

## CS545—Contents XIV

- Components of a Robotic System
  - Power Supplies and Power Amplifiers
  - Actuators
  - Transmission
  - Sensors
- Signal Processing
  - Linear filtering
    - Simple filtering
    - Optimal filtering
- Reading Assignment for Next Class
  - See http://www-clmc.usc.edu/~cs545

# **Power Supplies and Amplifiers**



- Power Supply
  - Primary source of power
    - Electric
    - Hydraulic
    - Pneumatic
    - Mechanical
- Power Amplifier
  - Regulates the amount of power provided by the power supply
    - Electric
      - Usually current control
      - Pulse-Width Modulation (PWM)
    - Hydraulic & Pneumatic
      - Electro-hydraulic (pneumatic) valves



## **Power Supplies Examples**

• Hydraulic Pumps





## **Pulse Width Modulation**

A simplified example of pulse-width modulated (PWM) voltage supply to a magnetic circuit. The voltage (blue waveform) in a magnetic circuit is proportional to the rate of change of the flux density (red waveform). Therefore, by using PWM supply the resultant flux density can be controlled with relative ease. This method is commonly used for supplying electric motors, in which the torque is proportional to the flux density. As can be seen, with a series of appropriately modulated voltage impulses the resultant flux density can be modulated to be close to desired sinusoidal waveform. In the example shown (for 50 Hz), for clarity the switching frequency is 600 Hz, in real devices the switching frequency is much higher - even up to 10 kHz or higher. Of course, for higher fundamental frequency the switching frequencies would be even higher.





#### **Hydraulic Valves**





## **Hydraulic Control Circuit**





1-23



#### Actuators

#### • Electric Motors

- Clean
- Heavy (Torque motors)
- Light & Transmission box
- Need amplifier
- Hydraulic Motors
  - Light weight
  - Heavy pump needed
  - Messy?
  - Strong!
  - Expensive
- Pneumatic Motors
  - Light weight
  - Clean
  - Compliant
  - Need compressor
  - Not very strong



## Actuators (cont'd)

- Desirable Properties of Actuators
  - low inertia
  - High power-to-weight ratio
  - High acceleration
  - Robust to overload
  - Wide velocity range
  - Positioning accuracy
  - Smooth motion (no torque ripples, friction, stiction, etc.)



## Transmission

- Transmission Types
  - Gears
  - Pullies and belts or chains
  - No (direct drive)
- Properties
  - Backlash?
  - Friction (not backdrivable)
  - Amplification of inertia of motor
  - Usually used for electric motors
  - Transmission ratio up to 1:300 or more



#### **Gears and Pulleys**









#### Sensors

- Sensor types
  - Tactile sensors
  - Proximity sensors
  - Range sensors
  - Vision systems
  - Position sensors (linear and rotary)
  - Velocity sensors (linear and rotary)
  - Acceleration sensors (linear and rotary)
  - Force sensors (linear and torque)
- Analog and Digital sensors exist
- Absolute and Incremental sensors exist



## Potentiometers

#### • Pros

- Cheap
- Small
- Linear and rotary version
- Absolute values
- Cons
  - Noisy
  - Mechanical interaction
  - Require Analog-to-Digital converter
  - Medium resolution (12-16 bit)



#### **Potentiometer Examples**





#### **Calibration Line of Pots**



JDK POTENTIOMETER LINEARITY TEST

Standard Encoder/Potentiometer Position - Degrees



# **Optical Encoder**

#### • Pros

- High resolution (expensive)
- Low resolution (cheap)
- Very clean data
- No A/D conversion
- Cons
  - Expensive or low resolution
  - Bulky
  - Special hardware needed for counting (quadrature)
  - Usually incremental (not absolute)



## **Optical Encoder Examples**





#### Quadrature











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#### **Absolute Optical Encoders**







#### **Force Sensors**

- Based on Strain Gages and Wheat-Stone bridge
- Properties
  - Noisy
  - Require special hardware to mount (material that "stretches"
  - Require careful mounting techniques
  - Multiple strain ages are needed to make sensory more noise and temperature resistant



#### **Force Sensor Example**

568 · Sensors, Measurement and Perception

Figure 10.16 Standard patterns for metal foil strain gauges. (a) Linear; (b) rosette: (c) torque; (d) diaphragm.





(b)







(d)



## **Data Filtering**

- Noisy data need to be processed before it can be used for controlling a robot
- Possible processing techniques:
  - Analog filtering
    - Requires special hardware
  - Digital filtering
    - Can be done on a computer



## **Digital Filtering**

Mostly done by linear filtering

$$y_n = \bigwedge_{k=0}^{M} c_k x_{n-k} + \bigwedge_{j=1}^{M} d_j y_{n-j}$$

- Two special cases:
  - Finite Impulse Response Filter (FIR)
    - N=0, which means no recursive inputs
    - More easy to design
    - More robust
  - Infinite Impulse Response Filter (IIR)
    - N≠0
    - Can go unstable
    - More complex design (stability analysis is needed!)
    - Less robust
    - Better filtering properties



# **Digital Filter (cont'd)**

- Typical Filters
  - Butterworth
    - Matlab: "butter"
  - Chebyshev
    - Matlab: "cheby1" or "cheby2"
  - Elliptic
    - Matlab: "ellip"