Preparing for the Certified LabVIEVV Associate Developer (CLAD) Exam



What Level Should You Pursue?

Foundation



Experience



Technician/ Basic Developer:

- Infrequent LabVIEW Developer or "Casual coder"
- Spending fewer than 10 hours a week developing applications in LabVIEW
- Only planning one LabVIEW project
- Developing or supporting small to medium measurement and control applications in LabVIEW (<50 VIs)

Software Engineer:

- Using LabVIEW on regular basis to develop applications
- Designing and developing medium to large applications in the LabVIEW (50 to 500 VIs)
- Significantly modifying or upgrading previously developed code
- Developing an application to be used, supported, or maintained by others

Software Architect:

- Designing the architecture for a large LabVIEW application (500 + Vis) from high-level design requirements
- Project managing a team of more than one LabVIEW developer
- Working in a regulated industry (Mil/Aero, Automotive, Medical)
- Designing a 'mission critical' application

How to Navigate the LabVIEW Learning Curve Tutorial



LabVIEW Training & Certification Path

LabVIEW Core 1 & 2





- LabVIEW fundamentals
- Basic application creation using LabVIEW
- Basics of data acquisition & instrument control

- Modular application development
- Structured design and development practices
- Inter-application communication and connectivity techniques

- Large application design
- Advanced development techniques
- Implementing multideveloper projects



Demonstrates knowledge

of core features and

• Develops, debugs and

maintains small LabVIEW







- Demonstrates experience in developing scalable, readable and maintainable applications
- Develops, debugs, and deploys medium to large scale applications



- Demonstrates mastery in architecting applications for multi-developer teams
- Develops requirements architectures, tools, components and best practices for team





functions

modules



LabVIEW Certification Exams and Process

Certified LabVIEW Associate Developer



Certified LabVIEW Developer



Certified LabVIEW Architect

- Objective style exam (multiple choice)
- 1 hour long
- Scheduled (online) via Pearson Vue's web page
- Administered and proctored by Pearson Vue
- Evaluated automatically
- Results available to candidate upon exam completion
- Certificate is mailed or emailed by Training & Certification
- LabVIEW

 Certified Associate Developer

- Practical development exam
- 4 hours long
- Scheduled by Training & Certification or NI branch
- Administered by Training
 & Certification, proctored
 by NI representative
- Evaluated and concurred by two engineers
- 4 week process
- Certificate is mailed by Training & Certification

- Short answer and practical development exam
- Same as CLD







CLAD Prep Topics

Most Commonly Missed

- Coercion Dots
- Loop Components
- Shift Registers and Feedback Nodes
- VITiming
- Property Nodes
- Charts and Graphs
- Arrays
- Array Functions
- Mechanical Action of Booleans
- Data Representation
- Sequence Structures
- Case Structures
- Data Flow
- Breaking Data Flow
- String Functions
- Clusters
- Type Definitions
- References

Additional Concepts

- Enumeration
- Conditional Disable Structure
- Notify and Filter Events
- Multiple Loop Design Pattern
- Notifiers
- Semaphores
- File Formats
- Modularity and SubVIs
- Icon and Connector Pane
- Errors and Warnings
- Variables
- Race Conditions from Shared Resources
- VI Server Organization
- Create references programmatically

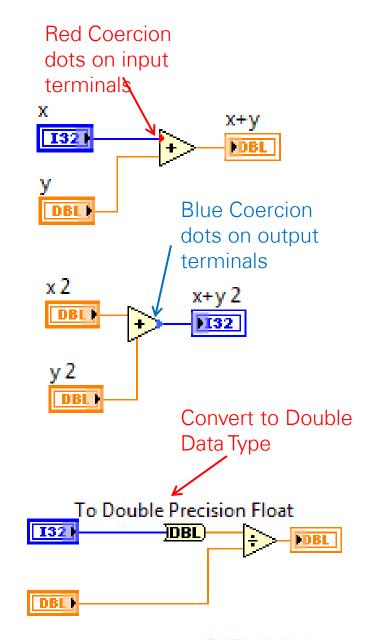




Most Commonly Missed Topics on the CLAD



- •Coercion Dots indicate that LabVIEW has converted a value to a different numeric representation
- •LabVIEW coerces values to the data type with the largest number of bits, except for For Loops (always 32-bit signed integer)
- Avoid coercion dots for best programming efficiency







When does the coercion dot appear?

- A. The data types are consistent
- B. A polymorphic operation is performed on the data
- C. The data conversion is forced due to the mismatched numeric representation between terminals
- D. Data values are being coerced because they are out of range



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Which of the following statements is true regarding the use of Coercion Dots?

- a. Coercion Dots improve program performance.
- b. Coercion Dots represent a conversion from one data type to another.
- c. Coercion Dots increases memory usage
- d. Both A. and B.
- e. Both B. and C.





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- e. Both B. and C.

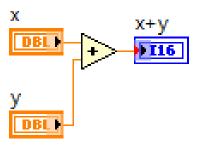
Coercion dots indicate that a certain data type is being wired to terminal that accepts a different but compatible data type. When this happens, LabVIEW converts the data to the larger of the two data types. This requires the creation of a memory buffer to store the coerced data.

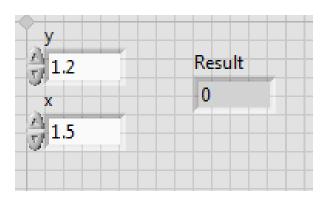




What will "Result" be after running the VI?

- A. 2
- B. 2.7
- C. 3
- D. NaN







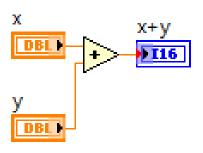


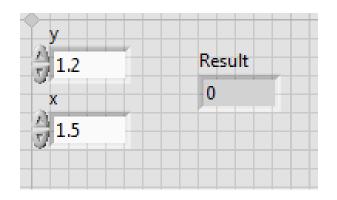
What will 'Result' be after running the VI?

- A. 2
- B. 2.7
- C. 3
- D. NaN

The block diagram places the coercion dot on the border of the terminal where the conversion takes place. The data is not coerced until after the addition, at which point it rounds to the nearest integer.

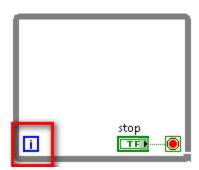




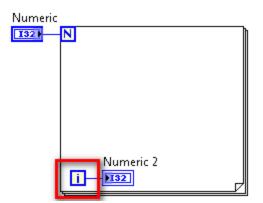




For Loops and While Loops have an Iteration Terminal to display how many times the loop has executed



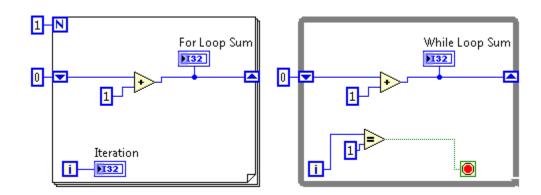
- •While Loops must execute at least once
- •For Loops can execute zero times
- •The Iteration Terminal is zero indexed; this means the output of the terminal is zero for the first iteration of the loop.



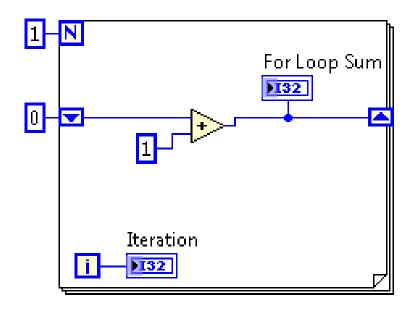


What will be shown on the "For Loop Sum", "While Loop Sum", and "Iteration" indicators when the program below is run?

- A. For Loop Sum= 1, Iteration=0, While Loop Sum= 1
- B. For Loop Sum=2, Iteration=1, While Loop Sum=2
- C. For Loop Sum=1, Iteration=0, While Loop Sum=2

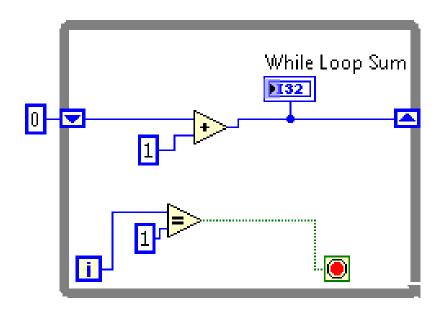






N	Stop Condition Met (N>input)?	Addition operation	"For Loop Sum" value	"Iteration" value
1	no	0+1=1	1	0
2	yes	Does not execute	1 (no change)	0 (no change)



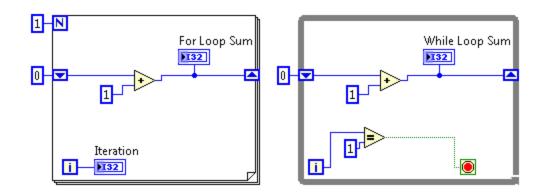


Iteration	Addition operation	"While Loop Sum" value	i value	Stop condition met (i=1)?
1	0+1=1	1	0	no
2	1+1=2	2	1	yes



What will be shown on the "For Loop Sum", "While Loop Sum", and "Iteration" indicators when the program below is run?

- A. For Loop Sum= 1, Iteration=0, While Loop Sum= 1
- B. For Loop Sum=2, Iteration=1, While Loop Sum=2
- C. For Loop Sum=1, Iteration=0, While Loop Sum=2

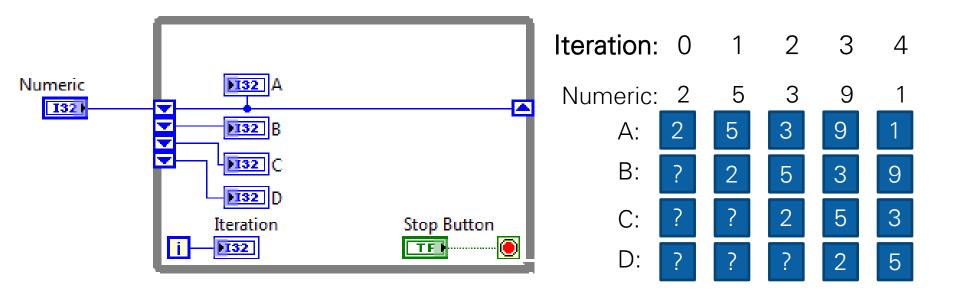






Shift Registers – Multiple Previous Values

- Shift registers can be resized to save multiple previous values.
 - Retains a certain number of previous values, oldest ones get removed as needed





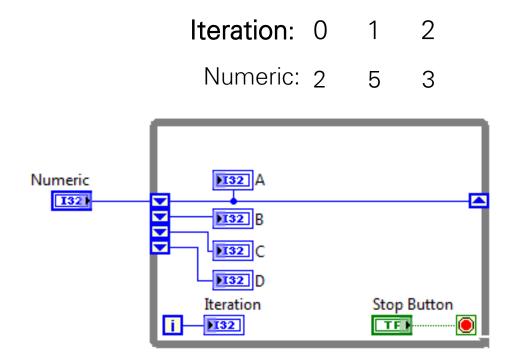
After 3 iterations, what will be the value at indicator D?

a. 0

b. 10

c. 3

d. Unknown





After 3 iterations, what will be the value at indicator D?

Numeric 1321

a. 0

b. 10

c. 3

d. Unknown

Justification: Since this shift register is uninitialized, after three iterations the shift register attached to indicator D will not have a value. If this VI was run previously, it would contain the last value stored in the shift register.

Numeric: 2 5 3

Iteration: 0

Iteration

132



Stop Button

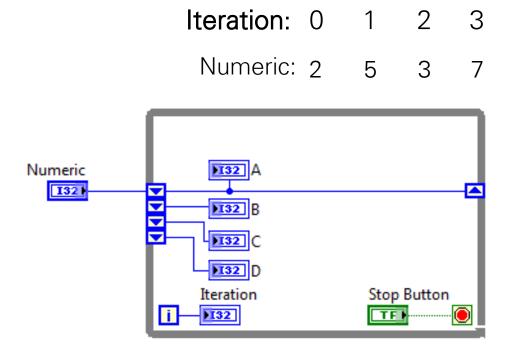
After 4 iterations, what will be the value at indicator D?

a. 0

b. 7

c. 3

d. Unknown





After 4 iterations, what will be the value at indicator D?

a. 0
b. 2
c. 7
d. Unknown

Numeric

Stop Button attached to indicator D.

Iteration: 0 1 2 3

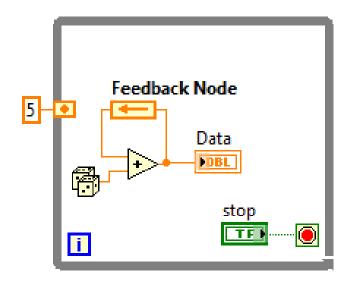
Numeric: 2 5 3 7





Feedback Node

- A feedback node functions like a shift register.
 - Can set an initial value by wiring data into the terminal on the left side of the loop.

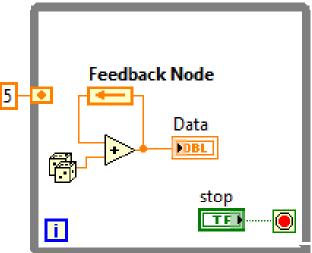




Feedback Node

What number will be added to the random number on the first iteration of this loop?

- a. 0
- b. Unknown
- c. 5
- d. 2

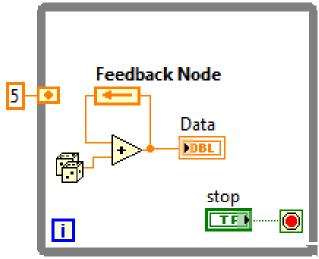




Feedback Node

What number will be added to the random number on the first iteration of this loop?

- a. 0
- b. Unknown
- c. 5
- d. 2



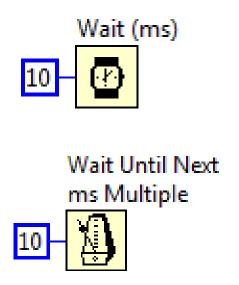
Justification: A feedback node acts exactly like a shift register. The terminal on the left side sets an initial value for the feedback node, which is used during the first iteration of the loop.



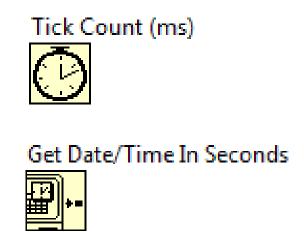


Timing Functions

- Control or measure the frequency at which a loop executes
- Provide the processor with time to complete other tasks, such as processing the user interface
- Uses the operating system millisecond clock











Wait (ms)

Waits for specified input number of milliseconds

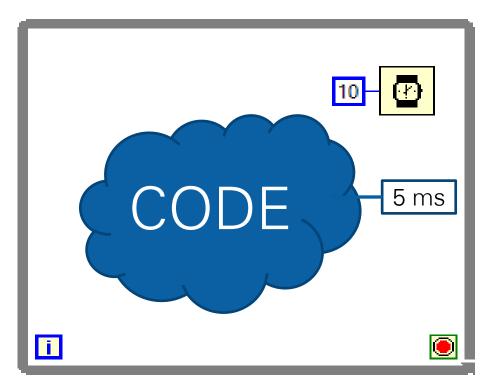
- Performs function asynchronously
- Returns only after the specified wait time
- Does not interrupt parallel code
- Loops will not iterate until function returns

Wait (ms)

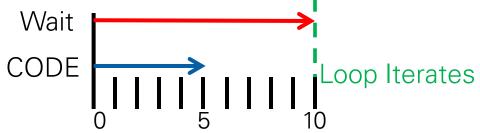




Wait (ms)



The Wait (ms) function will begin its count when the loop begins executing. The CODE will execute in 5 ms, and the loop will not continue until an additional 5 ms elapses.







Wait Until Next ms Multiple

Waits for a multiple tick of the millisecond timer

- Performs function asynchronously
- First loop iteration may be shorter than the specified ms multiple input

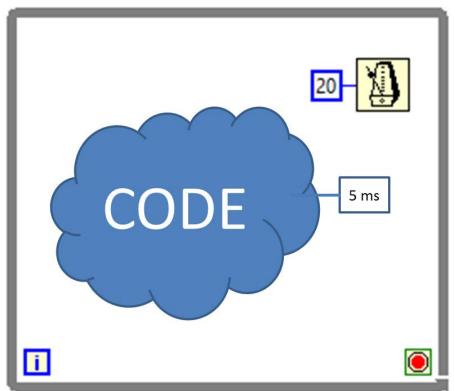
Wait Until Next ms Multiple







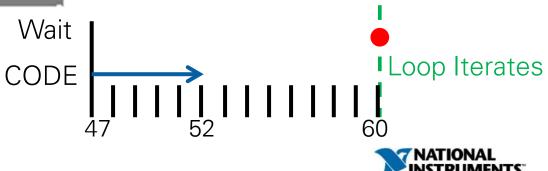
Wait Until Next ms Multiple



The Wait Until Next ms Multiple function will allow loop iteration on a millisecond multiple of the millisecond timer. The first loop iteration may be shorter than the specified ms input.

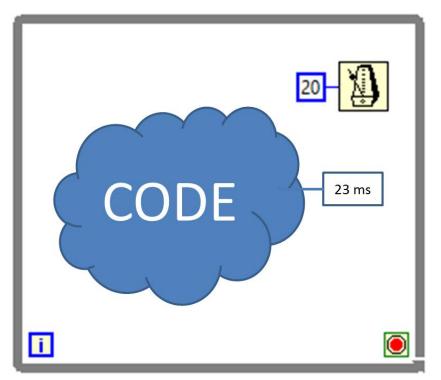
In this case, when the loop starts, the millisecond timer has a value of 47. When the millisecond timer reaches a value of 60, the loop is allowed to iterate because

- 60 is a multiple of 20
- The CODE has completed

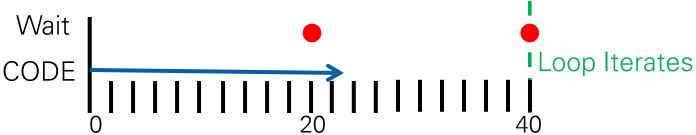




Wait Until Next ms Multiple



In this case, when the loop starts, the millisecond timer has a value of 0. When the millisecond timer reaches a value of 20, the loop is not allowed to iterate because the CODE has not completed. Instead, the loop iterates at the next ms multiple, which is 40.





Tick Count (ms)

Tick Count (ms) returns the value of the Windows millisecond timer.

- Timer rolls over at 2³²-1
- Cannot be used to extract real-world date or time
- Useful for finding the duration of executing code





Get Date/Time In Seconds

Get Date/Time In Seconds returns a timestamp of the current time.

- Timestamp value is calculated using number of seconds elapsed since 12:00 AM, Jan 1, 1904, Universal Time.
- Do not use to calculate code execution duration







VI Timing Types

Execution Timing

- Provides the design pattern with a function that specifically allows the processor time to complete other tasks
- In some cases, a Wait function is not necessary
 - Use of Timeout inputs can provide execution timing

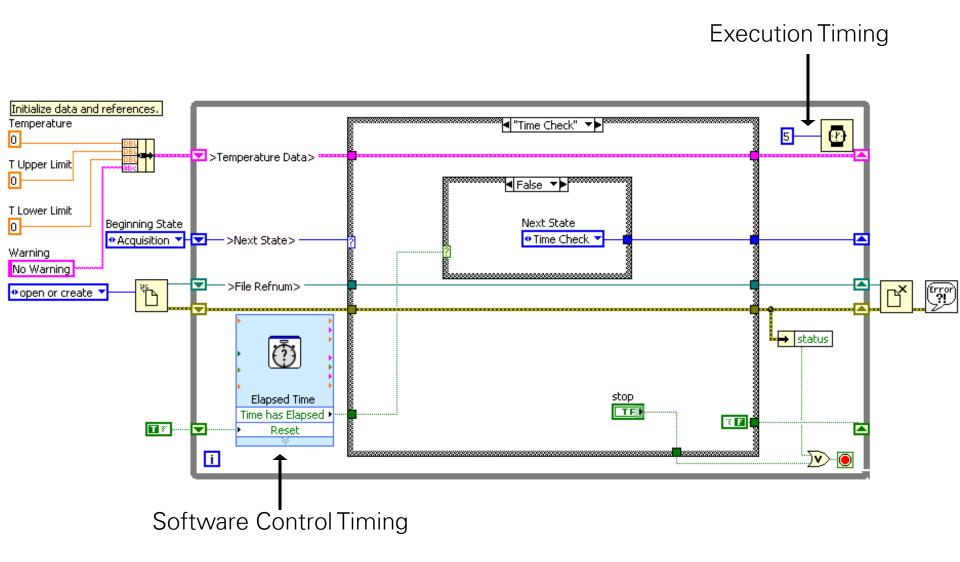
Software Control Timing

- Timing (pauses, waits, time checks) you put in place to make the code execute after a certain amount of time.
- Example: If you must acquire data for 5 minutes, you could remain in the acquisition state until the 5 minutes elapses. However, during that time you cannot process any user interface actions such as stopping the VI. To process user interface actions, you must implement timing (checking if 5 min has passed since the start of acquisition) so that the VI continually executes for the specified time.





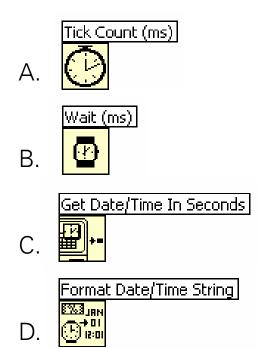
VITiming







Which timing function is the best choice for timing control logic in applications that run for extended periods of time?





Which timing function is the best choice for timing control logic in applications that run for extended periods of time?

Tick Count (ms)

Format Date/Time String

|Wait (ms)|

A. Tick Count rolls over, so it is best for very short periods of time

B. Wait should be used for execution timing, not control timing.

Get Date/Time In Seconds Getting and storing the system time is the best way to measure elapsed time in applications that run for extended periods of time.

This function formats a time stamp; it is not used for VI timing.





The Wait function can be added to While Loops:

- a. To free up available memory.
- b. To allocate memory used by the CPU.
- c. To allow the processor time to complete other tasks.
- d. To reserve which processor the code is running on.







The Wait function can be added to While Loops:

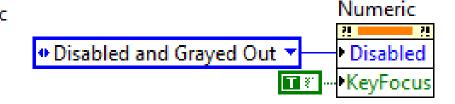
- a. To free up available memory.
- b. To allocate memory used by the CPU.
- c. To allow the processor time to complete other tasks.
- d. To reserve which processor the code is running on.

By default, LabVIEW executes loops and block diagrams as quickly as possible, and it immediately begins running the next. You can use a Wait function in the loop to specify the amount of time in milliseconds before the loop re-executes. Timing a loop also allows the processor time to complete other tasks such as updating and responding to the user interface.









- Access the properties of an object
- Enable you to modify the appearance of front panel objects <u>programmatically</u> in response to certain inputs.

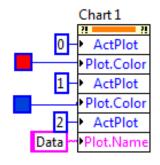
For example:

- If a user enters an invalid password, you might want a red LED to start blinking
- If a data point is above a certain value, you might want to show a red trace instead of a green one
- Execute from top to bottom
 - By default, if an error occurs on 3rd of 5 terminals, last two do not execute and error is output

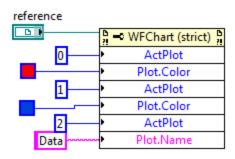


- •A property node can be implicit or explicit.
- •A property node executes top-down

Implicit Property
Node



Explicit Property
Node
(use when subVIs
are involved)



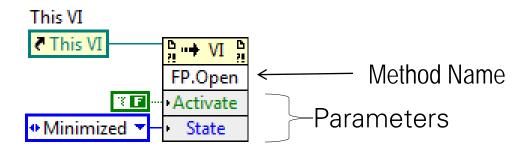
- 1. Plot 0 is set active
- 2. Active plot (0) changed to red
- 3. Plot 1 is set active
- 4. Active plot (1) is changed to blue
- 5. Plot 2 is set active
- 6. Active plot (2) changes name to "Data"





Invoke Nodes

- Use the Invoke Node to perform actions, or methods, on referenced items (VI, Control)
- Most methods have parameters
- Examples of VI Methods:
 - Front Panel: Center
 - Default Values: Reinitialize all to Default
 - Print: VI to HTML



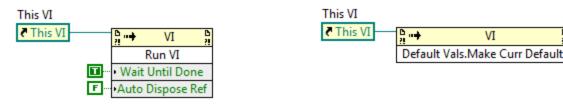


Property and Invoke Nodes: Use Cases

 Property Nodes can be used to programmatically read from an indicator or write to a control

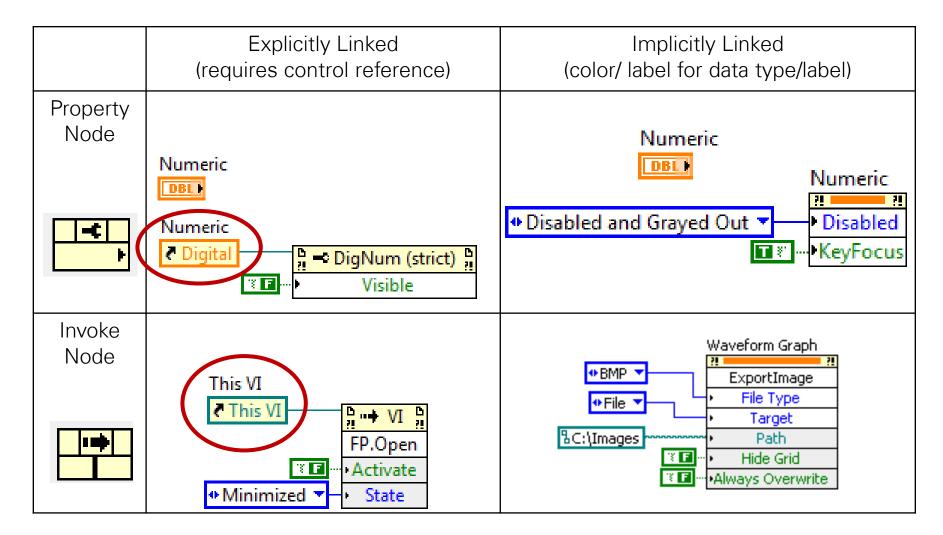


 Invoke Nodes can be used to programmatically control the state of a VI





Implicitly and Explicitly Linking Invoke/Property Nodes





- Which combination of words correctly completes the following statement? Unlike _____ Property Nodes, _____ Property Nodes require _____ as inputs in order to function correctly.
- a. Explicit; Implicit; Data Value References
- b. Implicit; Explicit; Data Value References
- c. Explicit; Implicit; Control References
- d. Implicit; Explicit; Control References



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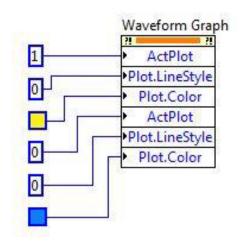
Implicit Property Nodes are explicitly linked to their owning control or indicator. No reference wires are needed. Explicit Property Nodes require a reference wire to determine which control the Property Node is manipulating. Data Value References have nothing to do with Property





Which plot will change color first?

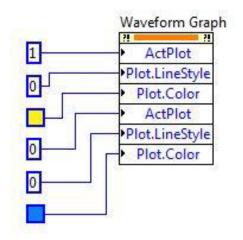
- a. Plot 1 because properties are executed top-down
- b. Plot 0 because properties are implemented in numeric order starting at zero
- c. Both plots will be updated simultaneously due to the multithreading of properties
- d. It cannot be determined because LabVIEW performs operations in dataflow format





Which plot will change color first?

- a. Plot 1 because properties are executed top-down
- b. Plot 0 because properties are implemented in numeric order starting at zero
- c. Both plots will be updated simultaneously due to the multithreading of properties
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Which of the following apply to Property Nodes? (More than one answer may apply.)

- a. Property Nodes allow attributes of front panel objects to be programmatically manipulated.
- b. Property Nodes can be used to update the values contained in a front panel object.
- c. More than one Property Node can be used for a single front panel object.
- d. Property Nodes can be used to programmatically generate a Value Change event.



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What type of property node can you use to update a property from inside a subVI?

- a. Implicit Property Node
- b. Local Property Node
- c. Explicit Property Node
- d. Value Property Node



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<u>Graphs</u>

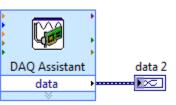
- Do not accept single point values
- •All points are plotted at once

Charts

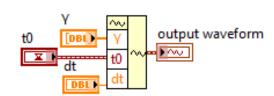
- Accept single point values
- •Values are stored in a buffer, then overwritten with new values
- Points are plotted as data becomes available

<u>Both</u>

- Accept various data types:
 - •Waveform
 - Dynamic
 - Arrays



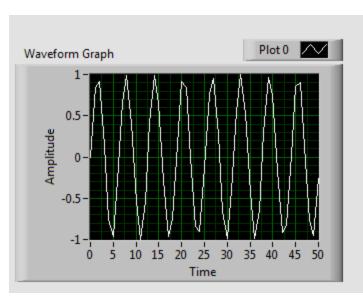
- •Waveform Data types contain:
 - An array of points
 - •t0
 - dt

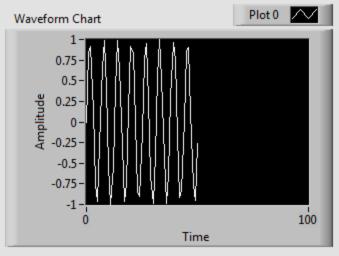


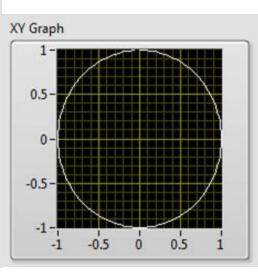




- A graph displays an entire waveform at once.
- A chart displays single points as they are received.
- An XY Graph displays individual (X,Y) pairs.
- The graphs and chart below all display the same sine wave data.



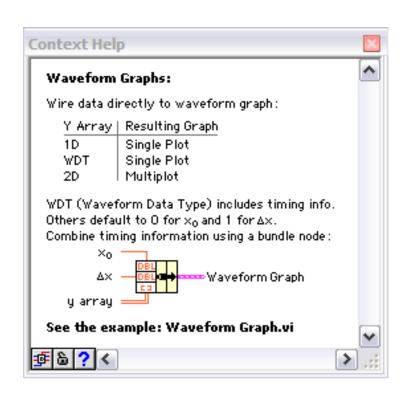






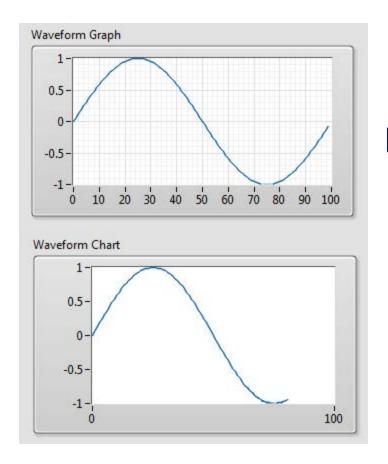


- Chart:
 - Remembers history new point added to end of plot
 - Good for <u>inside</u> a loop
- Graph:
 - New plot of all new data
 - Good for <u>outside</u> the loop
 - Use the Context Help window to determine how to wire multiplot data to Waveform Graphs and XY Graphs





Charts vs. Graphs – Single-Plot



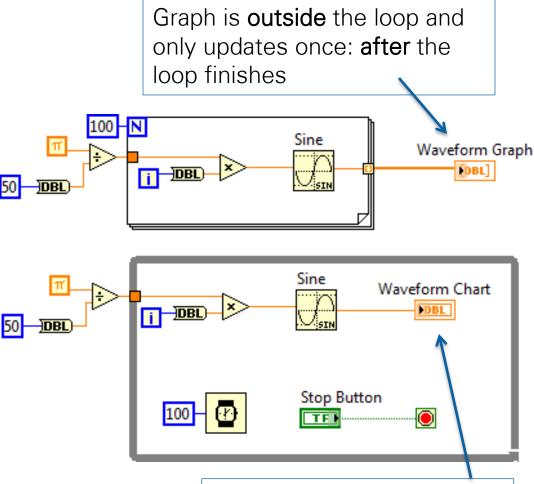




Chart is inside the loop and

updates for each iteration.



Charts vs. Graphs – Multi-plot and XY Graph

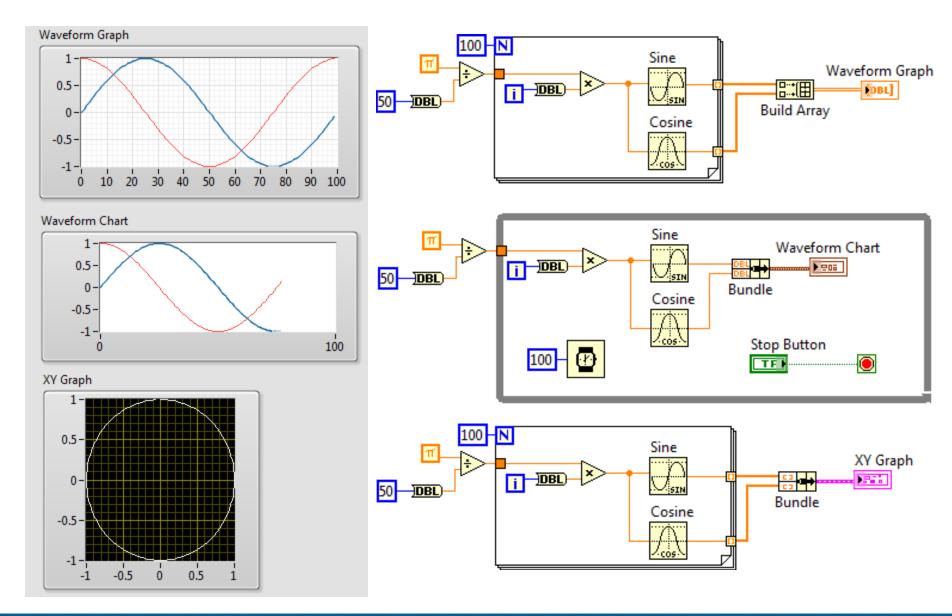
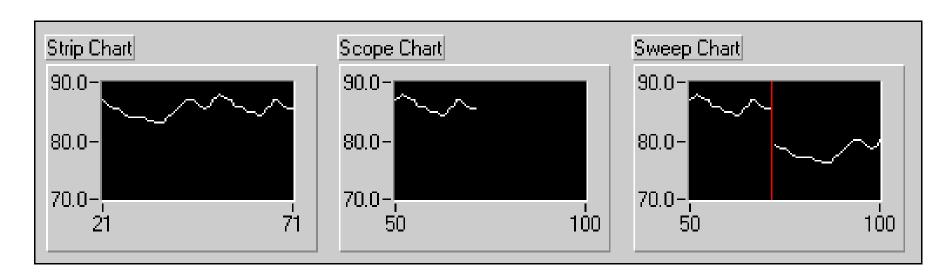




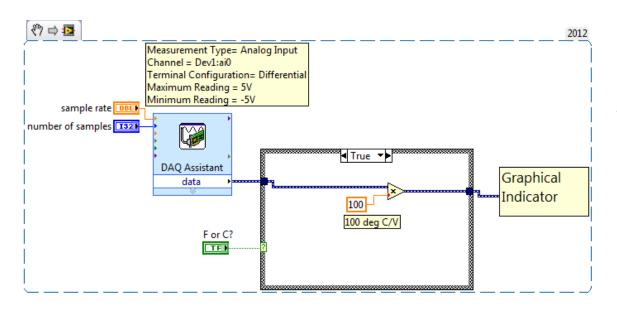
Chart Update Modes

- Right-click the chart and select Advanced» Update
 Mode from the shortcut menu
- Strip chart is the default update mode
- Scope chart and Sweep chart modes display plots significantly faster than the strip chart mode





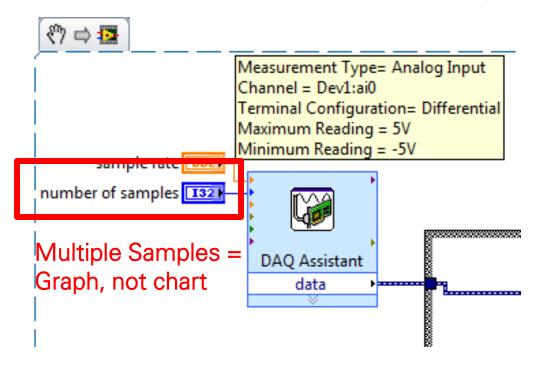
You need to add a graphical indicator to the location shown below. Which of the following is the best graphical indicator to use in this program?



- A. Waveform Graph
- B. Waveform Chart
- C. Intensity Chart
- D. XY Graph



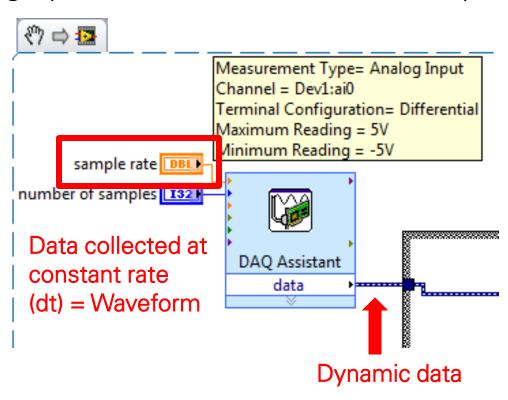
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- D. XY Graph



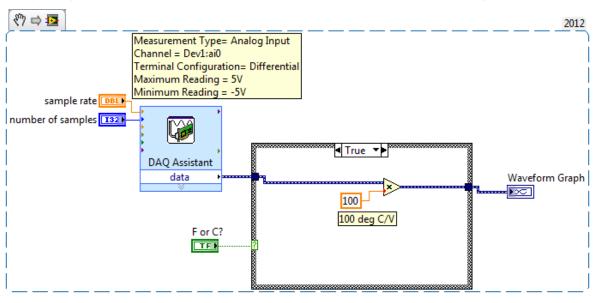
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You need to add a graphical indicator to the location shown below. Which of the following is the best graphical indicator to use in this program?



- A. Waveform Graph
- B. Waveform Chart
- C. Intensity Chart
- D. XY Graph

Waveform Graph is the only choice that displays multiple points at once, and can display waveforms.



Which of the following allows you to plot any set of points, evenly distributed or not?

- a. Waveform Graph
- b. Waveform Chart
- c. XY Graph
- d. Both A. and C.



Which of the following allows you to plot any set of points, evenly distributed or not?

- a. Waveform Graph
- b. Waveform Chart
- c. XY Graph
- d. Both A. and C.

Waveform Graph plots only single-valued functions with points evenly distributed along the x-axis

Waveform Chart displays one or more plots of data typically acquired at a constant rate.



Which of the following allows you to plot any set of points, evenly distributed or not?

a. Waveform Graph

Waveform Graph plots only single-valued functions with points **evenly distributed** along the x-axis

b. Waveform Chart

Waveform Chart displays one or more plots of data typically acquired at a constant rate.

c. XY Graph

d. Both A. and C.

The XY graph is a general-purpose, Cartesian graphing object that plots multivalued functions, such as circular shapes or waveforms with a varying time base. The XY graph displays any set of points, evenly sampled or not.



Which of the following will allow you to have multiple plots on a Waveform Graph?

- Bundle two 1D arrays of X and Y data together for each plot. Then build an array of these clusters and wire it to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- b. Build an n-dimensional array of data with each plot in a separate row (or column) in the array, then wire the array to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- Bundle the elements of each waveform into a cluster and build an array of these clusters, then wire the array to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- d. Both B. and C.



Which of the following will allow you to have multiple plots on a Waveform Graph?

- Bundle two 1D arrays of X and Y data together for each plot. Then build an array of these clusters and wire it to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- b. Build an n-dimensional array of data with each plot in a separate row (or column) in the array, then wire the array to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- c. Bundle the elements of each waveform into a cluster and build an array of these clusters, then wire the array to the Waveform Graph indicator.
- d. Both B. and C.

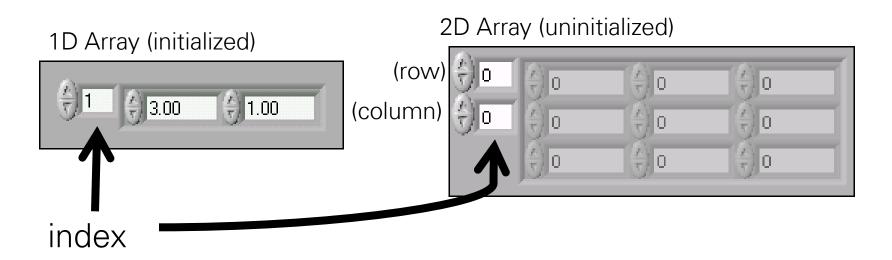




Arrays: the index

The index (zero-based) tells you :

- the dimension of the array (1D, 2D, 3D, etc.)
- the index of the element displayed in the upper left corner
 - the 1D array below is displaying index 1 to contain a value of 3.00; we do
 not know the value of index 0 from this image because the value at index 0
 is hidden from view

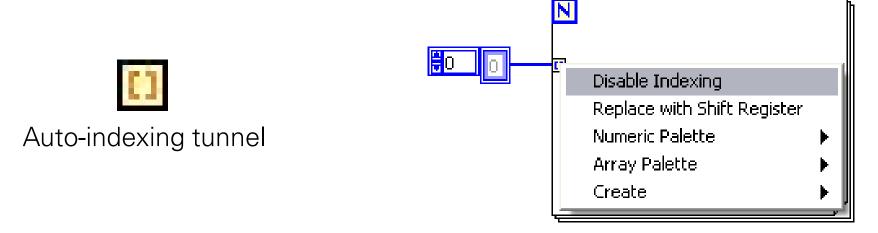


TIP: drag the edge of the index to add another dimension to an array



Arrays: Auto-indexing

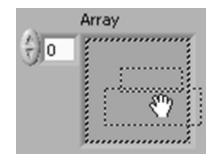
- If you wire an array to or from a For Loop or While Loop, you can link each iteration of the loop to an element in that array by enabling auto-indexing on tunnel
- The tunnel changes from a solid square to the image shown below to indicate auto-indexing
- You can disable auto-indexing by right clicking on the tunnel and choosing the **Disable Indexing** option.



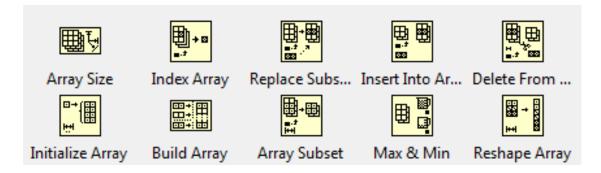


Array Functions

- •1 type of data per array- cannot have an array of arrays.
- •Up to (2³¹-1) elements per dimension
- Auto-indexing For Loops link each iteration with an element of the array
- •For Data Acquisition:
 - Rows: Channels
 - Columns: Data



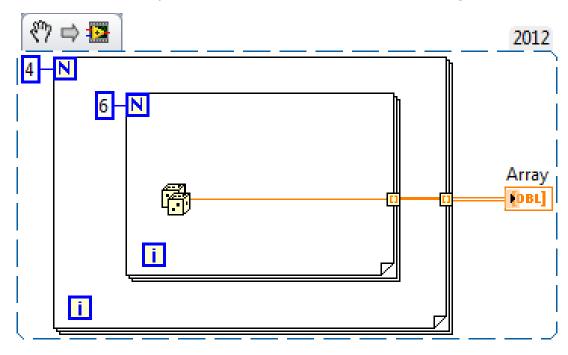






Array Functions

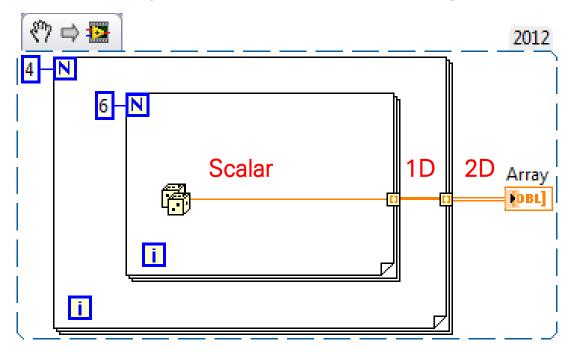
Describe the array that results from running this code.



- A. A 1D Array with 10 rows
- B. A 2D Array with 4 rows and 6 columns
- C. A 2D Array with 6 rows and 4 columns
- D. A 1D Array with 10 columns



Describe the array that results from running this code.



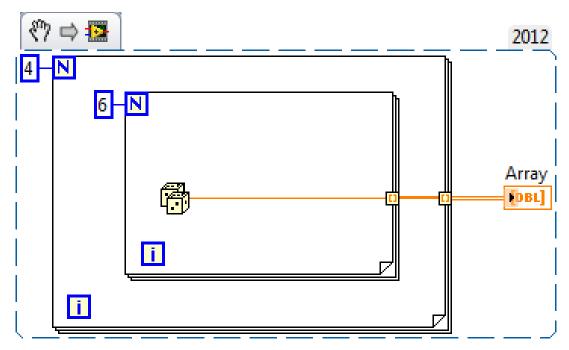
- A. A 1D Array with 10 rows
- B. A 2D Array with 4 rows and 6 columns
- C. A 2D Array with 6 rows and 4 columns
- D. A 1D Array with 10 columns

Eliminate these choices because:

Two loops means a 2D array.



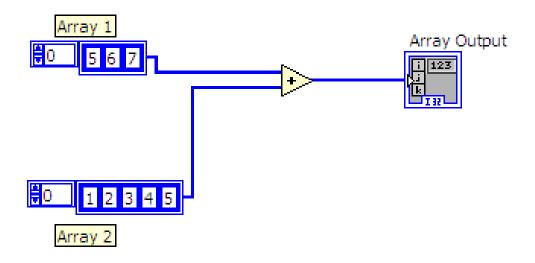
Describe the array that results from running this code.



- A. A 1D Array with 10 rows
- B. A 2D Array with 4 rows and 6 columns
- C. A 2D Array with 6 rows and 4 columns
- D. A 1D Array with 10 columns

When building arrays in nested For loops, the outside loop will always correspond to the rows of the array.

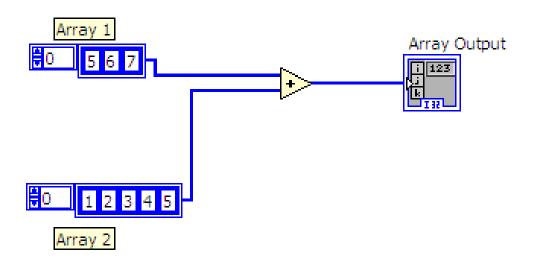
What is the result of the following Array addition?



- A. A 1- D array of {6, 8, 10}
- B. A 1-D array of {6, 8, 10, 4, 5}
- C. A 2-D array of {{5, 6, 7}, {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}}
- D. A 2-D array of {{6, 8, 10}, {4, 5}}



What is the result of the following Array addition?



These are not valid arrays- the row sizes are not the same

A. A 1- D array of {6, 8, 10}

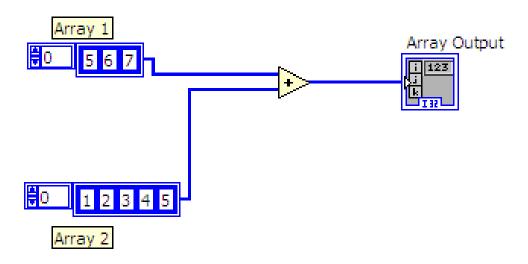
B. A 1-D array of {6, 8, 10, 4, 5}

C. A 2-D array of {{5, 6, 7}, {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}}

D. A 2 D array of {{6, 8, 10}, {4, 5}}



What is the result of the following Array addition?



When performing array arithmetic, the output array is the same size as the smaller input array.

A. A 1- D array of {6, 8, 10}

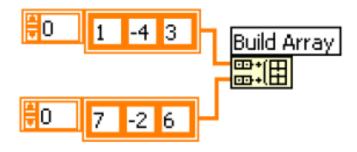
B. A 1-D array of {6, 8, 10, 4, 5}

C. A 2-D array of {{5, 6, 7}, {1, 2, 3, 4, 5}}

D. A 2 D array of {{6, 8, 10}, {4, 5}}



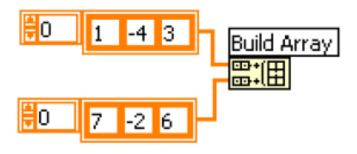
What is the output of the Build Array function in the following block diagram when the *Concatenate Inputs* is selected?



- A. 1- D array of {1, -4, 3, 7, -2, 6}
- B. 1-D array of {1, 7, -4, -2, 3, 6}
- C. 2-D array of {{1, -4, 3, 0}, {7, -2, 6}}
- D. 2-D array of {{1, -4, 3}, {7, -2, 6}}



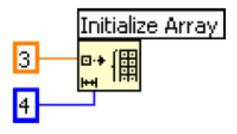
What is the output of the Build Array function in the following block diagram when the *Concatenate Inputs* is selected?



- A. 1- D array of {1, -4, 3, 7, -2, 6}
- B. 1-D array of {1, 7, -4, -2, 3, 6}
- C. 2-D array of {{1, -4, 3, 0}, {7, -2, 6}}
- D. 2-D array of {{1, -4, 3}, {7, -2, 6}}

Build Array function concatenates multiple arrays or appends elements to an n-dimensional array. With **Concatenate Inputs** selected, it appends all inputs in order, forming an output array of the same dimensionality as the highest-dimension array input wired.

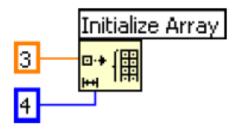
What is the output of the *Initialize Array* function after the following code has executed?



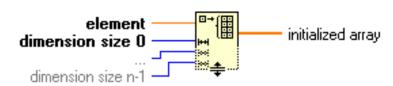
- A. 1- D array of {3, 3, 3, 3}
- B. 1-D array of {4, 4, 4}
- C. 2-D array of {3, 4}
- D. 2-D array of {4, 3}



What is the output of the *Initialize Array* function after the following code has executed?



- A. 1- D array of {3, 3, 3, 3}
- B. 1-D array of {4, 4, 4}
- C. 2-D array of {3, 4}
- D. 2-D array of {4, 3}



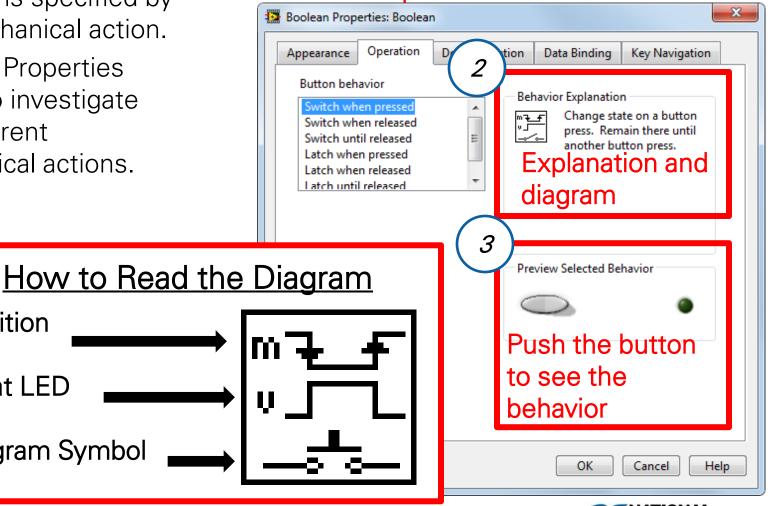
Inivitalze Array function creates an n-dimensional array (4) in which every element is initialized to the value of **element (3)**.



Mechanical Action of Booleans

- Behavior of Boolean controls is specified by the mechanical action.
- Use the Properties dialog to investigate the different mechanical actions.

Place Boolean on Front Panel, Open the **Boolean Properties**



Button Position

"Voltage" at LED

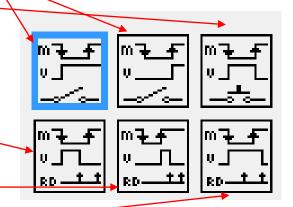
Circuit Diagram Symbol



Mechanical Actions of Boolean Objects

- Switch when pressed (light switch)
- Switch when released (mouse)
- Switch until released (door buzzer)

- Latch when pressed (circuit breaker)
- Latch when released (dialog box)
- Latch until released







Mechanical Action of Booleans

Open NI Example Finder, select the Mechanical Action of Booleans.vi. Browse by Task, Building User Interfaces» General» Mechanical Action of Booleans.vi.

DEMONSTRATION



Which category of mechanical action is guaranteed to be read at least once by LabVIEW?

- A. Switch
- B. Latch
- C. Boolean
- D. All mechanical actions are read at least once





Which category of mechanical action is guaranteed to be read at least once by LabVIEW?

- A. Switch
- B. Latch "Boolean" is not a mechanical action.
- C. Boolean
- D. All mechanical actions are read at least once





A button is pressed once and immediately turns on the light of a dark room. The light stays on after the button is released. What is the mechanical action of the button?

- A. Switch when pressed
- B. Switch when released
- C. Switched until released
- D. Latch when pressed
- E. Latch when released
- F. Latch until released





A button is pressed once and immediately turns on the light of a dark room. The light stays on after the button is released. What is the mechanical action of the button?

- A. Switch when pressed
- B. Switch when released
- C. Switched until released
- D. Latch when pressed
- E. Latch when released
- F. Latch until released

The light stays on after the button is released, so this is not a latching action, or switched until released, which would only turn the light on while the button is being pressed.

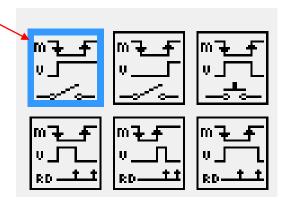




A button is pressed once and immediately turns on the light of a dark room. The light stays on after the button is released. What is the mechanical action of the button?

- A. Switch when pressed
- B. Switch when released
- C. Switched until released
- D. Latch when pressed
- E. Latch when released
- F. Latch until released

The key word is "immediately." The light comes on before the button is released.





Data Representation: Numeric Range

- Data representation affects how large or small of a number can be stored.
 - A few common data types are listed here—for more types, see the LabVIEW Help

Terminal	Туре	Disk Storage Size	Number of Decimal Digits	Approximate Range
DBL	Double	64 bits	15	-1.8×10^{308} to 1.8×10^{308}
18	Signed 8-bit Integer	8 bits	2	-128 to 127
U8	Unsigned 8- bit Integer	8 bits	2	0 to 255
U32	Unsigned 32- bit Integer	32 bits	9	0 to 4,294,967,295



- Data representation is important when disk space or memory usage is a concern:
- Larger types require more space (U32 requires 4x the memory of U8)
- Signed types require more space than unsigned (I32 uses more space than U32)
- Boolean types require one U8 of space each. Consider using a single U8 to represent eight Boolean values if several Booleans must be stored.

Numeric Numeric 2 Numeric 3 Numeric 4



You need to store an integer which will only ever be between 1 and 10. Which of these would be the best choice?

- A. U32
- В. 18
- c. DBL
- D. U8



You need to store an integer which will only ever be between 1 and 10. Which of these would be the best choice?

- A. U32
- в. 18
- c. DBL
- The U8 representation can store numbers ranging from 0 to 2^8 -1, or 0-255



Which of these allows storing decimal numbers such as 1.3 or 2.55?

- A. U32
- в. 18
- c. DBL
- D. U8



Which of these allows storing decimal numbers such as 1.3 or 2.55?

- A. U32
- в. 18
- c. DBL
- D. U8

DBL is the only data type listed that can store non-integer numbers.

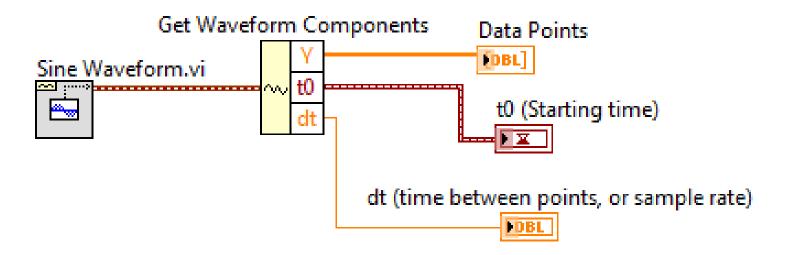




The Waveform data type is a cluster.



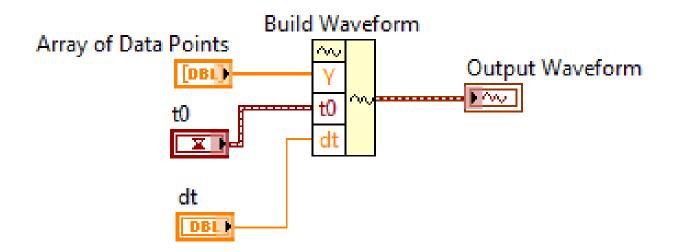
- Carries the data, start time, and dt of a waveform.
- Get Waveform Components function is very similar to Unbundle By Name







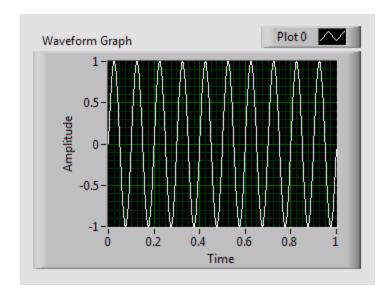
- Build Waveform function creates a waveform from its components
 - Similar to Bundle By Name

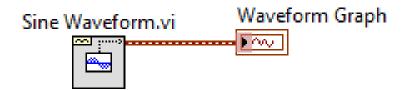






- Some indicators can display waveform data directly.
 - Waveform Graph





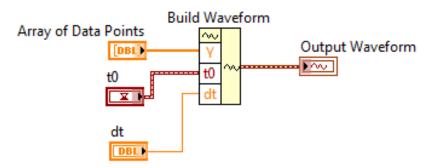




- 1. Which of these is the Waveform data type most similar to?
 - A. String
 - в. Numeric Array
 - c. Cluster
 - D. Timestamp



- 1. Which of these is the Waveform data type most similar to?
 - A. String
 - в. Numeric Array
 - c. Cluster
 - D. Timestamp



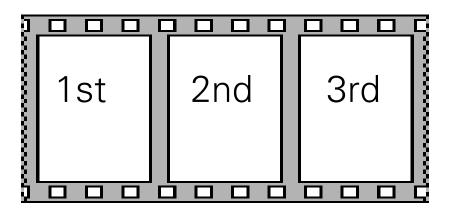
Although a waveform contains some of these other types, the Waveform type as a whole is very similar to a cluster.





Flat Sequence Structure

- Executes each frame beginning with the left-most frame and ending with the right-most frame
- The previous frame must complete before the next frame executes
- Data can be passed out of or between frames using tunnels
- Once the sequence begins, it cannot be stopped

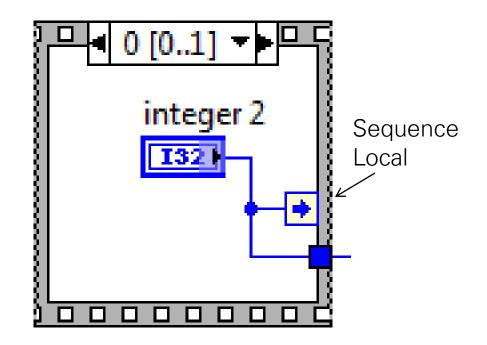






Stacked Sequence Structure

- Executes frame 0, then frame 1, etc. until the last frame executes
 - Returns data only after the last frame executes
 - To transfer data from frame to frame, a Sequence Local must be created (right-click » Add Sequence Local)
- Once the sequence begins, it cannot be stopped







Stacked Sequence Structure

What purpose do sequence locals have in a stacked sequence structure?

- A. Provide reentrancy for the sequence structure
- B. Transfer data between frames
- c. Set values of local variables in the calling VI
- D. Transfer data out of the sequence between frames





Stacked Sequence Structure

What purpose do sequence locals have in a stacked sequence structure?

- A. Provide reentrancy for the sequence structure
- B. Transfer data between frames
- c. Set values of local variables in the calling VI
- D. Transfer data out of the sequence between frames

Stacked sequence structures do not return their outputs until the final frame has executed. Use sequence locals to transfer data between subsequent frames.

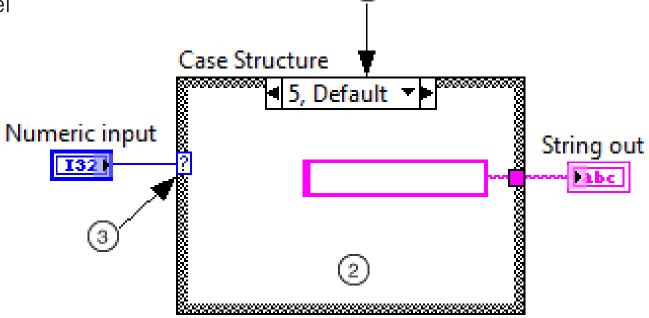


Identify the components of a case structure

A. Case Selector Terminal

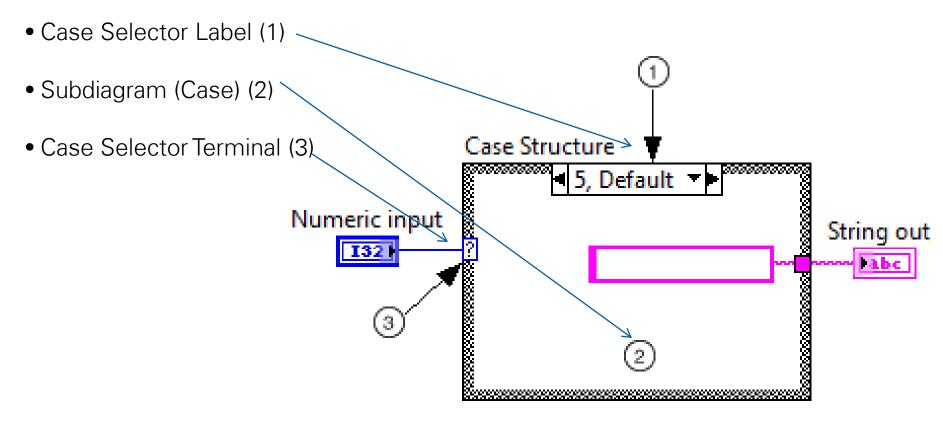


C. Subdiagram (Case)





Identify the components of a case structure

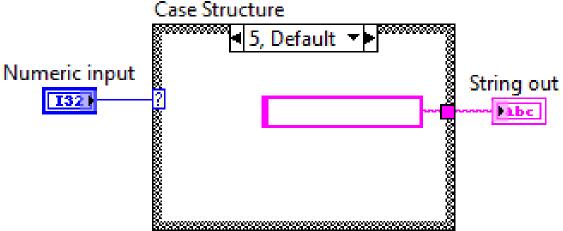




Assuming the pictured Case Structure, which of the following could result in a broken run arrow?

- A. Numeric input has a value of 6 and there is no case for 6.
- B. The empty string inside the case is deleted and the resulting broken wire inside the case is removed.
- C. The wire between numeric input and the case selector is removed

D. A new input is wired into the case selector, but is left unused in one of the cases

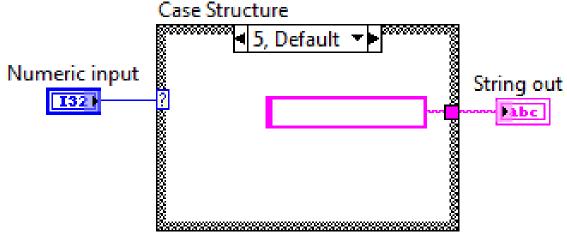






Assuming the pictured Case Structure, which of the following could result in a broken run arrow?

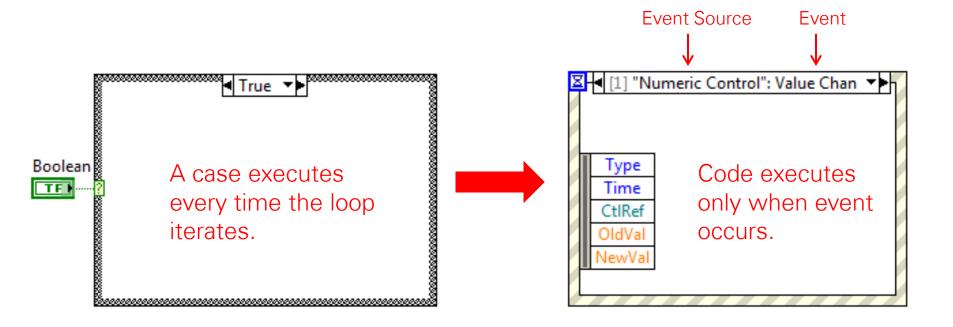
- A. Numeric input has a value of 6 and there is no case for 6.
- B. The empty string inside the case is deleted and the resulting broken wire inside the case is removed.
- C. The wire between numeric input and the case selector is removed
- D. A new input is wired into the case selector, but is left unused in one of the cases





Event Structures

An Event structure works like a Case structure with a built-in Wait on Notification function.

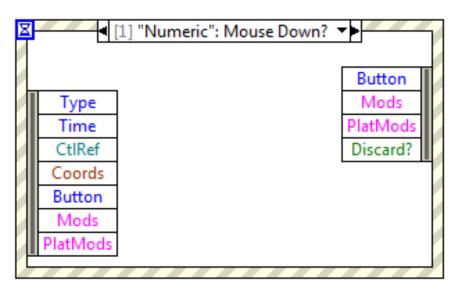






Event Structure

- Event Structure LabVIEW's programmatic tool for handling events.
- Specialized type of Case Structure
- Execution of code can be dependent on whether or not an event has occurred
- Waits for an event to occur indefinitely, unless configured to timeout.

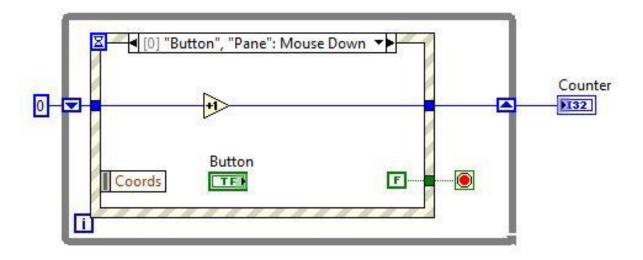




Event Structures

When the user clicks the **Button** control, how many times is the Increment function called?

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3



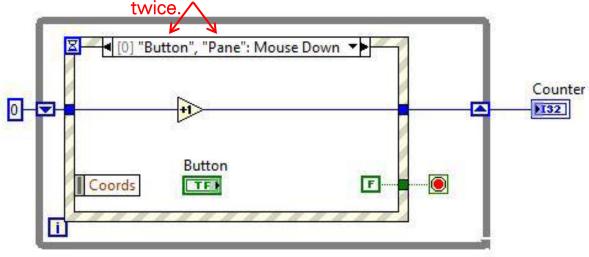


Event Structures

When the user clicks the **Button** control, how many times is the Increment function called?

- a. 0
- b. 1
- c. 2
- d. 3

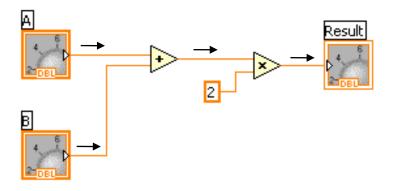
Because a Mouse Down event occurs on both the Button and the Pane, 2 events are registered. The code executes

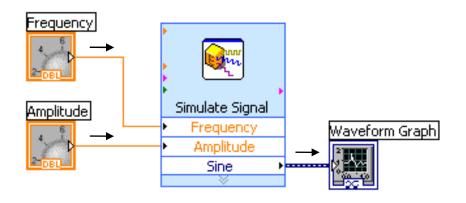






- Block diagram execution is dependent on the flow of data
- Block diagram does NOT execute left to right
- Node executes when data is available to ALL input terminals
- Nodes supply data to all output terminals when done
- If the computer running this code had multiple processors, these two pieces of code could run independently without additional coding





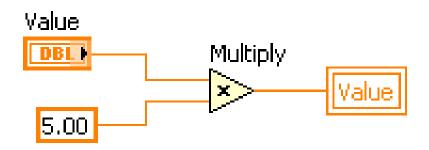


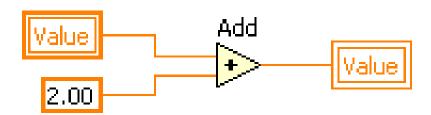


Race Conditions: Sequencing

What is the final value? Four possible outcomes:

- Value = (Value * 5) +2
- Value = (Value + 2) * 5
- Value = Value * 5
- Value = Value +2

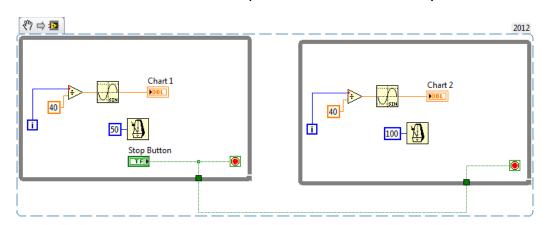




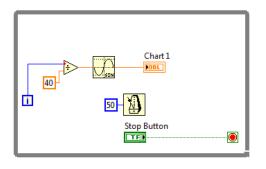


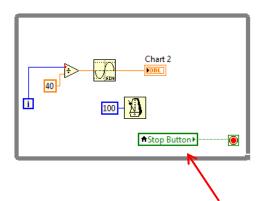
Breaking Data Flow

Situation: Run 2 Loops simultaneously with 1 Stop Button



Wiring the Stop Button from one Loop to the other will **NOT** work.





Solution: Use a Local Variable

Drawbacks: Introduces a Possible Race Condition

Local Variable referencing the Stop Button

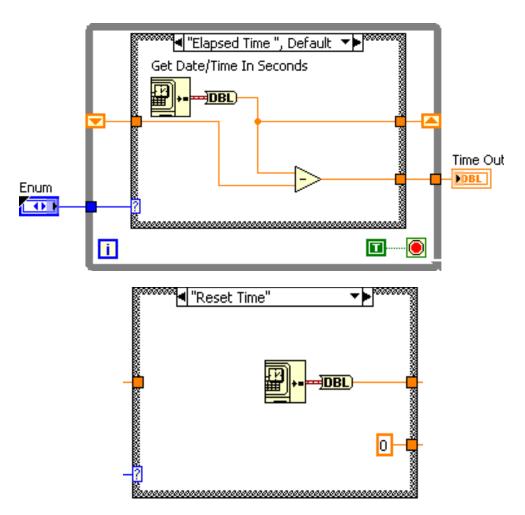


Breaking Data Flow

Name	Appearance	Function	Drawbacks
Wire		Connects data at different terminals	Must follow Data Flow
Local Variable	↑ Stop Button▶	Allows a value to be accessed anywhere in a single VI	Introduces the possibility of a race condition
Global Variable	Stop Button▶	Allows a value to be accessed in any VI	Introduces the possibility of a race condition
Functional Global Variable		 Non-reentrant VI Allows a value to be accessed in any VI Removes possibility of a race condition Allows actions to be performed on data 	



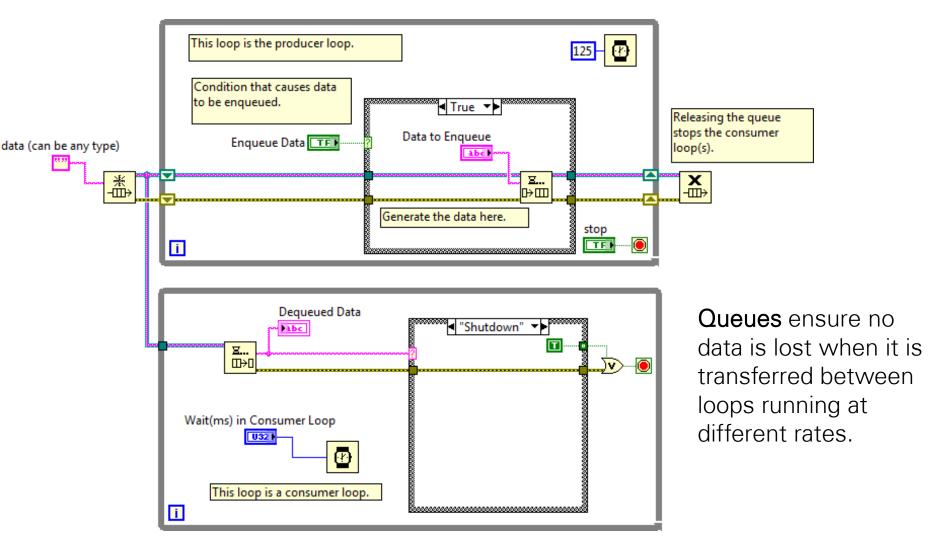
Breaking Data Flow – Functional Global Variable



This Functional Global Variable allows you to get the elapsed time since the last time you called the subVI.



Breaking Data Flow - Queues





Which of the following does not conform to the Dataflow programming paradigm?

- a. Shift Registers
- b. Tunnels
- c. SubVIs
- d. Local variables



Which of the following does not conform to the Dataflow programming paradigm?

- a. Shift Registers
- b. Tunnels
- c. SubVIs
- d. Local variables

Local variables do not conform to the Dataflow paradigm because they communicate by reference, not by value. The basic premise of local variables is to allow transfer of data where it is impossible to use wires. This circumvents the Dataflow paradigm.



Which variable is commonly used to eliminate race conditions by preventing simultaneous access to code or data?

- a. Functional global variable
- b. Local variable
- c. Global variable
- d. Shared variable



Which variable is commonly used to eliminate race conditions by preventing simultaneous access to code or data?

- a. Functional global variable
- b. Local variable
- c. Global variable
- d. Shared variable

You can place critical data or sections of code in functional global variables. Since functional global variables are non-reentrant VIs, the possibility of race conditions is eliminated.



Which data synchronization mechanism ensures that no data is lost when an application temporarily provides data faster than it is able to process it?

- a. Notifier
- b. Queue
- c. Semaphore
- d. Local Variable



Which data synchronization mechanism ensures that no data is lost when an application temporarily provides data faster than it is able to process it?

a. Notifier

Notifiers pass data, but they can only pass one element at a time. Data is overwritten and lost if the program writes to the notifier twice before data is read.

b. Queue

c. Semaphore

Semaphores cannot pass data.

d. Local Variable

Local variables have no mechanism for determining when data is updated, so there is no way to tell if data is newly-acquired or not.



Which data synchronization mechanism ensures that no data is lost when an application temporarily provides data faster than it is able to process it?

a. Notifier

Notifiers pass data, but they can only pass one element at a time. Data is overwritten and lost if the program writes to the notifier twice before data is read.

b. Queue

Queues support multiple elements and operate using a FIFO principle, guaranteeing that no data is lost or overwritten.

c. Semaphore

Semaphores cannot pass data.

d. Local Variable

Local variables have no mechanism for determining when data is updated, so there is no way to tell if data is newly-acquired or not.



String Controls and Constants

 When possible, use the constants included in the string palette instead of typing in a string constant.

Space Constant.vi | Carriage Return Constant

String Control

String Indicator

Empty String Constant

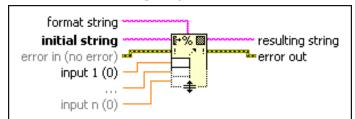
Test Operator

Tab Constant

End of Line Constant

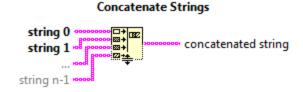
Format Into String

- Formats an input into a string
- Uses generic format string to specify output
- See detailed help for tips on the Format String syntax.



Concatenate Strings

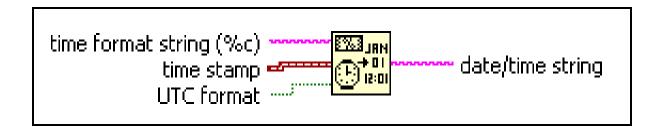
Combines two or more strings





Format Date/Time String

- Formats a time stamp or numeric value into a string
- Uses the time format string to specify the date/time string output
- Example:
 - For a January 15, 2020 time stamp input and %m-%d-%y time format string input, the function returns a date/time string: 01-15-2020



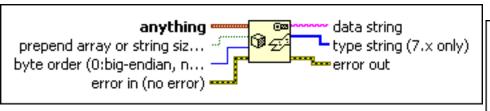


Flatten To / Unflatten From String

These functions *flatten* or *unflatten* LabVIEW data to or from binary strings which contain the flattened data.

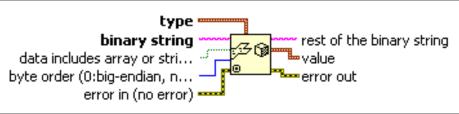
Flatten to string:

- Takes any input data and flattens it to a single string.
- Useful for transferring data to external programs



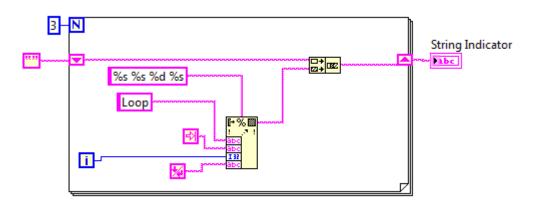
Unflatten from string:

- Interprets a binary string as the specified data type
- Requires a data type template such as a numeric constant





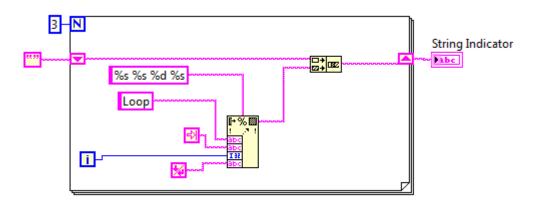
What is displayed in "String Indicator" after running this code?



- A. Loop0 Loop1 Loop2
- B. Loop 1 Loop 2 Loop 3
- C. Loop 0 Loop 1 Loop 2
- D. Loop 0 Loop 1 Loop 2



What is displayed in "String Indicator" after running this code?



```
Loop0
             Loop1
                      Loop2
В.
    Loop
    Loop
             3
    Loop
                 Loop
    Loop
                               Loop
    Loop
                    The iteration terminal is zero-indexed, and
    Loop
                    each iteration generates a string with an EOL
    Loop
                    constant, so the correct answer must have
                    three lines.
```





You want to export data from LabVIEW into another environment, but the other environment does not recognize LabVIEW data types. You should:

- A. Export the data using a property node.
- B. Unflatten the data from a binary string and send it to the other environment.
- c. Create a LabVIEW user event to transport the data.
- D. Flatten the data to a binary string and send it to the other environment.



You want to export data from LabVIEW into another environment, but the other environment does not recognize LabVIEW data types. You should:

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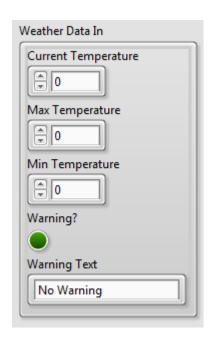
Strings are widely usable. Oftentimes you will be able to bring your data into another programming environment as a string, parse the string, and consume the data.

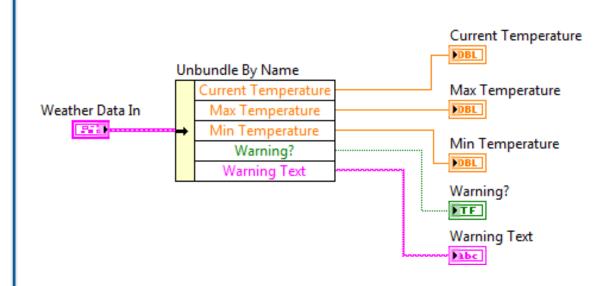




Clusters

- Clusters group data elements of mixed types.
- Clusters are similar to a record or a struct in text-based programming languages.

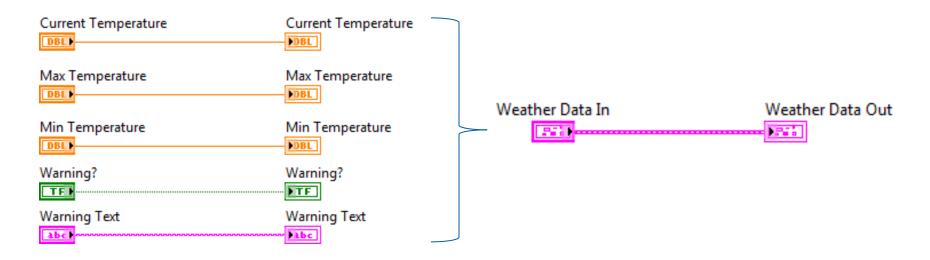






Why Use Clusters?

- Keep data organized.
 - Logically group related data values together.
 - Improve diagram readability by eliminating wire clutter.
- Reduce the number of connector pane terminals.





Cluster

Clusters provide a user with which of the following benefits?

- a. Clusters allow a logical grouping of related data elements.
- b. Clusters increase the number of Connector Pane terminals of SubVI's.
- c. Clusters help to reduce wire clutter on the Block Diagram.
- d. Both A. and C.





Cluster

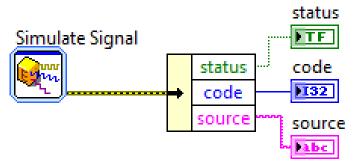
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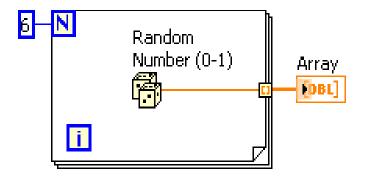


Clusters vs. Arrays

- Clusters are a fixed size.
- Clusters can contain mixed data types.
- Clusters can be a control, an indicator, or a constant.
 - All elements have to



- Arrays vary in size.
- Arrays contain only one data type.
- Arrays can be a control, an indicator, or a constant.



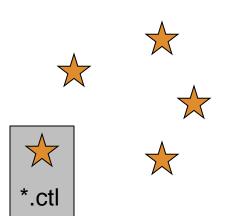




Custom Controls & Type Definitions

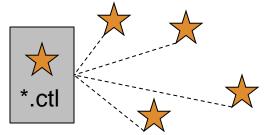
Control

- No connection between the one you saved and the instance in the VI
- Update the file, but the instances are not updated



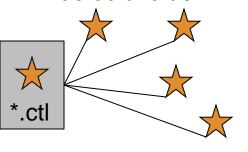
Type Def

- Connection between the saved file and all instances
- Forces the data type of each instance to be identical (clusters, enum)
- Changes made to file will populate throughout each instance



Strict Type Def

- •Connection between saved file and all instances
- •Forces *everything* about an instance to be identical to the strict type definition, except:
 - •label
 - description
 - default value







Controls and Type Definitions

You customize a control, select Control from the Type Def. Status pull-down menu, and save the control as a .ctl file.

You then use an instance of the custom control on your front panel window. If you open the ctl file and modify the control, does the control on the front panel window change?

- a. Yes
- b. No





Controls and Type Definitions

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You then use an instance of the custom control on your front panel window. If you open the ctl file and modify the control, does the control on the front panel window change?

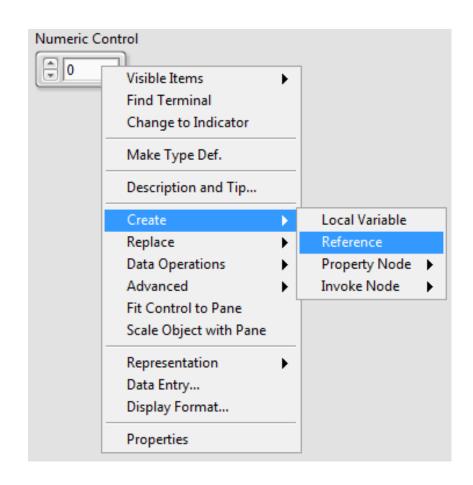
- a. Yes
- b. No

A **custom control** is used to create controls that behave like existing controls but look different. Instances are not linked to a.ctl file.

A type definition control (type def) is used for changing all instances of a linked control in a single edit.



- A control reference is a reference to a front panel object.
- Wire control references to generic Property Nodes.
- Pass control references to subVls.

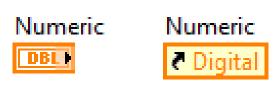


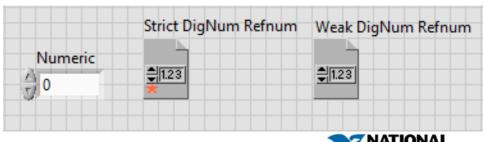




Control references allow you to manipulate controls located on the front panel of VIs loaded in memory.

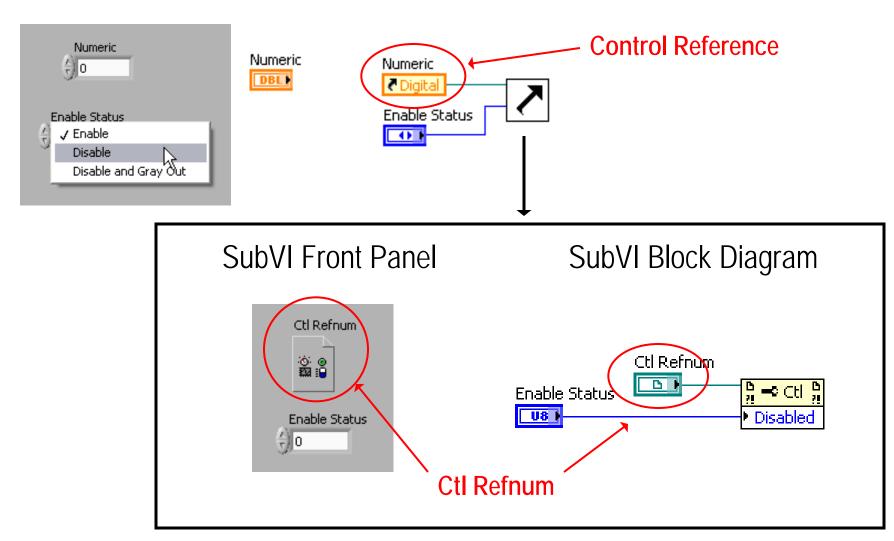
- Strictly typed control refnums accept <u>only</u> control refnums of exactly the same data type
- Weakly typed control refnums accept references to any DigNum control















Why would you want to use a weakly typed control refnum as a subVI input when wiring your connector pane?

- A. To ensure only controls of one data type can be used as the input.
- B. You want to make your subVI capable of manipulating controls with varying data types.
- c. You want to be able to manipulate many controls at once.
- It is best practice to avoid strictly typed control refnums in subVIs.



Control References

Why would you want to use a weakly typed control refnum as a subVI input when wiring your connector pane?

- A. To ensure only controls of one data type can be used as the input.
- B. You want to make your subVI capable of manipulating controls with varying data types.
- c. You want to be able to manipulate many controls at once.
- It is best practice to avoid strictly typed control refnums in subVIs.

Weakly typed refnums do not retain information about the data type of the control they reference. This allows you to specify a particular class of control as an input while allowing that control to have multiple representations. Data values will become variant in weakly typed refnums to account for this flexibility.





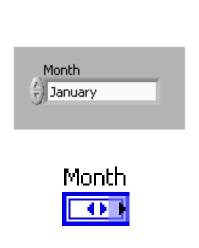
Supplemental Concepts





Enumeration

 An enum represents a pair of values, a string and a numeric, where the enum's value is one of a defined list of value pairs





Appears as a string to you, and a number to computer





Conditional Disable Structure

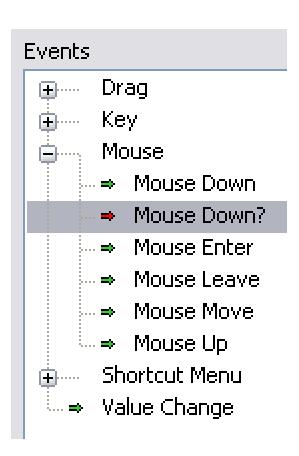
- Use to define conditions that indicate which code on the block diagram executes
 - Examples:
 - If running as an executable, then programmatically close LabVIEW when VI finishes
 - If running on Windows, look for file here; if running on Mac OSX then look here.

	TARGET	_TYPE==Windows,	default	▼ ►
9999				2000
9999				8
8000				8
2000				8
2000				9
9000				8
2000				8
ig Som	01010101010101010101010	**************************************	0101010101010101010101	oranara d





Notify and Filter Events in Config. Window



Notify Events (green arrow)
User action has already occurred

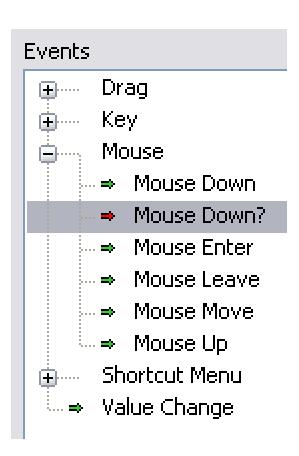
Filter Events (red arrow)

User performed action but event is not processed. Allows you to customize event handling.





Notify and Filter Events in Config. Window



Notify Events (green arrow)
User action has already occurred

Filter Events (red arrow)

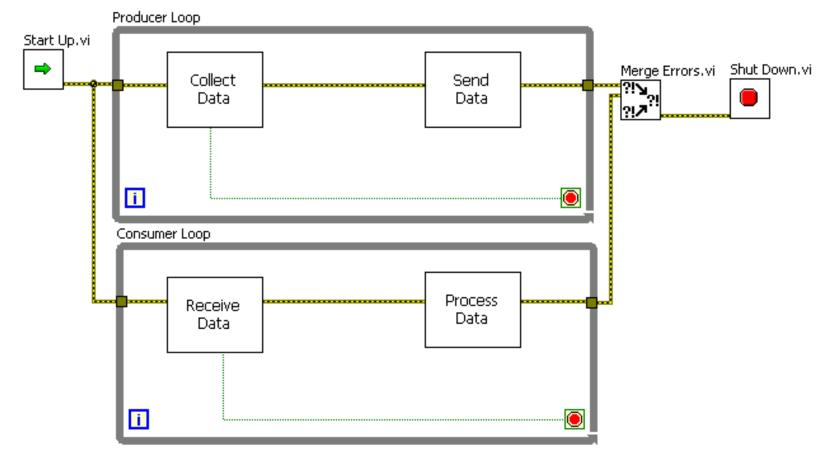
User performed action but event is not processed. Allows you to customize event handling.





Multiple Loop Design Pattern

Producer/Consumer







Multiple Loop Design Pattern

Master/Slave: a type of Producer/Consumer

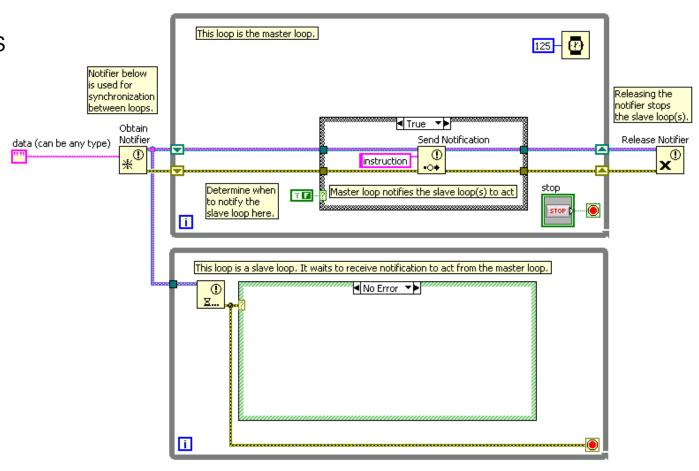
• uses notifiers
to allow loops
to run at
different rates

• uses notifiers

to allow loops

• uses notifiers

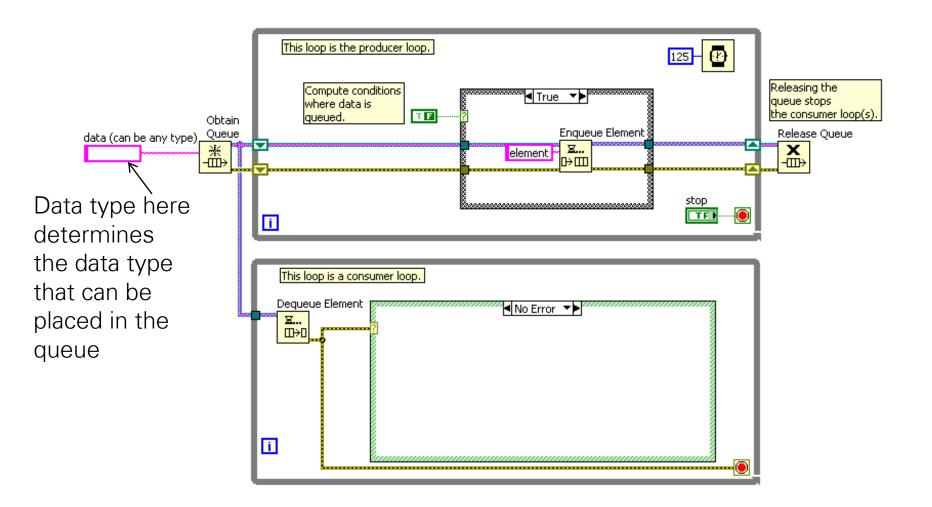
• uses no







Producer/Consumer with Queues





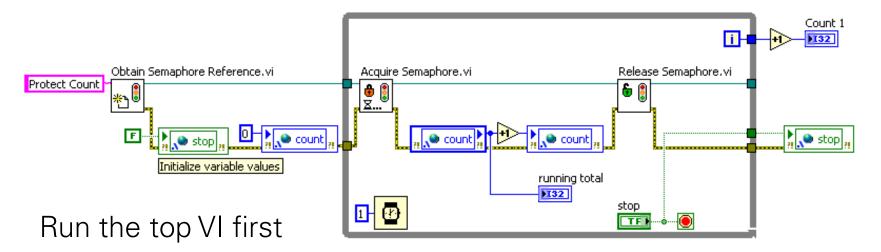
Notifier vs. Queue

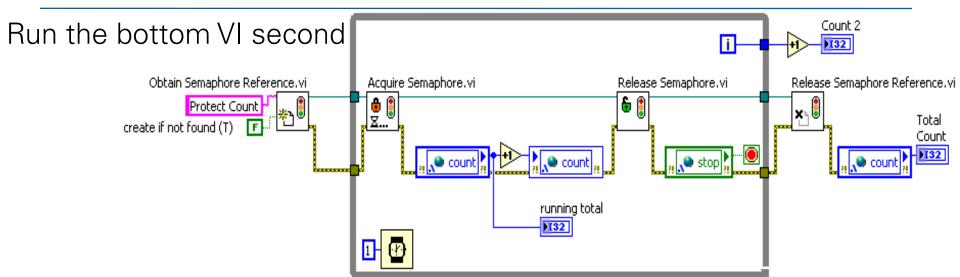
Tool	Function	When to use
Notifier The state of the stat	 sends alert to helps control timing of parallel loops can transfer data between loops data NOT buffered (lossy) 	 have a parallel loops that are running at different rates and 1+ loop is dependent on another want to transfer data from one loop to another
Queue	 helps control timing of parallel loops transfers data between loops buffers data to be transferred (FIFO) 	 have a parallel loops that are running at different rates and 1+ loop is dependent on another want to transfer ALL data from one loop to another





Semaphores









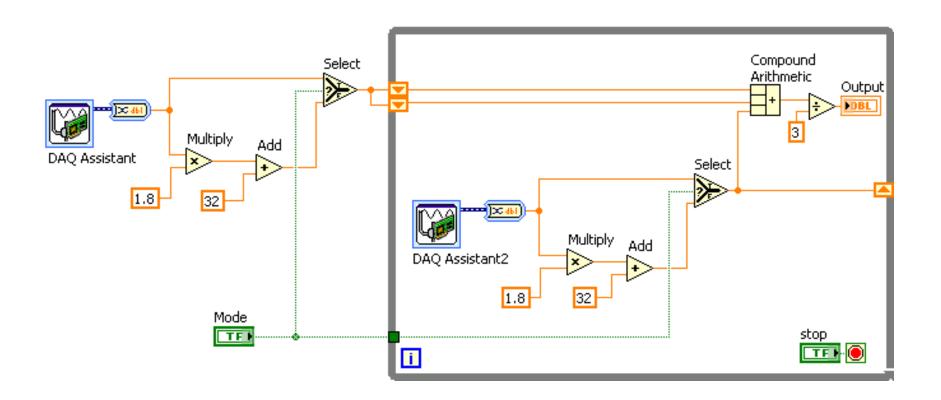
File Formats

	ASCII	TDMS	Direct Binary
Numeric Precision	Good	Best	Best
Share data	Best (Any program easily)	Better (NI Programs easily)	Good (only with detailed metadata)
Efficiency	Good	Best	Best
Ideal Use	Share data with other programs when file space and numeric precision are not important	Share data with programs when storing simple array data and metadata	Store numeric data compactly with ability to random access





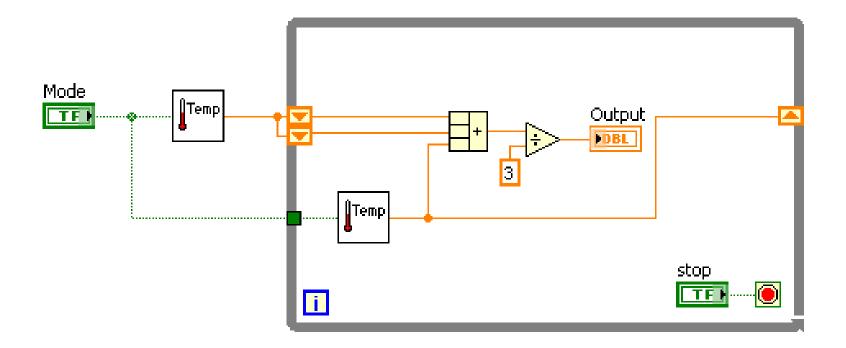
Modularity and SubVIs







Modularity and SubVIs

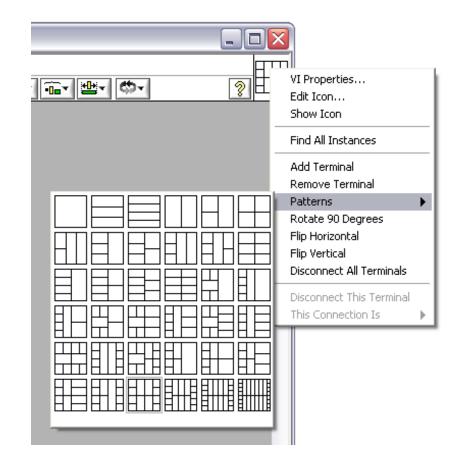






Icon and Connector Pane: Setting up the Connector Pane

- Right-click the icon in the upper right corner of the front panel and select Show Connector (before LV 2011)
 - Each rectangle on the connector pane represents a terminal
- Select a different pattern by right-clicking the connector pane and selecting Patterns from the shortcut menu

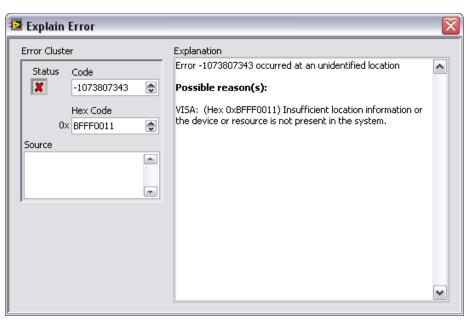




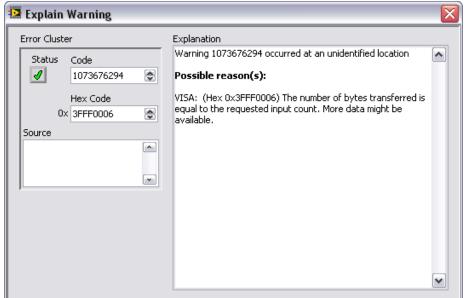


Errors vs. Warnings

- Error
- Status = TRUE



- Warning
- Status = FALSE
- Code is non-zero







Debugging Tools

use highlight execution



• use probes to see the current value in the wire





• set breakpoints to pause execution at a specific point in the code

single-step through the code







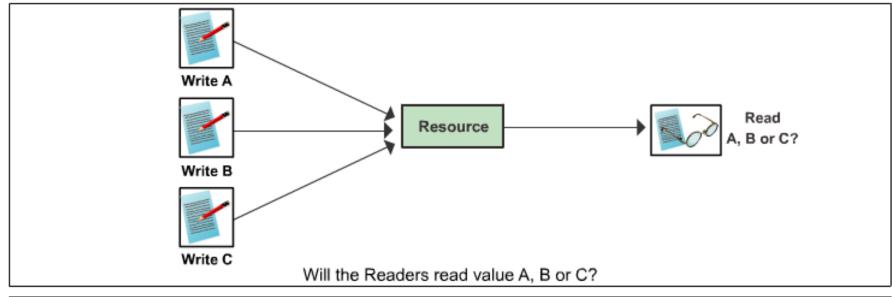
Variables: Recap

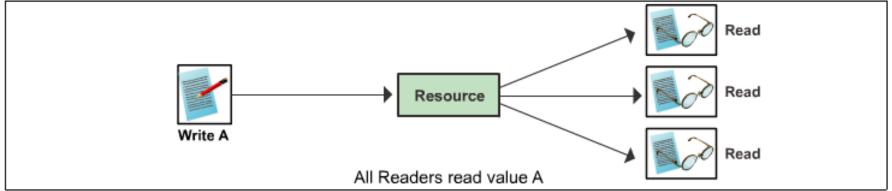
Variable Type	Scope	Notes
Local variable	A single VI	 Tied to a front panel control/indicator
Global variable	Multiple VIs on same computer	 Tied to a special global VI that has a front panel but no block diagram
Functional global	Multiple VIs on same computer	 Implemented using a While Loop with an uninitialized shift register to store global data
Single-process shared variable	Multiple VIs on same computer	 Implemented using a project library in a project Can easily convert into a network-published shared variable
Network- published shared variable	Across an Ethernet network	 Implemented using a project library in a project Often used to communicate with Real-Time targets





Race Conditions: Shared Resources

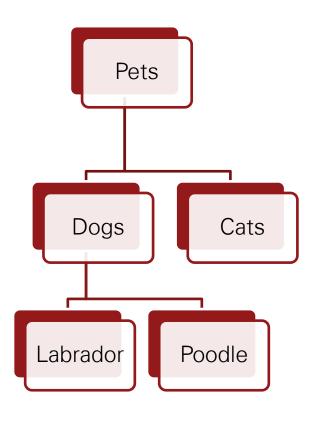


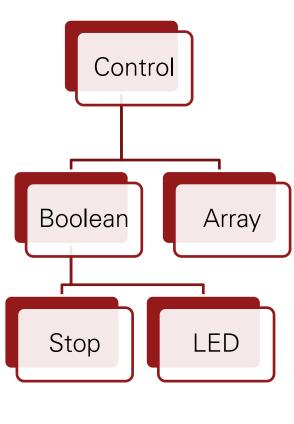


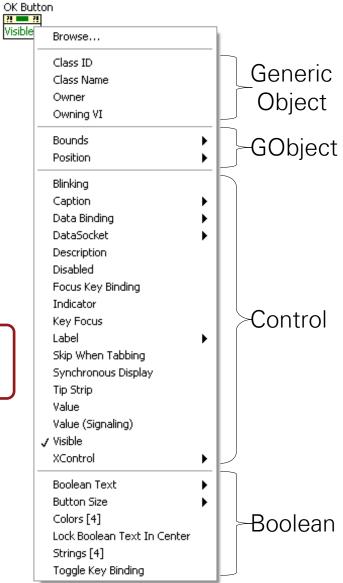




VI Server: Organization





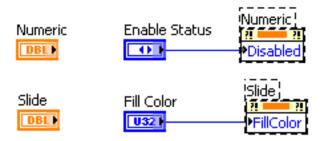


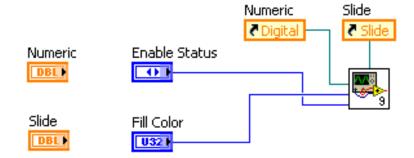


Control References – Create SubVI

To create explicitly-linked Property Nodes in a subVI:

- Create your VI
- Select the portion of the block diagram that will be in the subVI
- 3. Select Edit»Create SubVI; LabVIEW automatically creates the control references needed for the subVI
- 4. Customize and save the subVI







Control References – Create SubVI

