation



### Hall Effect Senor Examples











### Variable Reluctance Sensor

When the cog on the wheel is aligned with the iron core, the concentration of flux is greatest, and is much less as it moves toward or away from the core of the coil,

magnetic flux changes generate voltage pulses in the wires.

The time, t, between the pulses varies as the speed of the cogged wheel varies and can be used to compute speed





# **Optical Encoders**

- Optical encoders are devices that convert a mechanical position into a representative electrical signal by means of a patterned disk or scale, a light source and photosensitive elements.
- With proper interface electronics, position and speed information can be derived.
- Encoders can be classified as rotary or linear for measurements of respectively angular and linear displacements.
- Encoders are also classified as either incremental (relative) or absolute types

# Incremental Optical Encoders

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- Uses a disk with a single track of lines around its periphery where disk count is defined as the number of dark/light line pairs that occur per revolution
- As a rule, a second track is added to generate a signal that occurs once per revolution (index signal), which can be used to indicate an absolute position.

channel A	Photo detector
channel B	Shaft
index	Code track Rotating disk

### **Absolute Optical Encoders**

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The disk of an absolute encoder is patterned with a number of discrete tracks, corresponding to the word length



# **Optical Encoder Example**

#### STANDARD OPERATING CHARACTERISTICS

**Code:** Incremental **Resolution:** to 5000 PPR (pulses/revolution) See Ordering Information **Format:** Two channel quadrature (AB) with optional Index (Z), and complementary outputs **Phase Sense:** A leads B for CW shaft rotation viewing the shaft end of the encoder **Quadrature Phasing:** For resolutions to 1200 PPR:  $90^\circ \pm 15^\circ$  electrical; For resolutions over 1250 PPR:  $90^\circ \pm 30^\circ$  electrical

#### Symmetry:

For resolutions to 1024PPR:  $180^{\circ} \pm 18^{\circ}$  electrical For resolutions over 1024PPR:  $180^{\circ} \pm 25^{\circ}$  electrical **Waveforms:** Squarewave with rise and fall times less than 1 microsecond into a load capacitance of 1000 pf





### **Magneto-Resistor Sensor**

- A magnetoresistor sensor changes its resistance proportional to the magnetic flux density to which it is exposed.
  - Made of a nickel-iron (Permalloy) which is deposited as a thin film onto a semiconductor surface
- Magnetic position sensing can be done using Anisotropic Magneto-Resistive (AMR) sensors



#### **Magneto-Resistor Sensor**



### Assignments

- Implement one example of a position sensor in the lab.
- Obtain real part numbers and data sheets for 5 example sensor types considered here in the lecture.