CALIFORNIA STATE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY, POMONA
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

ECE 3301L **Microcontroller Lab** **Felix Pinai**
Fall 2025 - Session 2

LAB 12: Fan Speed measurement with Speed control through PWM

The goal of this lab is to control the speed of a fan using PWM (Pulse Width Modulation). Beside the speed control feature, this lab will also measure the speed that the fan is rotating by capturing the number of tach pulses from the fan. The result will be displayed on the TFT panel.

Before we start the lab, we need to do some house cleaning first. Look at the provided schematics and determine what port connections are the following signals tied to:

1) FAN_PWM
2) FAN_TACH
3) FAN_EN
4) FAN_ON_LED

Next, perform the following tasks:

- Create a new project for lab12 and copy every file from lab11
- Move the newly provided 'Fan_Support.h' and 'Fan_Support.c' into the same folder for this lab 12.
- Refer to the schematics, edit the definitions (#define) for FAN_PWM in the 'Fan_Support.h' to reflect the new connection.
- Make the same edit for the signals FAN_EN and FAN_ON_LED.
- Add the 'Fan_Support.h' file into the header section of the project
- Add the 'Fan_Support.c' file into the source section of the project
- Add the line '#include Fan_Support.h' in the main source file
- Check on the schematics whether the signal 'KEY_PRESSED' is moved to a new pin. If so, make the appropriate change to that variable in the 'main.h' file.
- Make sure to connect the logic analyzer channel 0 to the FAN_TACH signal and the channel 1 to FAN_PWM

Compile the new project 'lab12' and verify that everything works the same as in lab 11 including the operations of the remote control.

Part A) Fixed time-based measurements using a timer

We will be using the fan that I have provided in the kit along with a wall plug +12V power supply. The fan has four wires:

1) Black wire: Ground pin to be connected to the Drain pin of the Power FET (2N7000 or equivalent).

2) Yellow wire: +12V pin to be connected to the +12V power pin of the power plug (this part is connected to the end wire coming from the wall plug power supply. Refer to the datasheet provided of the PJ102B power plug.
3) Green wire: Tach signal providing a pulse when the fan makes ½ the revolution. Make sure that there is a pull-up resistor connected to that pin. It should be connected to the pin RC0.
4) Blue wire: PWM wire to control the speed of the fan. It should be wired directly to the pin RC2.

Make all the connections shown on the schematics related to the fan. **Make sure that the +12V wire does not get connected to the VCC (+5V) of your breadboard**. **Any short between that +12V signal to the VCC can damage your computer since the VCC is provided by your computer!**

To measure the speed of a fan, we just need to count the number of pulses generated on the TACH signal (green wire). When a fan makes a full revolution, a total of two (2) pulses will be generated. We will now use a counter to count the number of pulses within a fixed period. Let us use the timer T3 as a counter. To setup it up as a timer, use the datasheet of the PIC18F4620:

http://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/devicedoc/39626e.pdf

and go to chapter 12 starting on page 137 and look at the register T3CON. Set the following:

Bit 7: RD16 – We don't need to use 16-bit operations
Bits 6,3: Ignore these two bits
Bit 5-4: No prescaler used (1:1)
Bit 2: Synchronize to external clock
Bit 1: External clock is from T13CKI
Bit 0: Disable Timer 3 first

Derive the correct value for T3CON. Initialize T3CON in the main initialization routine after the line 'Initialize_Screen()'.

We need to write next a routine called int get_RPM() to measure and to return the RPM (revolution per minute) of the fan. We know that RPM = 60 * RPS where RPS is revolution per second. To get RPS, we can count the number of pulses from the Tach signal per second and since there are 2 tach pulses per revolution, then RPS will be half the number of pulses counted in one second.

```
int get_RPM()
{
        int RPS = TMR3L / 2;            // read the count. Since there are 2 pulses per rev
                                        // then RPS = count /2
        TMR3L = 0;                      // clear out the count
```

```
        return (RPS * 60);                    // return RPM = 60 * RPS
}
```

Put this routine in the provided 'Fan_Support.c'.

Next, take the main program used on lab 11 and add the line: rpm = get_RPM() and place it when a new second has been detected. Here is a typical code:

```
  FAN_EN = 1;
  FANON_LED = 1;
  FAN_PWM = 1;
  char duty_cycle = 100;
  while (1)
  {
    DS3231_Read_Time();

    if(tempSecond != second)
    {
      tempSecond = second;
      DS1621_tempC = DS1621_Read_Temp();
      DS1621_tempF = (DS1621_tempC * 9 / 5) + 32;
      rpm = get_RPM();
      printf ("%02x:%02x:%02x %02x/%02x/%02x",hour,minute,second,month,day,year);
      printf (" Temp = %d C = %d F ", DS1621_tempC, DS1621_tempF);
      printf ("RPM = %d  dc = %d\r\n", rpm, duty_cycle);
    }
  }
```

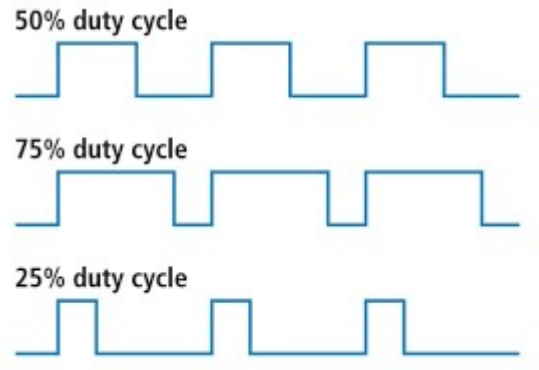
When the program runs successfully, the fan should run at full speed, and the RPM should be about 3600 rpm.

The schematics show channel 0 of the logic analyzer connected to the FAN_TACH pulse. Capture the waveform of this signal. Measure the period of this signal and calculate its frequency. Compare it to the rpm obtained on the TeraTerm.

Part B) Fan Speed control

Part B1)

To control the speed of the fan, we are going to use the signal 'FAM_PWM'. This signal uses the principle of duty cycle to increase or decrease speed. A signal with a duty cycle has a pulse that is set high for a fixed amount of time with respect to the entire period of the signal. Here are some examples:



The concept of PWM allows the use of duty cycle to vary the speed. A PWM with 50% duty cycle will force the fan to run a half-speed. If PWM is set to 1 (100 % duty cycle), the fan will run at full speed. On the other hand, if PWM is set to 0, then the fan will rotate at its lowest speed.

The provided fan can take a PWM pulse with a frequency range from 18KHz to 30 KHz. Let assume that we are going to use 25 KHz as the frequency.

Next, let us use the following link:

http://www.micro-examples.com/public/microex-navig/doc/097-pwm-calculator.html

Enter the value of 8 MHz for the PIC's operating frequency.

Next, enter 25000 for frequency of the PWM pulse. This is the frequency required by the fan when PWM is used. By varying the value in duty cycle box from 0 to 99, you should see the value of the registers needed to be modified – PR2, T2CON, CCP1CON and CCPR1L – being changed accordingly.

I have compiled a routine that will change those registers based on a specified value of the duty cycle:

```
void do_update_pwm(char duty_cycle)
{
        float dc_f;
        int dc_I;
        PR2 = 0b00000100 ;                  // set the frequency for 25 Khz
        T2CON = 0b00000111 ;                //
        dc_f = ( 4.0 * duty_cycle / 20.0) ; // calculate factor of duty cycle versus a 25 Khz
                                            // signal
        dc_I = (int) dc_f;                  // get the integer part
         if (dc_I > duty_cycle) dc_I++;     // round up function
         CCP1CON = ((dc_I & 0x03) << 4) | 0b00001100;
         CCPR1L = (dc_I) >> 2;
}
```

Place this routine in the 'Fan_Support.c' file.

Next, go back to the code provided on part A) above.
At the place of the following lines:

```
FAN_PWM = 1;
char duty_cycle = 100;
```

replace them with the following lines:

```
char duty_cycle = 50;
do_update_pwm(duty_cycle) ;
```

Compile the program and notice the value of the RPM on Teraterm. It should be half the value because we are reducing the speed by half.

If that works, change the different value of 'duty_cycle' by modifying the value and rerun the program. Observe on TeraTerm that the fan runs faster or slower if 'duty_cycle' is increased or decreased.

Capture the waveform of the PWM signal using channel 1 of the logic analyzer. Observe and calculate the duty of the signal and compare it to the duty cycle selected on the program.

Part B2)

When the above task works successfully, then implement two new functions to control the outputs of the two RGB LEDs D1 and D2:

LED D1: void Set_DC_RGB(char duty_cycle)
LED D2: void Set_RPM_RGB(int rpm)

Here are the requirements for the routine Set_DC_RGB(char duty_cycle):

a) If duty cycle >= 0 and < 9, color is none
b) If duty cycle >=10 and < 19, color is RED
c) If duty cycle >=20 and < 29, color is GREEN
d) If duty cycle >= 30 and < 39, color is YELLOW
e) If duty cycle >= 40 and < 49, color is BLUE
f) If duty cycle >= 50 and < 59, color is PURPLE
g) If duty cycle >= 60 and < 69, color is CYAN
h) If duty cycle >= 70, color is WHITE

Here are the requirements for the routine Set_RPM_RGB(int rpm):

a) If rpm = 0, no color to be displayed
b) If rpm > 0 and < 500, color is RED
c) If rpm >= 500 and < 1000, color is GREEN
d) If rpm >= 1000 and < 1500, color is YELLOW
e) If rpm >= 1500 and < 2000, color is BLUE
f) If rpm >= 2000 and < 2500, color is PURPLE
g) If rpm >= 2500 and < 3000, color is CYAN
h) If rpm >= 3000, color is WHITE

Write those routines without using a multiple IF or case statements. The implementation of each routine should be done as short as possible. Look at the sequence of numbers and derive a formula that should simply generate the proper output based on a given input.

Place those two functions in the 'Fan_Support.c'file.

Do call those two functions after the call to measure the rpm (rpm = get_RPM() in the main program.

..

Part C) Fan Operational Control using remote control

In the previous lab, a key was used to preload the time with a fixed set of values. In this lab, the button 'EQ' (button number 8) must be used to perform that function. Change your original program to this button instead.

Now we are going to use the remote control that we have developed on lab 11 to control the operations of the fan. Three buttons on the remote will be used:

- Button '-' or button number 6
- Button '+' or button number 7
- Button 'Play/Pause' or button number 5

Based on the code on lab 11, add more code to check the variable 'found' to do the following:

- If found is 'Play/Pause' call the function Toggle_Fan()
- If found is '-' call the function Decrease_Speed()
- If found is '+' call the function Increase_Speed()

Next, we will need to implement those three functions to be placed in the Fan_Support.c file.

- Toggle_Fan():
  - If the variable 'Fan' is 0, call function Turn_On_Fan();
  - Else call function Turn_Off_Fan()

  Write up the code for both Turn_On_Fan() and Turn_Off_Fan() to be also placed in the Fan_Support.c file

- Turn_On_Fan():
  - Set the variable Fan to be 1
  - Call function do_update_pwm(duty_cycle) to set the proper speed
  - Turn on the fan by setting the signal FAN_EN to 1.
  - Also, set the signal FANON_LED to 1.

- Turn_Off_Fan():
  - Set the variable Fan to be 0
  - Turn off the fan using FAN_EN
  - Turn off the LED FANON_EN

- Increase_Speed():

  - Check if duty cycle is at 100
    - If 100, then generate two beep codes using Do_Beep() function and then reprogram the PWM duty cycle. The duty cycle should remain at 100.
    - If not, then increase duty cycle by 5 and reprogram the PWM duty cycle
- Decrease_Speed():

  - Check if duty cycle is at 0
    - If 0, then generate two beep codes using Do_Beep() function and reprogram the duty cycle. The duty cycle must remain at 0.
    - If not, then decrease duty cycle by 5 and change the PWM duty cycle

Note: The function Do_Beep() is simply the sequence of Activate_Beep, Wait_One_Sec(), Deactivate_Beep(). **When done, a call to re-initialize the PWM needs to be performed because the Activate_Beep() function will destroy the original PWM.**

Run the program and use the remote control to turn on/off the fan and to increase/decrease the speed**. Make sure the program starts with the fan in the off state (FAN_EN = 0, FANON_LED = 0) and the duty cycle set at 50.**