

COMP140 WORKSHEET C: ARDUINO BASED PONG CONTROLLER

Version 1.0
BSc Computing for Games
COMP140

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Introduction

In this worksheet, you will use an Arduino to create a game controller for the retro arcade classic, Pong. The source for the game exists already. You are tasked with modifying the code to include bidirectional communication with the Arduino. The suggested design of the final controller is: two potentiometers to control the paddles and some combination of LEDs that flash when someone scores. Feel free to add some creative flair to the suggested design or modify it completely. The only requirement is that there must be two-way communication between the Arduino and the game. The wiring diagram below shows a potential controller setup for this worksheet. You are encouraged to create the controller one step at a time following the steps below. **DO NOT** wire everything up in one go and then expect it to work first time.

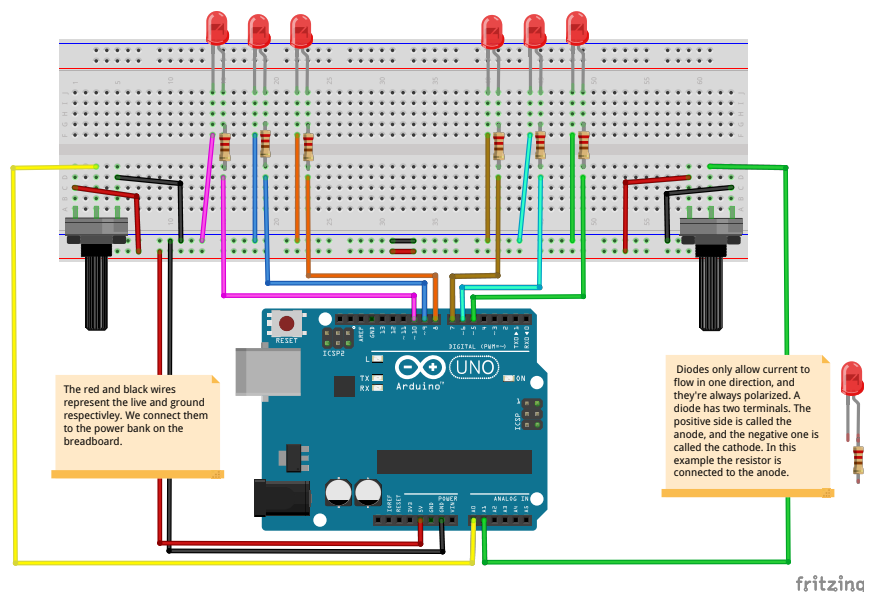


Figure 1: Pong Controller Wiring Diagram

1 A Single Potentiometer

To begin, connect one potentiometer to the breadboard. Hook the potentiometer up to the Arduino. Then write an Arduino sketch to send the potentiometer value, when the arduino receives a 'P' char over serial. Test this works using the serial monitor built into the Arduino IDE. Then, adapt the Pong source to update player one's paddle using the values from the potentiometer.

2 Two Potentiometers

Mirror the potentiometer wiring for the second player and alter the code to send the values of both potentiometers delimited by a hyphen when the Arduino receives the 'P' over serial. Update the Pong code so that it splits the values received over serial and uses the first value to control the left paddle and the second value to control the right paddle.

3 Visual Feedback - Part 1

Now that the player control is finished, we need to start thinking about visual feedback. Create the circuit for one of the LEDs in the diagram above. It doesn't matter which one but for simplicity let's say it is the LED attached to digital pin 8. Update the Arduino sketch so that if serial communication is received and the byte read represents a capital 'L' then the LED attached to pin number 8 flashes. Wire up a second LED but this time connect it to pin 7. Update the Arduino sketch so that if serial communication is received and the byte read represents a capital 'R' then the LED attached to pin number 7 flashes. Test the LEDs using the serial monitor in the Arduino IDE.

4 Visual Feedback - Part 2

Once you have tested that the LEDs work as is expected, modify the Pong code so that LEDs can be triggered to flash. When player one scores a point send an 'L' to the Arduino and when player two scores a point send an 'R'.

Begin by **forking** the GitHub repository at the following URL:

<https://github.com/Falmouth-Games-Academy/comp140-worksheetc>

A version of Pong can be found on the following

https://github.com/Falmouth-Games-Academy/comp140_sdl_pong_game

You should consider copying the Pong project into your forked Worksheet Repository.

Marking criteria

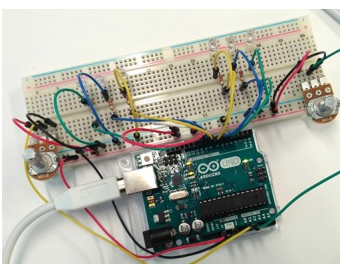
Remember that **it is better to submit incomplete work than to submit nothing at all.**

To demonstrate **basic competency**, complete the following:

- Connect one potentiometer to the breadboard. Hook the potentiometer up to the Arduino
- Send the value read from the potentiometer to the Serial.
- Modify the Pong code to read the value from serial and update player one's paddle accordingly.
- Some evidence of emerging innovation and/or creativity in the design of the controller and game.

To demonstrate **basic proficiency**, complete the following:

- Achieve **basic competency**.
- Mirror the potentiometer setup for player two.
- Modify the Pong code to read the value from serial and update player one and player two's paddle accordingly.
- Little evidence of emerging innovation and/or creativity in the design of



Example setup

the controller and game.

To demonstrate **novice competency**, complete the following:

- Achieve **basic proficiency**.
- Create the circuits for two LEDs.
- Make the LEDs flash using the serial monitor built into the Arduino IDE.
- Much evidence of emerging innovation and/or creativity in the design of the controller and game.

To demonstrate **novice proficiency**, complete the following:

- Achieve **novice competency**
- Modify the Pong code so that it can trigger the LEDs to flash.
- add some creative flair to the visual feedback
- Considerable evidence of mastery of innovative and creative practice in the design of the controller and game.

To demonstrate **professional competency**, complete the following:

- Achieve **novice proficiency**
- Enhance the visual feedback so that it can communicate a best of three scenario.
- Significant evidence of mastery of innovative and creative practice in the design of the controller and game.