

HullPixelbot Code Specification

Version 1.0

Rob Miles



Arduino Connection

The program monitors the primary serial port on an Arduino device. Statements that are entered are executed immediately or stored internally using the RM command.

The connection between the Arduino and the host is configured to run at 1200 baud. This is to allow successful storage of program code in the EEPROM in the Arduino.

Statement format

All statements are a single, zero terminated, string.

A statement is one or more alphabetic command characters followed by a number of numeric parameters. Characters can be upper or lower case. In this document they will be expressed in upper case.

Numbers are expressed as signed decimal integers with an optional leading sign character which can be + or -. If the sign character is omitted, the value is assumed to be positive. Numbers are terminated by a non-digit character or the end of the statement. In this document a numeric value is expressed as a sequence of three lower case characters, for example ddd. The function of the sequence will be explained in the accompanying text. Any alphanumeric character (0-9 and A-Z) will be represented by the character c.

Parameters are separated by a single non-numeric character. In this document the separator is expressed as a single comma.

A comment statement starts with a hash character (#) and is ignored by the robot.

Information: Initial character I

Version: IV

IV

The robot responds with the version of the software followed by a linefeed character.

Distance: ID

ID

The robot responds with current reading from the distance sensor followed by a linefeed character.

Program: IP

IP

The robot responds with a listing of the current program.

Status: IS

IS

The robot responds with current program status as a single digit value:

0	PROGRAM_STOPPED
1	PROGRAM_PAUSED
2	PROGRAM_ACTIVE
3	PROGRAM_AWAITING_MOVE_COMPLETION
4	PROGRAM_AWAITING_DELAY_COMPLETION

Messaging: IM

IMddd

This command is used to set the level of messaging that is produced by the robot when programs are running. The command is followed by an 8 bit decimal value that sets the messaging level. The message levels are set as bits in the messaging level value.

STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION	1	outputs a confirmation message after each statement. This will either be xxOK, where xx is the command, or xxFAIL: reason. Some commands, for example conditional jumps, will give additional information.
LINE_NUMBERS	2	displays the program position of each statement prior to execution
ECHO_DOWNLOADS	4	echoes each downloaded statement during a remote download
DUMP_DOWNLOADS	8	dumps a downloaded program before executing it

If the corresponding bitfield is set the program will output information as described. Note that these commands can result in significant traffic on the serial connection and are only intended to be used for debugging.

When the robot is restarted the messaging level is set to 0 (i.e. all messages are turned off).

Movement: Initial character M

Forwards: MF

MFddd

The robot moves the number of steps given by the decimal value ddd. If the number is negative the robot moves backwards that number of steps. If the robot is already moving this command will replace the existing one. The number of steps can be omitted:

MF

The robot repeats the previous forward move. If there was no previous move the robot does not move. The movement starts moving as soon as the command is received.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

MFOK

Note that this does not mean that the move command has been completed, rather that the robot has received and understood the command and has started moving.

Rotate: MR

MRdd

The robot rotates clockwise the given number of steps given by the value ddd. If the number is negative the robot rotates anticlockwise that number of steps. If the robot is already moving this command will replace the existing one.

MR

The robot repeats the previous rotate. If there was no previous move the robot does not rotate.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

MROK

Note that this does not mean that the move command has been completed, rather that the robot has received and understood the command and has started moving.

Check moving: MC

MC

This command can be used to determine whether the robot has completed a requested move operation. If the motors are still moving the robot replies with:

MCmove

If the motors are stopped the robot replies with:

MCstopped

Note that these messages are sent irrespective of the state of the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag.

Stop robot: MS

MS

Stops any current move behaviour.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

MSOK

Remote Coloured Candle: PC

PCrrr,ggg,bbb

rrr red intensity in range 0-255

ggg green intensity in range 0-255

bbb blue intensity in range 0-255

Sets the pixel display to show a flickering candle of the given colour. This sets the colour of all the pixels in the display.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

PCOK

If any of the values are missing an appropriate message is displayed, for example:

PC255,

- would generate the error:

PCFAIL: missing colours after red in readColor

Note that this message is only output if the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set.

Pixels Off: PO

PO

Turns off all the pixels in the pixel display.

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with:

POOK

Pixels Flicker update speed: PF

PFnn

Sets the flicker update speed for the pixels. The larger the number, the faster the pixels will change colour. The speed is given in the range 1 to 20. A speed of 1 is very gentle, a speed of 20 is manic. When the program starts the speed is set to 8. Values outside the range 1-20 are clamped.

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with:

PFOK

Remote Set Individual Pixel: PI

PIppp,rrr,ggg,bbb

ppp number of the pixel to be set in the range 0 to n-1, where n is the number of pixels

rrr red intensity in range 0-255

ggg green intensity in range 0-255

bbb blue intensity in range 0-255

Set Individual to the given colour. The state and colours of the other pixels are not affected by this.

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with:

PIOK

If any errors are detected in the values supplied an appropriate message is displayed instead of the OK message.

Pixel control: Initial character P

Remote Crossfade color: PC

PXss,rrr,ggg,bbb

ss face speed in range 1-20

rrr red intensity in range 0-255

ggg green intensity in range 0-255

bbb blue intensity in range 0-255

Sets the pixel display to cross fade to a flickering candle of the given colour. This sets the colour of all the pixels in the display.

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with:

PXOK

If any of the values are missing an appropriate message is displayed, for example:

PX20,

- would generate the error:

PXFAIL: missing colours after red in readColor

Note that this message is only output if the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set.

Program Control: Initial character C

These commands are performed when the robot is running a program sequence. They can be entered directly into the robot, but they won't do much.

Pause when the motors are active: CA

CA

The program pauses while the motors are active. This allows a program to wait until a movement has completed. If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

CAOK

Note the reply is sent when the command has been received **not** when the robot has completed the pause.

Delay: CD

CDddd

The program pauses for the number of *ticks* given by the decimal value ddd. The number of ticks can be omitted:

CD

The program repeats the previous delay. If there was no previous delay the program does not delay. The delay starts as soon as the command is received.

A tick is a tenth of a second.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

CDOK

Note the reply is sent when the command has been received **not** when the robot has completed the delay. Ongoing move commands will continue to complete, and the robot will respond to other direct commands.

Label: CL

CLcccc

This statement declares a label which can be used as the destination of a jump instruction. The label can be any number of characters and will be terminated by the end of the statement.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

CLOK

Jump: CJ

CJcccc

This statement causes execution of the program to continue from the given label. The label can be any number of characters and will be terminated by the end of the statement. The program must contain the label requested, or the program will stop.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with the following messages:

If the label is found and the jump performed the robot replies:

CJOK

If the label is missing from the program the robot replies with:

CJFAIL: no dest

Jump when motors inactive: CI

CIccc

The program will jump to the given label if the motors are inactive. The robot replies with:

CIOK

Measure Distance: CM

CMddd,cccc

This statement causes execution of the program to continue from the given label if the distance sensor reading is less than the given distance value. The value is given in centimetres.

The label can be any number of characters and will be terminated by the end of the statement. The program must contain the label requested, or the program will stop.

If the distance measured is greater than the given value, the program continues at the next statement.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with the following messages:

If the label is not present in the instruction the robot replies with:

CMFail: missing dest

If the label is found the robot replies with:

CMFail: label not found

If the label is found and the distance is less the robot replies with:

CMjump

If the label is found and the distance is greater the robot replies with:

CMcontinue

Remote Management: Initial character R

These commands are performed to allow a new stored program to be downloaded into the EEPROM in the robot and to control program execution by the robot drive system.

Start Program: RS

This statement starts the execution of the current program (if present).

RS

This statement is obeyed immediately upon receipt. The program is started from the first statement in the program.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

RSOK

Halt Program: RH

This statement halts the execution of the current program (if present).

RH

This statement is obeyed immediately upon receipt. The program is halted. It cannot be resumed, it must be restarted.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

RHOK

Pause Program: RP

This statement pauses the execution of the current program (if present).

RP

This statement is obeyed immediately upon receipt. The program is paused. It can be resumed using the RR statement.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with:

RPOK

Resume Running: RR

This statement resumes the execution of the current program (if it has been paused).

RR

This statement is obeyed immediately upon receipt. The program is resumed.

If the `STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION` flag is set the robot replies with the following messages:

RROK

This is displayed if the program has been resumed.

RRFail:d

This is displayed if the program cannot be resumed. The single digit value following the Fail: gives the current program state as for the IS command.

Remote Download: RM

This statement stops the execution of the current program and switches off the pixel display ready for the receipt of a new program.

RM

The program is sent as a sequence of statements that directly follow the RM command. Each statement is stored in EEPROM for execution by the robot when the download is complete. A standard Arduino has enough internal storage for around 900 bytes of remote program storage.

Note that the RM command is terminated by a Carriage Return (CR) character (0x0D) as are all commands. Each statement in the program is separated from the next by the CR character. The end of the program is specified by an RE command (see next).

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with the following message:

RMOK

If the ECHO_DOWNLOADS flag is set the robot echoes each statement as it is received.

Remote Download Exit: RX

This statement completes a download started by the RM command.

If the STATEMENT_CONFIRMATION flag is set the robot replies with the following message:

RXOK

If the program was successfully received it is executed immediately.

If the DUMP_DOWNLOADS flag is set the robot dumps a listing of the received program as soon as it has been successfully received.