

Module-4

Topic-1

The video player interface features a white background with a hexagonal pattern. At the top right is the Georgia Tech logo. The main title "The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts" is displayed in large, bold black font. Below the title, the speaker's name "Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D." is shown in yellow, followed by their title "Lockheed Martin Associate Professor" and affiliation "The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering". A play button icon is positioned next to the speaker's name. In the bottom right corner of the video area, there is promotional text for activating Windows. The video progress bar at the bottom shows "0:04 / 12:56". On the far right of the player are standard video control icons.

The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

Lockheed Martin Associate Professor
The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering

L1: Actuator Types and Tradeoffs

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The video player interface has a white background with a hexagonal pattern. The Georgia Tech logo is in the top right. The title "Learning Objectives" is prominently displayed in large, bold black font. Below the title, there are four bullet points listing learning objectives: "Discuss the different types of actuators and general tradeoffs between each actuator modality", "Identify the two major categories of actuators: linear and rotary", "Identify key characteristics which drive actuator selection for a given application", and "Highlight the advantages and disadvantages of electric actuators". Each objective is preceded by a small play button icon. In the bottom right corner, there is promotional text for activating Windows. The video progress bar at the bottom shows "0:00 / 0:00". On the far right are standard video control icons.

Learning Objectives

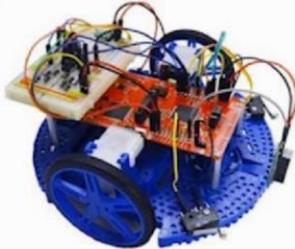
- Discuss the different types of actuators and general tradeoffs between each actuator modality
- Identify the two major categories of actuators: linear and rotary
- Identify key characteristics which drive actuator selection for a given application
- Highlight the advantages and disadvantages of electric actuators

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Actuators: Key Elements of Mechatronic Devices



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Linear vs Rotary Actuators

- Actuators are devices that lead to physical motion of the actuator itself and any attached components
- **Linear Actuators:** Move Linearly
- **Rotary Actuators:** Move Circularly



Linear Actuators



Rotary Actuators



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Actuator Types

➤ Actuators are required to move anything! Integral part of any mechatronic device.

➤ Actuator Types:

- **Electric:** Electromagnetic effects
- **Internal Combustion:** Burning fuel
- **Pneumatic:** Pressurized air
- **Hydraulic:** Pressurized fluid
- **Piezoelectric:** Piezoelectric effect



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Actuator Key Characteristics

- Maximum **extension** or linear/rotary displacement
- Maximum output **force** or **torque**
- Maximum **actuation speed** and/or **bandwidth**
- Actuator **size/volume**
- Actuator **efficiency**

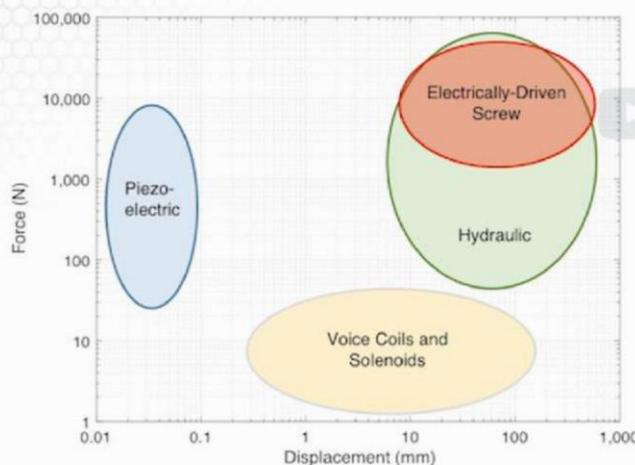


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Linear Actuators: Force vs. Displacement



Graphs like these can assist in selection of an actuator type for a given application.

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Electric Actuators

- Many smaller mechatronic devices use **electric motors** for actuation
- Advantages of electric actuators
 - Clean (do not require fluids, oil, etc.)
 - Require no extra equipment (no pressure tanks, etc.)
 - Can operate indoors (no emissions)
 - Can be made small economically
- Disadvantages of electric actuators
 - Low power-to-size ratio



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Electric Actuators

Qualitative Comparison of Electric Motors

	Brushed DC Motor	Brushless DC Motor	Servo	Stepper Motor
Maximum Displacement	Unlimited	Unlimited	Limited	Unlimited
Maximum Torque	Medium*	High	High	High
Maximum Speed	Medium	High	Low	Low
Drive Complexity	Low	High	Medium	Low
Example Application	Car starter	Hand-held drill	Robot arm	Printer

* Torque of brushed motor is high at zero speed, then decreases rapidly at higher speeds. For brushless motors the torque profile is less sensitive to speed.

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Linear Actuators

Qualitative Comparison of Electric vs Hydraulic Linear Actuators



	Electric Actuator	Hydraulic Actuator
Maximum Force	Low	High
Positioning Accuracy	High	Low
Complexity of Installation	Low	High
Cost	High (initial), Low maintenance	Low (initial), High maintenance
Example Application	CNC milling machine	Excavator

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Summary

Actuation mechanisms generally fall into two categories: **linear** and **rotary**.



Actuators can be further categorized by their actuation type including: **electromagnetic**, **piezoelectric**, **hydraulic**, and **pneumatic**.

For a given application, actuators can be selected based on key characteristics. Some of these characteristics are maximum **force/torque**, **speed**, **cost**, **complexity** of installation and interfacing.

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Lesson 1: Introduction to Brushed DC Motors



The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

Lockheed Martin Associate Professor
The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering



L1: Introduction to Brushed DC Motors

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Learning Objectives

Describe the fundamental physics behind operation of a brushed DC motor

Define key elements of a permanent magnet DC motor including the commutator, coils, and brushes.

Discuss the linear torque-speed curve for a permanent magnet brushed DC motor



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Brushed DC Motors

- Brushed DC motors are very common actuator used in mechatronic devices
- Rely on **electromagnetics** to convert current flow to physical motion



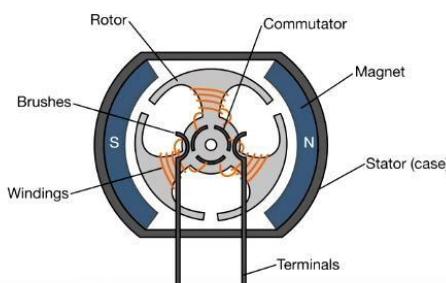
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Brushed DC Motor Operation

- Brushed motors composed of two main components:
- **Stator:** Remains stationary
- **Rotor:** Turns, coupled to shaft

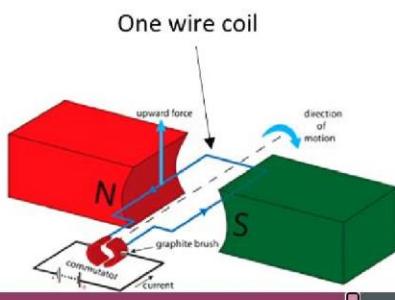


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Brushed DC Motor Operation

- Wire coil runs along back end of armature to generate B field
- **Commutator** used to change direction of current flow as armature rotates



Lorentz's Law:

$$\vec{F} = \vec{I} \times \vec{B}$$

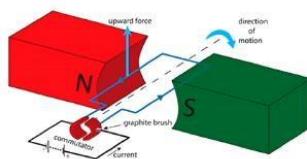
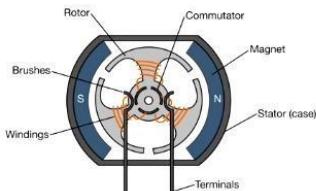


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Brushed DC Motor Operation

- Commutator must be composed of at least two segments
- Motors below have 3-piece commutator (left) and 2-piece commutator (right)



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Brushed DC Motor

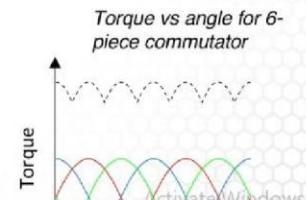
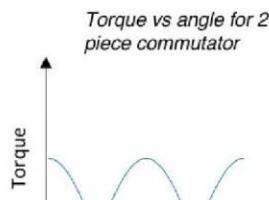
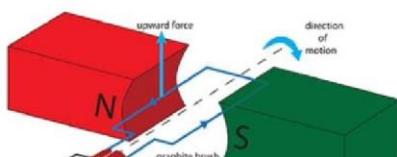
Brushed DC Motor Operation

- As motor turns, angle of energized coil with respect to magnet changes

$$\vec{F} = \vec{I} \times \vec{B}$$

Torque is function of sine of angle between B field and armature angle

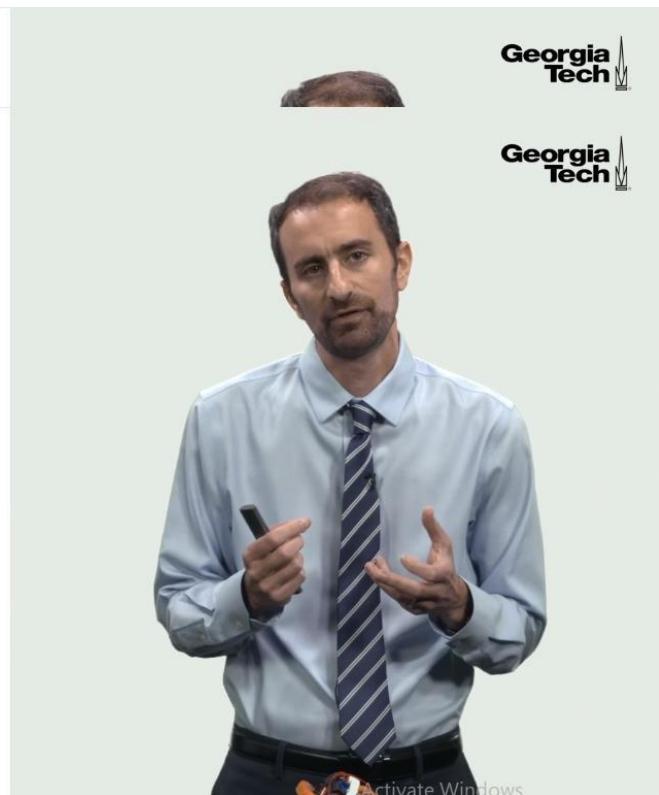
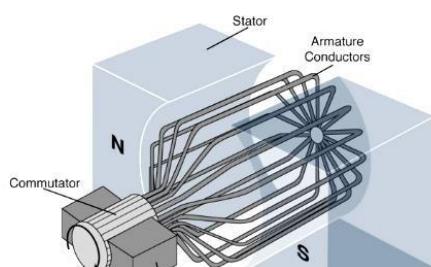
Torque is not smooth using 2-piece commutator



Brushed DC Motor

Brushed DC Motor Operation

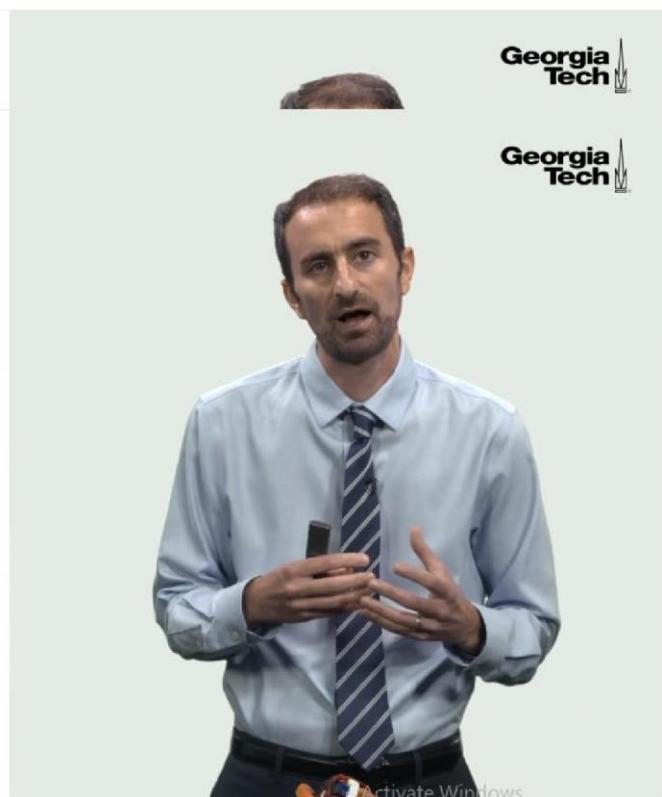
- Good drawing of a motor with multiple-piece commutator and coils



Brushed DC Motor

Permanent Magnet DC Motors

- Various different types of brushed DC motors exist - differing in how magnetic field is generated
- **Permanent magnet (PM) DC motors use a permanent magnet to generate magnetic field**
 - Other types: Series wound, shunt wound, compound wound
 - These types use inductive coils to generate magnetic field



Brushed DC Motor

Torque vs Speed

- DC motors provide a varying amount of torque depending on operating speed
- Generally, amount of torque provided decreases as motor spins faster
- For PM DC motors, this relationship is linear



Brushed DC Motor

Summary



Brushed DC motors operate by a magnetic interaction with a fixed magnetic field caused by **current flow through inductive coils**.

Permanent magnet DC motors have a **linear relationship** between operating speed and torque produced.

The most important specifications of a PM DC motor are



The Mechatronics Revolution:

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Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

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L2: Torque vs Speed Characteristics of DC Motors

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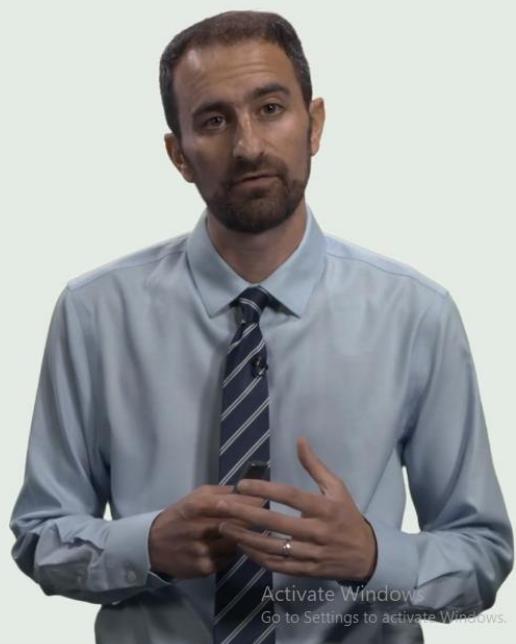
Learning Objectives



Derive an electromechanical model of a permanent magnet DC motor

Discuss the concept of back-EMF and how it affects the torque-speed response of a DC motor

Solve an example problem in which the mathematical motor model is used to compute the inertial response of a load



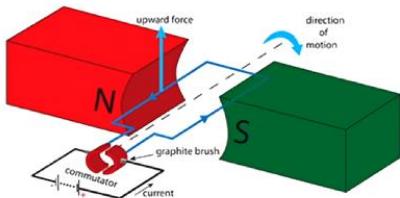
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Brushed DC Motor Operation

- Wire coil runs along back end of armature to generate B field
- Commutator** used to change direction of current flow as armature rotates



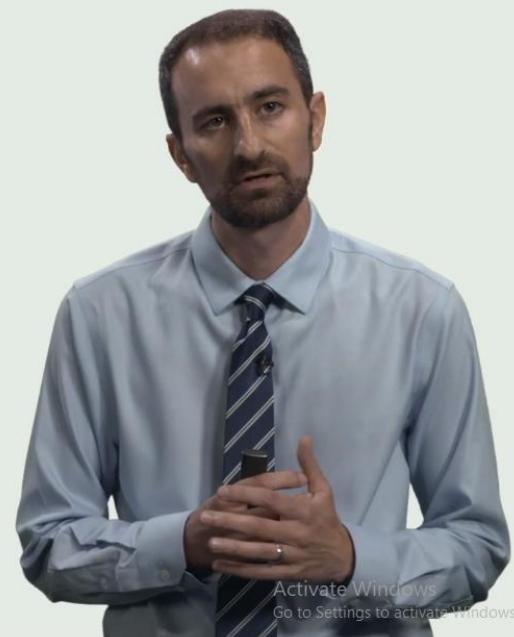
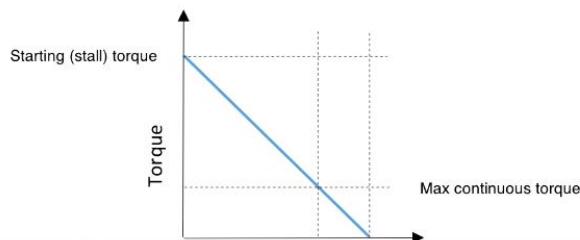
Lorentz's Law:

$$\vec{F} = \vec{I} \times \vec{B}$$



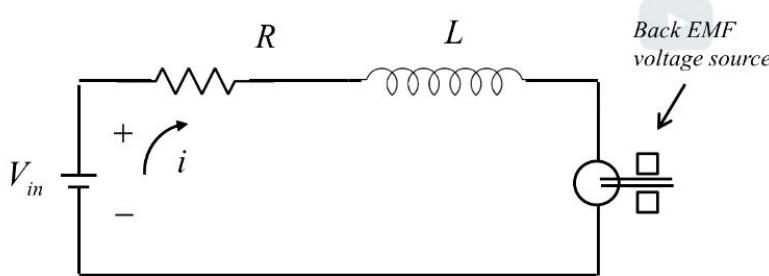
Torque vs Speed

- DC motors provide a varying amount of torque depending on operating speed
- Generally, amount of torque provided decreases as motor spins faster
- For PM DC motors, this relationship is linear



Torque vs Speed: PM DC Motors

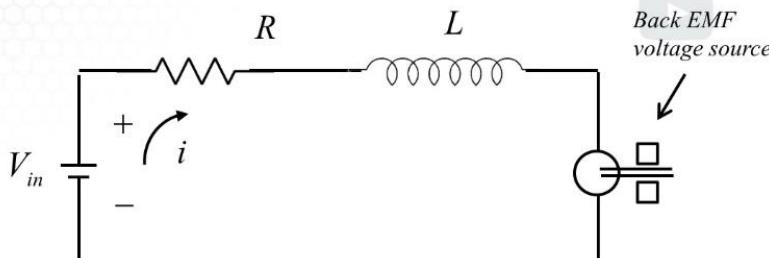
- Let's derive an electromechanical model of PM DC Motor



- Motor modeled as resistor and inductor in series
- Back EMF voltage caused by rotation of conducting coil in stator magnetic field

Torque vs Speed: PM DC Motors

- Let's derive an electromechanical model of PM DC Motor



Voltage-Current Relationship

$$I = V / R = (V_{in} - V_{bemf}) / R$$

(impedance of L ignored since it is $\ll R$)

Torque Proportional to Current

$$T = K_T I$$

K_T is motor torque constant

- Motor modeled as resistor and inductor in series
- Back EMF voltage caused by rotation of conducting coil in stator magnetic field

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Torque vs Speed: PM DC Motors

Back EMF Voltage is Proportional to Motor Speed

$$V_{bemf} = K_E \omega$$

K_E is back EMF constant (or voltage constant) and ω is speed.

Combining equations:

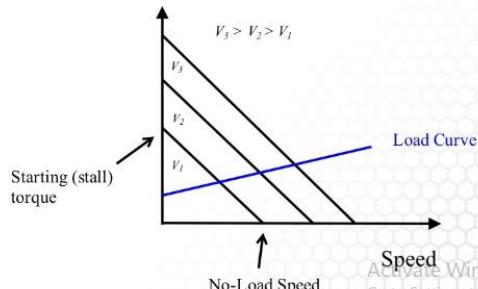
$$T = K_T \frac{V_{in}}{R} - K_T K_E \frac{\omega}{R}$$

Torque when $\omega = 0$, called "starting torque" T_S

Linear Torque-Speed Relationship:

$$\rightarrow T = T_S - \alpha \omega \quad \alpha = \frac{K_T K_E}{R}$$

Torque-Speed Curve for DC Motor at Different Input Voltage (V_{in}) Values



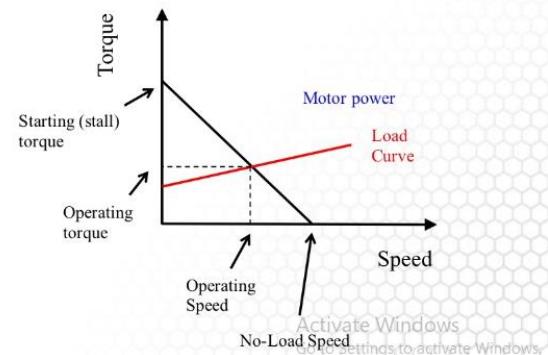
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Torque vs Speed: PM DC Motors

- Torque-speed curve defined by two parameters:
 - **Starting (stall) torque:** Torque generated by motor at zero speed
 - **No-load speed:** Maximum speed achieved by motor, achieved when not connected to a load
- As motor rotates, back EMF generated due to rotation of coil within magnetic field reduces voltage across motor leads and thus current through motor
- This is why torque decreases with speed
- Torque continues to decrease as ω increases until torque is zero at maximum speed
- Motor delivers maximum power when it reaches half of its no load speed
- When motor drives a load, its operating speed will be where load torque equals motor torque
- If load torque increases linearly with speed, operating speed of motor will increase linearly with increase in supply voltage



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Example Problem: Speed and Torque of a DC Motor

Problem: A PM DC motor is used to lift a 25 kg load via a pulley as shown. From the datasheet, the no-load motor speed is 200 RPM (20.9 rad/s) and starting torque is 31.2 N-m. Frictional resistance in pulley is 2 N-m/(rad/s). Neglect inertia of rotor, pulley, and cable. Determine the initial acceleration of the load and steady-state speed of the load.

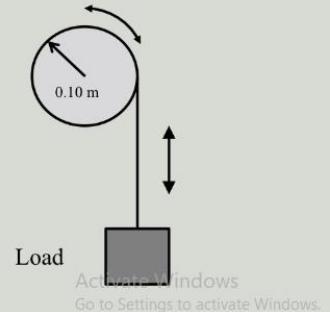
Total torque at startup:

$$(\text{Total torque}) = (\text{Starting torque}) - (\text{Friction torque}) - (\text{Gravity torque})$$

$$T_0 = 31.2 - (25)(9.81)(0.1) = 6.67 \text{ N-m}$$

Acceleration of load due to this torque:

$$F_0 = 6.67/0.1 = 66.7 \text{ N} \quad \rightarrow \quad \alpha_0 = 66.7/25 = 2.67 \text{ m/s}^2$$



Example Problem: Speed and Torque of a DC Motor

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Torque exerted by load in steady-state:

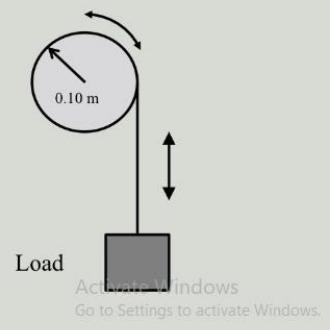
$$(\text{Total torque}) = (\text{Starting torque}) - (\text{Friction torque}) - (\text{Gravity torque})$$

$$T_{load} = 2\omega_{ss} + (25)(9.81)(0.1) = 2\omega_{ss} + 24.53$$

Use torque-speed curve to determine steady-state speed:

$$T_{motor} = 31.2 - \left(\frac{31.2}{20.9} \right) \omega_{ss} = 2\omega_{ss} + 24.53 \quad \rightarrow \quad \omega_{ss} = 1.91 \text{ rad/s}$$

$\underbrace{}_{T_{motor}}$ $\underbrace{}_{T_{load}}$



Example Problem: Speed and Torque of a DC Motor

Problem: A PM DC motor is used to lift a 25 kg load via a pulley as shown. From the datasheet, the no-load motor speed is 200 RPM (20.9 rad/s) and starting torque is 31.2 N-m. Frictional resistance in pulley is 2 N-m/(rad/s). Neglect inertia of rotor, pulley, and cable. Determine the initial acceleration of the load and steady-state speed of the load.

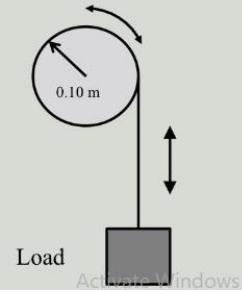
Torque exerted by load in steady-state:

$$(Total\ torque) = (Starting\ torque) - (Friction\ torque) - (Gravity\ torque)$$

$$T_{load} = 2\omega_{ss} + (25)(9.81)(0.1) = 2\omega_{ss} + 24.53$$

Use torque-speed curve to determine steady-state speed:

$$T_{motor} = 31.2 - \left(\frac{31.2}{20.9}\right)\omega_{ss} = 2\omega_{ss} + 24.53 \quad \rightarrow \quad v_{ss} = 19 \text{ cm/s}$$



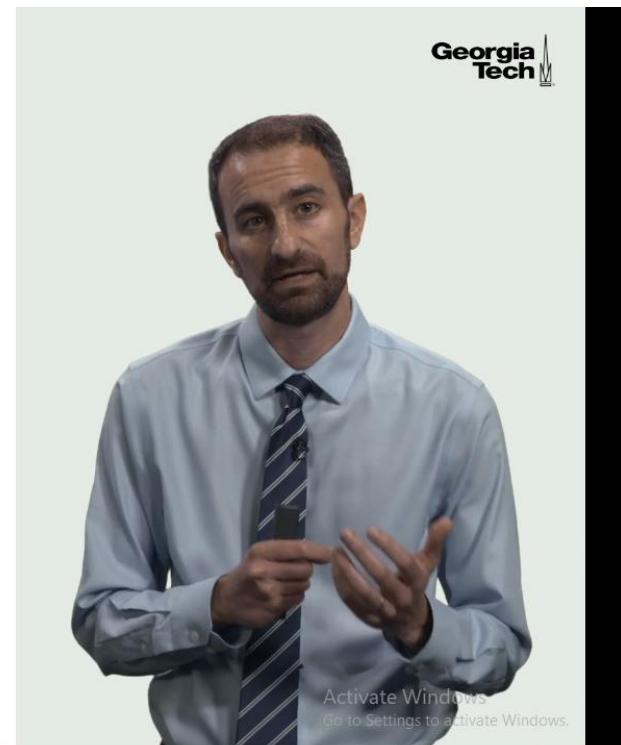
Summary

Permanent magnet DC motors have a **linear relationship** between operating speed and torque produced.

Back-EMF reduces the net magnetic field across the wire coils in a permanent magnet DC motor, reducing current through the coils as the motor spins faster

The most important specifications of a PM DC motor are the **stall torque**, **no-load speed**, and **maximum continuous torque**.

The torque-speed curve for a given motor provides a means to analyze the dynamics of a motor-driven device.



The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Press Esc to exit full screen

Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

Lockheed Martin Associate Professor

The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering



L3: Brushless DC Motors

Activate Windows
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Learning Objectives

Describe the fundamental physics behind operation of a brushless DC motor



Discuss the process of commutation for a brushless DC motor

Compare the advantages and disadvantages of using brushed and brushless DC motors

Discuss brushless motor integration with an MCU using brushless motor controller integrated circuits



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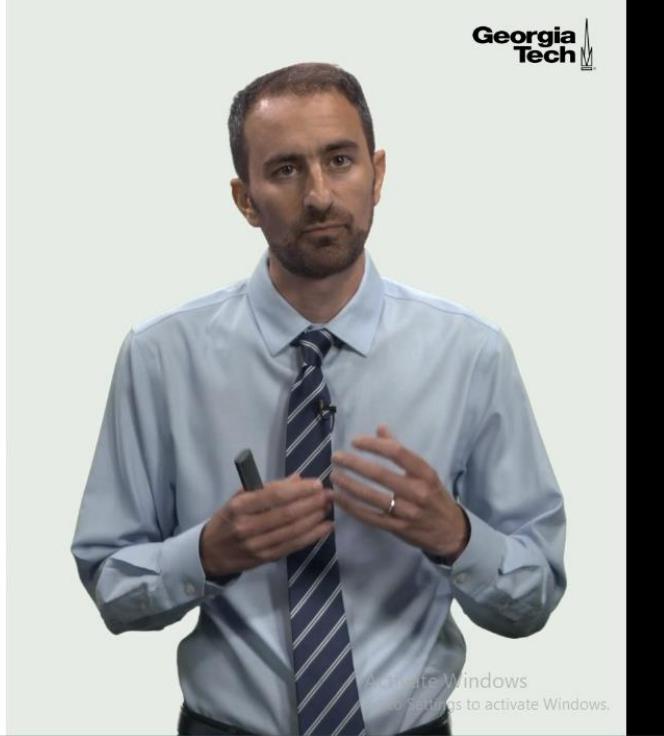
Brushless DC Motors

- In brushed DC motors, brushes create mechanical point of contact between stator and rotor
 - Necessary in order to power wire coils on rotor
 - Generate heat and acoustic noise, must be replaced periodically
- Brushless DC motors do not use brushes
 - Only points of contact between rotor and stator are bearings
 - No direct wiring to rotor

Brushed DC Motor

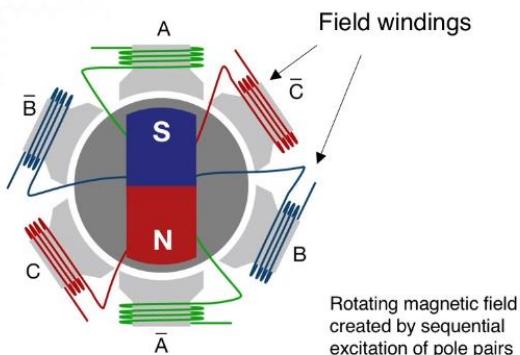


Brushless DC Motor



Brushless DC Motor Operation

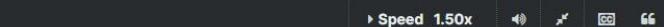
- In brushless DC motor, **rotor is made of permanent magnet** and **stator is made of coils**
- This is opposite of brushed motors



Concept of operation:

- Hall effect sensor used to detect position of magnet
- Coil pairs (**poles**) are activated sequentially so that magnetic field is always perpendicular (as much as possible) to rotor magnet
- Causes rotor to spin
- Thus commutation is done electrically and not mechanically

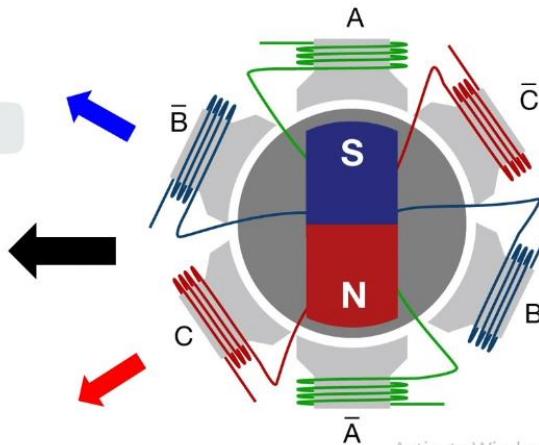
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Brushless DC Motor Operation

3-Pole Brushless DC Motor

- A sensor is attached to each pair of coils which detects position of PM (rotor)
- Coils are activated so that resulting magnetic field across permanent magnet is as close to perpendicular to poles as possible
- In current configuration, coils B and C would be activated (A is off)

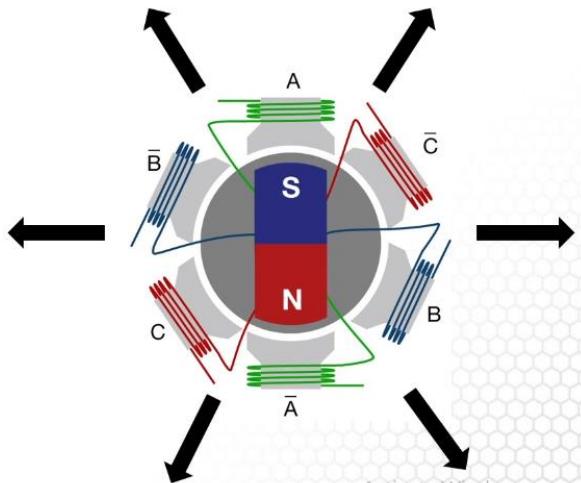


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Brushless DC Motor Operation

3-Pole Brushless DC Motor

- For a 3-pole BLDC in this configuration, there are 6 possible magnetic field vectors that can be produced by the coils
- How often does the commutator sequence through them (in terms of deg rotation of rotor)?



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Brushless DC Motor Operation

3-Pole Brushless DC Motor - Commutation Sequence

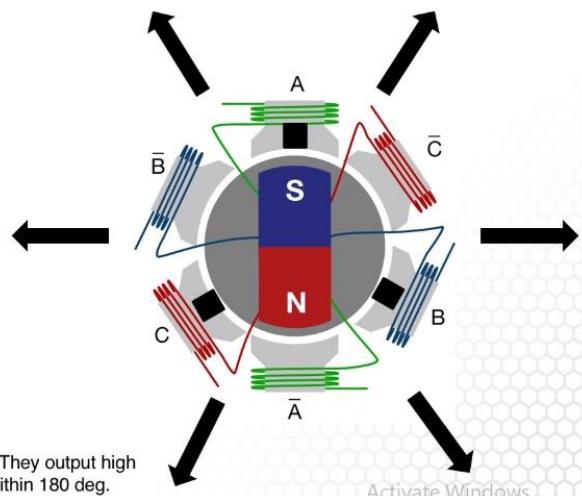
Sensor Output			CW Rotation		
C	B	A	A	B	C
1	0	0	NC	Hi	Low
1	0	1	Low	Hi	NC
0	0	1	Low	NC	Hi
0	1	1	NC	Low	Hi
0	1	0	Hi	Low	NC
1	1	0	Hi	NC	Low

NC = No Current

Hi = +Voltage

Low = -Voltage

Black boxes indicate sensors. They output high (1) when N pole of magnet is within 180 deg.



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BLDC Motor Control

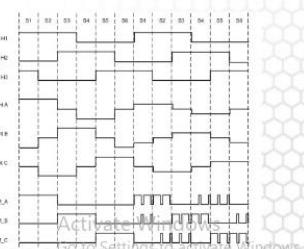
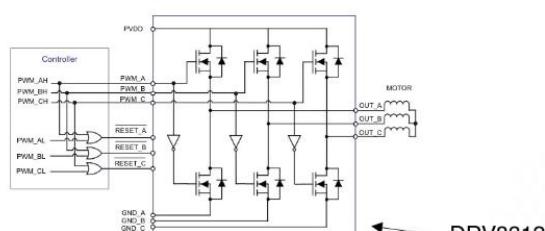
- Brushless DC motors require a special chip that implements drive timing diagram - **BLDC motor driver**
 - Phase changes happen too fast for implementation on MCU that is performing other functions - requires dedicated IC or MCU
- Example: Texas Instruments DRV8312 3-Phase Motor Driver
 - Comprised of 3 half H-bridges

DRV8312 Drive Timing Diagram

Courtesy of Texas Instruments



MCU



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BLDC Motor Control

- How do we change the speed of a brushless DC motor?
- By speeding up the commutation rate (speeding up rate that we switch phases)

- How do we **slow down or reverse direction** of a brushless DC motor?
- By slowing down commutation sequence, then running commutation in opposite direction



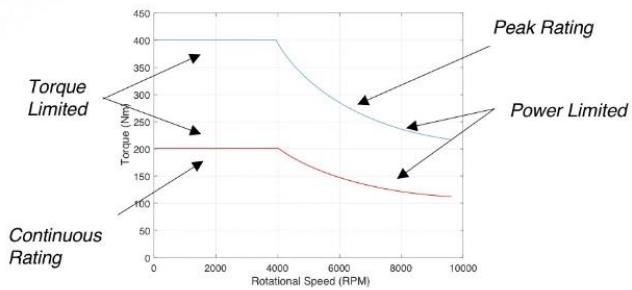
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10:11 / 13:22

▶ Speed 1.50x

BLDC Speed-Torque Characteristics

- BLDC torque vs speed curve is not linear like it is for brushed motors
 - Torque is usually flat over a large speed region
 - Maximum speed is usually much higher than from brushed DC motors (one of main benefits of BLDC motors)



▶ 11:25 / 13:22

▶ Speed 1.50x

BLDC vs Brushed DC Motors



Brushed DC Motors

- Cheaper
- Easy to control (i.e., MOSFET + PWM signal + H-bridge)
- Susceptible to heat buildup
- Brushes wear out
- Higher noise due to mechanical contact between brushes and commutator

Brushless DC Motors

- More expensive
- Require more complex controller (BLDC motor driver)
- **Better thermal characteristics**
- **Quieter**, due to minimal mechanical contact between rotor and stator
- **Capable of much higher speeds**
- **Better power to size ratio**



▶ 11:53 / 13:22 ▶ Speed 1.50x ⏪ ⏩ 🔍

Common Applications of BLDCs



▶ Play 12:31 / 13:22 ▶ Speed 1.50x ⏪ ⏩ 🔍

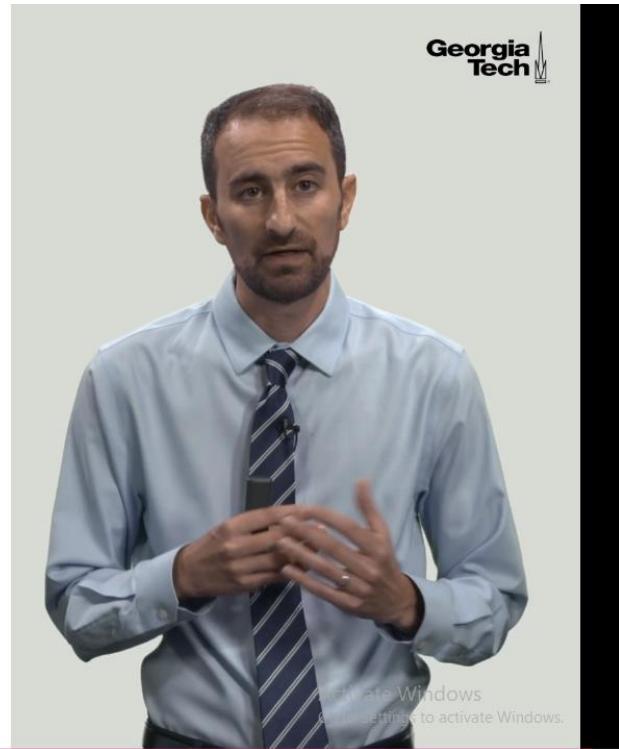
Summary

Brushless DC motors are a type of motor in which the **rotor is a permanent magnet**, and the **stator is composed of wire coils**.

Commutation is performed by applying current pulses to the phases sequentially, and speed is adjusted by **varying the speed of commutation**.

BLDCs are controlled through the use of a **motor driver circuit** which implements the commutation sequence.

BLDCs are **quieter and capable of higher speeds** compared to brushed motors, but are more expensive.



The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

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The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering*

L4: Specifications of DC Motors

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Learning Objectives

Review the key specifications of brushed and brushless DC motors

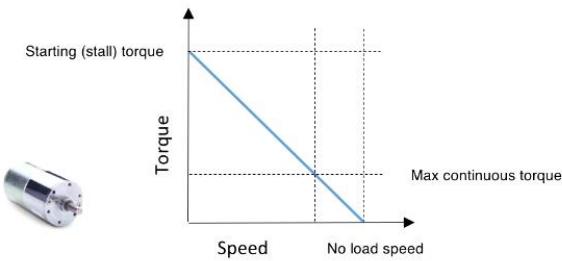
Discuss the specifications for an example brushed DC motor

Verify published motor specifications in a simple experiment



Brushed DC Motors

- We have derived the relationship between torque provided by a motor and speed at which it is operating
- Result is **linear speed-torque curve** for a permanent magnet DC motor



Brushed DC Motor Specifications

- Key specifications of a brushed DC motor:

- **No-load speed:** Speed motor turns when there is no frictional resistance from a load
- **Stall torque:** Torque produced by motor when not turning
- **Terminal resistance:** Resistance across motor leads when motor not turning
- **Maximum continuous torque:** Torque level safe for long-term operation (10-25% of stall torque)
- **Speed at max continuous torque:** Minimum speed safe for long-term operation (75-90% of no-load speed)
- **Operating voltage:** Voltage (range) that can be applied to motor for safe operation
- **Peak or Stall current:** Maximum current drawn by motor, at stall



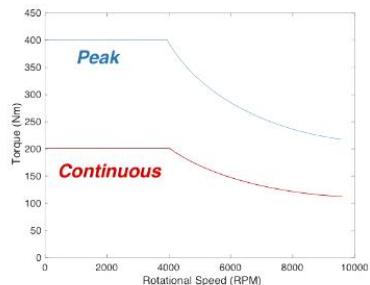
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Brushless DC Motor Specifications

- Key specifications of brushless DC motors:

- **Continuous stall torque:** Safe torque value applied continuously at stall (motor should be heat-sinked)
- **Peak torque:** Maximum torque motor can generate
- **Maximum speed:** Max operating speed of motor



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Example: DC Motor Specifications

- Pololu Metal Gearmotor (25 mm Diameter, 34:1 gear ratio, High Power)



www.pololu.com

Courtesy of Pololu

Basic Specifications

Nominal Voltage	6 V
Stall Torque @ 6 V	90 oz-in
No-Load Speed @ 6V	280 RPM
Stall Current @ 6 V	6.5 A

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Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Example: DC Motor Specifications

- Derived specifications of Pololu motor:

Terminal Resistance (R)

$$\text{At stall} \longrightarrow \frac{V}{I} = \frac{6 \text{ V}}{6.5 \text{ A}} = 0.923 \Omega$$

Torque Constant (K_T)

$$T_{start} = K_T \frac{V}{R} \longrightarrow K_T = 90 \text{ oz-in} \frac{0.923 \Omega}{6 \text{ V}}$$

$$\longrightarrow K_T = 13.84 \text{ oz-in/A}$$



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3:53 / 9:34

▶ Speed 1.50x

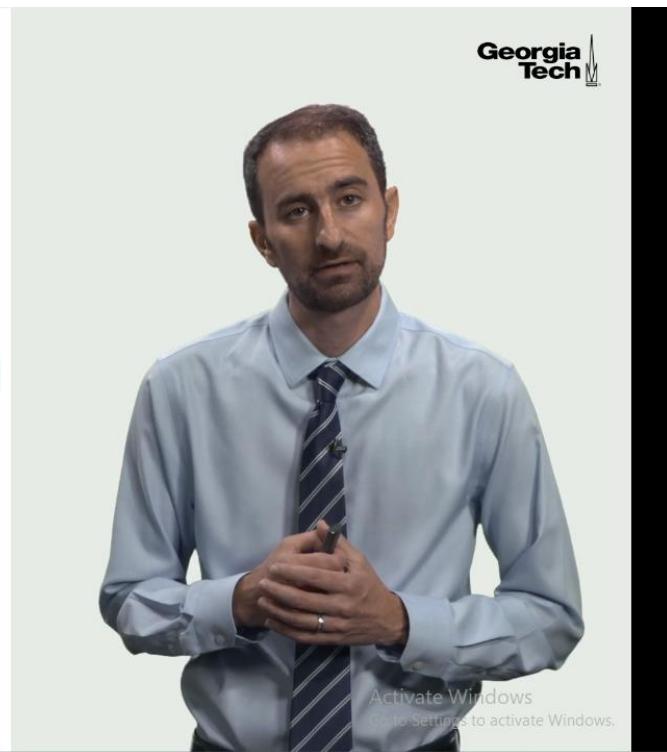
Example: DC Motor Specifications

- Derived specifications of Pololu motor:

Back-EMF Constant (K_E)

$$\text{At no load} \longrightarrow 0 = K_T \frac{V}{R} - K_T K_E \frac{\omega_{nl}}{R}$$

$$\longrightarrow K_E = \frac{V}{\omega_{nl}} = \frac{6 \text{ V}}{280 \text{ RPM}} = 0.021 \text{ V/RPM}$$



Example: DC Motor Specifications

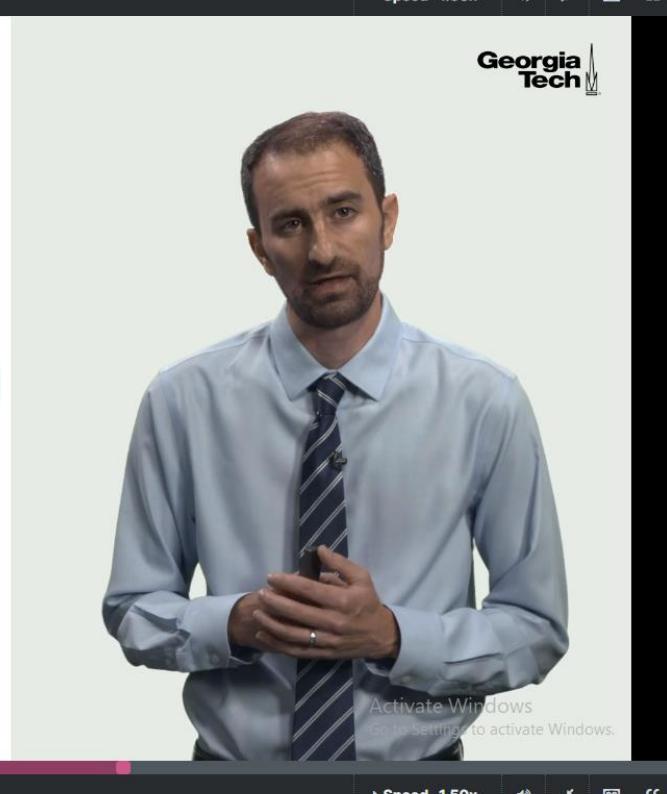
- Derived specifications of Pololu motor:

Maximum Continuous Torque

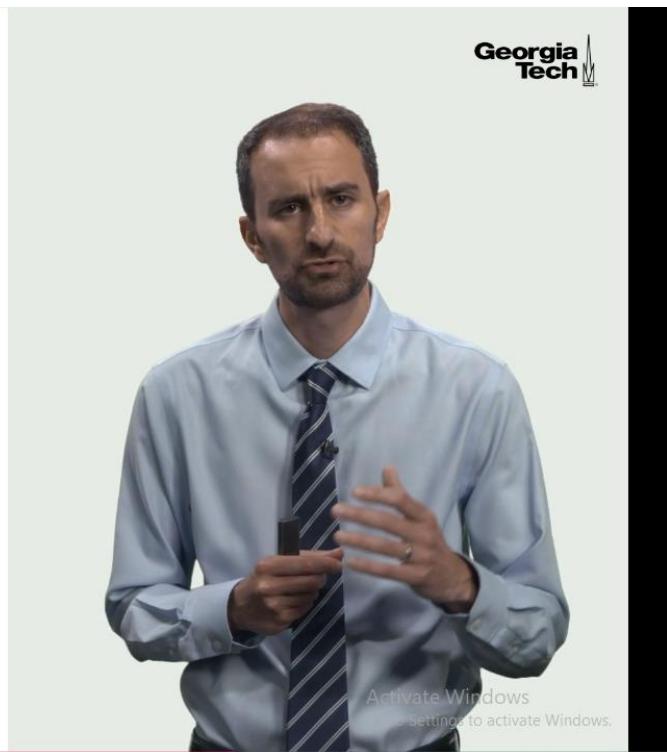
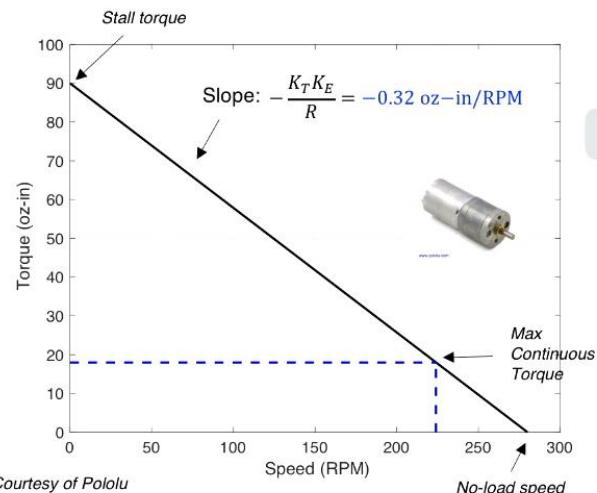
~20% of stall torque = **18 oz-in**

Speed at Max Continuous Torque

~80% of no-load speed = **224 RPM**



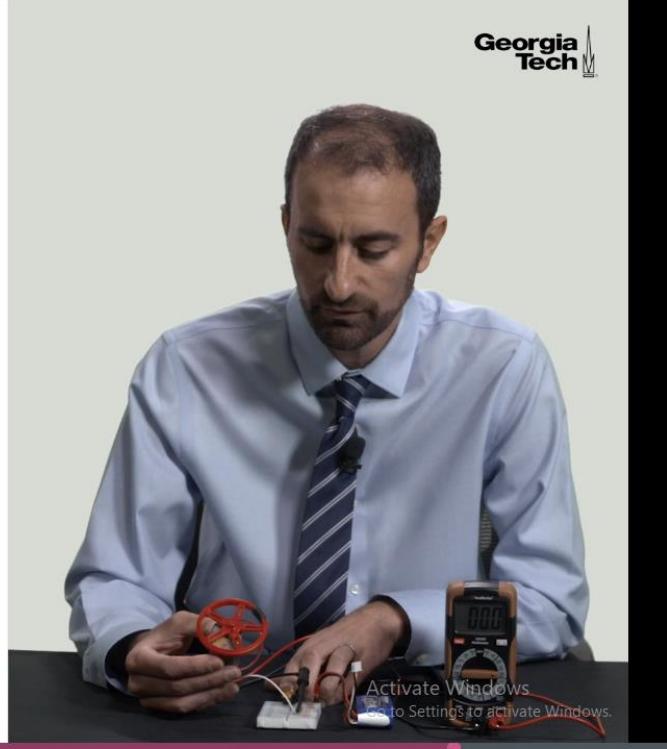
Example: DC Motor Specifications



Motor Demonstration

Example Motor Specifications:

Operating Voltage	12 V
No-Load Current @ 12V	55 mA
No-Load Speed @ 12V	20 RPM
Rated Current @ 12 V	115 mA



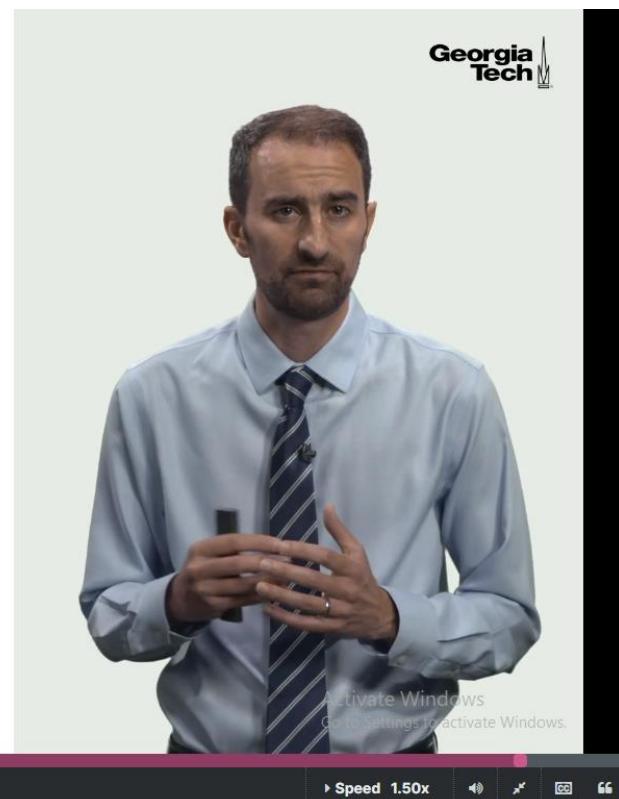
Summary

Key specifications for brushed DC motors include **stall torque**, **no-load speed**, **stall current**, **max continuous torque**, **operating voltage**, and **terminal resistance**.

Many of these can be calculated based on a set of key specifications provided in the motor datasheet using simple motor model provided in this course.

There may be slight discrepancies between theoretical values and motor parameters seen in practice.

Motor specifications should be used to select proper motor for particular mechatronic device.



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L1: PWM Waveform



Learning Objectives

Discuss the process of digital-to-analog conversion

Describe the concept of pulse-width modulation and the key elements of frequency, pulse width, and duty cycle

Explain how PWM signals deliver a variable voltage and variable power signal

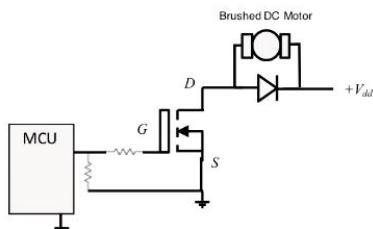


Georgia Tech

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Digital to Analog Conversion

- Suppose we want to use a microcontroller to control a continuously-varying output
 - For instance, speed of a motor
- Currently, we only know how send **digital (or binary) voltages** out from a MCU
 - Using GPIO pins



Georgia Tech

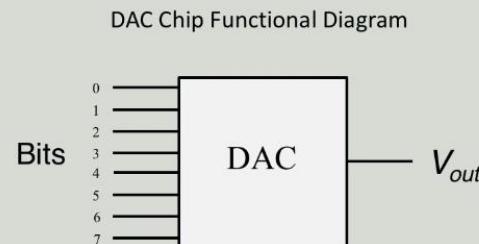
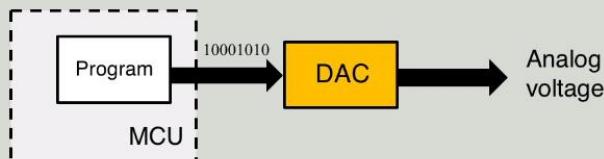
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▶ Speed 1.50x

Digital to Analog Conversion

- A digital to analog converter (DAC) converts digital signals to analog ones
- DACs are special integrated circuits that generate a variable voltage output given a binary number input



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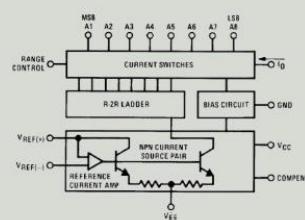
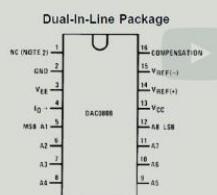
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Digital to Analog Conversion

- Example: Texas Instruments DAC0808 8-bit D/A Converter



Courtesy of Texas Instruments



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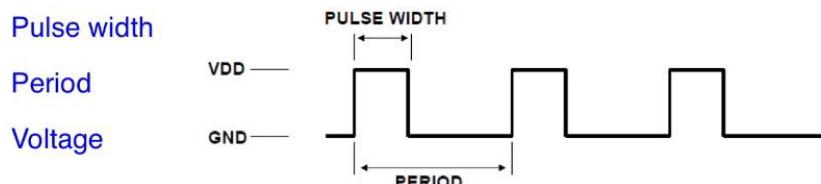
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Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)

- Pulse width modulation (PWM) is very common method of generating a variable power signal using single output pin
- Used often in motor and servo control
- Three quantities define PWM signal:

$$\text{Duty Cycle} = \frac{\text{Pulse Width}}{\text{Period}} \times 100\%$$



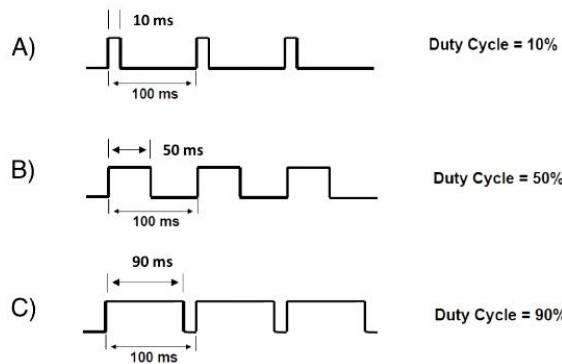
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Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)

- Consider following 3 cases:



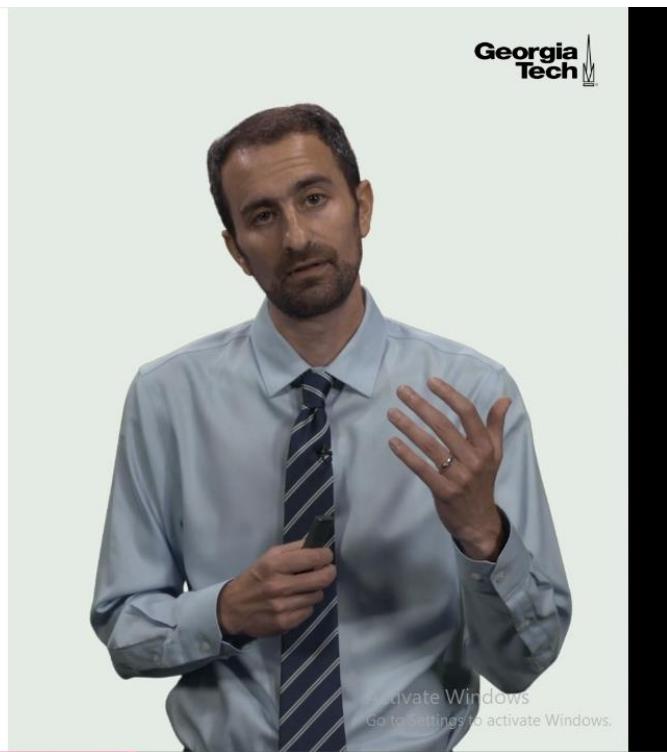
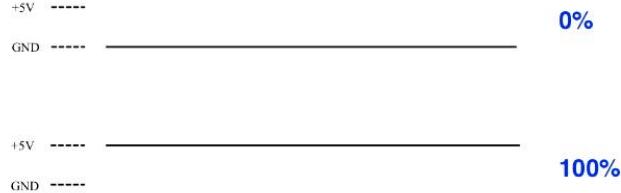
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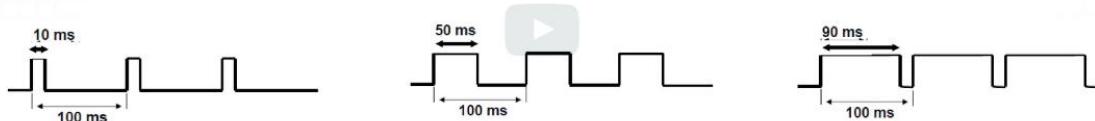
Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)

- What is the duty cycle of the below two PWM signals?



Pulse Width Modulation (PWM)

- PWM signal has a **fixed frequency** that is independent of the duty cycle



All these signals have a frequency of $1/100 \text{ ms} = 10 \text{ Hz}$

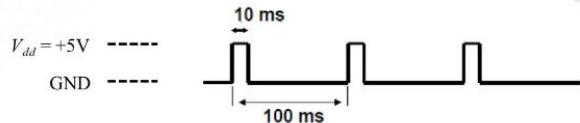
- PWM signal can be generated using a digital output pin by rapidly setting pin high/low (square wave signal)

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Go to Settings to activate Windows



PWM as Variable Voltage Signal

- What is the average voltage of the PWM signal over 1 cycle?



$$\bar{V} = \frac{(5V)(10\text{ ms}) + (0V)(90\text{ ms})}{100\text{ ms}} = 0.5\text{ V}$$



Average voltage = (Duty cycle) $\times (V_{dd})$

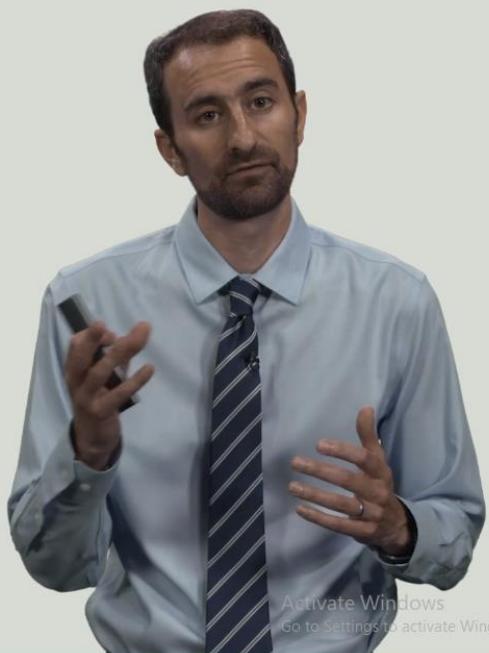
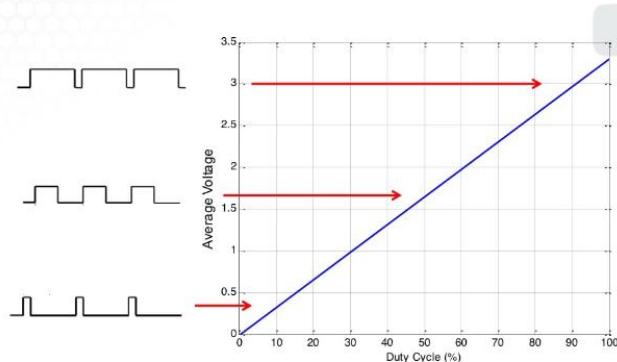


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▶ Play 6:21 / 8:54 ▶ Speed 1.50x ⏪ ⏩ 🔍

PWM as Variable Voltage Signal

- Suppose $V_{dd} = 3.3\text{ V}$



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▶ 7:23 / 8:54 ▶ Speed 1.50x ⏪ ⏩ 🔍

PWM as Variable Power Signal

- Let's assume that a certain circuit draws current I at voltage V_{dd}
- What is average power delivered by PWM signal over one cycle?

$$\bar{P} = \frac{V_{dd} \times I \times T_{high} + 0 \times I \times T_{low}}{T_{high} + T_{low}} = V_{dd} \times I \times (\text{Duty Cycle})$$

T_{high} = time signal is high
(pulse width)



PWM also provides us with a method to generate a **variable power signal**

T_{low} = time signal is low



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Play 1:38 / 8:54

Speed 1.50x

Summary

Pulse width modulated (PWM) signals are square waves with a specific pulse width

Duty cycle is the percentage of time the signal is high during one period

PWM signals provide a simple way to generate **variable-voltage** and **variable-power** signals from digital devices



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Play 28 / 8:54

Speed 1.50x

The Mechatronics Revolution:

Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Jonathan Rogers, Ph.D.

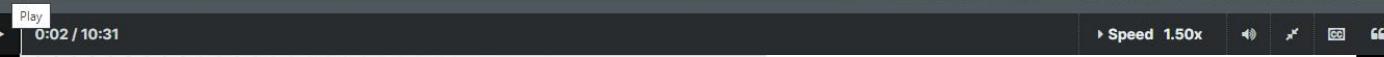
Lockheed Martin Associate Professor

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L2: PWM Control of Mechanical Devices

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The Mechatronics Revolution:

Fundamentals and Core Concepts

Learning Objectives



Describe how PWM signals are used to generate variable voltage signals for motor control

Explain how PWM signals are used in H-Bridge





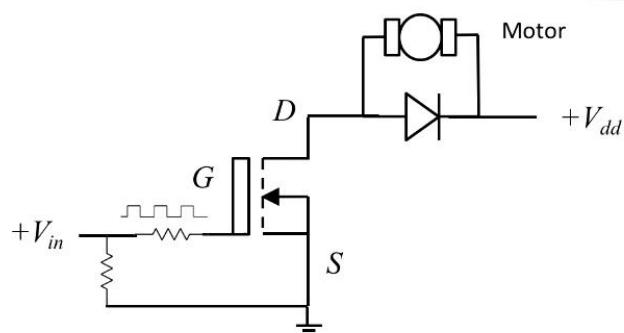
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PWM Control of Mechanical Devices

- Suppose I drive a motor by activating the transistor gate with a PWM signal
- What is the *average* voltage the motor sees?



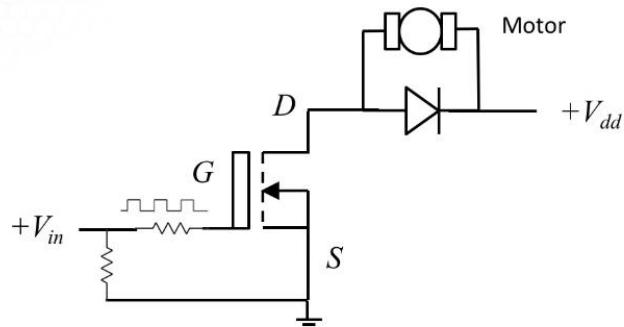
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PWM Control of Mechanical Devices

- Suppose I drive a motor by activating the transistor gate with a PWM signal
- What is the *average* voltage the motor sees?



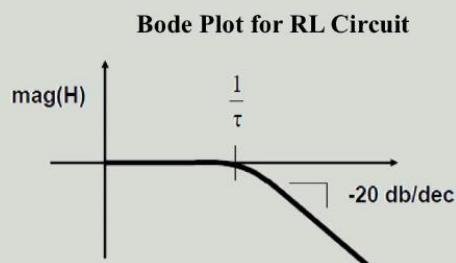
$$\bar{V} = \frac{V_{dd} \times T_{high} + 0 \times T_{low}}{T_{high} + T_{low}} \\ = V_{dd} \times (\text{Duty Cycle})$$

- Thus, if $V_{dd} = 12$ V, we can produce a signal with any average voltage in 0-12 V range by adjusting duty cycle between 0-100%.
- Note: Switching times of transistors are in the ~10 ns range. PWM signal periods are in the 10's of ms range, so MOSFET switching time is negligible.

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PWM Control of Mechanical Devices

- **Question:** When you give a PWM input voltage signal to a motor, why doesn't it respond to each square wave peak and valley?
 - i.e., Why doesn't it slow down and speed up with every pulse?
 - Explain in terms of frequency response.
- **Answer:** PWM frequency is well beyond the cutoff frequency for a motor.

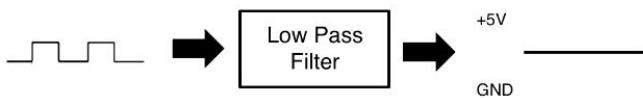


- RL circuit such as a motor has can be modeled as a first-order system with time constant τ .
- *Cutoff frequency* for such a system is $1/\tau$.
- Inputs with frequency higher than cutoff frequency get attenuated – meaning system does not exhibit oscillatory response.

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

PWM Control of Mechanical Devices

- Like motors, most mechanical devices act as a low-pass filter
- If you low pass filter a PWM signal, the periodic content is lost and just the mean value of the signal is left
- Thus, PWM + low pass filter = analog voltage signal

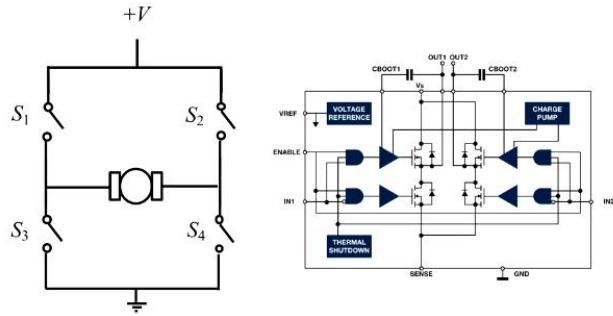


▶ 5:48 / 10:31

▶ Speed 1.50x ⏪ ⏴ ⏵ ⏵ ⏵

PWM Control of an H-Bridge

- Recall that H-Bridge circuits are commonly used to flip the polarity of the voltage across a load

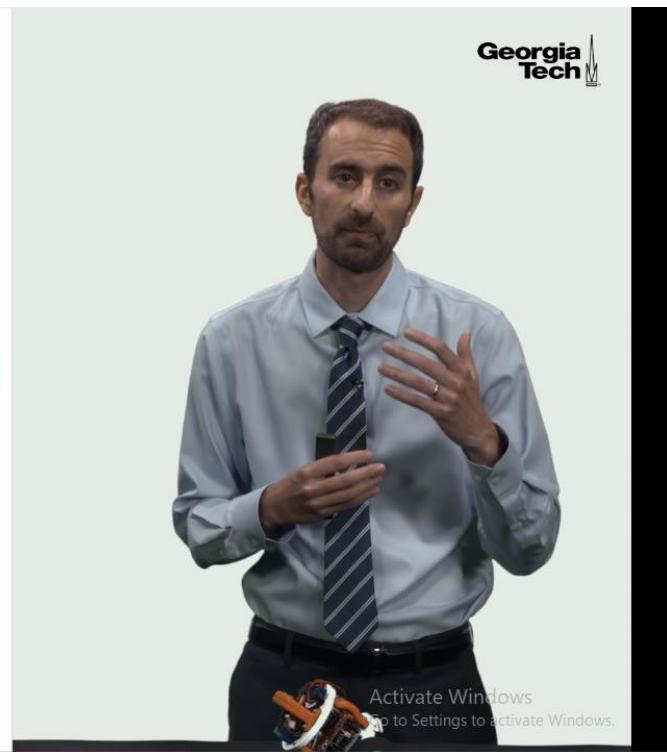
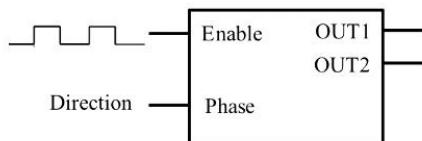


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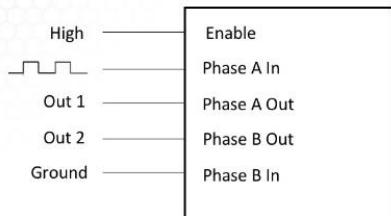
PWM Control of an H-Bridge

- PWM signals can be input into the enable pin of an H-Bridge to set the voltage across the motor leads
- Another digital signal from GPIO pin drives the direction input to the H-Bridge
 - MCU generates PWM and Direction (low or high)
 - As PWM duty cycle increases, average voltage across OUT1 and OUT2 increases
 - GPIO output used to switch direction of motor



PWM Control Using Half H-Bridge

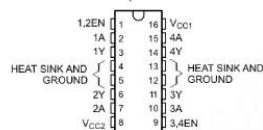
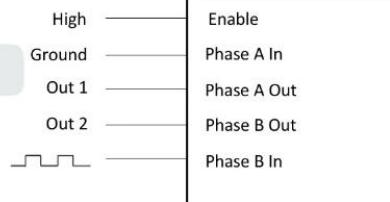
Motor Spins Clockwise



Texas Instruments L293DNE
Quadruple Half-H Driver



Motor Spins Counterclockwise



Courtesy of Texas Instruments
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

▶ 8:31 / 10:31

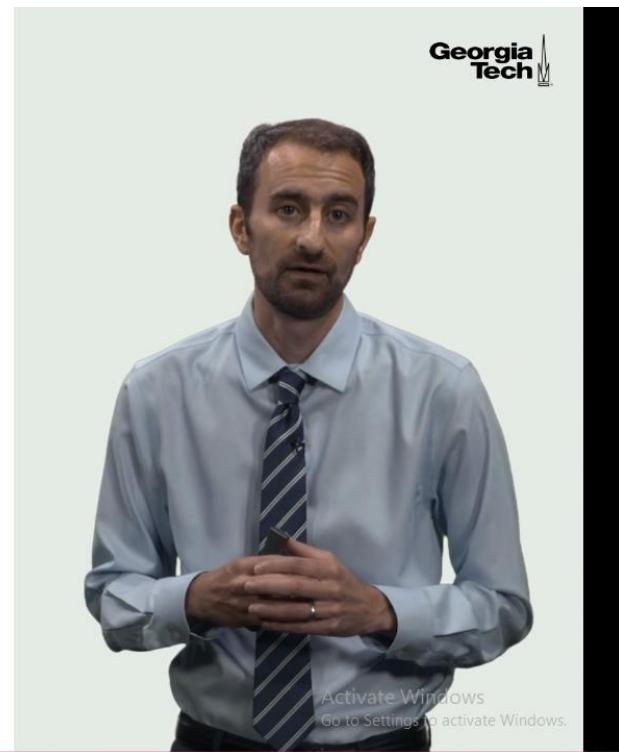
▶ Speed 1.50x

Summary

PWM signals are commonly used to provide a **varying voltage signal to mechanical loads** such as brushed DC motors.

This works as long as PWM frequency is much faster than the response rate of the mechanical load.

A PWM signal can be used in conjunction with an H-Bridge to achieve **variable speed, bidirectional control** of a DC motor.



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The Daniel Guggenheim School of Aerospace Engineering

L3: Generating PWM Signals on the MSP432



Learning Objectives

Discuss the functionality of Timer A and its associated output modes

Identify the necessary Driver Library functions needed to generate PWM signals on the MSP432

Review an example code for the MSP432 that generates PWM signals and demonstrate its functionality

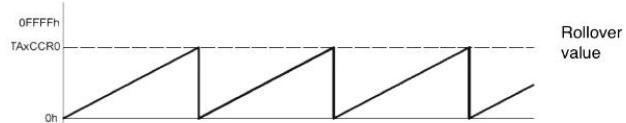


0:22 / 13:05

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Generating PWM Signals

- PWM signals are commonly generated on microcontrollers through the use of timer devices
- Recall that timers are a special piece of hardware on a microcontroller that increment a counter in a register at a fixed, set rate



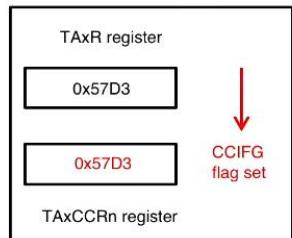
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▶ Speed 1.50x 🔍

Generating PWM Signals

- PWM signals are generated on MSP432 using Timer A device
- Timer A has built-in capability to generate PWM signals through proper configuration
- Recall “compare” functionality of timers

Every time register
TAxR reaches value in
compare register
TAxCCRn, an interrupt
flag is triggered.



Timer A capture /
compare interrupt
triggered



Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

▶ 1:18 / 13:05

▶ Speed 1.50x 🔍 🔍 🔍 🔍 🔍 🔍

The Mechatronics Revolution: Fundamentals and Core Concepts



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L4: Servo Operation and Control

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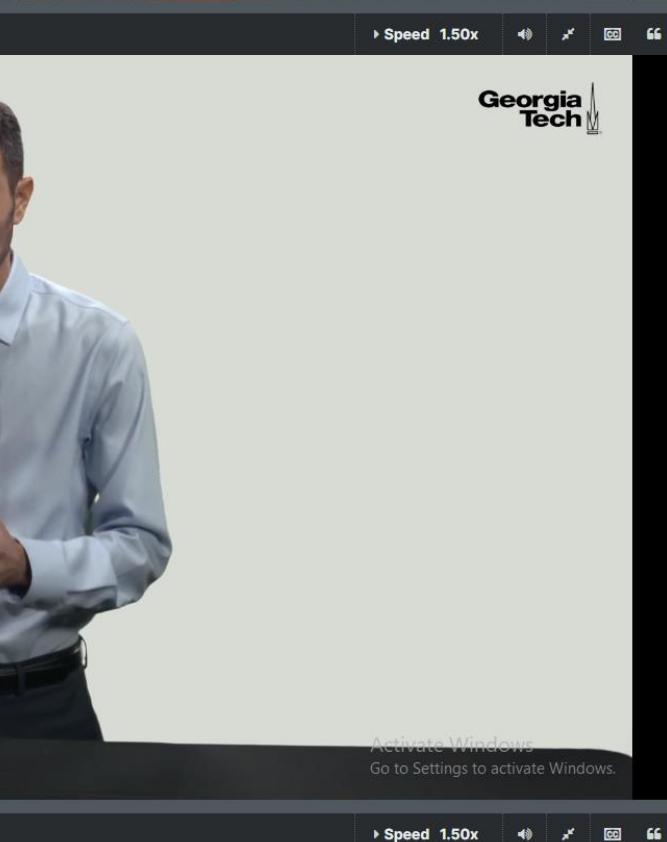
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Learning Objectives

Describe the basic design and operation of servo motors

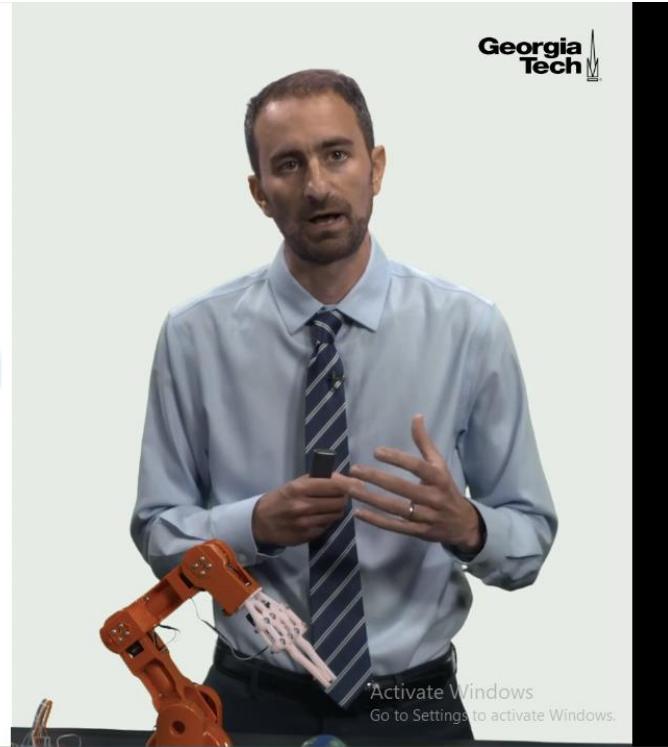
Explain how PWM signals are used to drive servos and the specific PWM configuration needed

Demonstrate PWM control of a hobby-type servo



Servos

- Servos are used in many industrial and robotics applications
 - Provides **precise positioning**
 - Used often in mechatronic system requiring precise position control
 - Convenient packaging allows enables easy integration



Play 1:02 / 9:30

▶ Speed 1.50x

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Servo Motor Operation

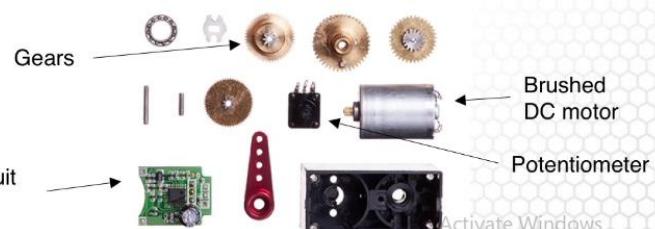
- Servos are complete positioning system incorporating four major components:
 - Brushed DC motor
 - Gear set
 - Potentiometer (for detecting shaft position)
 - Control circuit board



Control circuit board



Outer Casing



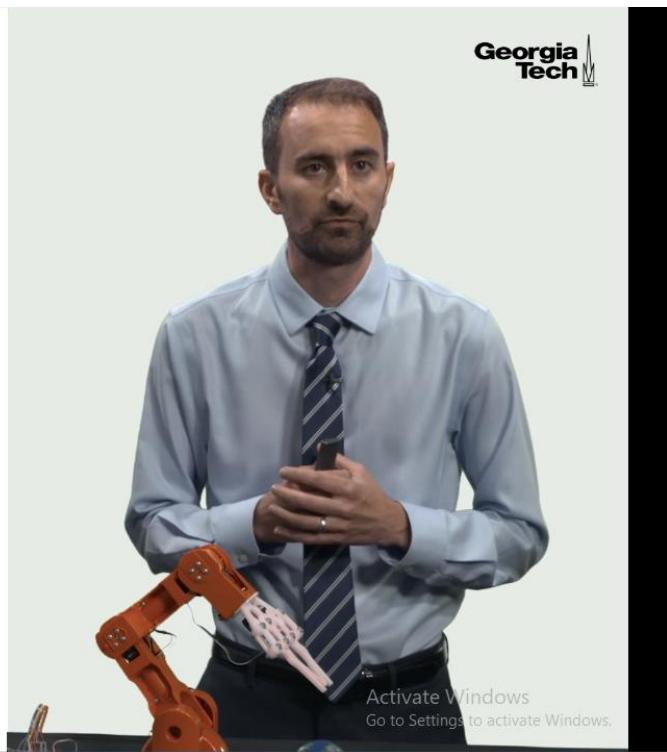
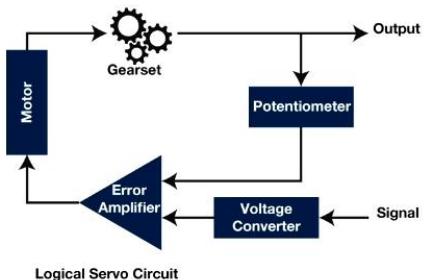
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▶ Speed 1.50x

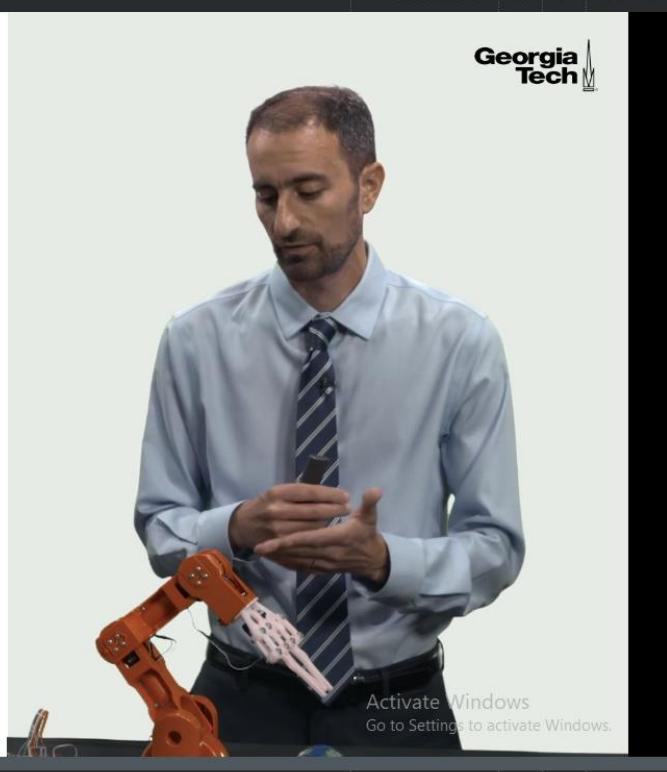
Servo Motor Operation

- Servo operates as a **closed loop** system where a position input is provided
- Control circuitry drives motor shaft to commanded position using feedback control



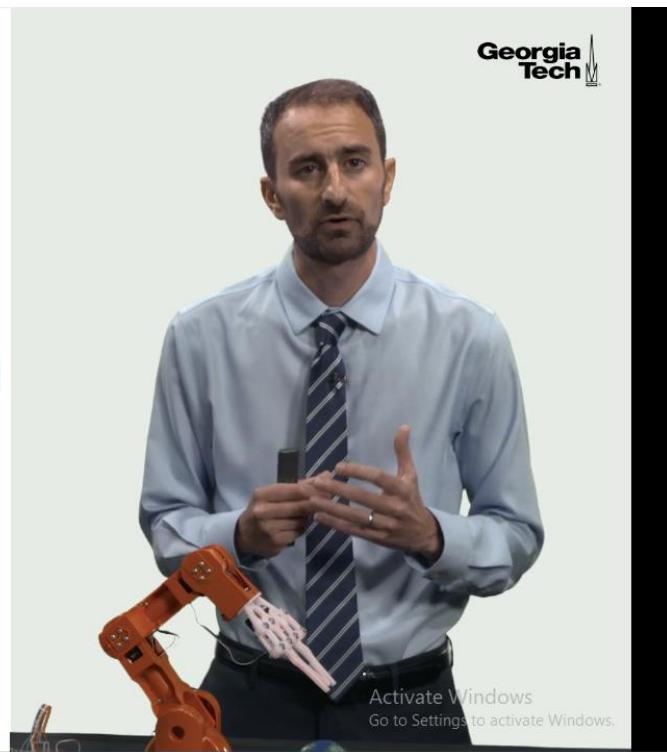
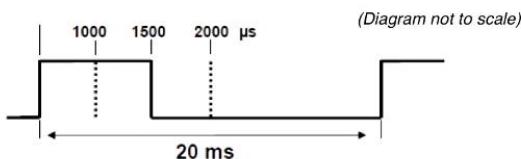
Servo Inputs

- Most hobby servos are driven from 5V power supply
- Three wires:
 - Power (red)
 - Ground (black or brown)
 - Control (white, yellow, orange, or blue) - PWM signal

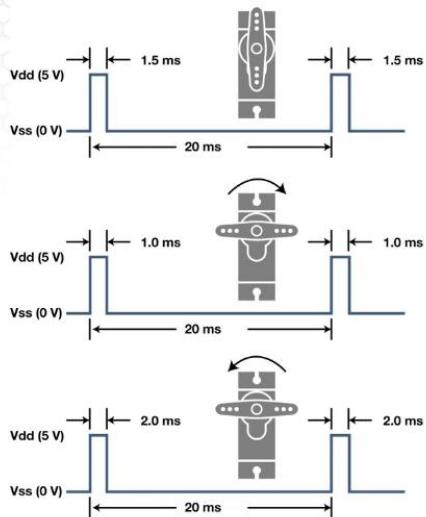


Servo Control

- How do you command a servo to a specific rotational position?
- PWM signal
- Servos require PWM signal of specific format
 - Signal period of **20 ms** (frequency of **50 Hz**)
 - Valid duty cycle is **5%** (full neg. throw) to **10%** (full pos. throw)
 - Equates to pulse width between **1000 µs** and **2000 µs**



Servo Control



Pulse width of 1500 µs (1.5 ms) is neutral or centered position. This is 7.5% duty cycle.

Pulse width of 1000 µs (1.0 ms) is full clockwise position (usually 90 deg). This is 5% duty cycle.

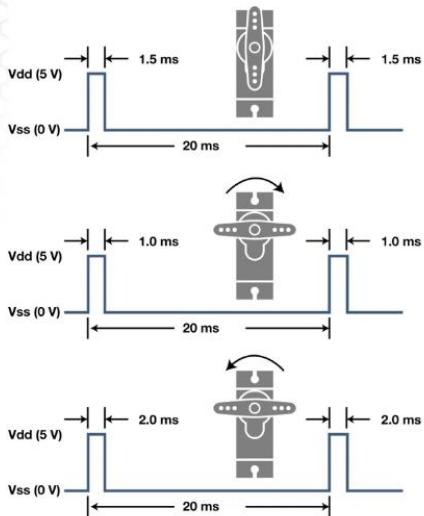
Pulse width of 2000 µs (2.0 ms) is full counter-clockwise position (usually -90 deg). This is 10% duty cycle.

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Play 06 / 9:30

▶ Speed 1.50x

Servo Control

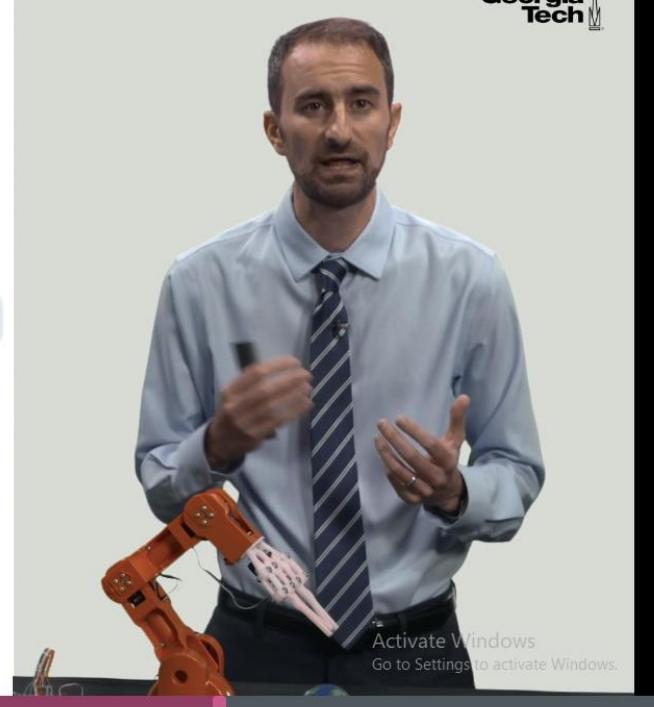


Note: You must maintain PWM signal to servo continuously during operation.

Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Common Servo Specifications

Specification	Typical Values
Power voltage	4.8-7.2 V
PWM voltage	5V
PWM frequency	20-60 Hz
Travel range	180 deg - 360 deg
Min. Pulse Width	700-1000 μ s
Max. Pulse Width	2000-2300 μ s
Rotational Speed	300 deg/s



Activate Windows
Go to Settings to activate Windows.

Play 3:27 / 9:30

▶ Speed 1.50x

Summary

Servo motors are special type of packaged actuator device used for **position control**. 

Used commonly in **robotic arms**, **remote-control vehicles**, and other mechatronic devices.

Consist of **DC motor**, **potentiometer**, **gear set**, and **control circuit** that implements feedback controller.

Servos are driven using **PWM signal** with specific frequency and pulse width characteristics.

