Microcontrollers, sensors & servers

14 November, 2019









Free-use electronics

Arduino is an **electronic creation platform** based on **open hardware and software**, flexible and easy to use for designers and developers.

- **Open hardware**: devices whose <u>specifications and diagrams</u> are publicly accessible, so anyone can replicate them.
- **Open software**: software whose <u>code</u> is publicly accessible, so that it can be used and modified by anyone.

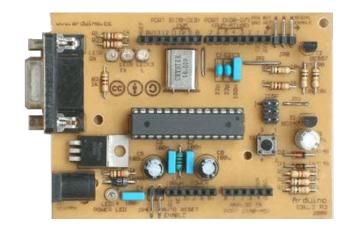




The board and its creators

The project was born in **2003**. Several **students from** the Interactive Design Institute in Ivrea (**Italy**) set themselves the objective of facilitating access to and use of electronics and programming.

The result was Arduino, a **board** with all the necessary elements to connect peripherals to the **inputs and outputs** of a **microcontroller**, which can be programmed in Windows as well as macOS and Linux.

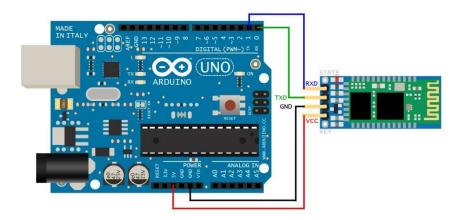




Microcontroller

Microcontrollers are **integrated circuits** on which you can record **instructions**, which you write with the Arduino programming language (Arduino IDE). These instructions allow you to create **programs** that interact with the board's circuits.

Through the arduino **input interface** we can connect on the board different types of **peripherals** (from a keyboard, to a camera or any other type of **sensor**).

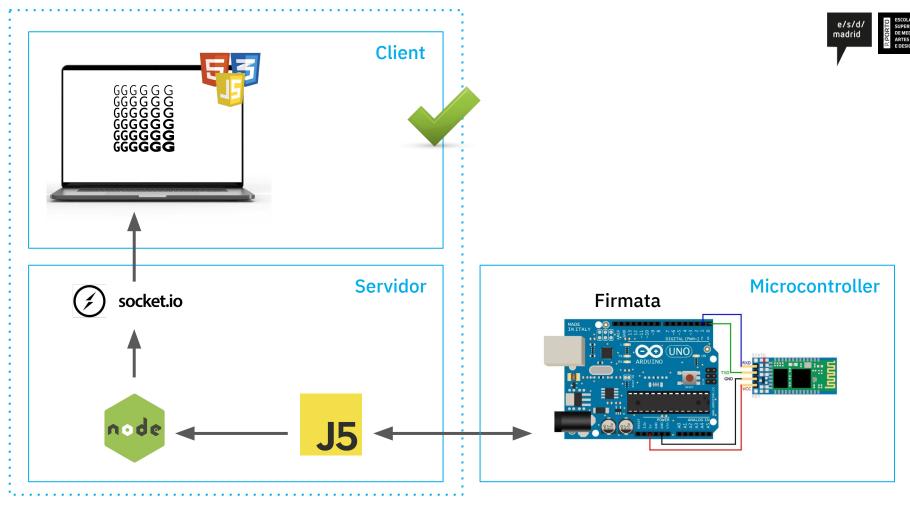




Sensors

Arduino's great flexibility and openness mean that you can use this board for just about anything. Using sensors and peripherals, you can build robots, alarms, fingerprint readers, automations of any kind... the **possibilities are endless.**

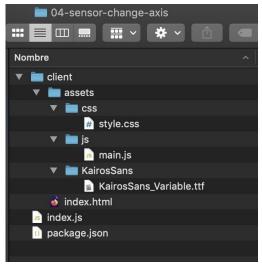


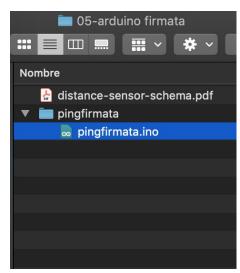












https://github.com/Lourdesmarco/sensor-variable-font-workshop/

Arduino IDE

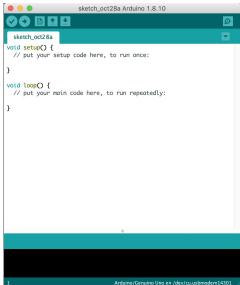


Begin with Arduino

To write programs and load them onto the board, we will need the **Arduino IDE**, which can be found on the official Arduino website: https://www.arduino.cc/en/Main/Software

Download the Arduino IDE

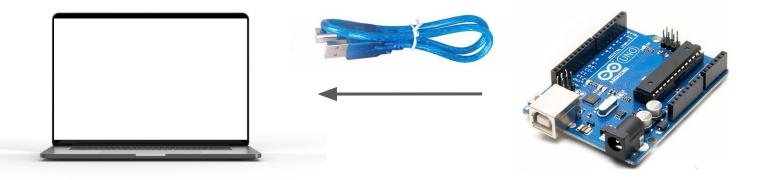




Arduino board

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Begin with Arduino





Load firmata

As our goal is not to learn to program in Arduino, but to communicate with the board from the computer, we will need an **intermediary: firmata**.

Firmata is a **generic protocol** for **communicate microcontrollers** and computers that will allow access from external software, such as windows or MacOSX.

Double click on the file **pingfirmata.ino** in the example (05 - arduino firmata / pingfirmata / pingfirmata.ino) and having the board (USB) connected to the computer, click on the **upload button**.

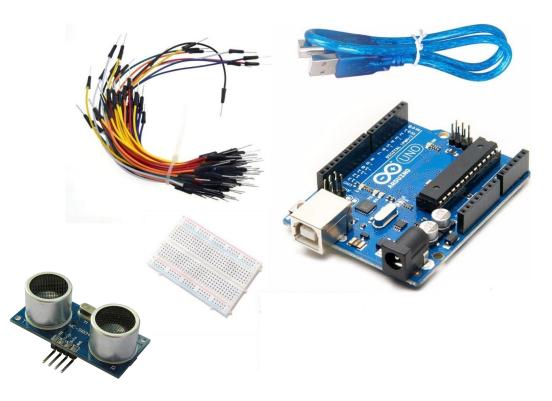


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Mounting sensors

To begin with the Arduino sensors we're going to need:

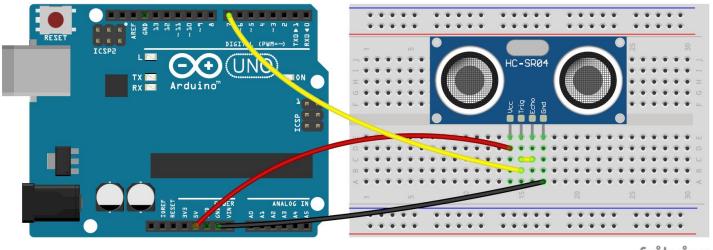
- An Arduino board
- A USB cord
- A protoboard
- Wires
- **Sensors** (distance for this example)

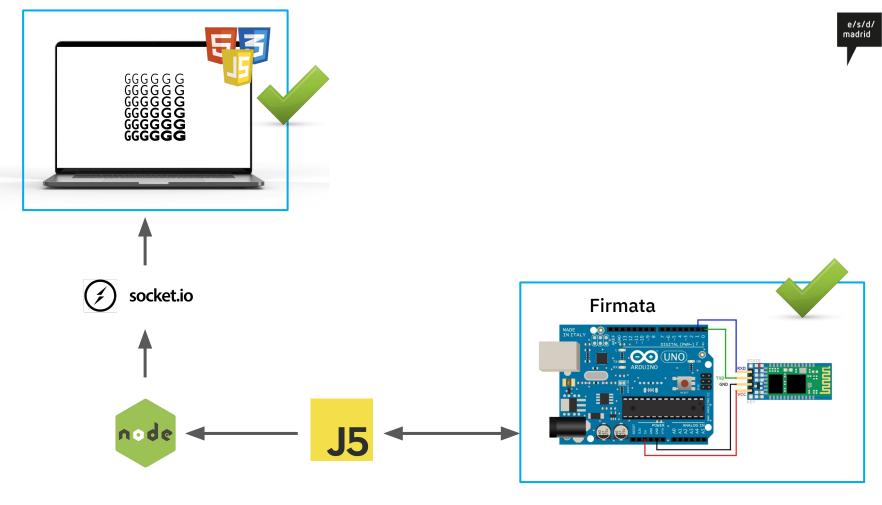




Mounting distance sensor

In order to prepare the distance sensor on the protoboard, just follow the scheme of the example (05 - arduino firmata / distance-sensor-schema.pdf)







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Node.js

Node.js is a **JavaScript environment** that allows us to run it on the **server**, asynchronously, with an event-oriented architecture and based on Google's V8 engine. The traditional languages of the server side had been php, ruby, ... with node.js comes an option in JS with all the ingredients to win market.



Server

Node.js

To install node, go to https://nodejs.org/es/ and download the recommended version.





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Package manager

The idea of a package and dependency manager is that developers can **share small portions of code** that are reusable in different projects and avoid each programmer having to re-encode basic elements. The most used package managers with JS are **npm** and **yarn**. We will install yarn: https://yarnpkg.com/lang/en/

\$ sudo npm install -g yarn





Server



Install packages and run server

Once node.js and yarn are installed, we can work with any project that uses server-side JS and dependency management, as is the case in the example "04-sensor-change-axis".

From the terminal, we will navigate to the folder of example 04 and execute the following commands:

// install all package.json dependencies

\$ yarn

// run the server

\$ yarn start



Sensor Variable Font: Semantic interfaces through variable fonts

Iván Huelves & Lourdes Marcos / www.sensorvariablefont.com