Typesetting Electrical Wiring Diagrams for *Relay* Control Systems with LATEX and TikZ

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Version: 1.3, Version date: 2022-08-07

1 Abstract

This package contains a collection of symbols for typesetting electrical wiring diagrams for relay control systems. The symbols are meant to agree with international standard IEC 60 617 [1, 2, 3, 4] which is worldwide adopted with perhaps the exception of the USA. It extends and modifies when needed, the TikZ-libray circuits.ee.IEC. A few non-standard symbols are also included mainly to be used in presentations, particularly with the beamer package.

2 Introduction

The relay control system has been gradually replaced by PLC (Programmable Controllers) software. However, small automation systems are usually implemented using relay control systems and the descriptions of PLC connection to external components are done using the same symbols as in relay control systems. Relay control systems are traditionally introduced at the very beginning of industrial automation disciplines. This package provides symbols to represent those systems accordingly to IEC 60 617 [1, 2, 3, 4].

Very unfortunately, the author has no access to the current version of that standard. The standards consulted during the elaboration of this package are:

- IEC 60 617-2/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 2: Symbol elements, qualifying symbols and other symbols having general application [1];
- IEC 60 617-4/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 4: Passive components [2];
- IEC 60 617-7/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 7: Switchgear, controlgear and protective devices [3];
- IEC 60 617-8/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 8: Measuring instruments, lamps and signalling devices [4].

All of the aforementioned standards have been withdrawn and correspond to edition 2 of IEC 60 617 [1, 2, 3, 4]. The up-to-date edition in now on-line [5]. The author trust that the symbols in this package have not been modified between versions, but without access to the new edition, it is impossible to say for sure. One indication that improves confidence in the up-to-dateness of this package is the fact that the current edition is based on editions 2 and 3 and the blunt fact that symbols, once adopted, tend to remain unchanged over time. There are also other libraries with free access¹ that show symbols with the same form they appear herein. Please, report any inaccuracy and out-to-date symbols.

You can also help if you have access to the current standard and can verify and report the accuracy of the information presented herein. Particularly regarding the dimensions employed in the graphs. Some of them were devised using sounding geometrical rules, but many (like circle diameters) were estimated using poor resolution graphics.

The international standard IEC 60 617 is adopted worldwide, except the USA, which uses NEMA ICS 19-2002 – National Electrical Manufacturers Association [?]. If you are interested in NEMA standards you should refer to the tikz-ladder package. This package is meant to be used for PLC programming, but can also be used for relay control systems.

¹See, for instance, https://symbols.radicasoftware.com/stencil/IEC.html and https://www.tracepartsonline.net/ and search for "CEI IEC".

3 Relay Library

TikZ Library circuits.ee. IEC. relay

```
\usepgflibrary{circuits.ee.IEC.relay} % ETEX and plain TEX and pure pgf \usepgflibrary[circuits.ee.IEC.relay] % ConTEXt and pure pgf \usetikzlibrary{circuits.ee.IEC.relay} % ETEX and plain TEX when using TikZ \usetikzlibrary[circuits.ee.IEC.relay] % ConTEXt when using TikZ
```

This library provides graphics for electrical wiring diagrams for relay control systems according to the international standard IEC 60 617 [1, 2, 3, 4]. The library was written to extend the TikZ-library circuit.ee.IEC. The reader is urged to read the Section "Circuit Libraries" of TikZ manual [7]. This library defines the following key:

```
/tikz/circuit ee IEC relay
```

(no value)

This key should be passed as an option to a picture or a scope that contains a diagram. It will do some internal setups.

```
/tikz/activated (no value)
```

Adding this key to a contact symbol will "activate the contact" so that a make contact will close, a break contact will open and a change over contact will change. The "activated" symbols are not in accordance with IEC 60 617 because contact shall be drawn in the deactivated position, but it comes in handy we need to illustrate how a circuit works. The main purpose is for BEAMER presentations, see Section 7.2 for details and further examples. Compare deactivated (normal) and activated break contact:

```
/\text{tikz/term} = [\langle options \rangle] \langle angle \rangle : \langle text \rangle
```

(no default)

This key is meant to place text information about the upper terminal of the component. It has nearly the same effect as the label key, only the placement position is changed and the following style is used additionally and automatically:

```
/tikz/every term
```

(style, initially font=\scriptsize)

Set this style to configure the styling of term labels. Since this key is *not* used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The $\langle options \rangle$ and $\langle angle \rangle$ are passed directly to the label command. For a detailed discussion of the label option refer to the TikZ manual [7].

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

```
/\text{tikz/term'} = [\langle options \rangle] \langle angle \rangle : \langle text \rangle
```

(no default)

This key is similar to term, but it is meant to place text information about the lower terminal of the component. It has nearly the same effect as the label key, only the placement position is changed and the following style is used additionally and automatically:

```
/tikz/every term'
```

(style, initially font=\scriptsize)

Set this style to configure the styling of term' labels. Since this key is *not* used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The $\langle options \rangle$ and $\langle angle \rangle$ are passed directly to the label command. For a detailed discussion of the label option refer to the TikZ manual [7].

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

```
\texttt{/tikz/term''=[}\langle options \rangle ] \langle angle \rangle : \langle text \rangle
```

(no default)

This key is similar to term, but it is meant to place text information about the upper left terminal of the component mainly for change over contact. It has nearly the same effect as the label key, only the placement position is changed and the following style is used additionally and automatically:

/tikz/every term"

(style, initially font=\scriptsize)

Set this style to configure the styling of term" labels. Since this key is *not* used with normal labels, it provides an easy way of changing the way info labels look without changing other labels.

The $\langle options \rangle$ and $\langle angle \rangle$ are passed directly to the label command. For a detailed discussion of the label option refer to the TikZ manual [7].

The use of this key is exemplified in Section 6.

4 Convention

In this library, the mid anchor is used to place annotations, which are secondary symbols placed on top of another symbol, on contacts and the north or south anchor on relay coil. The key info, as described in Section "Circuit Libraries" of TikZ manual [7], is used to place the component identification. Observe that the info has to be provided for the annotation, if any, or for the symbol itself if the annotation is placed on the right side of the symbol. The keys term, term, and term, are used to place terminal numbers by the side of component terminals. See Section 6 for details and examples.

5 Symbols

The symbols in this library are:

key	IEC 60 617 number	Appearance
/tikz/resistor	04-01-01	
/tikz/fuse	07-21-01	
tikz/inductor IEC relay graphic	04-A3-01	
/tikz/bulb	08-10-01	\Diamond
<pre>/tikz/magnetic sensor</pre>	02-08-02	>
/tikz/thermic sensor	02-08-01	
/tikz/make contact	07-02-01	
/tikz/break contact	07-02-03	7

key	IEC 60 617 number	Appearance
/tikz/change over contact	07-02-04	
<pre>/tikz/relay coil</pre>	07-15-01	
/tikz/proximity sensor coil	07-19-01	
/tikz/mechanical interlock	02-12-11	
/tikz/horn	08-10-05	
/tikz/var horn IEC relay graphic	08-10-05	
/tikz/buzzer	NA	
tikz/loud speaker/	NA	

Above, the IEC 60 617 *numbers* in the format of *part-section-number* are as they appear in the standards [1, 2, 3, 4].

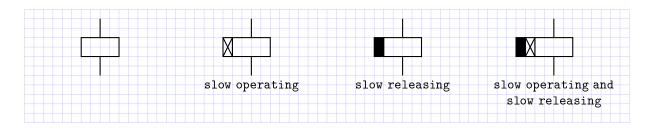
Three symbols, resistor, inductor and bulb are already defined in TikZ-library circuits.ee.IEC. They are redefined in this package because their proportion was not in agreement with IEC 60617. The symbol inductor is listed in Annex A of IEC 60617 [2] implying it is deleted and should appear in old diagrams or documentation explaining it is now obsolete. To use this symbol set the option set inductor graphic = inductor IEC relay graphic either globally with tikzset or locally as the option of a picture or a scope.

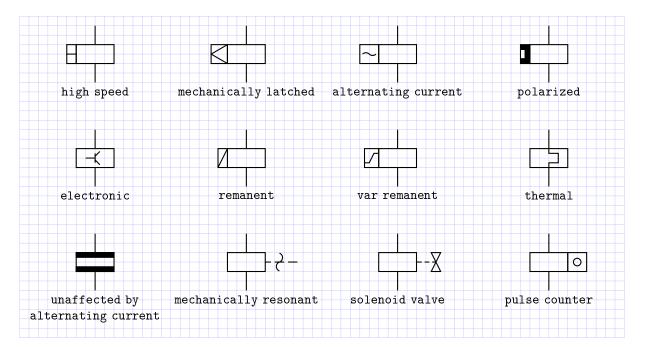
"Change over contact" is described in Section 5.4. The symbols make contact, break contact and change over contact can be activated (the contact changes the position) and this feature is needed for creating presentations. See Section 7.2 for details.

This list may look short, but several other symbols are possible by combining these symbols with annotation. In fact, it is annotations that empower this library.

5.1 Annotation for relay coils

The relay coil can be used alone or combined with annotations to form:

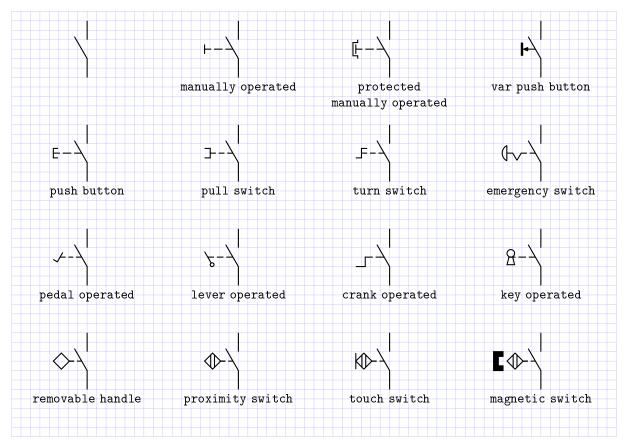


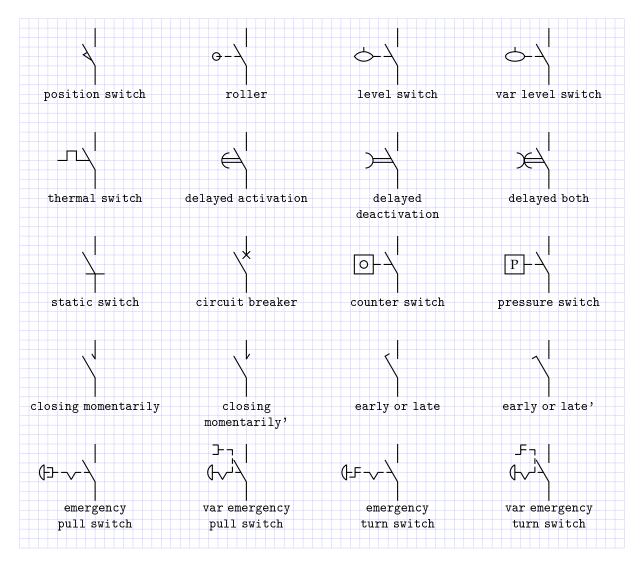


Note that the symbol relay coil is used to produce the graphic for other devices which are not relays at all.

5.2 Annotation for contacts

The contacts can be used alone or combined with annotations to form:





Temperature sensitive switch is indicated by either the Greek capital letter Θ or by the operating temperature conditions written on the right side of the contact and it can be achieved using the info' key. It is also usual to indicate pressure-sensitive switches with the roman letter P or by the operating pressure conditions in the same way.

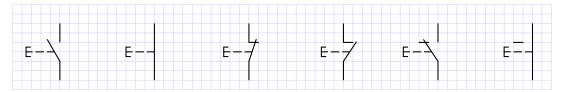
Some symbols can be obtained by combining symbols in this library with symbols from the TikZ-library circuit.ee. IEC, for instance, a "static switch, passing current in one direction only" (IEC symbol 07-25-03) can be drawn using a make contact and a diode as:



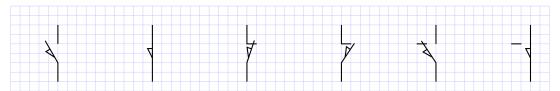
In this case, the space or grid should be treated very carefully.

5.3 Annotation self-placement

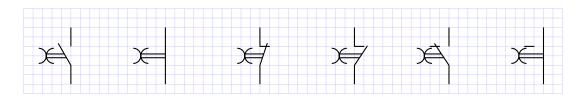
The mid anchor is used for contacts to place the annotation at the correct position. For instance, a push button applied to all kinds of contacts produces:



In the case of a position switch, delayed activation, delayed deactivation, delayed both and static switch, the orientation is also adjusted with the help of the input anchor:



and



Annotations can be mirrored using the apostrophe ('), e.g., a "make contact (of a multiple contact assembly) which is *early* to close relative to the other make contacts of the assembly" (IEC symbol 07-04-01) obtained from annotation early or late. When mirrored, this annotation produces a "make contact (of a multiple contact assembly) which is *late* to close relative to the other make contacts of the assembly" (IEC symbol 07-04-02):

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
\draw
  (0,0) to[make contact={early or late}] ++(0,2)
  (1,0) to[make contact={early or late'}] ++(0,2);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

In the case of a break contact, as in "break contact (of a multiple contact assembly) which is *late* to open relative to the other break contacts of the assembly" (IEC symbol 07-04-03) and "break contact (of a multiple contact assembly) which is *early* to open relative to the other break contacts of the assembly" (IEC symbol 07-04-04), the use apostrophe (') is reverted:

The "passing make contact closing momentarily when its operating device is *actuated*" (IEC symbol 07-03-01) and "Passing make contact closing momentarily when itsoperating device is *released*" (IEC symbol 07-03-02) are obtained from annotation closing momentarily and its mirrored version, respectively.

Sometimes it is necessary to use both annotation versions as in "passing make contact closing momentarily when its operating device is actuated or released" (IEC symbol 07-03-03) which is constructed as:

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
    \draw
    (0,0) to[make contact={closing momentarily, closing momentarily'}] ++(0,2);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

Another example of using both annotation versions is the "position switch, mechanically operated in both directions with two separate circuits" (IEC symbol 07-08-03) which would be:

```
*-----
```

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
\draw
(0,0) to[break contact={name=sw1, position switch, position switch'}] ++(0,2)
(2,0) to[make contact={name=sw2, position switch, position switch'}] ++(0,2);
\draw[dashed] (sw1.south) -- (sw2.north);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

5.4 Change over contact

The "change-over break before make contact" (IEC symbol 07-02-04) and "change-over make before break contact" (IEC symbol 07-02-06) are both obtained from change over contact although the latter would require both annotations early or late, early or late as in:

The change over contact is the only contact in this library that has three terminals. The bottom and top right terminal are connected in the usual way, namely, using the command to. To allow the user access to the top left terminal, an anchor named² output 1 is automatically placed. To use this anchor, the contact has to be named. The reference is available in the same and subsequent paths. Therefore,

where (n1) is used to store the coordinates of the second point making it possible to draw a vertical line with the same vertical level³. The second part of the \draw command just draws a line from (sw1.output 1) to (sw1.output 1 |- n1), a point with x coordinate equal to (sw1.output 1) $_x$ and y coordinate equal to (n1) $_y$. Refer to Section "Coordinates at Intersections" of TikZ manual [7] for details. This example also uses relative points; refer to Section "Special Syntax for Specifying Points" of TikZ manual [7] for details. The use of relative coordinates and anchor allows for the easy repositioning of the elements. Keep in mind that:

```
n2 \be
```

```
\begin{tikzpicture} [thick]
  \coordinate (n1) at (0,0);
  \coordinate (n2) at (1.3,1);
  \draw node[red,label={below left:n1}]{$\times$}
  (n1) -- (n1 |- n2) node[draw=violet]{} node[above left] {\verb!|-!} -- (n2)
  (n1) -- (n1 -| n2) node[draw=orange]{} node[below right]{\verb!-!!} -- (n2)
  node[blue,label={above right:n2}]{$\times$};
  \end{tikzpicture}
```

 $^{^2}$ The same name convention adopted in TikZ-library circuits.ee.IEC is used here: the symbol default orientations make the component appear as rotated 90° clockwise. The terminals on the left (bottom in the normal orientation) are named inputs and anchors with names starting with input are automatically placed. The terminals on the right (top in the normal orientation) are the outputs and anchors with names starting with output are automatically placed.

³In this case, the second point coordinates are known to be (0,2), but in general it is a good idea to use the command coordinate to store the information for future use. This allows for the contact to be moved easily when needed.

6 Labels

You can place information on the left side of a symbol using info and on the right side with info. Note that, if the symbol has an annotation on its left side and you want to use info, you have to use info in the annotation. The same is valid for info if the annotation is on the right side of the symbol. For instance, a relay coil named K1 is labelled as:

but a slow operating relay coil has to be labelled in the slow operating key as:

```
\tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
\draw (0,0) to[relay coil={slow operating={info=K2}}] (0,1);
```

failing to do so produces an incorrect labelling position as:

```
\tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,red]
\draw (0,0) to[relay coil={slow operating,info=K2}] (0,1);
```

In the last case, the info is applied to relay coil, not to the annotation slow operating.

On the other hand, if the annotation is placed at the right of the symbol, like a solenoid valve, the info is placed in the symbol itself (not in the annotation):

```
Y2 \rightarrow \tikz[circuit ee IEC relay, thick] \draw (0,0) to [relay coil={solenoid valve, info=Y2}] (0,1);
```

The same reasoning applies to the right side using the info' key: if there is an annotation on the right side, use the info' inside the annotation key:

```
Y2 RELEASE \tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick] \draw (0,0) to[relay coil={solenoid valve={info'={[blue]RELEASE}}},info=Y2}] (0,1);
```

but if there is no annotation or the annotation is on the left side, use the info' inside the symbol:

```
K2 START | \tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick] \draw (0,0) \to[relay coil={slow operating={info=K2},info'={[blue]START}}] (0,1);
```

It is also possible to label the terminals for assembling reference. There are three specially designed keys for it:

term places a label at the top right side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the top terminal. Because of the TikZ convention, an anchor named output is placed on this terminal;

term' places a label at the bottom right side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the bottom terminal. Because of the TikZ convention, an anchor named input is placed on this terminal;

term" places a label at the top left side of the symbol. It is meant to identify the top left terminal of a change over contact. Because of the TikZ convention, an anchor named output 1 is placed on this terminal. The key term" places the label such that a line to output 1 can be drawn vertically or horizontally without crossing the label.

Each one of these three keys can be individually styled using the style, e.g., every term'/.style. A slow operating relay coil:

```
K2 A1

\tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
\draw (0,0) to[relay coil={slow operating={info=K2},term=A1,term'=A2}] (0,1);
```

A change over contact of the same relay:

```
\tikz[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]
\draw (0,0) to[change over contact={info=K2,
term=34,term'=31,term"=32}] (0,1);
```

7 Design Guidance

This section brings some recommendations that reflect the way I produce diagrams for relay control systems. It may or may not work for you. Feel free to e-mail me if you have better ideas.

The first thing to consider is that, as the manual says, "TikZ ist kein Zeichenprogramm" which translates to "TikZ is not a drawing program" [7, p. 27]. You shall start with a draft of your diagram and then codify it using TikZ. Generally, a handmade pencil sketch will do. In this draft, you shall use node names for future reference. For instance, the contact named N1 below is used as a connection point for the latching contact of relay K_1 ; contacts N0L and N24L are used for power rails (left side).

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick]\\ \draw (0,0)\\ \node[contact,name=NOL]\{\}\\ \to [relay coil=\{info=\$K_1\$\}] ++(0,1)\\ \to [break contact=\{thermal switch=\{info=\$F_R\$\}\}] ++(0,1)\\ \to [break contact=\{push button=\{info=\$b_0\$\}\}] ++(0,1)\\ \node[contact,name=NI]\{\}\\ \to [make contact=\{push button=\{info=\$b_1\$\}\}] ++(0,1)\\ \node[contact,name=N24L]\{\};\\ \node[left,red] at(N1) \{N1\};\\ \node[left,red] at(N0L) \{N0L\};\\ \node[left,red] at(N24L) \{N24L\};\\ \end{tikzpicture}
```

The second thing to consider is that tikz-relay uses the \tikzcircuitssizeunit to keep all figures proportional. Therefore, when you consider any dimension related to symbol size it is a good idea to set that dimension with respect to \tikzcircuitssizeunit, i.e., using \tikzcircuitssizeunit as the unit of length. The default value of \tikzcircuitssizeunit is 7 pt or approximately 2.46 mm and it can be set by the circuit symbol unit key among several other keys. You can think of \tikzcircuitssizeunit as the module size M in IEC 60 617 [3]. Most symbols presented in the IEC 60 617 are draw using $M=2.5\,\mathrm{mm}$. This can be achieved by placing the command \tikzset{circuit symbol unit=2.5mm} in the document preamble which changes \tikzcircuitssizeunit to 7.11317pt document wide (not too different from the default value though). You can establish your own length unit and set x and y to that length unit. In this way you will be working on a grid; if it is too big or too small you will have to change a single declaration.

Finishing up the previous example, the x grid is set to five \tikzcircuitssizeunit to allow horizontal space for labels and the y grid is set to four \tikzcircuitssizeunit because the symbols used in the control circuit schematics are two \tikzcircuitssizeunit tall, so there will be one \tikzcircuitssizeunit above and below the symbol. Starting at N1, the latching contact of K_1 is placed one horizontal length unit aside b_1 .

```
\begin{tikzpicture} [circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
    x=5 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit, y=4 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit
  \det (0.0)
    node[contact,name=NOL]{}
    to [relay coil=\{info=$K_1$\}] ++(0,1)
    to [break contact=\{thermal\ switch=\{info=\$F_R\$\}\}] ++(0,1)
    to [break contact=\{push\ button=\{info=\$b\_0\$\}\}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N1]{}
    to [make contact=\{push\ button=\{info=$b_1$\}\}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N24L]{};
  \draw (N1) -- ++(1.0)
    to [make contact={info=$K_1$}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N24R]{};
  power rails
  \det (N24L) ++(-0.8,0)  node [left] \{ \underbrace{V} \} = -(N24R) -- ++(0.3,0) 
         (NOL) ++(-0.8,0) node [left] { \{ (0.3,0); } -- (NOL -| N24R) -- ++(0.3,0); } 
\end{tikzpicture}
```

Power rails are placed using named nodes. This is not really necessary since the beginning and end of the power rail lines can be determined easily because we are working on a grid.

Because of the direction chosen when the symbols were first defined in TikZ, we start from the bottom moving to the top of the diagram. This is not mandatory, although changing the direction requires that all symbols and annotations be negatively scaled (locally rotated by 180°), for instance, the last example would be:

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
    x=5 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit, y=4 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit,
    every circuit symbol/.style={scale=-1},
    every circuit annotation/.style={scale=-1}]
  \det (0,0)
   node[contact,name=N24L]{}
    to [make contact=\{push\ button=\{info=$b_1$\}\}] ++(0,-1)
    node [contact.name=N1]{}
    to [break contact=\{push\ button=\{info=$b_0$\}\}] ++(0,-1)
    to [break contact=\{thermal\ switch=\{info=\$F_R\$\}\}] ++(0,-1)
    to [relay coil=\{info=$K_1$\}] ++(0,-1)
   node[contact,name=NOL]{};
  \draw (1,0)
   node[contact,name=N24R]{}
    to [make contact=\{info=$K_1$\}] ++(0,-1) -- (N1);
  \draw (N24L) ++(-0.8,0) node[left]{$\unit[+24]{V}$} -- (N24R) -- ++(0.3,0)
         (NOL) ++(-0.8,0) node [left] { \unit[0]{V}$} -- (NOL -| N24R) -- ++(0.3,0); 
\end{tikzpicture}
```

where every circuit symbol/.style={scale=-1} and every circuit annotation/.style={scale=-1} were used to scale the symbols and annotations, respectively. This example produces the very same diagram, but we start at the top and work down to the bottom.

7.1 Some tricks

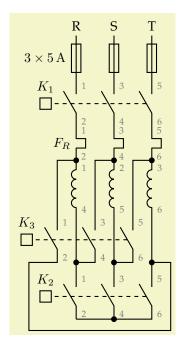
Power circuit schematics use a more diverse variety of symbol heights than control circuit schematics. Thus, it is better to set the grid to a smaller value. This allows for higher control over the symbol's distance. For each symbol, consider its height and allow some extra space between symbols.

Some symbols like relay coils for power circuits schematics are not available, thus we can draw a square by the side of the relay contacts and connect it to the rightmost contact using a dashed line. The mid anchor is perfect for that. We shall start at the mid anchor of the rightmost contact and draw a dashed line to the left using relative coordinates, at the end of the dashed line we place a square node with no text inside, but with a label above (or left) identifying the relay coil.

The inductors look a bit odd: the semicircles end in very sharp corners. It is better to change the line joint to bevel.

You can use different styles for info and info', and also for term, term' and term'', but it is usually a bad idea. It is normally best to set a style for one of these keys and copy it to the others.

For example, a star-delta motor starter has a power circuit schematic like:



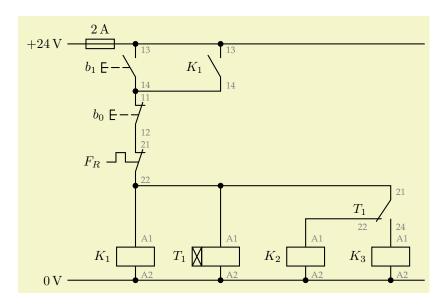
```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
    x=\tikzcircuitssizeunit.
    y=1.2|tikzcircuitssizeunit,
    every inductor/.style={line join=bevel},
    every term/.style={gray,font=|scriptsize},
    every term'/.style=every term,
    every term"./.style=every term]
  \draw (0.0)
    to [make contact=\{term=1, term'=2\}] ++(0,4)
    -- ++(0.1)
    node[contact,name=N1R]{}
    -- ++(0,4)
    to [inductor={name=LR, term=1, term'=4}] ++(0,5)
    node[contact,name=N2R]{}
    to [thermic sensor=\{info=\$F\_R\$, term=1, term'=2\}] ++(0,3)
    to [make contact={ term=1, term*=2}] ++(0,4)
    to [fuse=\{info=\{\$ \mid unit[3 \mid times5]\{A\}\$\}\}] ++(0,4)
    node[above]{R}:
  \draw (0,0) -- ++(4,0) node[contact]{}
    to [make contact=\{term=3, term'=4\}] ++(0,4)
    -- ++(0.1)
    node[contact,name=N1S]{}
    -- ++(0,4)
    to [inductor={name=LS, term=2, term'=5}] ++(0,5)
    node[contact,name=N2S]{}
    to [thermic sensor=\{term=3, term'=4\}] ++(0,3)
    to [make contact=\{term=3, term'=4\}] ++(0,4)
    to [fuse] ++(0,4)
    node[above]{S};
  draw (4,0) -- ++(4,0)
    to [make contact=\{name=K2T, term=5, term'=6\}] ++(0,4)
    -- ++(0.1)
    node [contact,name=N1T]{}
    -- ++(0,4)
    to [inductor={name=LT, term=3, term'=6}] ++(0,5)
    node [contact,name=N2T]{}
    to [thermic sensor=\{term=5, term'=6\}] ++(0,3)
    to [make contact=\{name=K1T, term=5, term'=6\}] ++(0,4)
    to [fuse] ++(0,4)
    node[above]{T};
  \draw
    (N1R) -- ++(2,0)
    to [make contact=\{term=3, term'=4\}] ++(0,4) |- (N2S)
    (N1S) -- ++ (2,0)
    to [make contact=\{name=K3T, term=5, term'=6\}] ++(0,4) |- (N2T)
    (N1T) - + (2, -6) - + (-15, 6) - + (3, 0)
    to [make contact=\{term=1, term'=2\}] ++(0,4) |- (N2R);
  \draw[dashed](K1T.mid) --++(-10,0) % relay coils
     node[left,draw,solid,minimum size=3mm,label={[above]:$K_1$}]{};
  \draw[dashed](K2T.mid) --++(-10,0)
     \verb"node[left,draw,solid,minimum size=3mm,label=\{[above]:\$K\_2\$\}]\{\};
  \draw[dashed](K3T.mid) = -++(-10,0)
     \verb|node[left,draw,solid,minimum|size=3mm,label={[above]:$K_3$}]{};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

Control circuit schematics can use a much bigger grid space because the symbol heights are the same, i.e. always two units of length. When setting the x unit of length, you need to consider the space occupied by labels and annotations.

Sometimes we need to place a symbol upside-down. This is the case of the star-delta motor starter control circuit schematic in which a change over contact is used to change from K_2 to K_3 . To achieve the correct orientation, a negative y scaling is set by yscale=-1. This contact is named t1 for future reference, in this case, to access the output 1 and connect it to K_2 . If you think it is against IEC 60617 rules to draw the change over contact upset-down you will end up with a terrible layout because of the position of the common terminal.

The relay coil K_3 is also placed using a top-down direction and, consequently, it has to be negatively scaled (mirrored). In this case, we need to mirror the symbol in both x and y direction so the terminal and symbol identification will be correctly located. So, scale=-1 is used.

The power rails are drawn using grid coordinates. A fuse is placed on the top power rail.



```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
    x=9 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit,
    y=5 \mid tikzcircuitssizeunit,
    every term/.style={gray,font=|scriptsize},
    every term'/.style=every term,
    every term"/.style=every term]
  \draw (0,0)
    node[contact]{}
    to [relay coil=\{info=$K_1$, term=$1$, term'=$42$] ++(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N1]{}
    to [break contact=\{thermal\ switch=\{info=\$F\_R\$\}, term=21, term'=22\}] ++(0,1)
    to [break contact=\{push\ button=\{info=\$b\_0\$\}, term=11, term'=12\}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N2]{}
    to [make contact={push button={info=$b_1$}, term=13, term'=14}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N3]{};
  \draw (N2) -- ++(1,0)
    to [make contact=\{info=$K_1$, term=13, term'=14\}] ++(0,1)
    node[contact]{};
  \draw (1,0)
    node[contact]{}
    to [relay coil=\{slow\ operating=\{info=\$T_1\$\}, term=A1, term'=A2\}] ++(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
    node[contact,name=N4]{} {} --(N1);
  \forall x (N4) -- ++(2,0)
    to [change over contact=\{yscale=-1, info=\$T\_1\$, name=t1, term=24, term'=21, term''=22\}] ++(0,-1)
    to [relay coil={scale=-1, info=$K_3$, term=A1, term'=A2}] ++(0,-1)
    node[contact]{};
  \draw (2,0)
    node[contact]{}
    to [relay coil=\{info=$K_2$, term=A1, term'=A2\}] ++(0,1) |- (t1.output 1);
  \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{draw}(-0.8,0) \text{ node}[left] { \left[0\right] {V} } -- + (4.2,0) \% \text{ power rails } 
        (-0.8,5) node [left] {\frac{1}{4}} to [fuse=finfo={funit[2]{4}}} (N3) -- +(3.4,0);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

7.2 Beamer presentation with overlay

Perhaps the most important feature of Beamer is its capacity of creating a series of slides based on one slide, e.g., showing one concept step by step. It is called *overlay*. Unfortunately, Beamer overlay and TikZ present some compatibility issues when overlay macros are typed in the options list of a TikZ command. This can be solved by setting two TikZ keys that take advantage of the fact that pgfkeysalso doesn't change the path.

Once these keys are in place, they can be used instead of \visible and \alt macros with a syntax slightly different. The following example creates three slides to illustrate how a push button works with a break contact and, when pushed, break contact is activated. Bellow, the result is shown side by side:

During the presentation you can say that "pressing B1 the lamp L1 turns off, releasing it turns L1 on again". One cool trick is to move forward and backwards between slides 2 and 3.

To draw this example, we start with the schematics and once it is ready the animation part is done by placing keys visible and alt in suitable locations. The filling of L2 is visible only in slide 1 and 3. B1 appears differently depending on the slide. For slides 1 and 3, B1 is a normal break contact (closed), but in slide 2 it is an "activated" break contact which is open. Note that key bulb receives or not the key fill. Similarly, the key break contact receives or not the key activated (the key visible could be used instead of alt).

When developing "animations", you may need to know the overlay number. It can be printed, say in the frame title, using macro \overlaynumber; type this in the document preamble:

```
\makeatletter
\newcommand*{\overlaynumber}{\number\beamer@slideinframe}
\makeatother
```

If you need to generate a handout, the visible argument will be drawn as well as the *first* argument of alt no matter what is the overlay specification (the thing between < and > signs). Therefore, the above example would appear like this:

and it does not match any of the previous slides⁴. Keep in mind that you shall finish the schematic in the regular form (without any activated contact) and then activated can be inserted always as the second argument of alt; the first argument shall be left empty, e.g., alt{<1,3>{}{activated}}}. Alternatively, you can use, e.g., alt{<1,3>{activated=false}{activated=true}}}. The slide numbers enlisted in the overlay specification shall correspond to slides in which the contact is *not* activated.

The "correct" diagram that works both in beamer and handout modes is:

The handout will show a lighted lamp in series with a deactivated break contact. If you do not want that the lamp appears lighted, use alt={<2>{}{fill=yellow}} instead of visible. So, the lamp will not the lighted on slide 2 (implying it will be in slides 1 and 3) and it will not be lighted in the handout as well.

⁴It is just wrong.

A complete, though minimalistic, example is provided in a separated file⁵: "BeamerAnimation.tex", which is listed in Appendix A for your convenience. In this example, a four-step sequencer is animated. A total of twenty slides are generated based on a single schematic. The frame title includes the macro \overlaynumber which generates the slide number and shall be removed once the presentation is ready. So, all slides would look like the same slide, but with animation on it.

7.3 Adjusting the diagram size

The diagram size can be adjusted by setting x and y units. Mainly, you change those to control the space between symbols, not the diagram size in total⁶. If your diagram is too big, consider using a landscape page.

For presentations, adjustments can be done using resizebox. Note that you should only use resizebox if your diagram is slightly bigger than the presentation area. If it is too much bigger, the use of resizebox will render small symbols leading to readability problems. In this case, one option is to divide the diagram into smaller pieces. Also, you should reconsider why you need such a big diagram in a presentation. Usually, small examples are better to clarify your point.

It is not a good idea to change the diagram size setting \tikzcircuitssizeunit using circuit symbol unit. \tikzcircuitssizeunit shall be set document-wise in the document preamble and kept unchanged.

8 Shapes

This is rather technical material, but it is here anyway and you may use it to modify or extend the library. In that case, if you need help, please do not hesitate in contacting the author.

Several anchors are defined for each symbol (or, more exactly, shapes). The mechanism TikZ uses to place anchors and define borders is sophisticated. It takes into account the line width (or an optional additional space defined by outer sep⁷) to place the anchors just on the line border of the symbol. Something called "anchor border" is also defined in the same manner. An Anchor border is used to place labels around the symbol and interrupt the line directed to the symbol. Remember that a symbol is usually placed by command to which interrupts the path line the symbol is placed on. It makes perfect sense for symbols that enclose some area, like proximity sensor coil and relay coil and even for symbols that, although they do not enclose an area, define some intuitive border, like magnetic sensor and thermic sensor. But it makes little sense for contacts.

Contacts can be considered a special case of symbols. They have no defined border and no intuitive notion of inside and outside. The TikZ-library circuits places them in a category called "wires". The normal anchors (north, south, south west, etc.) have no practical use. Even so, they need a center anchor, used to place the symbol, and a mid anchor used to place annotations. They also need an anchor border to interrupt the line during placement (and also for label positioning). The anchor border controls the gap that appears on the line. Thus, it is defined as the symbol size. In other words, the symbol size is an invisible border a bit smaller than the actual symbol because the inclined line which represents the movable contact has an addendum that protrudes beyond the symbol border.

Outer separation is also undesired when placing contact. If the normal treatment were dispensed for contacts, setting the outer separation to any positive number would disrupt the line connected to the symbol. Instead of setting the outer separation to zero, the shape code that produces contacts simply disregards the outer separation when drawing the component.

All symbols below but the mechanical interlock look rotated 90° because TikZ uses this orientation to place the symbol in a line.

⁵This file should be in the same folder you have found this document, if not try http://repositorios.cpai.unb.br/ctan/graphics/pgf/contrib/tikz-relay/doc/BeamerAnimation.tex.

⁶The total size will change, but it is more like collateral damage than intentional deed.

⁷See Section "Common Options: Separations, Margins, Padding and Border Rotation" of TikZ manual [7].

```
      (s.north west)
      (s.north)
      (s.north east)

      × (s.west)
      (s.mid)
      (s.30)

      × (s.west)
      (s.east)

      (s.input)
      ×
      ×

      (s.south west)
      (s.center)
      ×
      ×

      (s.south east)
      (s.south east)
```

```
(s.70)

(s.north west) (s.north) (s.north east)

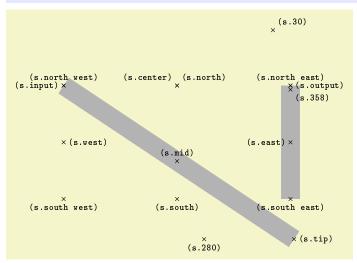
(s.30)

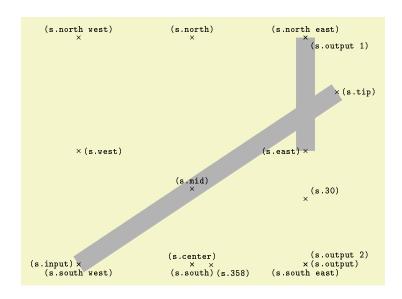
(s.west) (s.east) ×

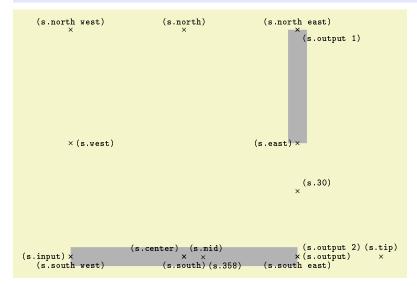
(s.input) × (s.center) (s.mid) (s.tip)

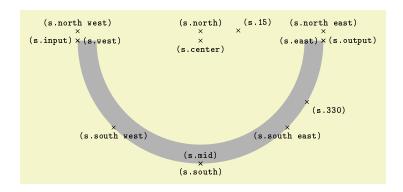
(s.south west) (s.south) (s.358) (s.south east)
```

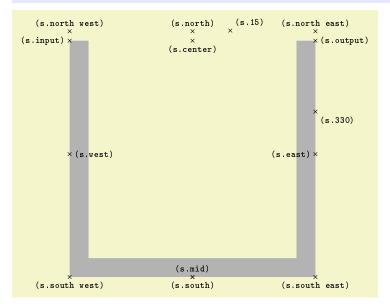
```
(s.north west) (s.center) (s.north) (s.north east) (s.input) × (s.west) (s.mid) × (s.east) × (s.east) × (s.south west) (s.south) (s.south east)
```



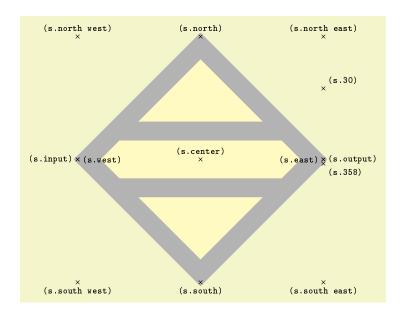




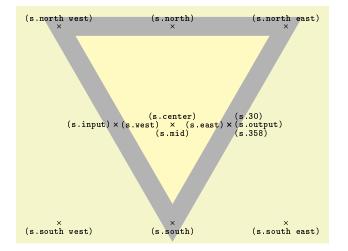




```
\begin{tikzpicture} [circuit ee IEC relay]
  \node[name=s, shape=thermic sensor IEC relay, shape example, inner xsep=1cm, inner ysep=1cm, minimum
width=6cm, minimum height=6cm]{};
  \foreach \anchor/\placement in {center/below, 15/above right, 330/below right,
    north/above, north east/above, north west/above,
    south/below, south east/below, south west/below,
    east/left, west/right, mid/above, input/left,output/right}
  \draw[shift=(s.|anchor)] plot[mark=x] coordinates{(0,0)} node[\placement] {\scriptsize\texttt{(s.\anchor)}};
\end{tikzpicture}
```



```
\begin{tikzpicture} [circuit ee IEC relay]
  \node[name=s, shape=proximity sensor coil IEC relay, shape example, inner xsep=1cm, inner ysep=1cm, minimum width=6cm, minimum height=6cm]{};
  \foreach \anchor/\placement in {center/above, 30/above right, 358/below right,
    north/above, north east/above, north west/above,
    south/below, south east/below, south west/below,
    east/left, west/right, input/left, output/right}
  \draw[shift=(s, |anchor)] plot[mark=x] coordinates{(0,0)} node[\placement] {\scriptsize\texttt{(s.\anchor)}};
\end{tikzpicture}
```



```
\begin{tikzpicture} [circuit ee IEC relay]
  \node[name=s, shape=mechanical interlock IEC relay, shape example, inner xsep=1cm, inner ysep=1cm, minimum width=6cm, minimum height=5.2cm]{};
  \foreach \anchor/\placement in {center/above, mid/below, 30/above right, 358/below right, north/above, north east/above, north west/above, south/below, south east/below, south west/below, east/left, west/right, input/left, output/right}
  \draw[shift=(s.|anchor)] plot[mark=x] coordinates{(0,0)} node[\placement] {\scriptsize\texttt{(s.\anchor)}};
\end{tikzpicture}
```

9 Known Issues

The use of a single plus sign in relative coordinates specification, like +(0,1), can lead to very strange results. See, for instance, the red symbol below:

```
b_1 \in - b_1
```

```
\begin{tikzpicture}[circuit ee IEC relay,thick,
error/.style={red,
circuit symbol wires/.style={red},
circuit symbol lines/.style={red}}]
\draw (0,0)
to [make contact={push button={info=$b_1$}}] ++(0,1);
\draw[error] (2.5,0)
to [make contact={push button={info=$b_1$}}] +(0,1);
\end{tikzpicture}
```

Though it is not clear exactly why it happens, and consequently no permanent solution is available at the moment, one walkaround is to use the double plus sign instead, ++(0,1). Note, however, that it will be necessary to reconsider the coordinates of the following points on the path if there are any. Command coordinate might help to keep track of previous points.

This library is based on withdrawn standards and the current standardized symbols might be different. It is also rather incomplete; so many symbols are missing, though to my best knowledge the missing symbols are rarely used. Let me know if you need a symbol, I will do my best to implement it.

If you want the report a bug or have any suggestions, please feel free to send me an e-mail. Contact details are on the first page. Every feedback is important.

10 Final Remarks

This package has been tested and used for more than three years, so I do believe it is mature by now and I decided to share it. On the other hand, I was the only person who used it, therefore idiosyncrasies were not detected.

Any comments, suggestions, requests for missing symbols and feedback are welcomed. I will do my best to answer as soon as possible. My contact e-mail is on the first page.

It should be great if someone with experience in writing TikZ libraries could have a look at the code and point out errors or improvements to be made.

References

- [1] **International Electrotechnical Commission**. *IEC 60 617-2/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 2: Symbol elements, qualifying symbols and other symbols having general application*. Geneva, 1996.
- [2] **International Electrotechnical Commission**. *IEC 60 617-4/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 4: Passive components*. Geneva, 1996.
- [3] **International Electrotechnical Commission**. *IEC 60 617-7/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 7: Switchgear, controlgear and protective devices*. Geneva, 1996.
- [4] **International Electrotechnical Commission**. *IEC 60 617-8/1996 Graphical symbols for diagrams Part 8: Measuring instruments, lamps and signalling devices*. Geneva, 1996.
- [5] International Electrotechnical Commission. *IEC 60 617 Graphical Symbols for Diagrams*, https://std.iec.ch/iec60617. Geneva, accessed on 31st July 2022.
- [6] National Electrical Manufacturers Association. NEMA Standards Publication ICS 19-2002 (R2007, R2011, R2016, R2022): Diagrams, Device Designations, and Symbols for Industrial Control and Systems. Rosslyn, 2022.
- [7] **Tantau**, Till. *The TikZ and PGF Packages*: Manual for version 3.1.9a-34-ga0d9cada, https://github.com/pgf-tikz/pgf, 2021.

Appendix A – Beamer Example of a Four Step Sequencer

In this example, the animations are done in two layers: the schematics are drawn in the foreground with contact and filling animation; in the background, circles (actually, ellipses since x and y scales are different) are drawn in light blue to highlight with contact or coil that has been activated because several of them change from one slide to the next. To place the ellipses in the precise position, every contact and coil is named.

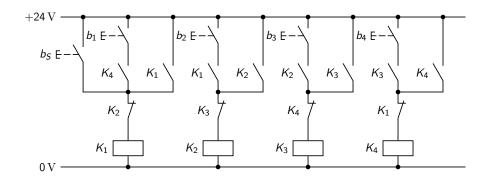
At first, only one coil and the contacts respective to one step are drawn, then they are copied three times and the information is changed as needed. Finally, the b_s is added. When the schematics are done, the animation part is made adding the alt key in the foreground and the $\$ is in the background.

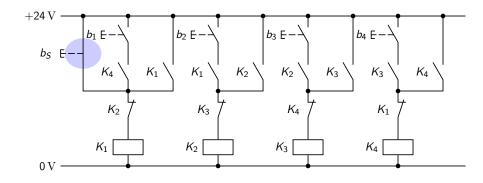
After the LATEX code, the slides were included for reference. They shall be found as a separated PDF file in the same folder you have found in this document.

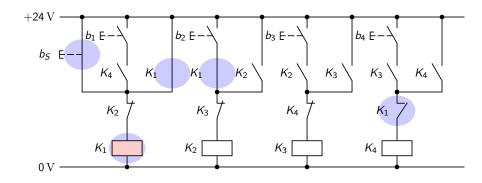
```
%% This is file 'BeamerAnimation.tex'
%% Version: 1.0.2
%% Version date: 2022-08-07
%%
% Copyright (C) 2018-2022 by Luis Paulo Laus, laus@utfpr.edu.br
%% This package can be redistributed and/or modified under the terms
%% of the LaTeX Project Public License distributed from CTAN
% archives in directory macros/latex/base/lppl.txt; either
^{\prime\prime\prime} version 1 of the License , or (at your option) any later version ,
%% with 'The Package' referring to the software 'tikzlibrarysfc.code.tex' and its
% accompanying documentation and 'The Copyright Holder' referring to the
%% person Luis Paulo Laus.
%%
%%
%% IMPORTANT NOTICE:
0/0/0
% For error reports, comments or suggestions in case of UNCHANGED
%% versions send mail to:
%% laus@utfpr.edu.br
%%
%%
\ documentclass { beamer }
\usepackage { tikz , units }
\usetikzlibrary {backgrounds, circuits.ee.IEC.relay}
\ makeatletter
\newcommand*{\overlaynumber}{\number\beamer@slideinframe}
\ makeatother
\tikzset{ % alt and visible (overlay)
  alt /.code args = \{<\#1>\#2\#3\} {%
    },
  visible /.code args = {\langle \#1 \rangle \#2 } {\%}
    \colorlet {LBlue}{blue!20}
\colorlet {LRed} {red!20}
\ begin { document }
\begin{frame}{Four-Step Sequencer \overlaynumber{}}
\noindent \begin{center}
\hspace*{-0.05 \text{ textwidth}}\resizebox {1.1 \text{ textwidth}}{!}
draw(-1.5,0) node [left] {$\unit[0]{V}$} --+(9,0)
       (-1.5,4) node [left] {$\unit[+24]{V}$} --+(9,0);
  \langle draw (0,0) \rangle
    node[contact]{}
    to [relay coil=\{info=\$K_1\$,name=k11,alt=\{<1,2,7-17>\{\}\{fill=LRed\}\}\}] ++(0,1)
```

```
to [break contact=\{\inf_{s \in \mathbb{R}_2} \text{ name} = k24, alt = \{(1-5,11-20)\} \} \{\{activated\}\} \} \} + (0,1)
 node[contact,name=N1]{}
 to [make contact=\{\inf_{s}_{4}, name=k43, alt=\{<1-13,19-20>\{\}\{activated\}\}\}] ++(0,1)
 to [make contact={push button={info=$b_1$}, name=b1, alt={<1-16,20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\forall draw (N1) -- ++(1,0)
 to [make contact={info=K_1, name=12, alt={12, activated}}] ++(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\forall draw (N1) -- ++(-1,0)
 to [make contact={push button={info=$b_S$}, name=bs, alt={<1,4-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,2)
 node[contact]{};
\langle draw (2,0) \rangle
 node[contact]{}
 to [relay coil=\{info=\$K_2\$,name=k21,alt=\{<1-5,11-20>\{\}\{fill=LRed\}\}\}] ++(0,1)
 to [break contact={info=$K_3$,name=k34,alt={<1-9,15-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact,name=N1]{}
 to [make contact={info=$K_1$, name=k13, alt={<1,2,7-17>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 to [make contact={push button={info=$b_2$}, name=b2, alt={<1-4.8-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0.1)
 node[contact]{};
\forall draw (N1) -- ++(1,0)
  to [make contact={info=K_2, name=2, alt={-5,11-20}{activated}}] ++(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\langle draw (4,0) \rangle
 node[contact]{}
 to [relay coil={info=$K_3$,name=k31,alt={<1-9,15-20>{}{fill=LRed}}}] ++(0,1)
 to [break contact={info=K_4, name=44, alt={-13,19-20}{} activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact,name=N1]{}
 to [make contact={info=$K_2$, name=k23, alt={<1-5,11-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 to [make contact={push button={info=$b_3$}, name=b3, alt={<1-8,12-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\langle draw (N1) - + + (1,0) \rangle
  to [make contact={info=K_3, name=32, alt={-9,15-20}{activated}}} + +(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\draw (6,0) node[contact]{}
 to [relay coil={info=$K_4$,name=k41,alt={<1-13,19-20>{}{fill=LRed}}}] ++(0,1)
 to [break contact={info=K_1, name=k14, alt={<1,2,7-17>{} {activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact,name=N1]{}
 to [make contact={info=$K_3$,name=k33,alt={<1-9,15-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 to [make contact={push button={info=$b_4$}, name=b4, alt={<1-12,16-20>{}{activated}}}] ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\langle draw (N1) - + + (1,0) \rangle
  to [make contact={info=K_4, name=42, alt={-13,19-20}{}{activated}}] ++(0,1) -- ++(0,1)
 node[contact]{};
\begin { pgfonlayer } { background }
 \draw[fill=LBlue, LBlue](bs) circle (0.4);
 \visible < 3-6,18-20 > {
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k11) circle (0.4);
    \frac{\text{draw}[\text{fill}=LBlue, LBlue](k12) \text{ circle } (0.4);}
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k13) circle (0.4);
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k14) circle (0.4);
  \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](b2) circle (0.4);
  \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k21) circle (0.4);
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k22) circle (0.4);
    \draw fill=LBlue, LBlue (k23) circle (0.4);
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k24) circle (0.4);
  \visible < 9-11>{
    \draw[fill=LBlue, LBlue](b3) circle (0.4);
  \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k31) circle (0.4);
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k32) circle (0.4);
    \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k33) circle (0.4);
```

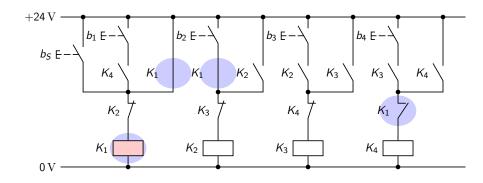
```
\draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k34) circle (0.4);
   \visible <13-15>{
     \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](b4) circle (0.4);
   \visible <14-18>{
     \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k41) circle (0.4);
     \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k42) circle (0.4);
     \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k43) circle (0.4);
     \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](k44) circle (0.4);
   \draw[fill=LBlue,LBlue](b1) circle (0.4);
  \end{pgfonlayer}
\end{tikzpicture}}
\par\bigskip
Copyright (C) 2018-2022 by Luis Paulo Laus, laus@utfpr.edu.br
\end{center}
\end{frame}
\end{document}
```



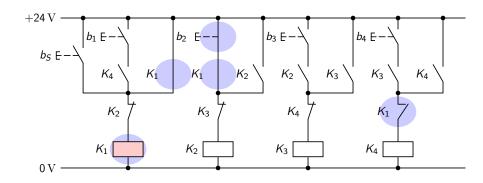




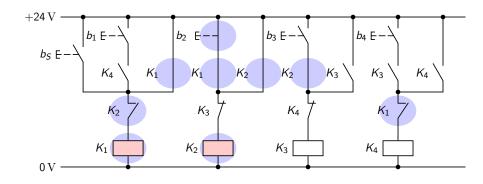
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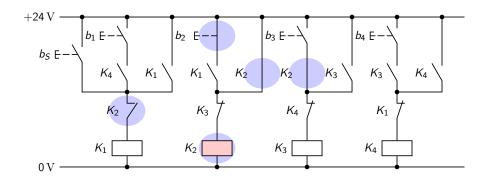


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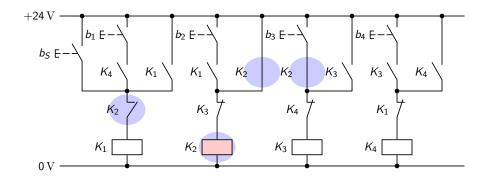


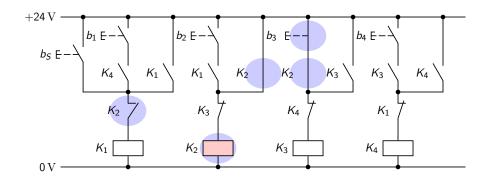
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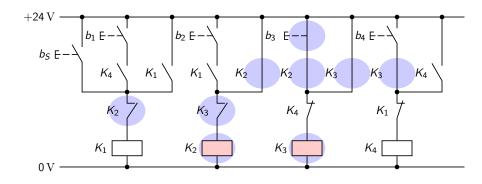


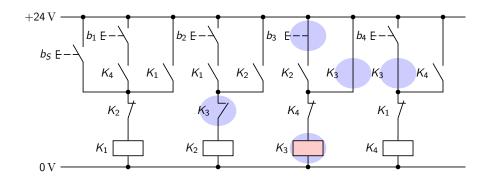
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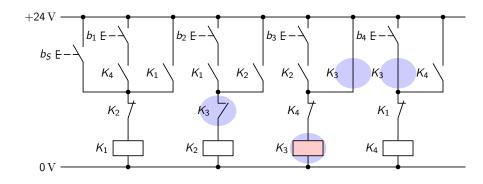


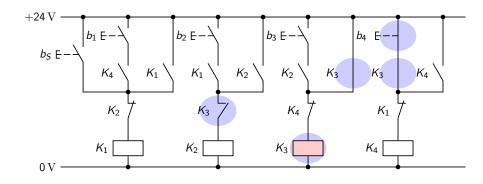
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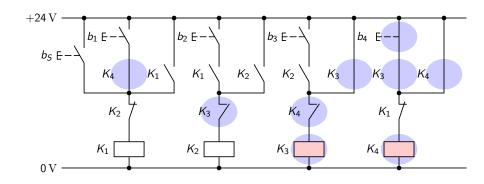


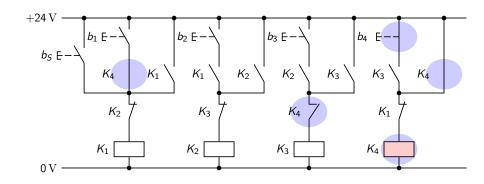


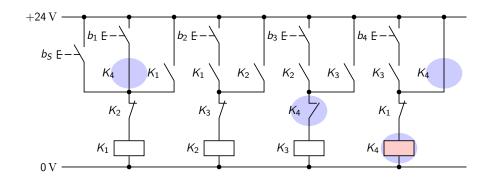
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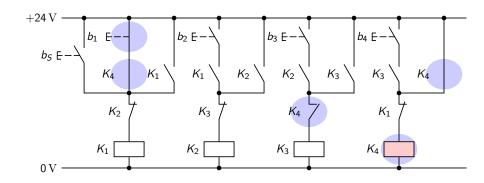


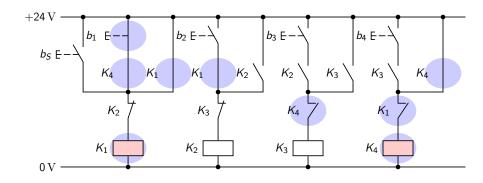




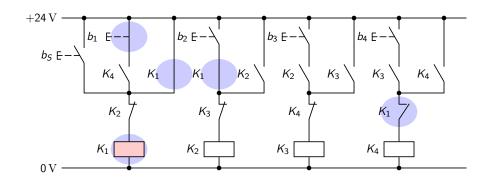








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