

LABORATORY MANUAL

SC1006/Cx1106
Computer Organization and Architecture

Lab Experiment #3

Arduino Development Platform

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

1. **OBJECTIVES**

- Develop Arduino Sketch programs
- Exchange data between two devices using UART Serial communication.
- Exchange data between two devices using Synchronous Serial communication.
- Interface Arduino to various input devices e.g. Buttons, Ultrasonic sensor, Photo cell.
- Interface Arduino to various output devices e.g. LED, Buzzer.
- Capture and analyze the data using an oscilloscope.

2. **EQUIPMENT**

- A Windows-based computer (PC) with a Universal Serial Bus (USB) port.
- Arduino UNO R3 board.
- Breadboard and hardware components
- USB cat A-B cable.
- PC-Based Oscilloscope.
- Please do not remove any pre-connected wires from the breadboard after your experiment.

LITERATURE READING 3.

- Week8a lectures on
 - o Computer Organisation Overview
 - Signal Chain Sub-System
- Arduino Development Platform. Some online resources
 - https://www.arduino.cc/en/Guide/HomePage
 - https://www.makerspaces.com/arduino-uno-tutorial-beginners/

4. INTRODUCTION

Arduino is a popular development platform in the maker's community. In this lab, you will implement some simple projects on this platform and in the process, be introduced to computer interface and signal chain related topics. The lab exercises are adapted from sample tutorials supplied by LAFVIN.

5. Arduino Development System

Fig. 1 shows an Arduino UNO R3 board that is based on the Atmel ATmega328 processor (See Red Square). The pins on the processor is extended out to headers on each side of the board and labelled accordingly, e.g. Pin 0 is the UART RX pin and Pin1 is the UART TX pin (See Blue Square).

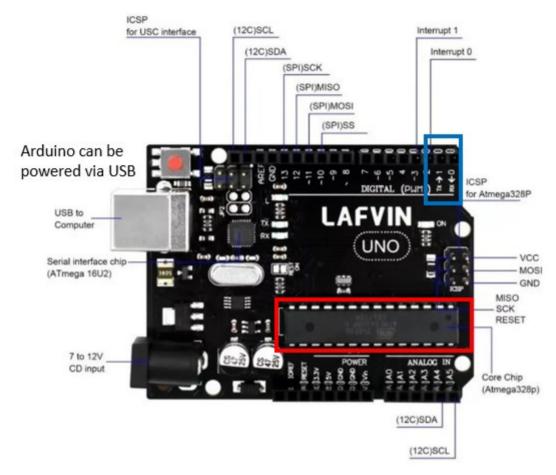


Fig. 1: Arduino UNO R3

5.1 Pin description

Some important pins that you will be using in the lab

Table 1: (Some) Pin description

GND	Ground Pin. This is the Zero Volt reference for the Arduino Board.
Digital I/O Pins	Labelled as Pin 0-13 in the row of headers nearer to the USB port. Note that the same pin can be used for other functions as well, e.g. Digital Pin 0 is also the UART RX (Receive) pin.
3.3V	Supplies 3.3V output to external devices.
5V	Supplies 5V output to external devices.
Analog pins	Labelled as A0-A5 on the row of headers further from USB port. Connects to the Analog-to-Digital Converter on the processor.

5.2 **Breadboard**

A breadboard is used to make up temporary circuits for testing or to try out an idea. No soldering is required so it is easy to change connections and replace components. Parts will not be damaged so they will be available to re-use afterwards.

Fig. 2 shows how the breadboard holes are connected. The top and bottom rows are linked horizontally all the way across. The power supply is connected to these rows, + at the top and 0V (zero volts) at the bottom. On larger breadboards there may be a break halfway along the top and bottom power supply rows. It is a good idea to link across the gap before you start to build a circuit, otherwise part of your circuit will have no power! This has been done for the breadboard you are using in this lab.

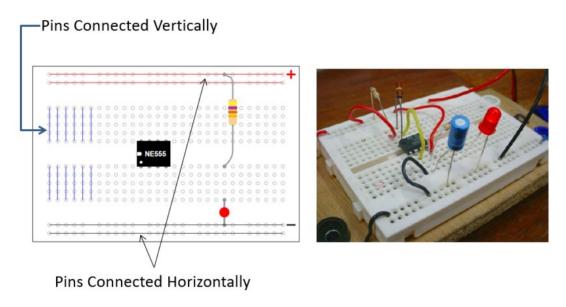


Fig. 2: Breadboard

5.3 Connecting the Arduino UNO to the PC

Connect the USB cable to the Arduino board and the PC. You should see the green LED "ON" light up, indicating power is applied to the Arduino board via the USB cable. There is no need to provide additional external power source. On the PC, open the START menu and search for Device Manager. Scroll to Ports (COM & LPT), open the tab and determine the assigned COM port for the Arduino board. Fig. 3 illustrates an example that assigns COM5 to the Arduino UNO board. The actual COM port number may differ on your PC.

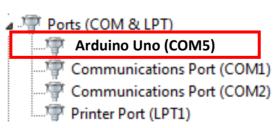


Fig. 3: Assigned Arduino COM Port

Double-click the Arduino icon on the PC desktop to start the Arduino software. Select Tools >> Board >> Arduino Uno. Fig. 4 illustrates the selection. It is important that you select the correct development board.

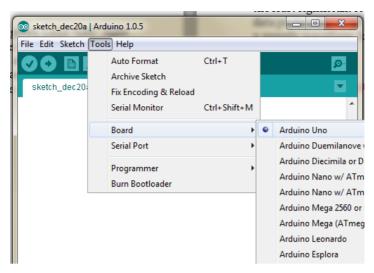


Fig. 4: Select Arduino Uno in the Arduino Software

Next, select Tools >> Serial Port >> COM5. Fig. 5 illustrates an example. The PC can connect to the Arduino board only if the serial port is set correctly.

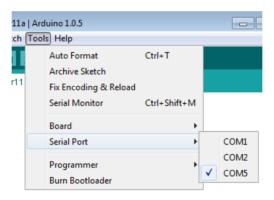


Fig. 5: Select Assigned COM Port

5.4 **Basic Arduino Sketch**

A typical Arduino program is called a sketch and is made up of two routines.

- The routine setup() is run once every time the Arduino powered up. The routine is used for resource allocation such as configuring the pins.
- The routine *loop()* is the main program and is executed repeated in an infinite loop.

Fig. 6 illustrates a simple sketch where pin 8 is assigned to variable led in the routine setup(). The routine loop() is the main program where pin 8 is assigned to logic "HIGH".

Fig. 6: Basic Arduino Sketch

5.5 Compiling and Downloading Arduino code

After writing the code, you can compile and upload the code by clicking the buttons show in the figure below.

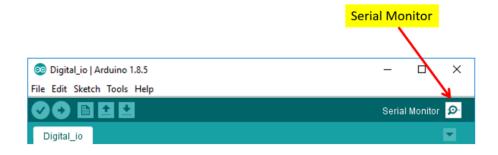
Compile/Verify button will compile the code written into machine code that the Arduino processor understand and use but the machine code generated is still resided on the PC. **Upload** button will transfer the machine code to the Arduino processor on the board via USB. The code you wrote in the Arduino Sketch Application is meant for execution on the Arduino Processor.



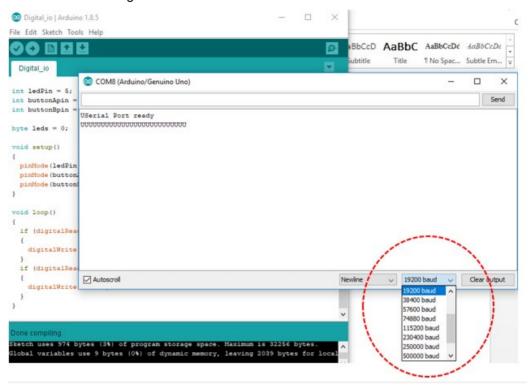
5.6 Serial Monitor

Serial Monitor is a very useful tool that allows user to view status of the code execution. The serial monitor displays the information transmitted from the Arduino Processor's hardware UART peripheral. This allows user to feedback status of key variables that tracks the progress of the code execution.

To bring up the Serial Monitor, click on the button shown in the figure below.



To be able to display information correctly, the baud rate must be the same as that configured in the Arduino code. Baud rate used by the serial monitor to decode the received information can be configured from the dropdown menu shown in the figure below.



5.7 ASCII Table

The ASCII table requires 128 data representations. Table 2 shows the ASCII representations of upper-case and lower-case alphabets in hexadecimal values. Hence, to send an ASCII character, at least 7 data bits are needed.

ASCII Char **ASCII** Char **ASCII** Char **ASCII** Char (HEX) (Upper) (HEX) (Upper) (HEX) (Lower) (HEX) (Lower) 4E N 61 6E 41 Α а n 42 В 4F 0 62 b 6F 0 43 С 50 Р 63 С 70 р 44 D 51 Q 64 71 d q 45 Е 52 R 65 72 е r S 46 F 53 66 f 73 s Т 47 67 74 G 54 g t 48 Н 55 U 68 h 75 u 49 ī 56 ٧ 69 76 Ĩ ٧ J W 4A 6A 77 57 j w 4B Κ Х 6B 78 58 k х 4C L 59 Υ 6C ī 79 У Z 4D М 5A 6D 7A m z

Table 2: ASCII Table

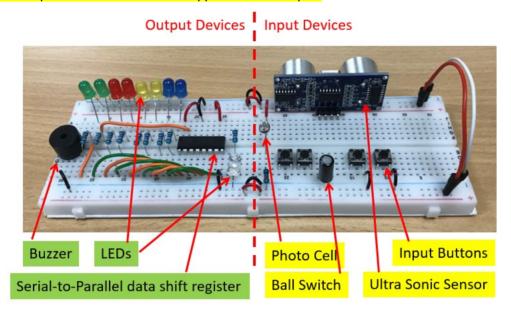


6. **EXPERIMENT**

6.1 **Hardware Overview**

The Arduino will be used to communicate with various input/output devices on a breadboard in this lab. Figure below shows an overview of the breadboard with the various devices. Please do not remove any preconnected wires from the breadboard after your experiment.

Note that some of the devices will only be used in optional sections of the lab. Questions related to specific exercise done in optional sections will NOT appear in the lab quiz.



6.2 Oscilloscope

An oscilloscope is an equipment used to probe and display electrical signals. The vertical axis is the voltage level detected while the horizontal axis is the time in which the voltage is sampled. For your lab, a PC-based oscilloscope from OWON is used (Figure 7a). The 2-channel scope is USB-powered, and all operation is via a PC program. The GUI of the program is shown in Fig.7b with some of the key buttons/knobs labelled. You will revisit this section again when you need to use the scope to test for DC voltage and to probe the UART TX signal. I have recorded a video to go through the basic operation of the oscilloscope, the video can be viewed from the lab folders in NTULearn course site. Please view the video before coming to the lab.



Fig.7a: OWON PC-based Oscilloscope

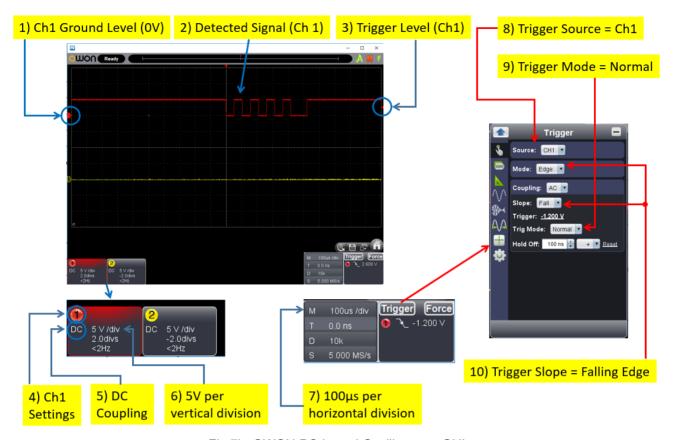


Fig.7b: OWON PC-based Oscilloscope GUI

Description of key function/status

- (1) **Ground level (0 V) of channel 1 signal**. You will be able to see a '1' in the bar (highlighted by the blue circle in Fig 7b), on the GUI.
- (2) **Detected signal on Channel 1.** Example shown is that of a UART transmission signal.
- (3) **Trigger level.** The blue circle highlight a small red triangle, which is the voltage level the scope use to determine a falling or rising edge. E.g. if signal voltage transit from below the trigger level to above the trigger level, it will be considered as a rising edge.
- (4) **Ch1 settings.** Control and Status of channel 1 settings. Click on the parameters to modify them.
- (5) **DC coupling.** Channel1 is configured to display time varying (AC) as well as static (DC) value of the signal detected. Use this setting for your lab.
- (6) **Vertical Scale of display.** The vertical scale of the display is set to 5V per division.
- (7) **Horizontal Time base.** The horizontal scale (time axis) is set to 100µs per division.
- (8) **Trigger Source.** Channel in which the scope use to perform triggering procedure. Note that only one channel can be selected as the trigger source at any instance.
- (9) **Trigger mode.** Trigger mode is set to 'Auto' when detecting DC signals, i.e. signal that doesn't vary with time. It is set to 'Normal' mode when detecting time-varying signals, e.g. UART transmission.
- (10) **Trigger type settings.** There are many different types of triggers. For Lab3 and Lab4, one choice is to use a edge trigger, either falling or rising will do. Once setup, the scope to check the trigger source channel to look for a say a falling edge. Once detected, it will position the signal in the middle of the scope display.

6.3 Digital input and output to Arduino Board

In this section, we will use two buttons to turn an LED ON/OFF. A program is written to read the logic level reported at the pins connected to the buttons. A logic '1' or a logic '0' will be output to the pin connected to the LED depending on which of the two buttons is pressed.

6.3.1 Hardware

#Task: Make the following connection between the Arduino and the Breadboard

- Pin 8 and Pin 9 of processor to button B1 and B2 respectively (the legs not connected to ground).
- Pin 5 of Arduino to the Positive Terminal of the LED (the leg not connected to ground).
- See Fig 9 for the connections. Note that if there are no separate power supply to the breadboard, you need to draw the power from Arduino Board's +5V. The photo in Fig.9 shows the +5V and Ground headers of Arduino board connected to the breadboard (the red and white wire from Arduino board).
- The photo in Fig.9 also shows how the oscilloscope probe needs to be connected to detect the
 voltage level at input pin of the processor. Crocodile clip connects to the ground and Probe tip
 connects to the target signal.

The buttons used has four legs, two legs are connected internally to each other, pressing the button will cause all four legs to be shorted to each other. Note that the two pairs of button leg (<u>B-C and A-D</u>) are connected to <u>different columns on the breadboard</u>. Pressing the button will close the electrical connection between the two vertical strips. For the LED, the longer leg corresponds to the positive terminal. See Fig. 8 below for illustrations.

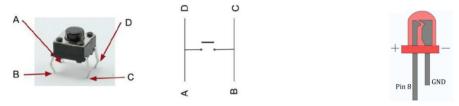


Fig. 8: Buttons, LED and connections

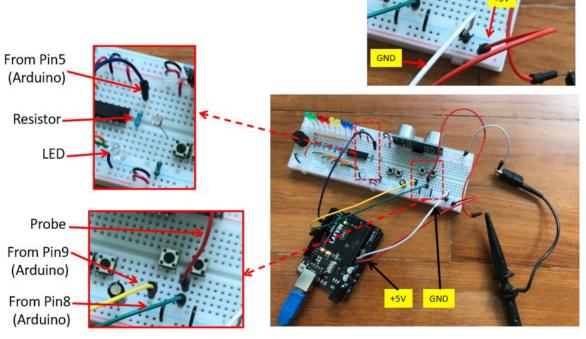


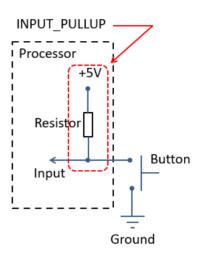
Fig 9: Hardware connections

6.3.2 Software

#Task: Open the sketch in C:\Cx1106\Labs\Lab3\Code\6.3\Digital_io. Compile and download the program to the Arduino. This code detects the button press and turning ON an LED.

#Question: Is the pin 'buttonApin' configured as an input pin or output pin in the following code?

```
int ledPin = 5;
int buttonApin = 9;
int buttonBpin = 8;
byte leds = 0;
void setup()
ł
 pinMode(ledPin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode (buttonApin, INPUT PULLUP);
 pinMode (buttonBpin, INPUT PULLUP);
void loop()
if (digitalRead(buttonApin) == LOW)
  ł
   digitalWrite(ledPin, HIGH);
  1
  if (digitalRead(buttonBpin) == LOW)
  {
   digitalWrite(ledPin, LOW);
  1
1
```



Input is Logic '1' by default when button is open, when button is closed, current flow to the ground and input logic at input pin is Logic '0'.

Fig 10: Sample code for button detection and LED ON/OFF and Input Pin with INPUT PULLUP.

The 'INPUT_PULLUP' mode setting will set the input pin to a logic '1' by default. Hence, reading the pin status using digitalRead() will return a Logic '1'. When the button is pressed, the input pin will be shorted to ground and the digitalRead() will return a Logic '0'. The code will turn the LED ON when buttonA (pin 9) is pressed, LED will turn OFF when buttonB (Pin8) is pressed. The internal pullup and button connection is illustrated in Fig 10.

#Question:

- What is the voltage level at the processor pin 9 when digitalRead() returns a logic '0' and logic '1'?
- What is the voltage level at the processor pin 5 when digitalWrite() output a logic '0' and logic '1'?
- Verify your answer by measuring the DC voltage at pin 9 and the pin 5 of the processor. Section 6.3.3 below will walk you through the required steps.

6.3.3 Setting up an Oscilloscope to test DC voltage

Connect the oscilloscope probe as shown in Fig 11. The crocodile clip of the probe is connected to the ground of the breadboard and the hook of the probe tip is connected to the pin 9 of the processor. Note that we can probe from the breadboard since the button leg is electrically connected to pin 9 of the processor on Arduino. Similarly, the ground of the Arduino is connected to the ground of the breadboard. Follow the steps below to setup the scope for DC voltage measurements.

- Select/Enable Ch1 of the scope.
- Adjust the voltage scale to 5V/division.
- Set the trigger mode to 'Auto'.

• You should see the horizontal line appearing on the scope display. Centralise this to the middle of your scope using the vertical position knob.

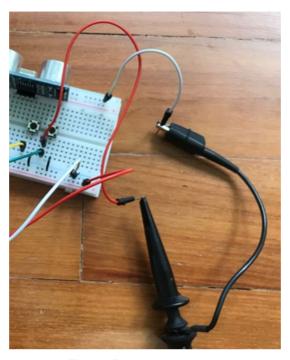


Fig.11: Probe connections

#Task: Proceed to measure the DC voltage of pin 5 when it output a logic '1'.



#Question: Where should you tap the pin 5 output on the breadboard? Hint: Where is pin 5 connected to on the breadboard? Remember that all holes on the same vertical strip on the bread board are linked.

6.4 Universal Asynchronous Receiver Transmitter (UART)

6.4.1 UART Overview

In this section, we will look at the UART interface in detail. This is an example of an asynchronous serial transfer interface that does not have a common clock line between receiver-transmitter so requires the synchronization information to be embedded in the data line. For UART case, the START, STOP and PARITY information is embedded together with the actual data payload in a UART frame.

To send data, e.g. an ASCII character via UART, the actual data payload may be configured to 7/8 data bits. The least significant bits are sent first. START and STOP bits are used to define the boundaries of the data packet. START is a single bit. There may be one or two STOP bits depending on the configuration. Parity bit may be included to check the integrity of the transmitted data. Fig. 12 illustrates a sample waveform for uppercase letter J'.

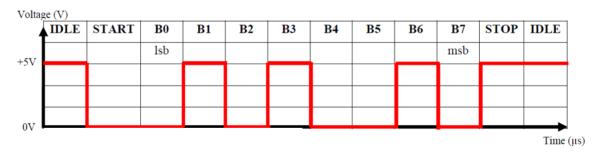


Fig.12: Sample Waveform for upper-case letter 'J'

The equivalent logic value of the transmitted data for letter 'J' is an 8-bit data with 0x4A. Comparing the data packet with the ASCII table shown in Table 2, it is seen 0x4A represents the upper-case letter 'J'. Hence, the data packet sent is the actual ASCII value for the character.

Note that the UART configuration used in Fig 12 is 8N1, i.e. 1 START, 8 DATA and 1 STOP bit. No parity scheme is used so the MSB of the Data is followed immediately by the STOP bit. And note that the MSB is zero since ASCII character only has 7bits.

6.4.2 Hardware

#Task: Reuse the setup in section 6.3. Probe the UART TX pin of the processor. This is also pin 1 of the processor. You can access the processor pin 1 at the headers (See Fig 1). Fig 13 below shows the connection to Oscilloscope.



Fig. 13: Connecting Oscilloscope probe to Arduino to monitor UART TX

6.4.3 Software

#Task: Open the sketch in C:\Cx1106\Lab3\Code\6.4\uart_tx. Compile and download the program to the Arduino. Select **Tools>> Serial Monitor**. Ensure the serial monitor is configured to **19200 baud**. The serial monitor should display the character 'U' every 1 second.

- Serial.begin() configure the UART port in the processor for transmission.
 - Serial.begin(19200, SERIAL_8E1) initialize the UART baud rate to 19200bps, 1 START, 8 DATA, Even Parity and 1 STOP bit.
- Serial.println() and Serial.write() writes to the Arduino Processor's UART port and data is transmitted to the PC. Data will appear in the Serial Monitor Tool of the Arduino Sketch Application on the PC.

Fig. 14: UART Communication to send ASCII upper-case character 'U'

#Question:

- Where are the code created in the Arduino Sketch Application executed during runtime? Hint: What does 'Upload' command do?
- Why do we need to configure the baud rate of the Serial Monitor for it to display the information correctly? What happen when the baud rate of the Serial Monitor is faster than that configured for the Arduino Processor UART Transmit? Hint: Tutorial problem.

6.4.4 Setting up an Oscilloscope to Probe UART TX signal

#Task: Now you need to display the UART TX signal on the scope.

- Ensure that connection shown in Fig. 13 is done.
- Set the voltage scale to 2V/divison.
- Set time base to 100µs/division
- Set to 'Normal' trigger mode.
- Set trigger source to ch1 (or whichever channel you use to probe the UART TX signal).
- Make any necessary vertical/horizontal positioning adjustment to bring the waveform to the center of the display.

#Task: Explore different UART configuration by modifying the input parameters of Serial.begin() function.

- Plot the waveform for the following configuration in Fig 15, 16 and 17. Identify the START bit, STOP bit(s) and the data payload. Also include the timing information, i.e. duration of one UART bit width.
 - o Serial.begin(19200, SERIAL_8E1)
 - Serial.begin(19200, SERIAL_801)
 - Serial.begin(38400, SERIAL_8E1)

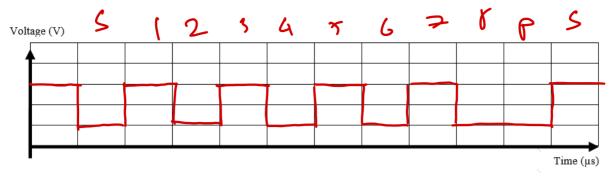


Fig. 15: Acquired Waveform for capitalized letter 'U'. Serial.begin(19200, SERIAL 8E1).

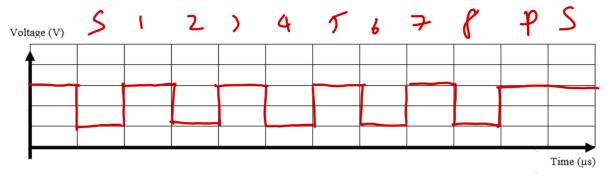


Fig. 16: Acquired Waveform for capitalized letter 'U'. Serial.begin(19200, SERIAL 801).

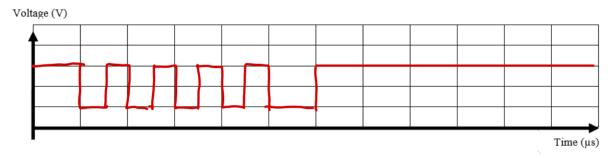


Fig. 17: Acquired Waveform for capitalized letter 'U'. Serial.begin(38400, SERIAL_8E1).

#Question:

- For the waveform in the figures above, which side of the waveform will reach the receiver first? Left side or Right side?
- Does a UART frame always start with a START bit? What is the logic level of a START bit?
- For 8O1 configuration, Parity Bit =1, since STOP and IDLE also has a logic '1', how does the UART receiver differentiate between these three bits and sample them correctly?
- What is the difference between the waveform in Fig 15 and 17? Squash, £x2

#Task: Note that it is also possible to initialize the UART with just "Serial.begin(19200)", i.e. not specifying the UART frame configuration. Try that and you will observe that the character 'U' is still received by the Serial Monitor and some waveform can be seen on the scope as well.

#Question: Given that the default data payload size is 8 bits. Find out what is the default parity scheme used (Even, Odd or None). Hint: You need to transmit two different data to confirm.

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6.5 Synchronous Serial Data Transfer

In this section, you will look at the interface between the Arduino processor and a Serial-to-Parallel converter chip (74HC595). 74HC595 takes in a stream of serial data at its input and output a parallel equivalent after receiving 8 bits of serial data, see Fig. 18 below. This is an example of a **proprietary synchronous serial data transfer**. Receiver starts sampling the data line once it detected a **rising edge** at the clock line.9

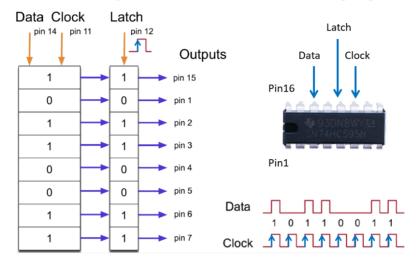


Fig. 18: Synchronous Serial Data Interface between processor and 74HC595

6.5.1 Hardware

#Task: Connect the circuit as per Fig 19. You only need to connect the Clock, Latch and Data line. The power, ground and other control signals are already connected beforehand. This is shown as the Yellow, Green and Dark Blue wires in the Photo, note that the graphical illustration uses a different colour scheme. Also, probe the Clock and Data signal as shown in the photo in Fig 19. Note: Pin9, 11 and 12 of Arduino should NEVER be connected directly to Ground or Vcc! The large current draw will damage the board and ICs.

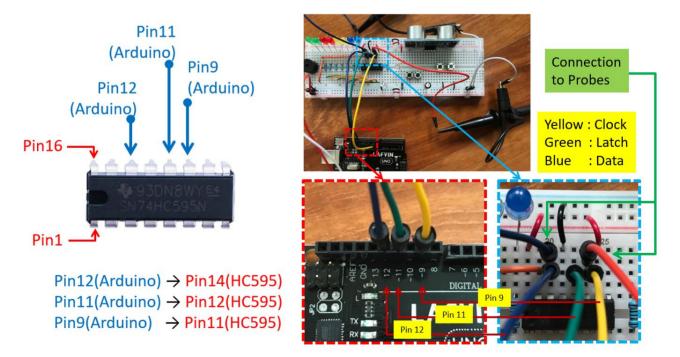


Fig. 19: Connecting Clock, Latch and Data signal of 74HC595 to Arduino Processor. Plus probe connections.

6.5.2 Software

#Task: Open the sketch in C:\Cx1106\Labs\Lab3\Code\6.5\SynchronousSerial. Compile and download the program to the Arduino.

#Question: Which bit of the 8-bit data is shifted out first? LSB or MSB? Hint: Check the configuration in the code in Fig 20.

```
int tDelay = 100;
int latchPin = 11;
                       // (11) ST_CP [RCK] on 74HC595
                       // (9) SH_CP [SCK] on 74HC595
int clockPin = 9;
                     // (12) DS [S1] on 74HC595
int dataPin = 12;
byte leds = 0;
void updateShiftRegister()
{
   digitalWrite(latchPin, LOW);
   shiftOut(dataPin, clockPin, LSBFIRST, leds);
   digitalWrite(latchPin, HIGH);
}
void setup()
 pinMode(latchPin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode (dataPin, OUTPUT);
 pinMode(clockPin, OUTPUT);
1
void loop()
 leds = 0x5;
 updateShiftRegister();
 delay(tDelay);
```

Fig. 20: Proprietary Synchronous Serial Interface to 74HC595

6.5.3 Setting up an Oscilloscope to Probe Data and Clock TX signal

#Task: Now you need to display the Clock and Data signal on the scope.

- Ensure that connection shown in Fig. 19 is done.
- Enable Ch1 and Ch2 on scope. Connect Clock to Ch1 and Data to Ch2.
- Set the voltage scale to 5V/division.
- Set time base to 10µs/division
- Set to 'Normal' trigger mode.
- Set trigger source to ch1
- Make any necessary vertical/horizontal positioning adjustment to bring the waveform to the center of the display.

#Question: Why did we set the voltage scale to 5V/division? Can we set it to 1V/division instead? Hint: What is the voltage used by the Arduino Processor?

#Task: Plot the Ch1 and Ch2 waveform obtained when transmitting a 0x5 value in Fig. 21 below.

• Indicate clearly when each bit of data is sampled by the receiver.

#Question:

- How does the receiver know when to sample the data from the data line? Indicate clearly when each bit of data is sampled by the receiver. Hint: How does the transmitter synchronise its transfer with the receiver? Note that this is a synchronous serial transmission.
- What is the period of the clock signal? Hint: Period of a clock is the duration between rising edge of the clock signal. A clock signal need not always have equal high and low pulses.
- What is the maximum data transfer rate achievable for this transmission? Hint: Maximum transfer rate
 happen when each packet of data are transmitted back to back from each other. Meaning the MSB of
 the first packet will follow immediately by the LSB of the next packet.

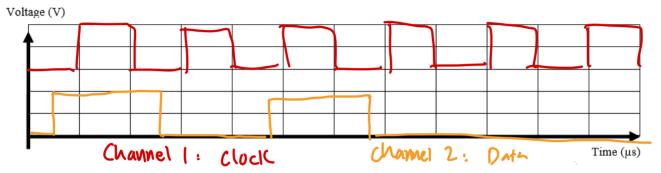
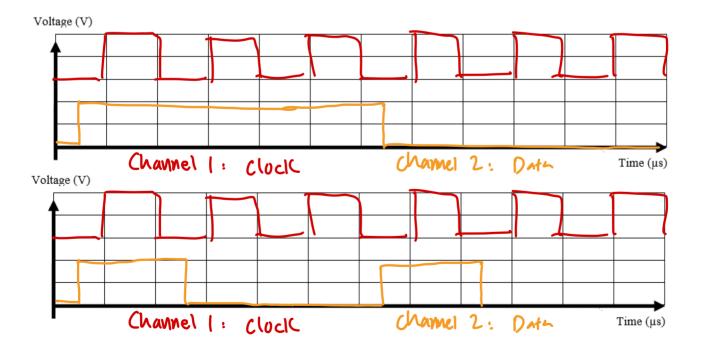


Fig. 21: Acquired Waveform (Clock and Data) when transmitting number 0x5.

#Task: Use the setup to find the negated value of 0x5, 0x7 and 0x9, i.e. -5, -7 and -9.

#Hint:

• When you set leds=5 in Fig 20 code, what do you see on the array of LEDs? Which LEDs get lit up?



7. Optional Tasks Section

In this optional tasks section, you will test different input/output devices that can be used for different real world applications. Note again that this part will NOT be tested in the Lab quiz.

7.1 Tilt Ball Switch

Tilt sensors (tilt ball switch) allow you to detect orientation or inclination. They are small, inexpensive, low-power and easy-to-use. If used properly, they will not wear out. Their simplicity makes them popular for toys, gadgets and appliances. While not as precise or flexible as a full accelerometer, tilt switches can detect motion or orientation. Another benefit is that the big ones can switch power on their own. Accelerometers, on the other hand, output digital or analog voltage that must then be analyzed using extra circuitry.



#Task: Load the Arduino Sketch code in "7.1 Ball Switch" under "Optional Labs". Check the code and connect the appropriate pins to the Ball Switch and the White LED. If connection is correct, the while LED should turn ON/OFF when you tilt the breadboard.

7.2 Passive Buzzer

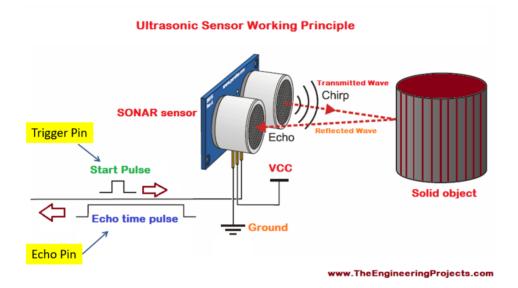
The working principle of passive buzzer is using PWM generating audio to make the air to vibrate. Appropriately changed as long as the vibration frequency, it can generate different sounds. For example, sending a pulse of 523Hz, it can generate Alto Do, pulse of 587Hz, it can generate midrange Re, pulse of 659Hz, it can produce midrange Mi. Tuned correctly, you could get the buzzer to play a song!



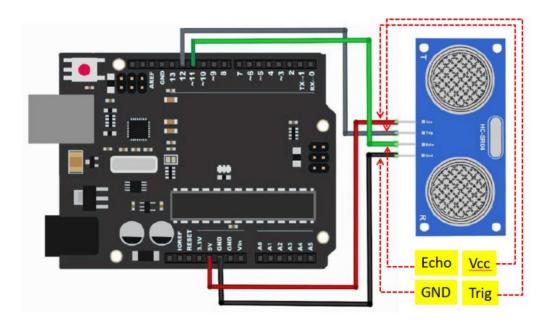
#Task: Load the Arduino Sketch code in "7.2 Passive Buzzer", connect the Positive Terminal of the Buzzer to Pin 8 of Arduino and create a melody.

7.3 Ultrasonic Sensor

Ultrasonic sensor module HC-SR04 provides 2cm-450cm non-contact measurement function. The sensor uses sonar to determine the distance to an object. To start the measurement, the trigger pin is set high for 10uS and then turned off. This will trigger an ultrasonic wave from the transmitter, once the wave is returned after it getting reflected by any object, the receiver will be able to pick it up. Internal circuitry will perform the necessary calculation and set the Echo pin high for a particular amount of time equal to the time taken for the wave to return back to the sensor. The time between the transmission and reception of the signal allows us to calculate the distance to an object as the velocity of sound in air is known.

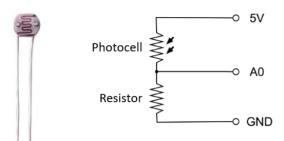


#Task: Connect the hardware as shown in the figure below. Load the Arduino Sketch code in "7.3 Ultrasonic", open the serial monitor and check if the distance reported is inline with the obstacles in front of the utlrasonic sensor. You can try to link it up with either the LEDs or Buzzer for display of distance or sound off an alarm when object is too close.



7.4 Photo Cell

The photocell used is of a type called a light dependent resistor. As the name suggests, these components act just like a resistor, except that the resistance changes in response to how much light is falling on them. This one has a resistance of about 50 k Ω in near darkness and 500 Ω in bright light. To convert this varying value of resistance into something we can measure on an UNO R3 board's analog input, it needs to be converted into a voltage. The simplest way to do that is to combine it with a fixed resistor.



#Task: Use the same hardware setup as section 6.5. Load the Arduino Sketch code in "7.4 Photocell", connect A0 (analog channel 0 pin) to the resistor divider point between photocell and the fixed valued resistor. See Figure below. Depending on the photocell characteristics and the fixed value resistor used, the voltage value read from A0 may differ. You can see the voltage level detect by opening the serial monitor. Gather the value when photocell is covered by your finger (dark) and not covered (bright). Adjust the divider ratio in the cod accordingly. If done correctly, the LED will show you the amount of light detected by the photocell.

