

# Digital Signals

Control systems and Computer Networks

Dr Alun Moon

Lecture 1.2

# Digital Signals

What is a digital signal?

A Digital Signal is:

# Digital Signals

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A Digital Signal is:

True

# Digital Signals

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True      False

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Pressed

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- ▶ there are external limitations and constraints,
  - Physics
  - Standards

# Electrical Characteristics

Generally :

positive voltage logical 1

negative voltage logical 0

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Specific technologies have specific voltages for *on*

TTL Transistor Transistor Logic 5V

CMOS Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor 3.3V

# Sequences

Digital signals exist in sequences. . .

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- ▶ Traffic Lights



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- Red  $\rightarrow$  Red,Amber  $\rightarrow$  Green  $\rightarrow$  Amber  $\rightarrow$  Red ...

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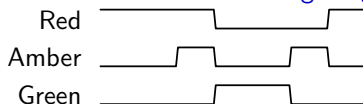
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- Can be written as a **Timing Diagram**

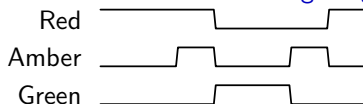


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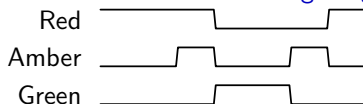
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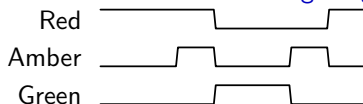
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# Digital IO from the $\mu$ C

Microcontrollers ( $\mu$ C) have dedicated hardware for digital IO.

- ▶ The K64F has 5 ports with 32 IO pins which can be used as GPIO pins (General Purpose Input Output)
- ▶ The IO circuit has a number of configurable options for each pin, accessed through several registers
- ▶ **ALL** the appropriate bits need to be set or it doesn't work.

# GPIO Hardware Registers

Sequence and purpose of bits to set

There are several bits to set to configure the pin

1. System Clock Gating Control Register **SCGC**

Enables the clock signal for the port, making it function

2. Pin Control Register **PORTx\_PCRn**

a 32bit register for each pin setting several options

- IRQC – Interrupt configuration (what causes an interrupt to occur)
- MUX – Pins have multiple functions, this selects the function to use.
- DSE – Drive Strength, the electrical characteristics of the output
- ODE – Open Drain, electrical connections of the Output
- PFE – Passive Filter for inputs (debounce and glitch rejection)
- SLE – Slew Rate, how fast the output switches between high and Low
- PE – enable pull up or down resistor for inputs
- PS – selects the pull-up or pull-down resistor.



# GPIO Hardware Registers

## Port Registers

Each Port has several registers to use for the actual IO operations. Each bit in the register corresponds to an external pin.

**GPIOx\_PDOR** Port Data Output Register

- 0. Set the output to logic 0
- 1. Set the output to logic 1

**GPIOx\_PSOR** Port Set Output Register

- 0. output does not change
- 1. Set the output to logic 1

**GPIOx\_PCOR** Port Clear Output Register

- 0. output does not change
- 1. Set the output to logic 0

**GPIOx\_PTOR** Port Toggle Output Register

- 0. Output does not change
- 1. Change the logic state of the output

# GPIO Hardware Registers

## Port Registers

GPIOx\_PDIR Port Data Input Register

- 0. Pin is set to input logic 0 (or is not configured)
- 1. Pin is set to input logic 1

GPIOx\_PDDR Port Data Direction Register

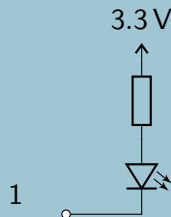
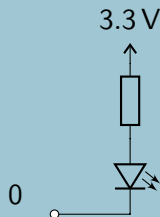
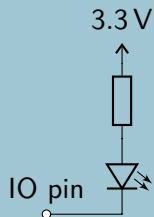
- 0. GPIO pin set as input
- 1. GPIO pin set as output

# IO Circuits

## Output

- ▶ The  $\mu\text{C}$  pin is set to 0 or 1
- ▶ in the case of the K64F  $1 \equiv 3.3\text{ V}$
- ▶ But what does that do?
- ▶ It depends on the external circuit.

## The LED

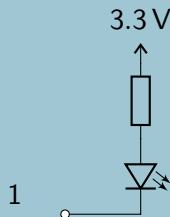
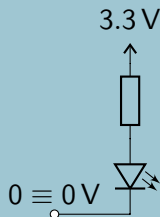
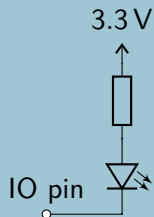


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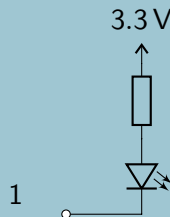
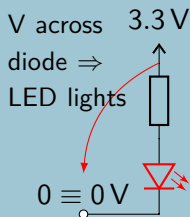
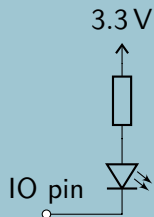


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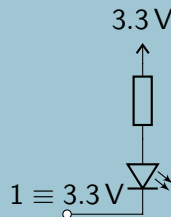
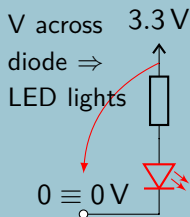
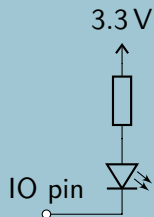


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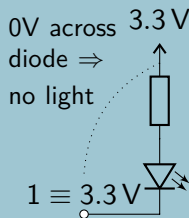
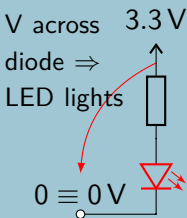
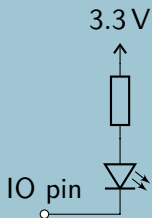


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# IO Circuits

## Input

- ▶ The  $\mu\text{C}$  pin is set to 0 or 1 by the external circuit
- ▶ But what does that mean?
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### Base Shield Push Buttons

3.3 V



- ▶ **Not Pressed** pin is connected to 3.3 V (logic 1) through *pull-up* resistor

### Upper Shield 5-way switch

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# Some Mathematics

- ▶ Digital signals are logic values
- ▶ Can be modelled using discrete maths and Boolean Algebra.
- ▶ We need a new notation to indicate the change in state

## Definition (Change in state)

The new state is indicated by the use of a prime.

$$a' = a \oplus 1$$

The digital signal  $a$  has a new value  $a'$ , the XOR of the current state and 1

*What does this do?*

# Sequences

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$$\langle \{r\}, \{r, a\}, \{g\}, \{a\}, \{r\} \rangle$$

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*recursively in this case*

- ▶ Iteratively:

$$b_n = n \in \mathbb{Z}_{\text{primes}}$$

$$g_{n+1} = B_1 \Rightarrow g_n \oplus 1$$

# Constraints from Standards

Now we have an understanding of:

- ▶ What a digital signal is
- ▶ How to manipulate them

We have a question:

*What should the signal be? How should it behave?*

This is where constraints from the application domain, and any applicable standards, dictate the operation.



# Traffic lights

we can substitute blue for amber

For a 2-way junction we have 2 sets of Lights.

$$r_n, a_n, g_n, r_w, a_w, g_w$$

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- ▶ What combinations are allowed?
- ▶ What are the allowed transitions?

# Morse Code

- ▶ Morse code is a Digital signal (on and off)
- ▶ The sequence of states and their timing is defined by standards  
International Morse code Recommendation ITU-R M.1677-1

## Timing

1. short mark, dot or "dit" : "dot duration" is one time unit long
2. longer mark, dash or "dah": three time units long
3. inter-element gap between the dots and dashes within a character:  
one dot duration or one unit long
4. short gap (between letters): three time units long
5. medium gap (between words): seven time units long

# Two Handed start

- ▶ In many industrial automation environments “two-handed” start is used as a safety feature
- ▶ to start a machine, two start switches, **must** be pressed together, in order to start.

## Logic

$m$	state of motor
$b_1$	one start switch
$b_2$	second start switch

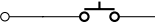
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Constraint	$b_1 \wedge b_2 \Rightarrow m$
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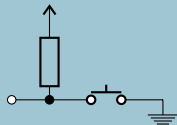
Action	$m' = m \vee (b_1 \wedge b_2)$
--------	--------------------------------

# Pullup and pulldown resistors

- ▶ In a number of places pull-up and pull-down resistors are mentioned.
- ▶ The problem occurs when a wire/pin has no input driving it, what logic value does it have? 

## Pull-up resistor

**Pull-up** resistor connects the pin to the supply (logic 1) ensuring a 1 when there is no other signal.



## Pull-down resistor

**Pull-down** resistor connects the pin to the ground (logic 0) ensuring a 0 when there is no other signal.

