

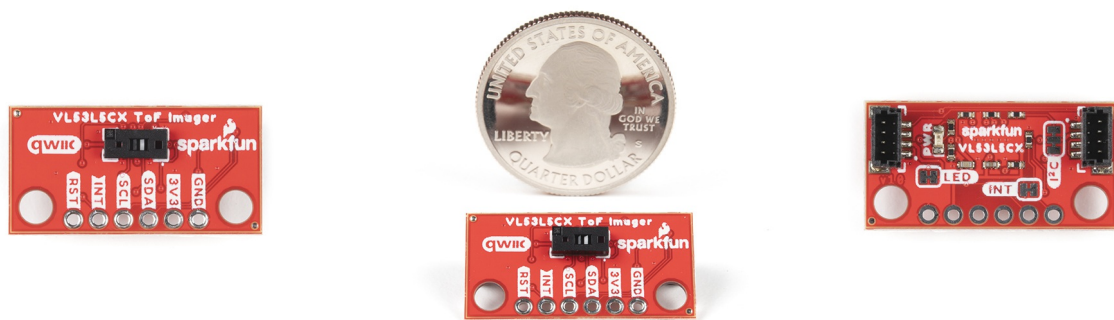
VL53L5CX Experience  
SparkFun Qwiic Mini ToF Imager  
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2023.06.08 -

Homebrew Robotics Club thread on ultrasonic sensors

<https://groups.google.com/g/hbrobotics/c/cuIcserPXR0>

suggested the alternative of the **SparkFun Qwiic Mini ToF Imager VL53L5CX**, an up to 8x8 ToF distance sensor:

<https://www.sparkfun.com/products/19013>



I am looking to use this on the NASA/JPL Open Source Rover with a raspberry Pi 4 (or perhaps a Jetson NANO).

However, the Sparkfun documentation pairs it with an Arduino clone as an Arduino Uno doesn't have enough memory for the firmware: **SparkFun Thing Plus - ESP32 WR00M (U.FL)**

<https://www.sparkfun.com/products/17381> So bought one. And the Qwiic jumper package.

[https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08HQ1VSVL/ref=ppx\\_od\\_dt\\_b\\_asin\\_title\\_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1](https://www.amazon.com/gp/product/B08HQ1VSVL/ref=ppx_od_dt_b_asin_title_s00?ie=UTF8&psc=1)



However, another VL53L5CX breakout, Pimoroni, appears to interface with the Pi and has a github python library:

<https://shop.pimoroni.com/products/vl53l5cx-time-of-flight-tof-sensor-breakout?variant=39972903059539>

<https://github.com/pimoroni/vl53l5cx-python/tree/dev>



**2023.06.10-11**

SparkFun Thing Plus & Qwiic bundle arrived today.

Installed updated Arduino IDE

Installed SparkFun ESP32 Thing Plus C via Board Manager per SparkFun directions

Installed CP2140 USB Driver “

**Selected Board “SparkFun ESP32 Thing Plus C”**

cc Blink sample sketch

Uploaded and got error message:

WARNING: library Servo claims to run on avr, megaavr, sam, samd, nrf52, stm32f4, mbed, mbed\_nano, mbed\_portenta, mbed\_rp2040 architecture(s) and may be incompatible with your current board which runs on esp32 architecture(s).

In file included from

C:\Users\jhphe\OneDrive\Documents\Arduino\HomebrewArduinoBumperStop\HomebrewArduinoBumperStop.ino:1:

C:\Users\jhphe\AppData\Local\Arduino15\libraries\Servo\src\Servo.h:77:2: error: #error "This library only supports boards with an AVR, SAM, SAMD, NRF52 or STM32F4 processor."

#error "This library only supports boards with an AVR, SAM, SAMD, NRF52 or STM32F4 processor."

^~~~~

exit status 1

Compilation error: exit status 1

Despite having exact board in Board Manager, SparkFun directions instruct to select “Adafruit ESP32 Feather”.

Get SAME error message.

Try to run anyway...

File not found "executable":

"C:/Users/jhphe\AppData\Local\Temp\arduino\sketches\CBAB99269183E4B2FBAEB0DB46541BDF\Blink.ino ELF"

Uninstalled ESP32 Board.

Arduino IDE recognized that board needed installing & asked if I wanted it installed, or manual. Chose install.

It reinstalled the esp32.

I now realize it was trying to load the HomeBrewed Robot "bump" sketch for the Arduino Uno! Make sure is loading the SparkFun.ino for Blink!

If I try to delete the HBRC sketch, it closes the whole IDE. Reopening, it's still there. Renaming doesn't change .ino tab.

It KEEPS trying to load the HBRC sketch for the wrong board and I can't get rid of it!!

Try creating a HBRC subfolder and putting all HBRC files into it. Created SparkFun folder with just its files. So far nothing in it. How do I save JUST the SparkFun sketch to it??

DELETED ALL ARDUINO SKETCH FILES

C:\Users\jhphe\OneDrive\Documents

This time opens with just template .ino

cc Blink sketch from web

Rename sketch to blink(.ino)

Select board: "SparkFun ESP32 Thing Plus C"

unplug ToF sensor to avoid confusion

upload

Connects & loads w/o error!

Open Serial Monitor (Arduino IDE icon upper right)

Baud rate dropdown menu on right of Serial Monitor 9600 > 115200

"Hello, world!" ... !!

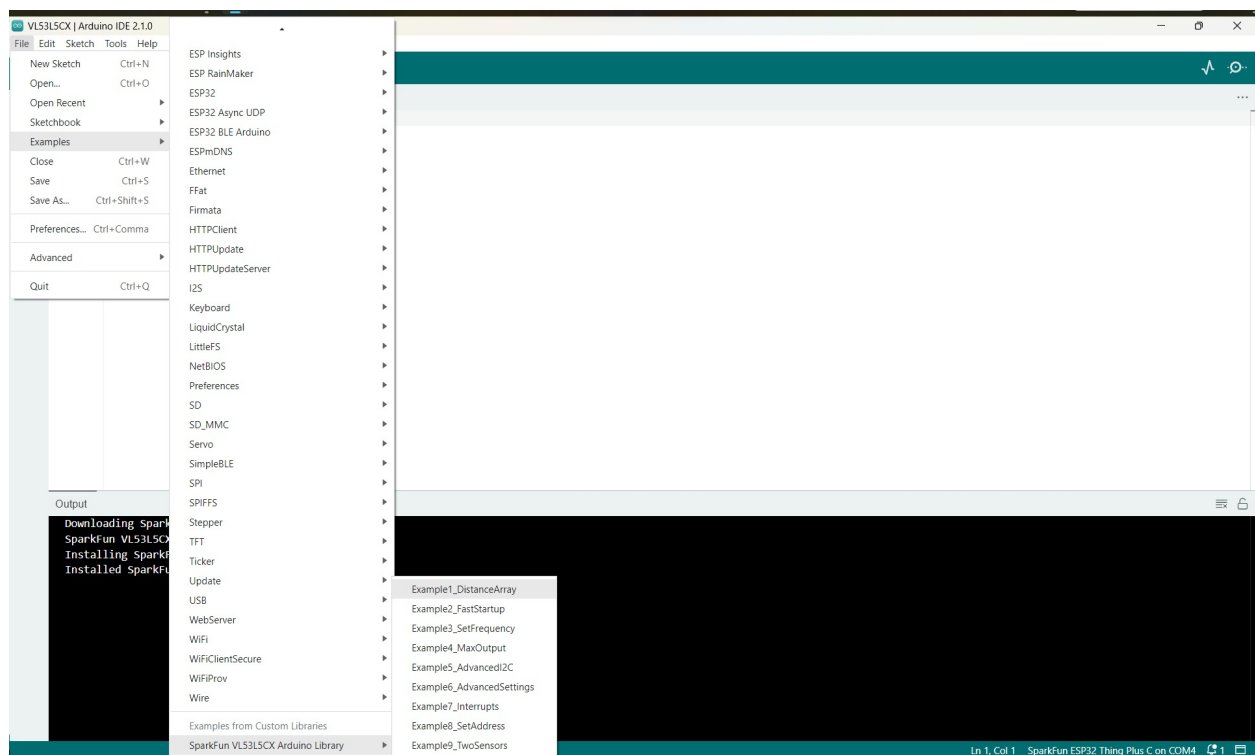
Now to try the VL53L5CX ToF Imager!

From SparkFun Hookup Guide:

<https://learn.sparkfun.com/tutorials/qwiic-tof-imager---vl53l5cx-hookup-guide>

Install the library through the Arduino Library Manager tool by searching for "SparkFun VL53L5CX" done

Hook up your ToF imager to your Artemis Thing Plus via the Qwiic cables, and click "File > Examples > SparkFun VL53L5CX Arduino Library > **Example1\_DistanceArray**".



Opens new IDE window w/ example sketch.

Output of serial monitor  
(click double chevron R upper to toggle autoscroll)

19	1305	1321	1724	2251	2380	2321	2076	8	8	8	10	13	14	13	2068
646	1570	1892	2289	2325	2336	2345	2282	13	9	10	8	11	13	16	11
26	2139	2327	2365	2348	2341	2338	2332	10	7	8	8	9	12	15	14
2257	2339	2344	2357	2369	2566	2368	2306	13	8	12	6	9	12	11	13
2335	2362	2398	2426	2634	2576	2531	2342	10	12	8	11	13	8	9	14
2376	2354	2502	2628	2608	2579	2600	2521	2393	12	15	13	12	9	12	15
2365	2556	2595	2600	2619	2598	2584	2599	2391	2659	9	13	13	17	12	12
2641	2630	2565	2600	2558	2585	2601	2597	2636	2623	2596	13	16	13	15	12

Looking at ceiling

With finger held over sensor

Example2\_FastStartup  
Boosts settings to load faster

Example3\_SetFrequency  
Increases freq from 1hz to 15hx for 8x8

Example4\_MaxOutput  
Vizualize the output  
Initially didn't work as the Processing download link downloaded the V-3D\_Depth\_Map.pde (and old version of .ino)  
Followed the link to Processing link to:  
<https://processing.org/download>  
Unzipping takes quite a while. Don't be in a hurry to launch.  
Run processing.exe  
open SparkFun\_VL53L5CX\_3D\_Depth\_Map.pde from Processing or by right-clicking in the file location and "open with" Processing.

Processing opens the 3D\_Depth\_Map. Code is modified as directed to my COM4. Example3\_MaxOutput.ino is running in the Arduino IDE with Serial Monitor TURNED OFF else Processing can't access the port. Running 3D\_Depth\_Map in Processing displays the "red square" which can be manipulated by the mouse. HOWEVER, no data display with hand waving.

Reinstalled both Processor and 3D\_Depth\_Map. Didn't fix it.  
Tried Processor Debug. Watched Debug tutorial. Wouldn't work.  
Reinstalled. Working.  
Changed port to COM4

3D\_Depth\_Map line 109 "variable p not used":  
*void serialEvent(Serial p){*  
Changed to (Serial port) and error vanished.

## Example4\_MaxOutput.ino

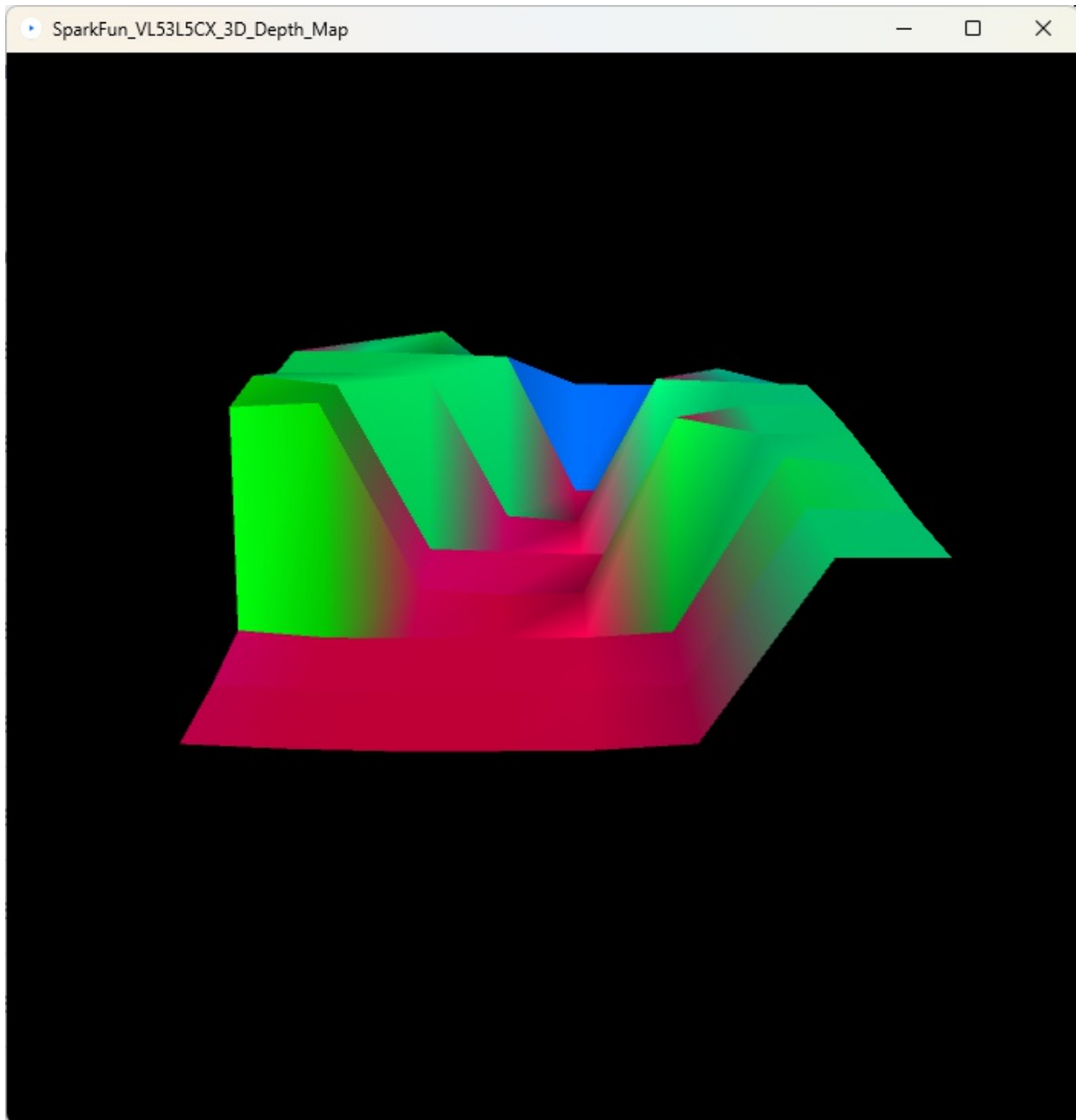
```
Rebooting...
ets Jul 29 2019 12:21:46

rst:0xc (SW_CPU_RESET),boot:0x13 (SPI_FAST_FLASH_BOOT)
configsip: 0, SPIWP:0xee
clk_drv:0x00,q_drv:0x00,d_drv:0x00,cs0_drv:0x00,hd_drv:0x00,wp_drv:0x00
mode:DIO, clock div:1
load:0x3fff0030,len:1184
load:0x40078000,len:13220
ho 0 tail 12 room 4
load:0x40080400,len:3028
entry 0x400805e4
SparkFun_VL53L5CX_Imager_Example
Guru Meditation Error: Core 1 panic'ed (StoreProhibited). Exception was unhandled.

Core 1 register dump:
PC      : 0x400f3805 PS      : 0x000060a30 A0      : 0x800d1508 A1      : 0x3ffb2240
A2      : 0x3ffc2a18 A3      : 0x000000080 A4      : 0x000000000 A5      : 0x000000000
A6      : 0x000000001 A7      : 0x00000e100 A8      : 0x000000000 A9      : 0x3ffb2200
A10     : 0x000000001 A11     : 0x000000000 A12     : 0x000000000 A13     : 0x000000000
A14     : 0x3ffb8a74 A15     : 0x000000000 SAR      : 0x00000001c EXCCAUSE: 0x0000001d
EXCVADDR: 0x00000005 LBEG    : 0x40086270 LEND    : 0x4008627b LCOUNT    : 0xffffffff

Backtrace: 0x400f3802:0x3ffb2240 0x400d1505:0x3ffb2260 0x400d43ee:0x3ffb2290
```

Google search suggests this error is trying to write to a forbidden area. This script line 38:  
*myImager.setWireMaxPacketSize(128); // Increase default from 32 bytes to 128 - not supported on all platforms*  
Maybe this platform is not supported. Try >> 32. Nope!  
But, if I allow (uncomment) this statement in Example2\_FastStartup.ino, I get the same panic error. So this HAS to be the problem. Comment out line! NOW it works!!



Now to get it to work with a Raspberry Pi!