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Function Blocks

Function Blocks

- There are several types of function blocks in ladder programming that implement:
- 1. Logic operations (AND, OR, NOT, etc.).
- 2. Math operations (addition, multiplication, etc.)
- 3. Timers.
- 4. Counters.

2. Math operations

In the ladder programming, there are blocks to implement different types of mathematical operation such as addition and subtraction.



Latching

- There are often situations where it is necessary to hold an output energized, even when the input ceases.
- A simple example of such a situation is a motor which is started by pressing a push button switch. Though the switch contacts do not remain closed, the motor is required to continue running until a stop push button switch is pressed.
- Latching is particularly useful for making a momentary pushbutton switch perform as if it were a maintained switch.
- The *latch circuit* is a self-maintaining circuit in that, after being energized, it maintains that state until another input is received.

Latching circuit with start button

- The circuit shown can be used to start a motor using the Start push button.
- When Start is pressed, the motor starts.
- When Start is released, the holding contacts maintain the circuit and hence the power to the motor.
- But how to stop the motor?



Latched circuit

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Latching circuit with start and stop buttons

- To stop the motor, we add another push button (Stop) which is normally closed.
- When Stop button is pressed, this disconnects the power to the motor and the holding contacts open. Thus when Stop is released, there is no power connected to the motor.
- In conclusion, we have a motor which is started by Start and stopped by Stop push buttons.



Latched circuit

Safe and Unsafe Stop switches

To ensure <u>safety</u>, stop switches has to be very carefully considered.

We have to ensure that the Stop switch will do its job even when it fails.



Cont.

- In electrical circuits, the "open" failures (open switch contacts, broken wire connections, open relay coils, blown fuses, etc.) are statistically more likely to occur than any other type of failure.
- A stop switch is not safe if it is normally open and has to be closed to give the stop action. Imagine that the stop switch fails. It most likely fails open (becomes open permanently). In this case, the system cannot be stopped.
- A better arrangement is to program the stop switch in the ladder program as open and use a stop switch that is normally closed and operating opens it.

Special types of **contacts** and **coils**

- There are special types of contacts and coils which are associated with whether the input variable or power flow is having a +ve or –ve edge changes.
- They have the following symbols.



I. Positive and Negative transition-sensing **Contacts**

Positive transition-sensing contact:

when the associated variable changes from 0 to 1, *power flows for one ladder rung evaluation*.



when the associated variable changes from 1 to 0,

power flows for one ladder rung evaluation.



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II. Positive and Negative transition-sensing coils

Positive transition-sensing coil:

if the power flow to it changes from off to on, the output is set on *for one ladder rung evaluation*.

Negative transition-sensing coil:

if the power flow to it changes from on to off, the output is set on <u>for one ladder rung</u> <u>evaluation</u>.





Example

- For the ladder rung shown, with the input off there is no output. When the input switches on, there is an output from the coil.
- However, the next and successive cycles of the program do not give outputs from the coil even though the switch remains on. The coil only gives an output for *one ladder rung evaluation* the first time the switch is on.



Example (On-off liquid level control)

- It is required to keep the water level between two levels: L (Low) and H (High).
- There are two sensors: one that gives 1 if the level is below L and the other gives 1 if the level is above H.
- If the level is below **L**, the valve is opened to fill the tank till the level reaches **H** when the valve closes.
- Design the ladder diagram for this control system.





- You may have noted that the previous example may be solved using the SR flip-flop memory action.
- It is interesting that there is a function block which implements the SR Flip-flop function with following truth table.





3. Timers

- Timers: are used to operate devices for certain period of time.
- PLC contains three basic types of timers:
- a) On-delay timer (TON).
- b) Off-delay timer (TOF).
- c) Pulse-timer (TP).



Timers: (a) on-delay (b) off-delay (c) pulse

a) ON – Delay Timer





Cont.

- When the input IN changes from 0 to 1, the output Q changes from 0 to 1 after a time interval set at PT (preset time). During this interval, ET outputs the elapsed time.
- If IN is 0 before ET reaches the preset time, the elapsed time becomes 0.
- If IN is 0 after Q is 1, Q will be 0.

Example (1): LG

Develop the ladder logic that will turn on an output light, 5 seconds after switch A has been turned on.



Example (2): Siemens



- In this example, when input I0.3 turns on, timer T37 begins timing.
- T37 has a time base (resolution) of 100 ms (0.1 seconds). The preset time (PT) value has been set to 150. This gives 15 seconds delay (150 x 100 ms).
- Therefore, 15 seconds after the I0.3 contact closes, timer output becomes a logic 1, and output coil Q0.1 turns on. If the switch opens before 15 seconds has elapsed, the elapsed time (ET) resets to 0. *Prof. Mohamed Ahmed Ebrahim*

In Off-Delay timer, if the input **IN** turned off (change from 1 to 0), the timer waits for a certain time interval and then turns off its output **Q**.

c) Pulse Timer

Function	Description		
ТР	Input IN : Timer operation condition PT : Preset Time		
BOOL IN Q BOOL TIME PT ET TIME	Output Q : Timer output ET : Elapsed Time		



Cont.

- If IN is changes from 0 to 1, Q becomes 1 during the preset time, and if ET reaches PT, Q becomes 0 automatically.
- Elapsed time ET increases when IN is 1 and holds the value when it reaches PT and becomes 0 when IN is 0.
- It does not matter whether IN is 0 or 1 while the output Q is 1.

4. Counters

PLC counter instructions keep track of events. As it counts, a counter instruction compares an accumulated count value to a preset value to determine when the desired count has been reached.

Counters can be used to start an operation when a count is reached or to prevent an operation from occurring until a count has been reached.

Cont.

Types of counters in PLC:

- a) Up counter (CU).
- b) Down counter (CD).
- c) Up-down counter (CUD).

a) UP – Counter (CTU)

Function			Description			
	ст	U		Input	CU R	:Up_Count pulse input :Reset input
BOOL -	CU	Q	BOOL		PV	: Preset Value
BOOL - INT -	R PV	cv	INT	Output	Q CV	: Up_Count output : Current Value



Cont.

- PV (preset value) is the count value to be stored in the counter.
- Up counter CTU increases CV (current value) by 1 when input
 CU changes from 0 to 1 (i.e. positive edge).
- Output **Q** is 1 when **CV** ≥ **PV**.
- When reset input **R** is 1, **CV** is cleared (becomes 0).

Example (3)



Basic counter program

In this example, **Out1** will turn on after switch **In2** has been closed 10 times. Push button **In1** will reset the counters.

b) Down – Counter (CTU)

- The down counter starts its counts from a value PV.
- PV is loaded to CV (current value) using the input LD.
- Each time a positive edge occurs on CD (count down) terminal the CV is decremented by one.
- If **CV** <= 0, **Q** turns on.



Count Down Counter

c) UP / Down – Counter (CTU)

- Every +ve edge on CU increment CV by 1.
- Every +ve edge on CD decrement CV by 1.

CV	QD	QU
CV <= 0	1	0
CV >= PV	0	1

- R: reset the counter
- LD: load CV with the value PV.



Count Up/Down Counter

Example (4)

A counter might be used to keep track of the items in an inventory storage area.



Example (4) – Cont.

- In the previous slide, Counter C48 is reset to zero when contact I0.2 closes. This could be triggered automatically or manually to indicate that the storage location is empty.
- When contact I0.0 closes, the counter counts up by 1. This could be triggered by a proximity switch sensing that an item has been placed in the storage location.
- When contact I0.1 closes, the counter counts down by 1. This could be triggered by a proximity switch sensing that an item has been removed from the storage location.
- When the accumulated count reaches 150, the counter turns on, contact C48 closes, and output Q0.1 turns on. This could trigger other logic in the program to divert new items to another location until an item is removed from this location.

TIMERS AND COUNTERS(continue)



