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Our thoughts and memories...

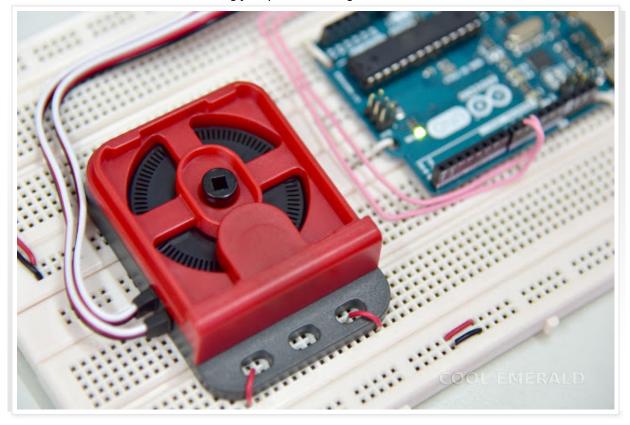
Sasana Year 2566, Myanmar Year 1384, Tagu new moon, Friday, Sabbath.



Thursday, March 6, 2014

Reading Rotary Encoder Using Microcontroller

Rotary encoders are commonly used for measuring angular position or motion sensing. An optical encoder has a disc with a pattern of cutouts. As the disc rotated, an LED light that shines on photo detector is turned on and off accordingly to produce a digital waveform.



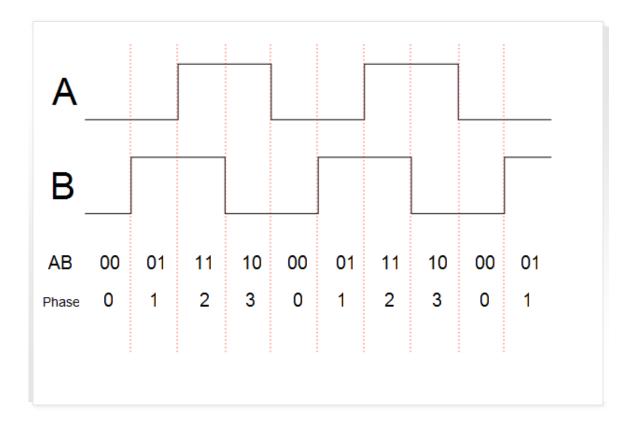
An optical encoder produced by VEX Robotics Design System

Gray code is normally used in encoders instead of ordinary binary code to prevent glitches. In Gray code, the number of changing bits between successive numbers is only 1. The following table shows 2 bit Gray code from 0 to 3.

Gray code

Number	2-bit Gray Code
0	00
1	01
2	11
3	10

Encoders typically have two outputs called A and B. When it is turned clockwise, the waveform as shown in the following figure is produced. Its phase increases from 0 to 3. When it is turned counterclockwise, the output phases are produced in reverse order.



I have found several example programs in the Internet to read an encoder from a microcontroller. But I think, those programs are long and inefficient. The program presented here is simple, short and efficient. The resulting resolution of the program is 4 times the pulses per revolution of the encoder.

I use the state machine design. I define the output phases of the encoder 0, 1, 2, and 3 as states - s0, s1, s2, and s2 respectively. Then, the counting of the encoder states is shown in the following table.

Counting encoder states

Next state	Present state	Count	
s0	s0	No change	
s0	s1	Down	
s0	s3	Up	
s0	s2	Don't care	
s1	s0	Up	
s1	s1	No change	
s1	s3	Don't care	
s1	s2	Down	
s3	s0	Down	
s3	s1	Don't care	
s3	s3	No change	
s3	s2	Up	
s2	s0	Don't care	
s2	s1	Up	
s2	s3	Down	
s2	s2	No change	

When the states are replaced by the corresponding binary bits, the following truth table is obtained.

Truth table

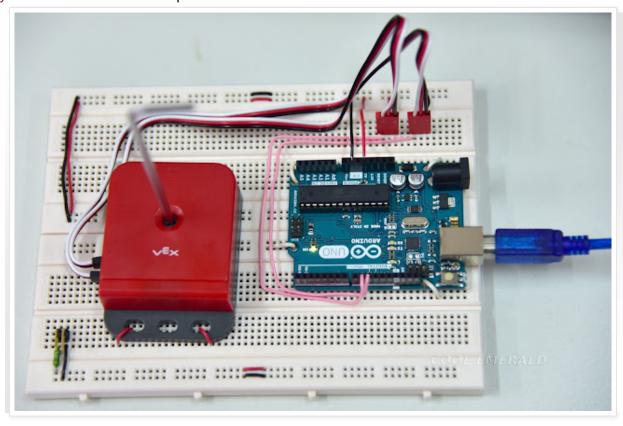
Next state - Present state	Up	Down
00 00	0	0
00 01	0	1
00 10	1	0
00 11	0	0
01 00	1	0
01 01	0	0
01 10	0	0
01 11	0	1
10 00	0	1
10 01	0	0
10 10	0	0
10 11	1	0
	00 00 00 01 00 10 00 11 01 00 01 01 01 10 01 11 10 00 10 01	00 00 0 00 01 0 00 10 1 00 11 0 01 00 1 01 01 0 01 10 0 01 11 0 10 00 0 10 01 0 10 10 0

12	11 00	0	0
13	11 01	1	0
14	11 10	0	1
15	11 11	0	0

By considering next state and present state in the truth table as binary code, it is counting up at 2, 4, 11, and 13. Similarly, it is counting down at 1, 7,8, and 14. An array can be declared to represent the truth table as follows.

```
int En_TruthTable[] = {0,-1,1,0,1,0,0,-1,-1,0,0,1,0,1,-1,0};
```

Arduino UNO single board microcontroller and an optical shaft encoder from VEX Robotics Design System are used in this example.



In our circuit, pin 9 of the microcontroller is connected to channel A of the encoder and pin 10 is connected to channel B. The code to get the next state (NS) from the bitwise reading of channel A and channel B is shown below.

```
NS = (digitalRead(pinA)<<1) | digitalRead(pinB);</pre>
```

As we turn the shaft, the encoder produces a series of digital pulses and the microcontroller has to

constantly check and update the position everytime the next state (NS) is different from the present state (PS). If c is a variable to keep track of the encoder position, its values should reach back to zero when the encoder has been turned a complete revolution. The number of state changes for one revolution (SPR) is four times the pulses per revolution (PPR) of the encoder (SPR = 4 . PPR) .

```
c=(c+En_TruthTable[(NS<<2)|PS]+SPR)%SPR;</pre>
```

The angle (a) that corresponds to c in degree ($0 \le a < 360$) is calculated as follows.

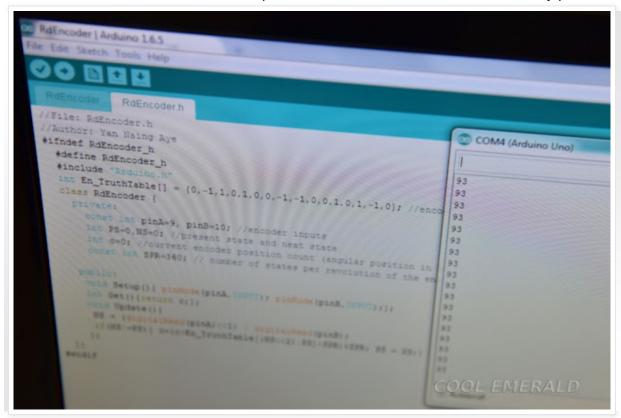
```
a = c * 360.0 / SPR
```

Similarly, the angle (b) n degree ($-180 \le a < 180$) can be calculated from the angle (a).

```
b = a - floor(a/180)*360.
```

An example program is available at Rotary Encoder using Arduino to get absolute value (on GitHub).

Arduino software (IDE) is available for free and I found it very easy to use. In my case, after I have chosen the correct board and correct COM port in the "Tools" menu, it worked without any problem.



Posted by Yan Naing Aye at Thursday, March 06, 2014



Labels: C, Circuit, Electronics, Embedded System, Encoder, Hardware, Microcontroller, Robotics

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- **2021 (5)**
- **2020 (12)**
- **2018 (12)**
- **2017 (13)**
- **2016 (10)**
- **2015 (7)**
- **2014 (6)**
 - September (2)
 - August (2)
 - Warch (2)

Travel Checklist

Reading Rotary Encoder Using Microcontroller

- **2013 (14)**
- **2012 (4)**
- **2011 (11)**
- **2010 (10)**
- **2009 (10)**
- **2008 (11)**

Labels

.NET 2.4 GHz 2005 6 DOF 8051 A4988 Accelerometer Actuator Adaptive Filter ADC ADS1115 Aircon AJAX Algorithm Amplifier Arduino ARM Armbian Astrological AT89C51CC03 BeagleBoard BeagleBone Bibliography Bluetooth BMFLC Book Burmese byte stuffing C C++ Calendar CAN Capacitor CC2530 CCTV Centroid of Myanmar Circuit Clock CMake CMUcam5 Code Code::Blocks CodeLite Color Com Comm Communication Compensation Computer Vision Control CoreXY cpprestsdk CRC Cross-compiling Cross-platform CRP Crystal Oscillator Current Transformer Curve Fitting D-H model DAC Database Daughters Device Driver Diode Discrete Backlash Operator DIY DLL DOF DrawBot Driver DRV2700 DRV8825 DRV8834 DS1307 Dynamic Link Electronics email Embedded System Encoder Energy Ethernet face-detection Family FAT32 Feed-forward firmware Flash Fourier FRDM-K64F FRDM-K82F Free Software FreeTDS Freeware Fujitsu Function generator Fusion g++ galaxy note 2 gcc gcode GIMP Gnuplot grbl Gregorian Gyroscope Haar Cascades Hardware HDR Health HFMD High pass filter Human Arm Hysteresis I2C IAR IEEE 802.15.4 ILI9341 image Image processing IMU Inertial Measurement Unit Inkscape Integration Interface internet interrupt JavaScript JN5168 JSON JsonCpp Julian k-means K64 K82 KiCad Kids Kinematics L3G4200D LabVIEW Laser LaTeX LCD Linux LM337 LM358N Low pass filter LPC54102 LPC824 LPCXpresso824-MAX LuaTeX Mathematics MatLab Matplotlib MCP3008 MCU MCUXpresso Mechanical Mechatronics Medical Mesh Bee Meter Microcontroller ModBus Model Monitor Monte Carlo Integration Motor Driver MsSQL multidrop multithreading Myanmar MySQL Network Notifylcon NXP Octave ODBC Odroid Op-amp op-amp oscillator Open source opencv opencv-3.2.0 opencv3 OPi Orange Pi Parallel Port password pca9535 PCB PCF8591 personal phone Photography Piezoelectric PIR Sensor Pixy pkg-config Prandtl-Ishlinskii Programming ot Raspberry Pi RaspiCam RC real-time Reference Regulator Relay repair REST robot Robotics Rotation RS232 RS422 RS485 SB-900 SBC schroot SD Card SDCC Sensor Serial Serial Port Signal Processing Simple Smart Home Socket soft-timer SPI SQL Stages Stepper Motor Surveillance SVG System TCP Template tesseract tesseract-ocr TeXstudio Thesis TI Timer Tool Touch Transceiver Translation Travel UART Ubuntu UDP USB v4l2 VB vector graphic Velvia Virtual Com Visual Basic Visual Studio Visual Studio 2015 VNC VS14 Web Windows Wireless Writing wxDev-C++ wxJSON wxWidgets X DevAPI XeLaTeX XeTeX XY Plotter Zigbee

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