

Embedded Systems

HCI ✓

# Sensors

Internet-of-Things (IoT)

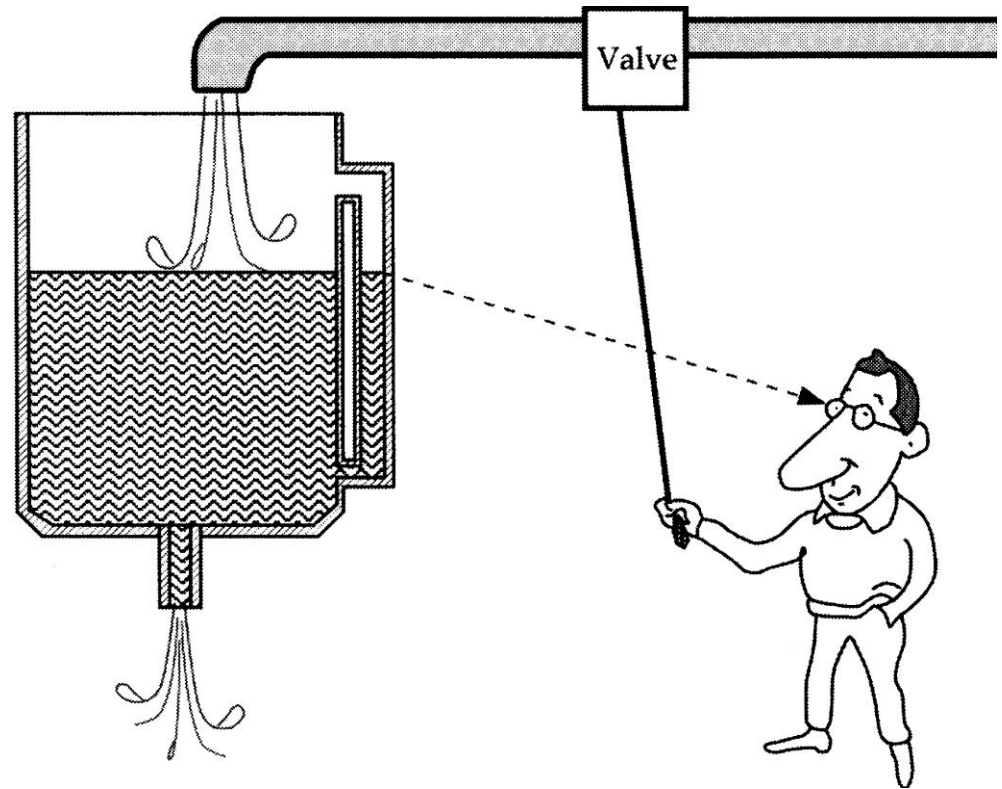
---

COCOS20

# Sensors

- A sensor is a device that receives a stimulus and responds with an electrical signal.

*change*



# Sensors

Sensors are devices that measure a particular property of the environment and convert that into an electrical output

Typically, sensors have a linear function between the physical property measured and the electrical output

The sensitivity of a sensor indicates the minimum value of the measured input that can produce a certain output signal

An analog-to-digital converter employed to turn a sensor output into signals that can be processed by MCUs

*ADC*  
*(Micro-Controller unit)*

Different physical phenomena underpin the operation of sensors, e.g., the piezoelectric effect (accumulation of electric charge when mechanical pressure is applied)



# Computer-Process Interface

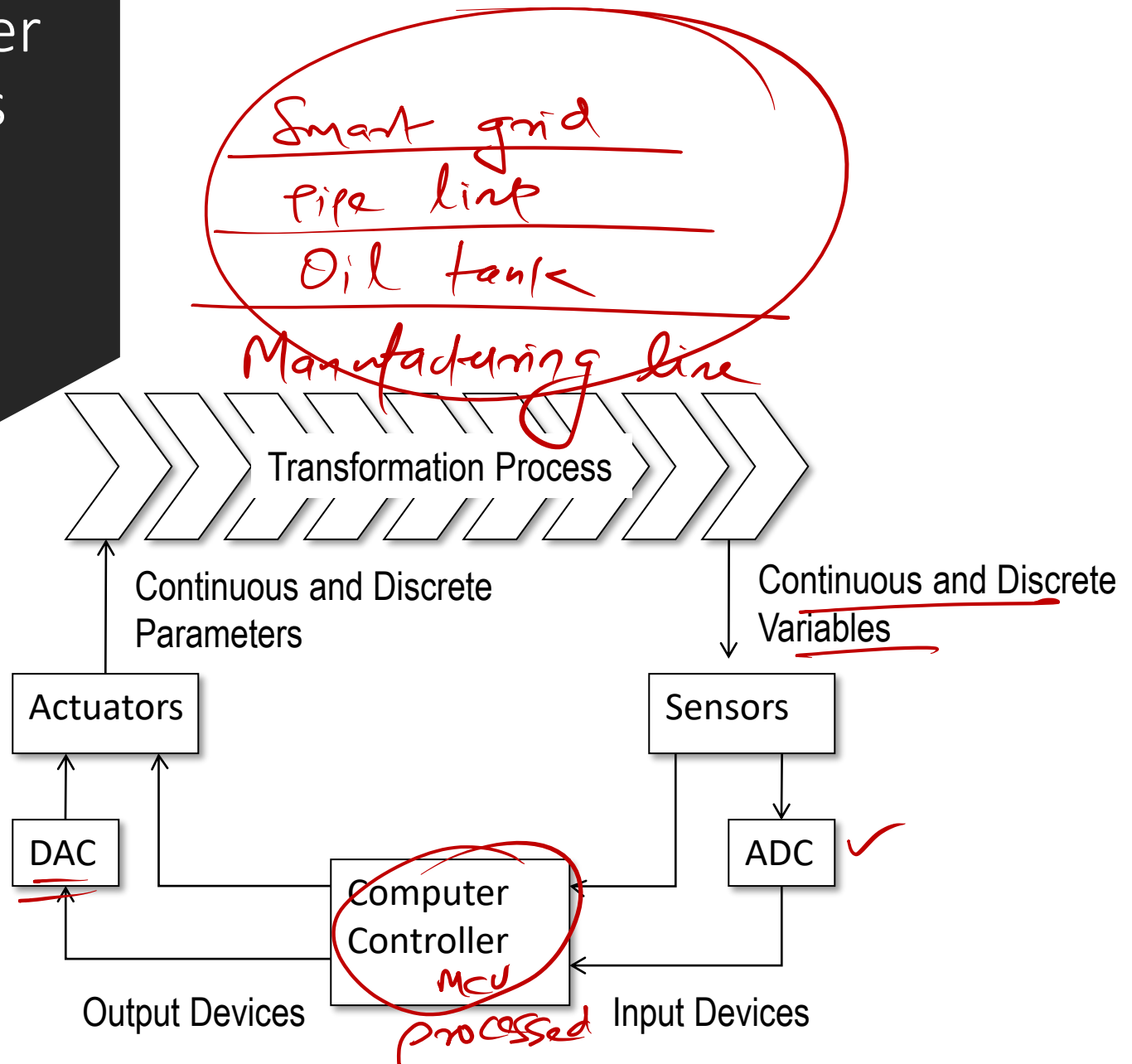
---

- To implement process control, the computer must sense collect data from and transmit signals to the production process
- Components required to implement the interface:
  - Sensors to measure continuous and discrete process variables
  - Actuators to drive continuous and discrete process parameters
  - Devices for ADC and DAC
  - I/O devices for discrete data

# Need for Sensors

- Sensors are omnipresent. They are embedded in our bodies, automobiles, airplanes, cellular telephones, radios, chemical plants, industrial plants and countless other applications.
- Without the use of sensors, there would be no automation!!  
*if you don't have input,  
then how you will decide.*

# Computer Process Control System



# What is a Stimulus?

- Motion, ✓  
position, ✓  
displacement ✓
- Velocity and ✓  
acceleration ✓
- Force, strain ✓
- Pressure ✓
- Flow ✓

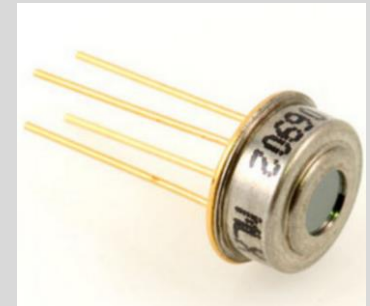
- Sound ✓
- Moisture ✓
- Light ✓
- Radiation ✓
- Temperature ✓
- Chemical ✓  
presence



Visual Sensor



Ultrasound Sensor



Infrared Sensor

# Types of sensors

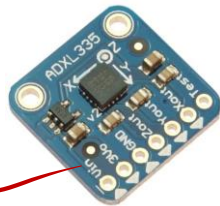
- Push-button/switch



- Temperature

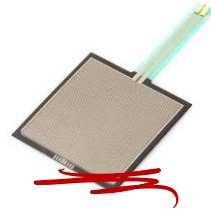


- Acceleration



Accelerometer

- Pressure



- Optical/photodiode



- Humidity





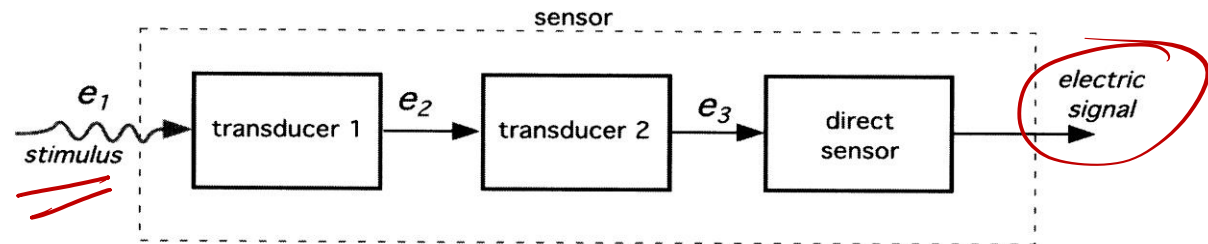
# What is a Response?

When we say electrical, we mean a signal which can be channeled, amplified, and modified by electronic devices:

- **Voltage** ✓
- **Current** ✓
- **Charge** ✓

# Sensor as Energy Converter

- This conversion can be direct or it may require transducers



- Example:

A chemical sensor may have a part which converts the energy of a chemical reaction into heat (transducer) and another part, a thermopile, which converts heat into an electrical signal.

Microphone, Loud Speaker, Biological Senses (e.g. touch, sight,..., etc)

*transduction*

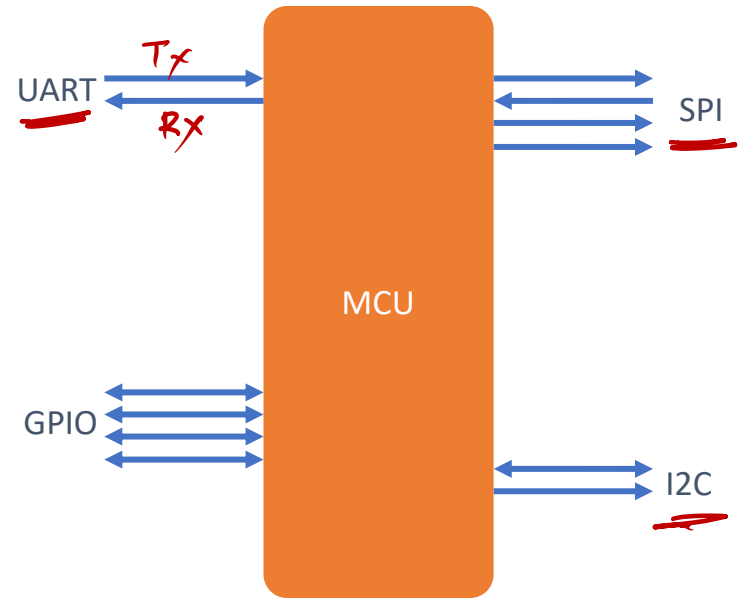
# Physical Principles of Sensing

- Charges, fields, & potentials
- Capacitance  $\Rightarrow$  pressure - water level
- Magnetism
- Induction
- Resistance — light?
- Piezoelectric effect  $\Rightarrow$  pressure crack
- Seebeck and Peltier effects
- Thermal properties of materials
- Heat transfer  $\Rightarrow$  temperature
- Light

# Input/Output

I/O defines how an MCU can interact with the environment

- Different I/O protocols are available
- Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter (UART) – two wires to send/receive data between devices
- Serial Peripheral Interface (SPI) – any number of bits can be sent/received without interruption
- Inter-Integrated Circuit (I<sup>2</sup>C) – combines features of UART and SPI
- General purpose I/O (GPIO) – controllable by user at run time.



Nodemcu (RPI)

# GPIO



Can be set up to accept or source different logic voltage levels, through which MCU can control peripherals or receive external input/interrupts.



If pins are configured for interrupts, they can be used to move wake-up from low-power/sleep modes.



Can be grouped into a GPIO port and controlled as such.



Pulse-width modulation (PWM) employed when the linear processes must be controlled (e.g., fans)



Limited to low-current applications → transistors and relays used to help drive higher current loads.

# Pulse-width modulation $\Rightarrow$ PWM

Reducing average power output by switching on/off at high rates.

- Duty Cycle – the fraction of one period  $T$  during which a signal is active:

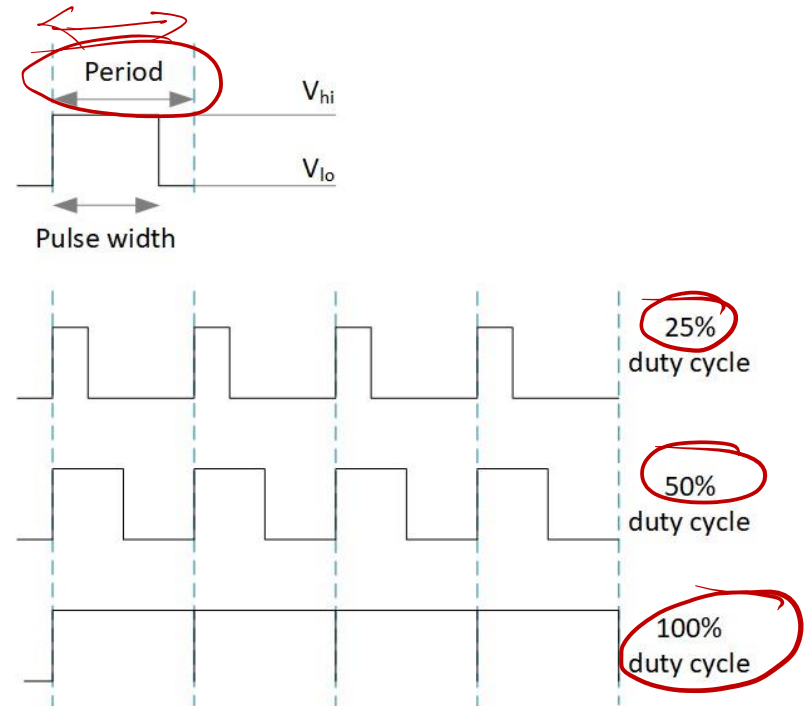
$$D = \frac{PW}{T} \times 100 [\%]$$

- Frequency – rate of periods:

$$f = \frac{1}{T} [\text{Hz}]$$

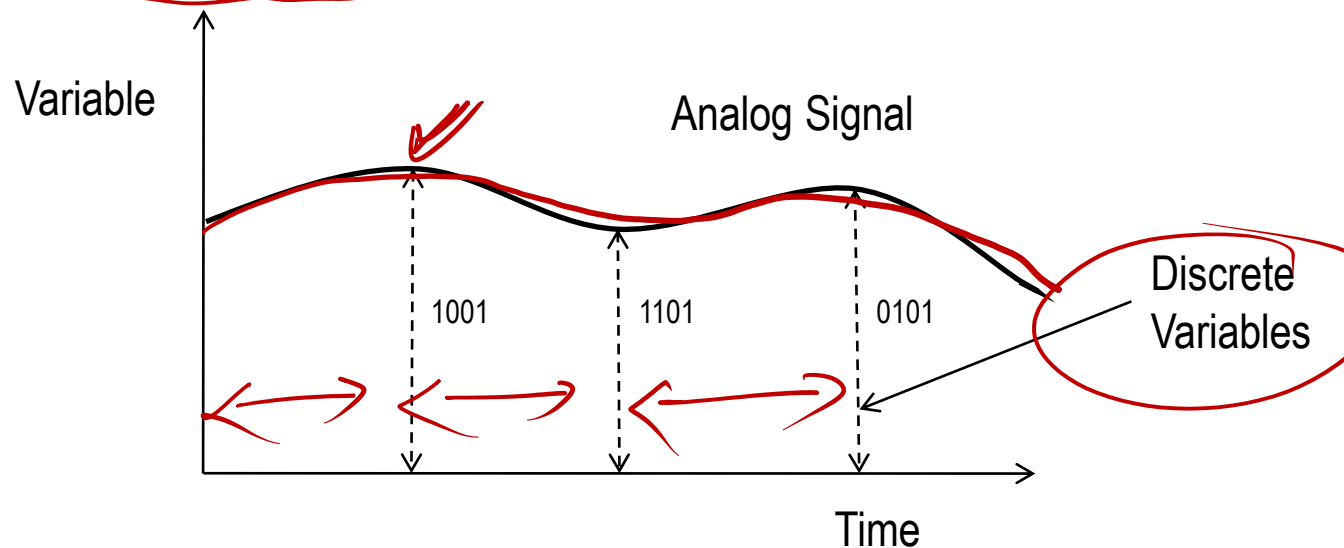
- Average voltage:

$$V_{avg} = V_{hi} \times \frac{D}{100}$$

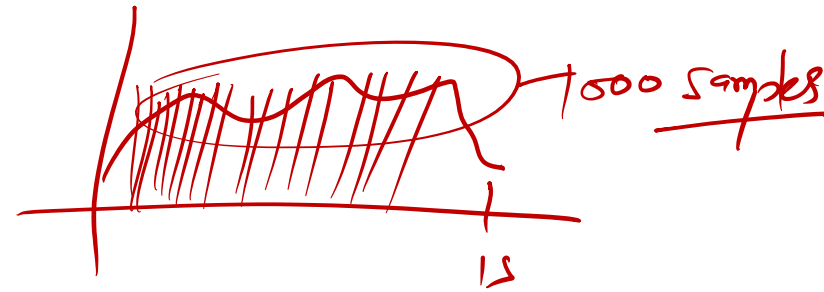


# Analog-to-Digital Conversion for MCU

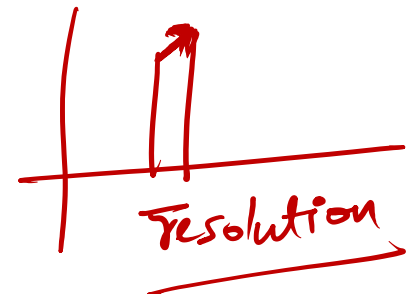
- **Sampling** – converts the continuous signal into a series of discrete analog signals at periodic intervals
- **Quantization** – each discrete analog is converted into one of a finite number of (previously defined) discrete amplitude levels
- **Encoding** – discrete amplitude levels are converted into digital code



# Features of an ADC



- ✓ • **Sampling rate** – rate at which continuous analog signal is polled (e.g., 1000 samples/sec)
- **Quantization** – divide analog signal into discrete levels
- **Resolution** – depends on number of quantization levels
- ✓ • **Conversion time** – how long it takes to convert the sampled signal to digital code
- ✓ • **Conversion method** – means by which analog signal is encoded into digital equivalent
  - **Example: Successive approximation method**





# Successive Approximation Method

- A successive approximation ADC is a type of ADC that converts a continuous analog waveform into a discrete digital representation via a binary search through all possible quantization levels before finally converging upon a digital output for each conversion

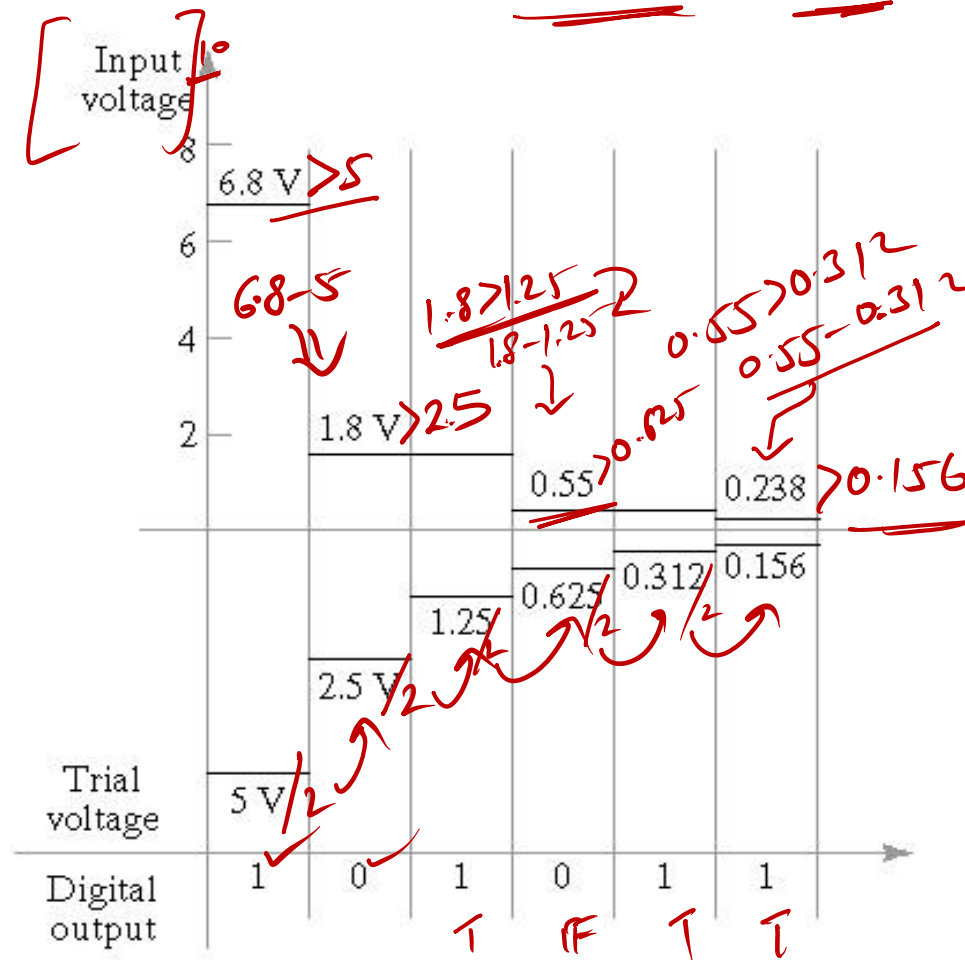
# Algorithm

- A series of trial voltages are successively compared to the input signal whose value is unknown
- Number of trial voltages = number of bits used to encode the signal
- First trial voltage is  $1/2$  the full scale range of the ADC
- If the remainder of the input voltage exceeds the trial voltage, then a bit value of 1 is entered, if less than trial voltage then a bit value of zero is entered
- The successive bit values, multiplied by their respective trial voltages and added, becomes the encoded value of the input signal

# Example

- Analogue signal is 6.8 volts. Encode, using SAM, the signal for a 6 bit register with a full scale range of 10 volts.

$$\frac{10}{2} = 5$$



For six digit precision, the resulting binary digital value is 101011, which is interrupted as:

- 1 × 5.0 V ✓
- 0 × 2.5 V —
- 1 × 1.25 V —
- 0 × 0.625 V —
- 1 × 0.312 V —
- 1 × 0.156 V —

Total = 6.718 V

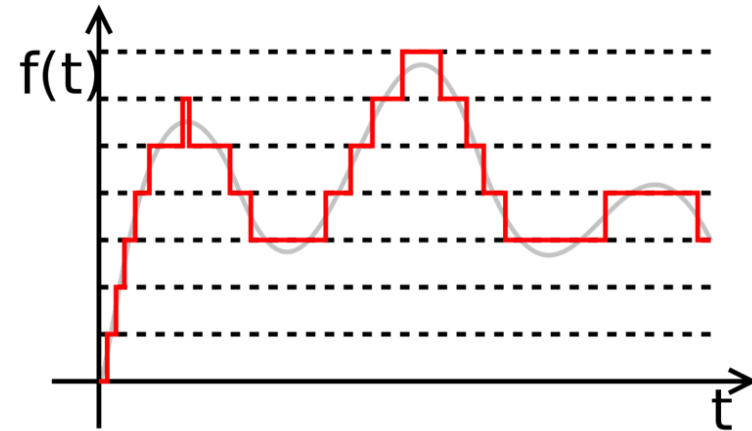
≈ 6.8

101011

# Example

$$Q = \frac{E_{FSR}}{2^M} = \frac{E_{FSR}}{N}$$

- $Q$  = resolution in volts per step
- $M$  = resolution in bits
- $N$  = Number of intervals (steps, quantization levels)
- $E_{FSR}$  = Full scale voltage range
- Quantization error =  $\frac{1}{2}$  of interval ✓



- Voltage range 0 – 10V;  $M = 12$  bits
- $N =$  4096 intervals (steps) =
- $Q = 2.44$  mV/code

$$2^M = 2^{12} = 4K = 4096$$

$$= \frac{10V}{4096} = \frac{10 \times 1000}{4096} = 2.44 \text{ mV/code}$$

# Example

- Using an analogue-to-digital converter, a continuous voltage signal is to be converted into its digital counterpart. The ADC has a 16-bit capacity, and full scale range of 60 V. Determine:

- number of quantization levels
- resolution
- quantization error

$$\Rightarrow 2^{16} = 64K = 65,536$$

$$\Rightarrow \Delta = \frac{\varepsilon}{N} = \frac{60 \times 1000}{65,536} =$$

$$\Rightarrow \frac{R}{2} =$$

# Solution

(1) Number of quantization levels:

$$= 2^{16} = 65,536$$

(2) Resolution:

$$= 60 / 65,536 = \sim 0.00092 \text{ Volts}$$

(3) Quantization error:

$$= 0.00092/2 = 0.00046 \text{ Volts}$$

# Digital-to-Analog Conversion

- Convert digital values into continuous analogue signal
  - Decoding digital value to an analogue value at discrete moments in time based on value within register

$$E_0 = E_{ref} \left\{ \underline{0.5} B_1 + \underline{0.25} B_2 + \dots + \left( 2^n \right)^{-1} B_n \right\}$$

Where  $E_0$  is output voltage;  $E_{ref}$  is reference voltage;  $B_n$  is status of successive bits in the binary register

# Example

- A DAC has a reference voltage of 100 V and has 6-bit precision. Three successive sampling instances 0.5 sec apart have the following data in the data register:

Instant	Binary Data
1	101000 ✓
2	101010 ✓
3	101101 ✓

- Output Values:

$$E_{01} = 100\{0.5(1)+0.25(0)+0.125(1)+0.0625(0)+0.03125(0)+0.015625(0)\}$$

$$E_{01} = 62.50V ✓$$

$$E_{02} = 100\{0.5(1)+0.25(0)+0.125(1)+0.0625(0)+0.03125(0)+0.015625(0)\}$$

$$E_{02} = 65.63V ✓$$

$$E_{03} = 100\{0.5(1)+0.25(0)+0.125(1)+0.0625(0)+0.03125(0)+0.015625(0)\}$$

$$E_{03} = 70.31V ✓$$



# Sensor Types: HW & SW

- **Hardware-based sensors**
  - Physical components built into a device
  - They derive their data by directly measuring specific environmental properties
- **Software-based sensors**
  - Not physical devices, although they mimic hardware-based sensors
  - They derive their data from one or more hardware-based sensors

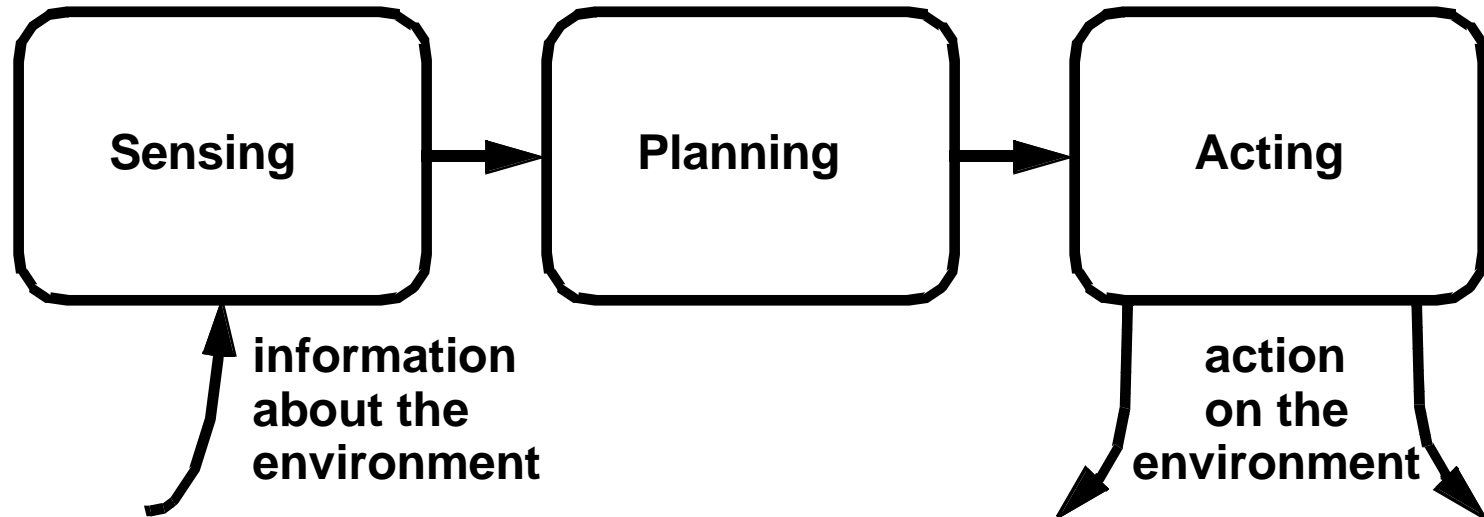
# Sensor List of Smartphone

Sensorhub - App

Sensor	Function Type	Software-based or Hardware-based
Accelerometer ✓	Motion Sensor	Hardware-based
Gyroscope ✓	Motion Sensor	Hardware-based
Gravity ✓	Motion Sensor	Software-based
Rotation Vector ✓	Motion Sensor	Software-based
Magnetic Field ✓	Position Sensor	Hardware-based
Proximity ✓	Position Sensor	Hardware-based
GPS ✓	Position Sensor	Hardware-based
Orientation ✓	Position Sensor	Software-based
Light ✓	Environmental Sensor	Hardware-based
Thermometer ✓	Environmental Sensor	Hardware-based
Barometer ✓	Environmental Sensor	Hardware-based
Humidity ✓	Environmental Sensor	Hardware-based

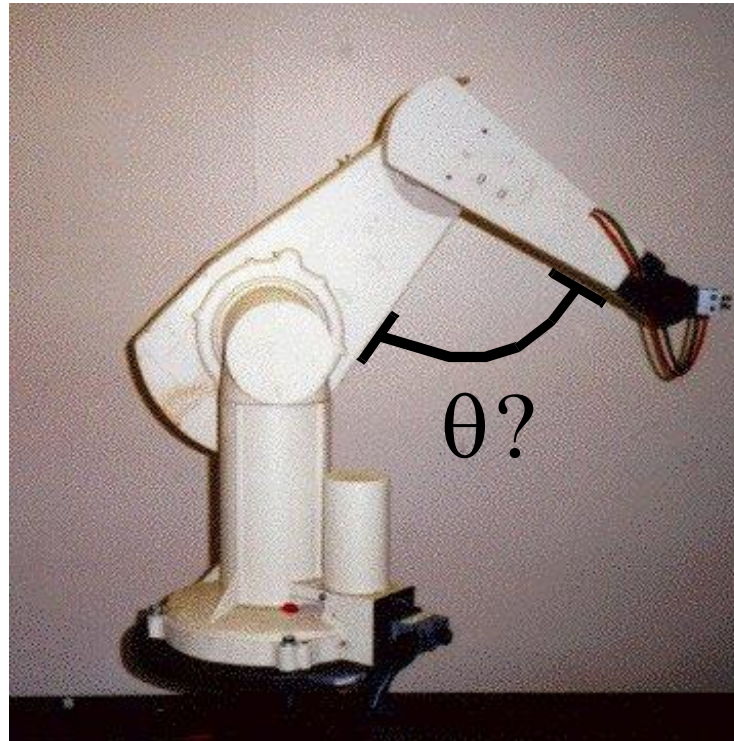
# Overview of Our Sensors For Robotics

# What makes a machine a robot?



Why do robots need sensors?

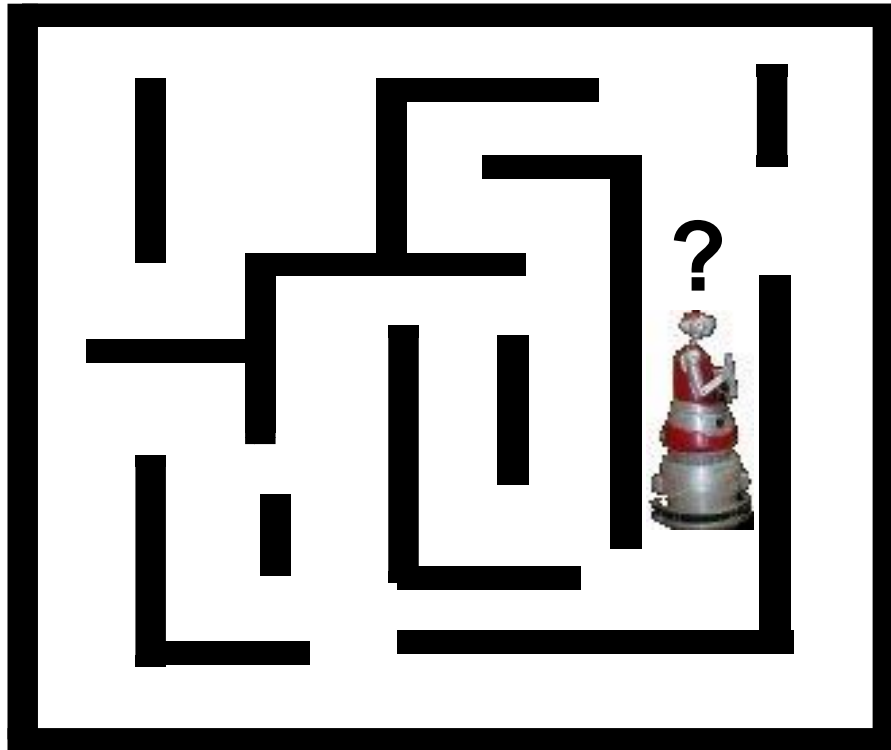
**What is the angle of my arm?**



**internal information**

# Why do robots need sensors?

## Where am I?



## localization

# Why do robots need sensors?

**Will I hit anything?**



**obstacle detection**



Sensing for specific tasks

**Where is the cropline?**

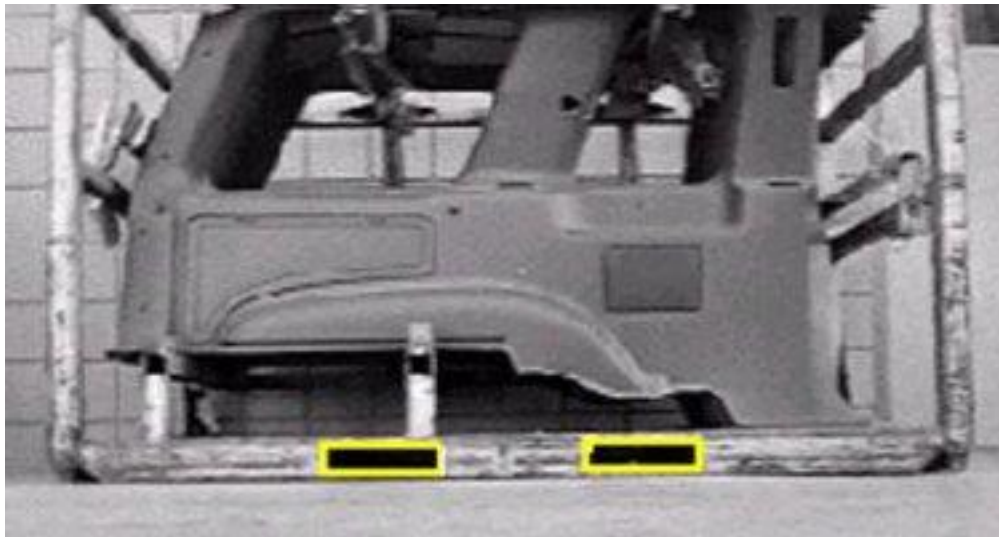


**Autonomous  
harvesting**



Sensing for specific tasks

**Where are the forkholes?**



**Autonomous material handling**

Sensing for specific tasks

**Where is the face?**



**Face detection & tracking**

# Types of Sensors

- Active

- send signal into environment and measure interaction of signal w/ environment
- e.g. radar, sonar

- Passive

- record signals already present in environment
- e.g. video cameras

# Actuators

- Hardware devices that convert a controller command signal into a change in a physical parameter
  - The change is usually mechanical (e.g., position or velocity)
  - An actuator is also a transducer because it changes one type of physical quantity into some alternative form
  - An actuator is usually activated by a low-level command signal, so an amplifier may be required to provide sufficient power to drive the actuator

# Types of Actuators

## 1. Electrical actuators

- Electric motors
  - DC servomotors
  - AC motors
  - Stepper motors
- Solenoids



## 2. Hydraulic actuators

- Use hydraulic fluid to amplify the controller command signal



## 3. Pneumatic actuators

- Use compressed air as the driving force



Contact me:

[gauravsingal789@gmail.com](mailto:gauravsingal789@gmail.com)

[Gaurav.singal@nsut.ac.in](mailto:Gaurav.singal@nsut.ac.in)

[www.gauravsingal.in](http://www.gauravsingal.in)

LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/gauravsingal789/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/gaurav\\_singal](https://twitter.com/gaurav_singal)