

Computational models for embedded systems

Assignment 3: Embedded Hardware Building Blocks.

Embedded Board

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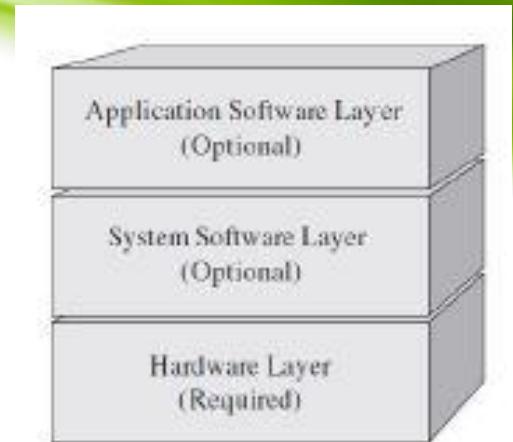
Outline

- Embedded Hardware Building Blocks and the Embedded Board
- CPUs vs. MCUs vs. Embedded Systems
- Electric Circuits
- Basic Hardware Materials

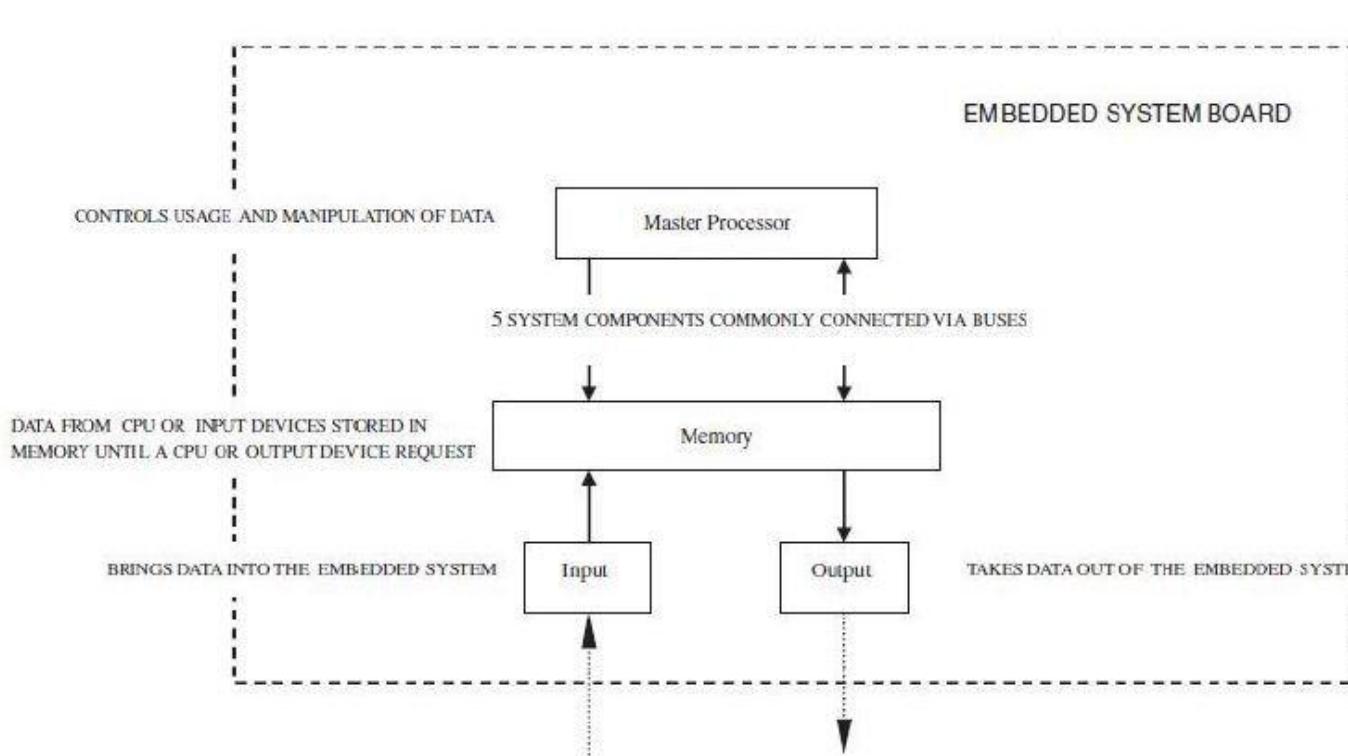
- Nucleo STM32F401 – board
- Nucleo projects

Embedded Hardware Building Blocks

- Embedded System Model [Noergaard2005]
- PCB – Printed Circuit Board or PW – Printed Wiring board
 - Thin sheets of fiberglass
 - Electrical part is printed in cooper – electrical signals is carried between the connected components
- Major hardware components of most boards
 - Central Process Unit
 - Memory
 - Input Device (s)
 - Output Device (s)
 - Data Pathway(s)/Bus(es)



Embedded Hardware Building Blocks



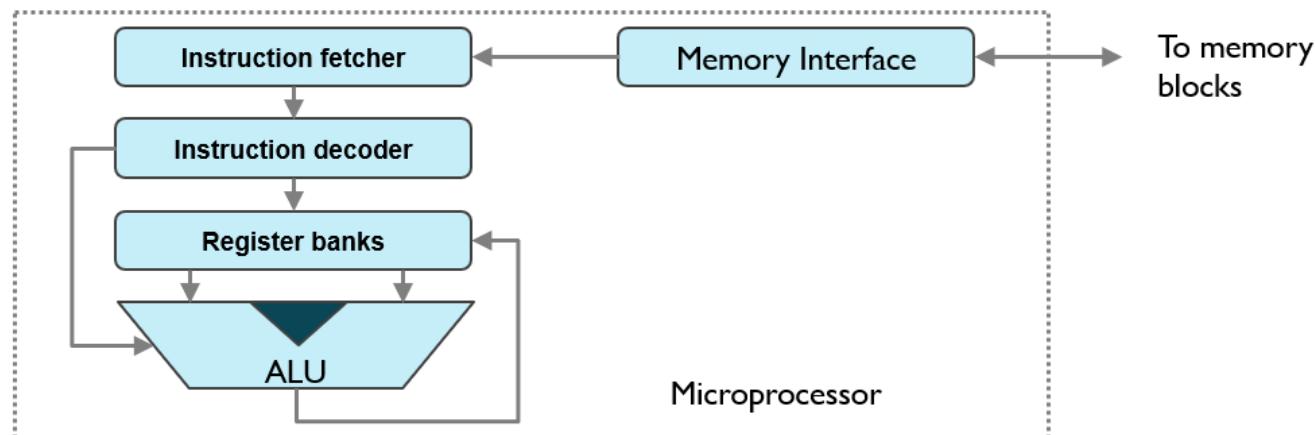
- Embedded System board organization [Noergaard2005]

Embedded Microcomputer System

- Embedded microcomputer system
 - Embedded = hidden inside so one can't see it.
 - Micro = small.
 - Computer = contains a processor, memory and a means to exchange data with the external world.
 - System = multiple components interfaced together for a common purpose; have structure, behavior and interconnectivity operating in a framework bound by rules and regulations.

CPUs vs. MCUs vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RESD]

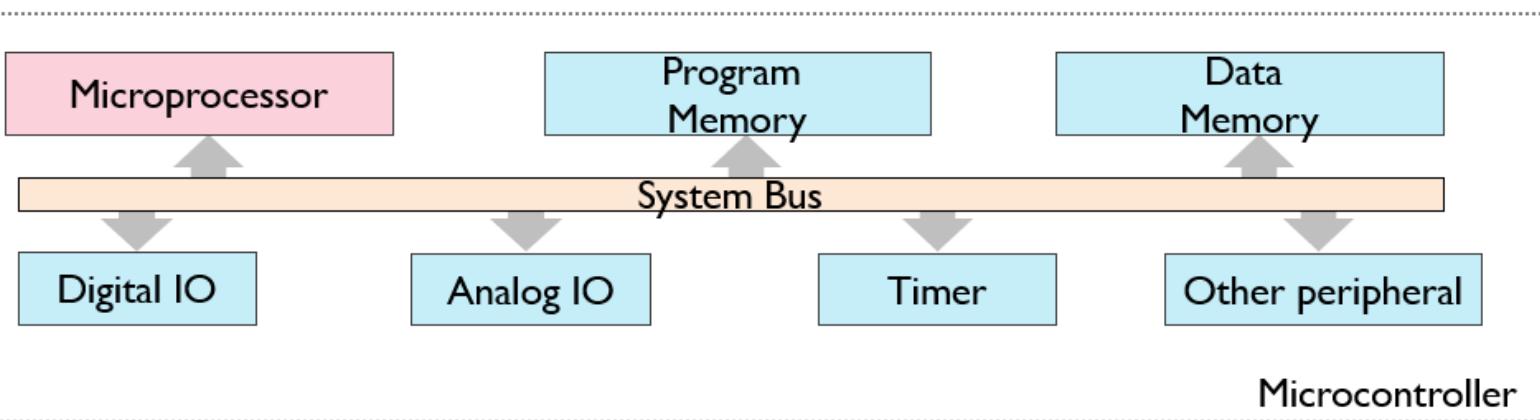
- Microprocessor (CPU)
 - Defined typically as a single processor core that supports at least instruction fetching, decoding, and executing
 - Normally can be used for general purpose computing, but needs to be supported with memories and Input/Outputs(I/Os)



ARM

CPUs vs. MCUs vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RESD]

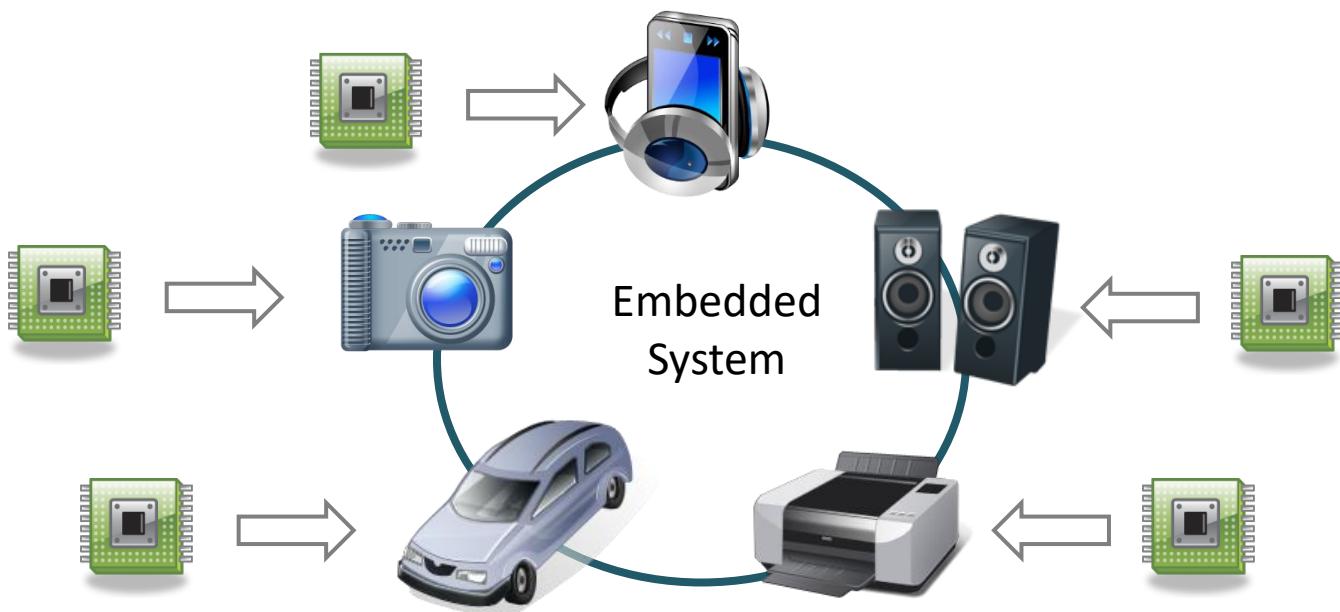
- Microcontroller (MCU)
 - Typically has a single processor core
 - Has memory blocks, Digital IOs, Analog IOs, and other basic peripherals
 - Typically used for basic control purpose, such as embedded applications



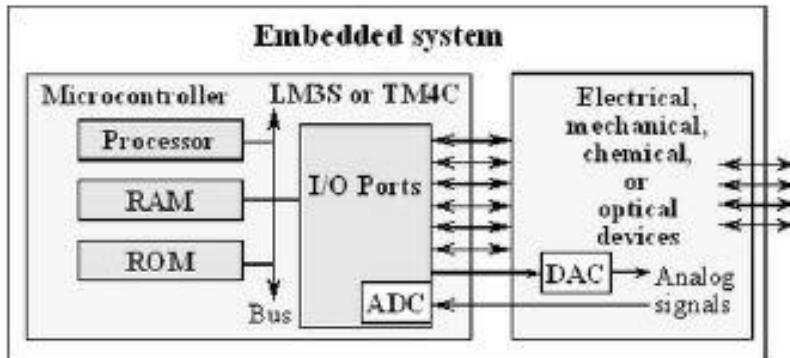
ARM

CPUs vs. MCUs vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RESD]

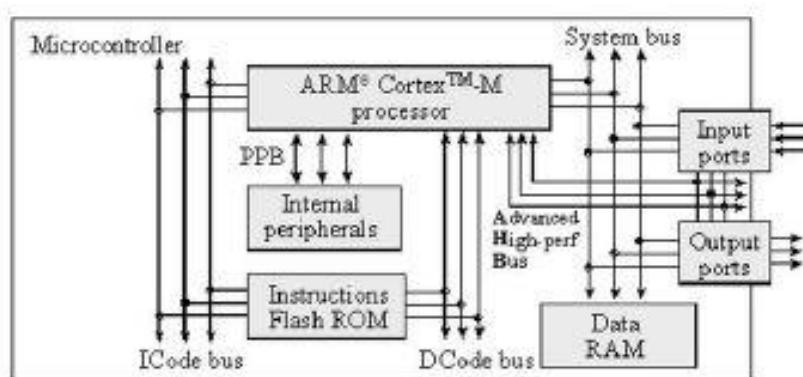
- Embedded System
 - Typically implemented using MCUs
 - Often integrated into a larger mechanical or electrical system
 - Usually has real-time constraints



Non Neumann vs. Harvard Architecture



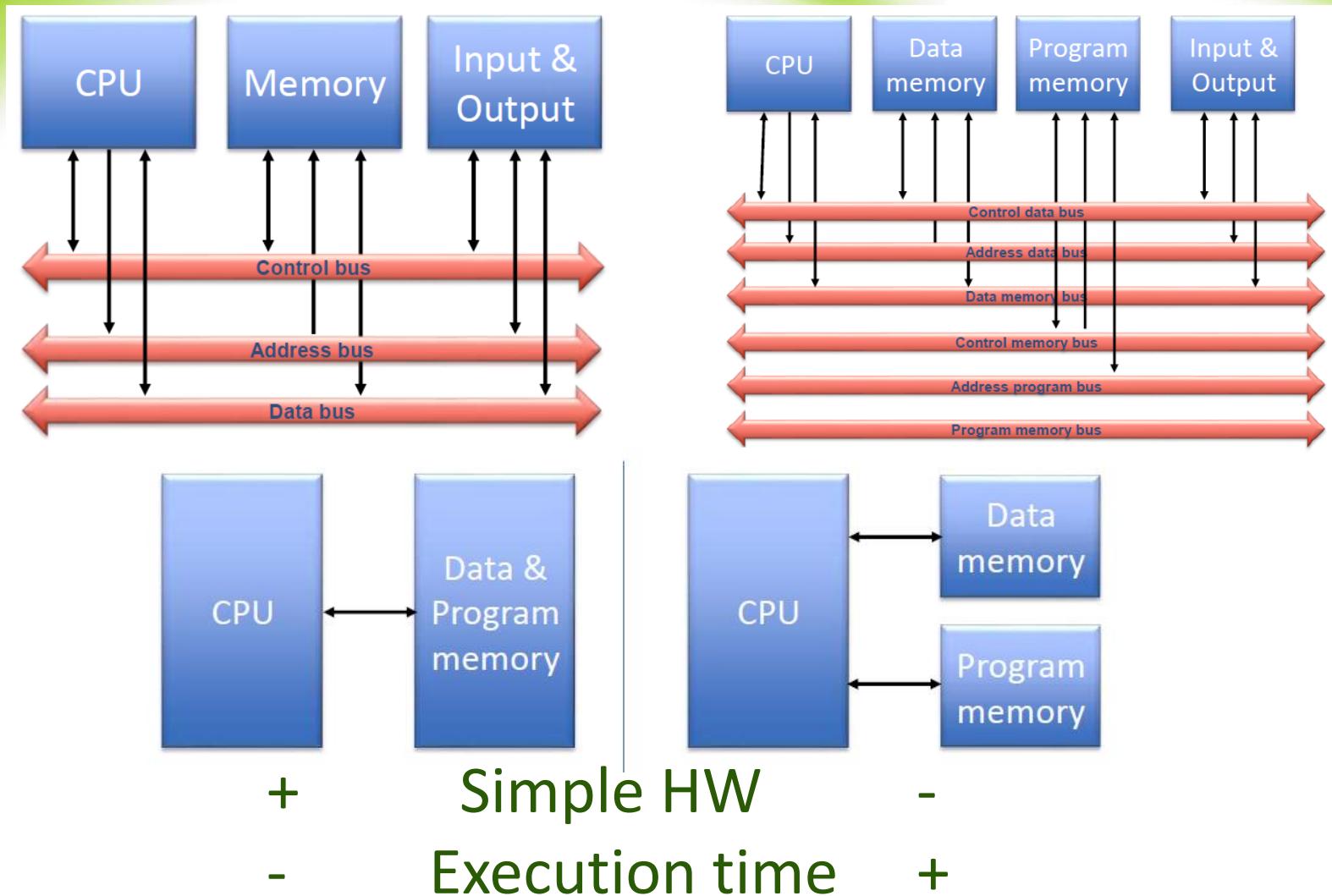
VON NEUMANN
ARCHITECTURE



HARVARD
ARCHITECTURE

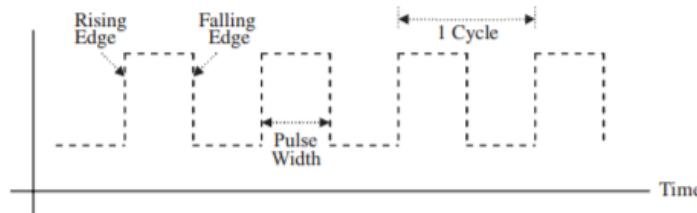
- Harvard architecture – has separate data and instruction buses.
 - Instructions are fetched from flash ROM using ICode bus.
 - Data are exchanged with memory and I/O via the System bus interface.

Non Neumann vs. Harvard Architecture



CPU and System (master) Clock [Noergaard2005]

- CPU: ALU (Arithmetic Logic Unit) + registers + CU (control unit) + internal CPU
- A processor's execution is ultimately synchronized by an external system or master clock, located on the board.
- The master clock is an oscillator along with a few other components, such as a crystal. It produces a fixed frequency sequence of regular on/off pulse signals (square waves) buses.



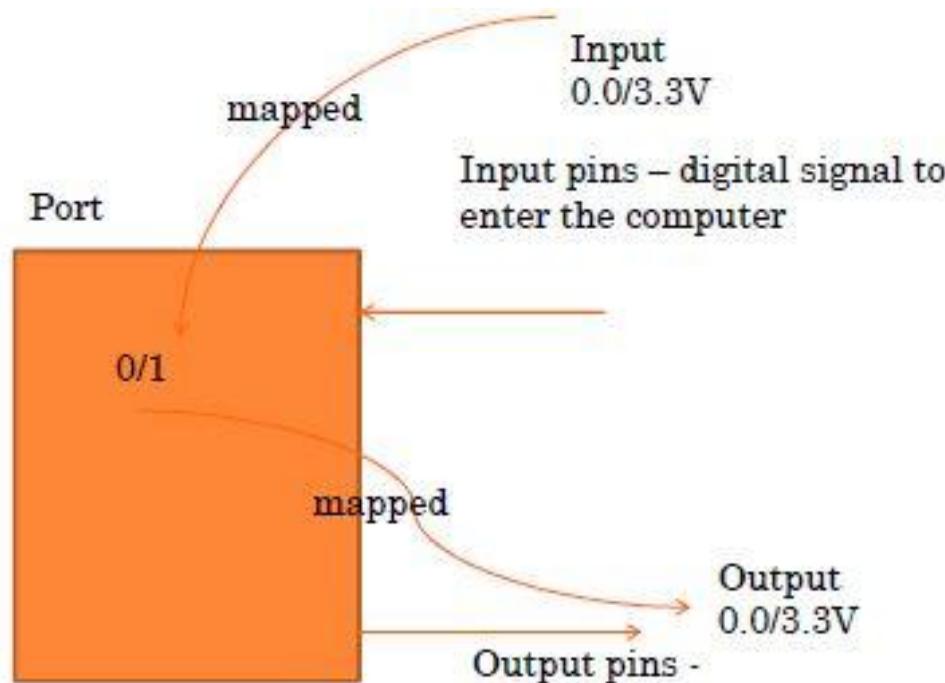
- The CU, along with several other components on an embedded board, depends on this master clock to function.
- Components are driven by either the actual level of the signal (a “0” or a “1”), the rising edge of a signal (the transition from “0” to “1”), and/or the falling edge of the signal (the transition from “1” to “0”)

I/O Ports or I/O Devices or Interfaces

- **I/O Ports**
 - Input port – is hardware on the microcontroller that allow information about the external world to be entered into the computer.
 - Output port – is hardware on the microcontroller that sends information out to the external world.
- **Interface** – the collection of the I/O port, external electronics, physical devices, and the software, which combine to allow the computer to communicate with the external world.
 - Example
 - input interface = switch - the operator toggles the switch and the software can recognize the switch position.
 - output interface = light-emitting diode (LED) – the software can turn the light on and off and the operator can see whether or not the light is shining.
- **Inputs/outputs** – digital or analog.
- **Classification of I/O interfaces**
 - **Parallel** = binary data are available simultaneously on a group of line;
 - **Serial** = binary data are available one bit at a time on a single line;
 - **Analog** = data are encoded as an electrical voltage, current, or power;
 - **Time** = data are encoded as a period, frequency, pulse width, or phase shift.

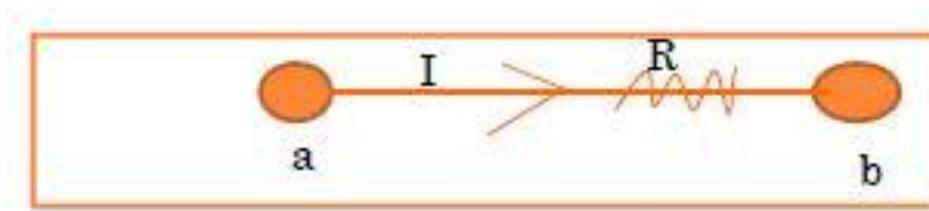
Microcontroller Ports

- Parallel
 - How it works?
 - Parallel = binary data are available simultaneously on a group of line.

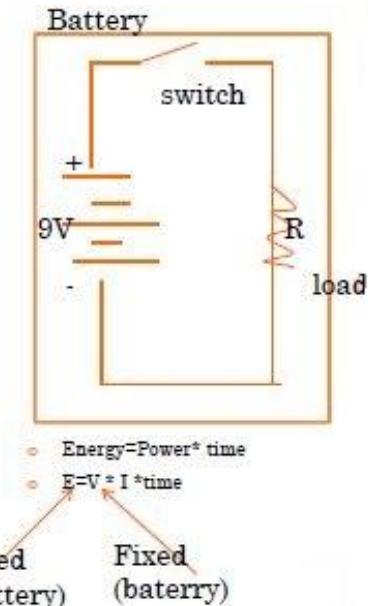


Electric Circuits

- Current -I – flow of charge -> Amperes
- Voltage – V – potential difference → Joules/coulomb=Volts
- Amount of energy needed to move 1 unit of charge (=1coulomb) from a to b



- Ohms law – give a relationship between V and I
$$V=I \cdot R$$
- The current flow through a conductor (that has a resistor)
- Power = $V \cdot I$ (watts)=Joules/sec
(the power dissipated through this resistance)



Powering the hardware: Some embedded boards plug into power supplies. (3.3V or 5V or 12V)

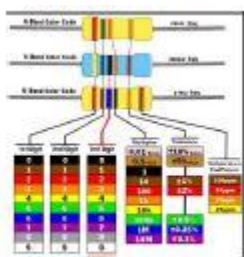
Basic Hardware Materials

- Categories – the ability of the materials to conduct electric current.
- **Conductors**
 - materials that have fewer impediments to an electric current.
 - have 3 or fewer valence electrons.
- **Insulators** (non-metals, air, paper, oil, plastic, glass, rubber)
 - impede an electric current.
 - have 5 or more valence electrons.
- **Semiconductors**
 - have 4 valence electrons
 - Materials whose base elements have a conductive nature that can be altered by introducing other elements into their structure.
 - have the ability to behave both as a conductor and as an insulator.
 - Impurities
 - Donor impurities → create a surplus of electrons ↔ N-type conductor
 - Acceptors impurities → produce a shortage of electrons ↔ P-type conductor

Passive Components on Boards (and in Chips)

Resistors, Capacitors, Inductors

- Resistors
 - devices made up of conductive materials that have their conductivity altered in some fashion to allow for an increase in resistance.
 - provide the inherent function, to create a resistive force in a circuit.
 - are a means (Alternating Current or Direct Current circuit) to control the current or voltage by providing some amount of resistance to the current or voltage that flows across them.
- Type
 - **Fixed resistors** – are manufactured to have only one resistance value.
 - **Variable resistors** – vary their resistance on-the-fly.
 - manually –potentiometers;
 - by changes in light –photosensitive resistor;
 - by changes in temperature – thermally sensitive/thermistor.

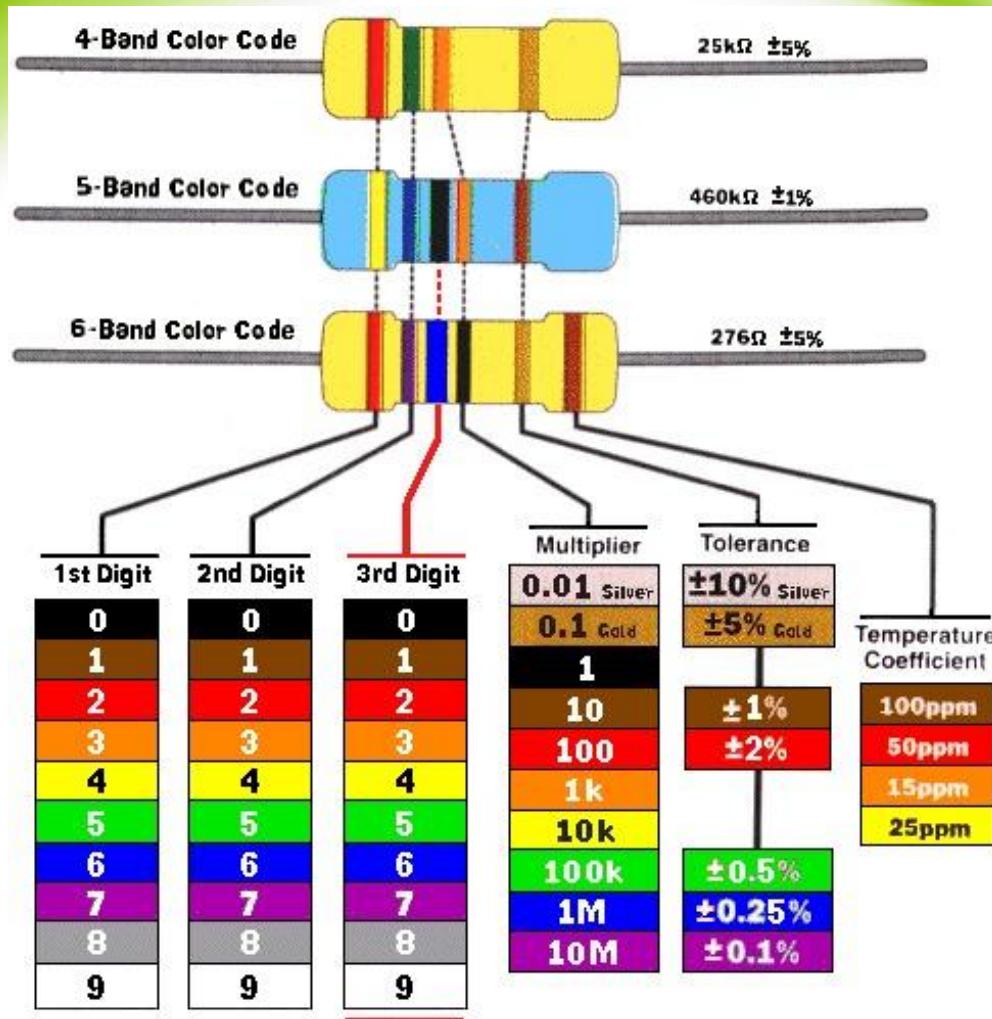


Passive Components on Boards (and in Chips)

- **Capacitors**
 - store energy in *electric* fields.
- impede the flow of energy (commonly used in AC circuits) and gives this same energy back to the circuit in its original form (electrically).
- Type
 - Variable, ceramic, electrolytic, etc.
 - Adjusted on-the-fly or not
- **Inductors**
 - store energy in *magnetic* fields.



Resistor – color guide



- The reading direction might not always be clear. Sometimes the increased space between band 3 and 4 give away the reading direction. Also, the first band is usually the closest to a lead. A gold or silver band (the tolerance) is always the last band.

- <https://www.allaboutcircuits.com/tools/resistor-color-code-calculator/>

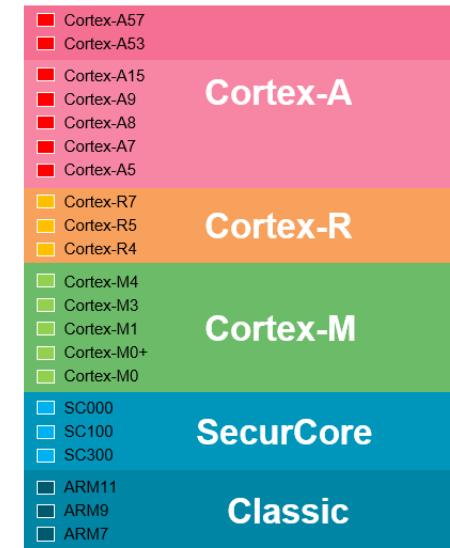
What is ARM Architecture [ARM-RESD]

- ARM architecture is a family of RISC-based processor architectures
 - RISC = Reduced Instruction Set Computer
 - Well-known for its power efficiency;
 - Hence widely used in mobile devices, such as smartphones and tablets
 - Designed and licensed to a wide eco-system by ARM
- ARM Holdings
 - The company designs ARM-based processors;
 - Does not manufacture, but licenses designs to semiconductor partners who add their own Intellectual Property (IP) on top of ARM's IP, fabricate and sell to customers;
 - Also offer other IP apart from processors, such as physical IPs, interconnect IPs, graphics cores, and development tools.



ARM Processor Families [ARM-RESD]

- Cortex-A series (Application)
 - High performance processors capable of full Operating System (OS) support;
 - Applications include smartphones, digital TV, smart books, home gateways etc.
- Cortex-R series (Real-time)
 - High performance for real-time applications;
 - High reliability
 - Applications include automotive braking system, powertrains etc.
- Cortex-M series (Microcontroller)
 - Cost-sensitive solutions for deterministic microcontroller applications;
 - Applications include microcontrollers, mixed signal devices, smart sensors, automotive body electronics and airbags;
- SecurCore series
 - High security applications.
- Previous classic processors
 - Include ARM7, ARM9, ARM11 families



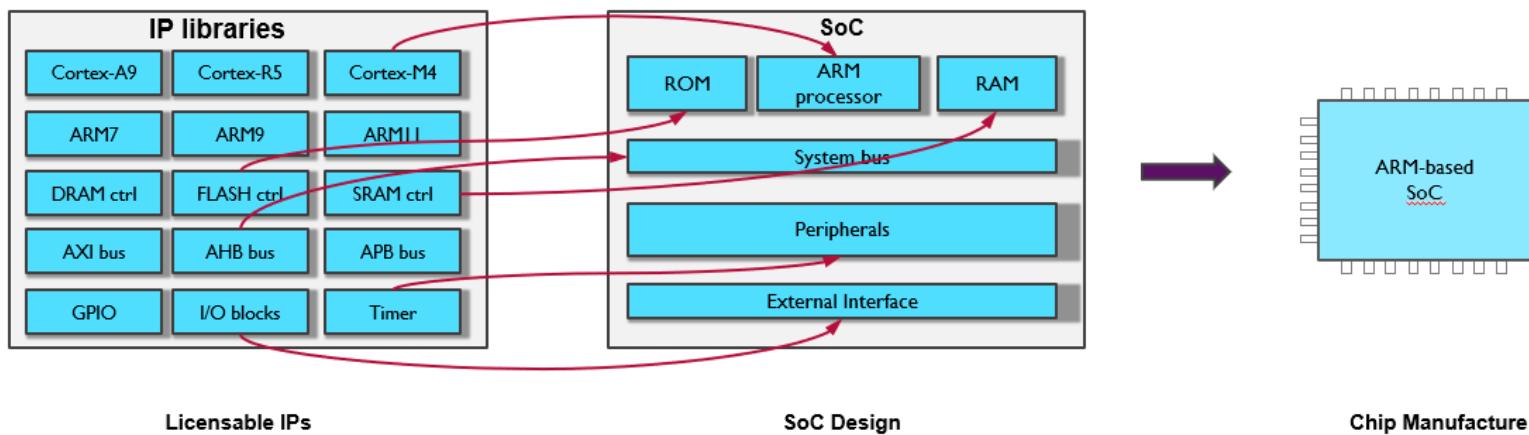
Cortex
Low-Power Leadership from ARM

As of Dec 2013

ARM

Design an ARM-based SoC [ARM-RESD]

- Select a set of IP cores from ARM and/or other third-party IP vendors
- Integrate IP cores into a single chip design
- Give design to semiconductor foundries for chip fabrication



ARM

ARM Cortex-M Series

- Cortex-M series: Cortex-M0, M0+, M1, M3, M4.
- Energy-efficiency
 - Lower energy cost, longer battery life
- Smaller code
 - Lower silicon costs
- Ease of use
 - Faster software development and reuse
- Embedded applications
 - Smart metering, human interface devices, automotive and industrial control systems, white goods, consumer products and medical instrumentation



ARM Processors vs. ARM Architectures

- ARM architecture
 - Describes the details of instruction set, programmer's model, exception model, and memory map
 - Documented in the Architecture Reference Manual
- ARM processor
 - Developed using one of the ARM architectures
 - More implementation details, such as timing information
 - Documented in processor's Technical Reference Manual

NUCLEO-F401RE board

- Core Architecture: ARM
- Core Sub-Architecture: Cortex-M4



Installation instructions

- <https://os.mbed.com/studio/>

Mbed Studio

The desktop IDE for Mbed

Mbed Studio is a free IDE for Mbed OS application and library development, including all the dependencies and tools you need in a single package so that you can create, compile and debug your Mbed programs on the desktop.

[Download for Windows](#)

[Download for Mac](#)

[Download for Linux](#)

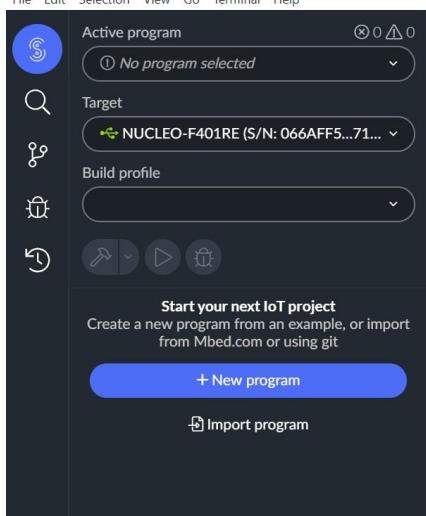
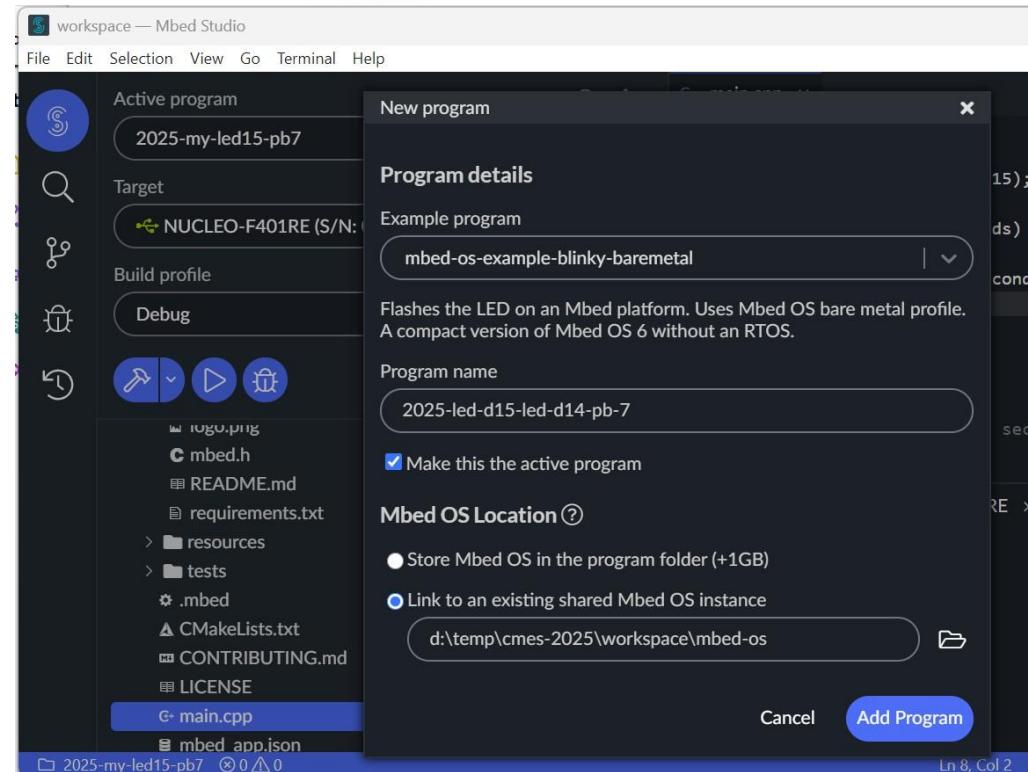
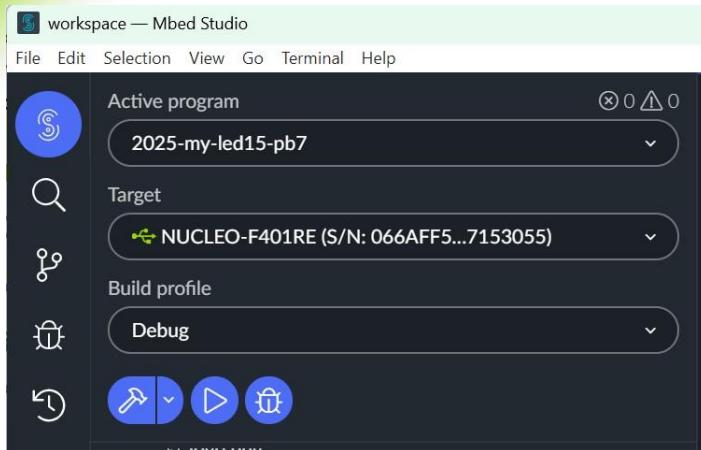
[Documentation »](#)

The screenshot shows the Mbed Studio IDE interface with the following details:

- Left Sidebar:** Shows the project structure for "mbed-cloud-client-example". It includes sub-folders like BUILD, config, drivers, mbed-cloud-client, mbed-os 5.11.0, mbed-platform, profiles, source, and test.
- Central Area:** Displays the code editor for "main.cpp" with several lines of C++ code related to Mbed Cloud Client registration and button handling.
- Right Panels:**
 - Threads:** Lists threads: Running, Ready, Waiting[MagGet], Waiting[Thrd], Waiting[EvtRg], Waiting[EvtBg], Waiting[EvtFg].
 - Call Stack:** Shows the call stack for main_application.
 - Variabes:** Local variables include "button_count" and "mbedClient". Global variables include "button" (vector) and "osRtcConfig".
 - OS CB Sections:** Lists sections like ARM_UCP_FLASHMAP_BLOCKDEVICE, MBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_DEVICE_CERTIFICATE, MBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_DEVICE_PRIVATE, MBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_DEVICE_PRIVATE_K, MMBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_ENDPOINT_NAME, MMBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_SERVER_ROOT_CA, MMBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_SERVER_ROOT_C, MMBED_CLOUD_DEV_BOOTSTRAP_SERVER_URI, and MMBED_CLOUD_DEV_DEVICE_TYPE.
 - Breakpoints:** A red dot indicates a breakpoint at line 225 of main.cpp.

Installation instructions

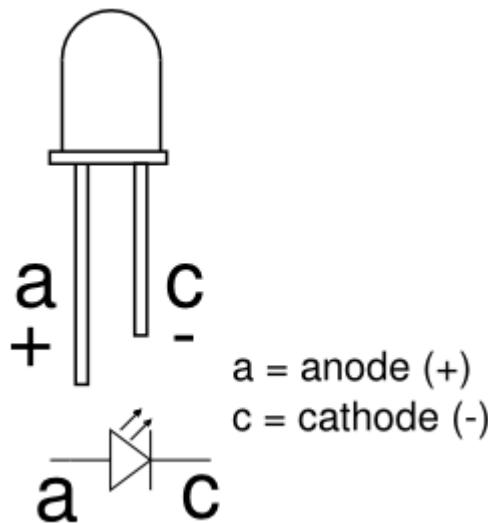
- <https://os.mbed.com/studio/>



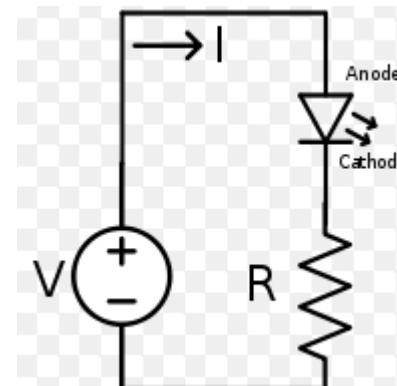
LED

- LED – light emitting diode

- <https://www.evilmadscientist.com/2012/resistors-for-leds/>



a = anode (+)
c = cathode (-)



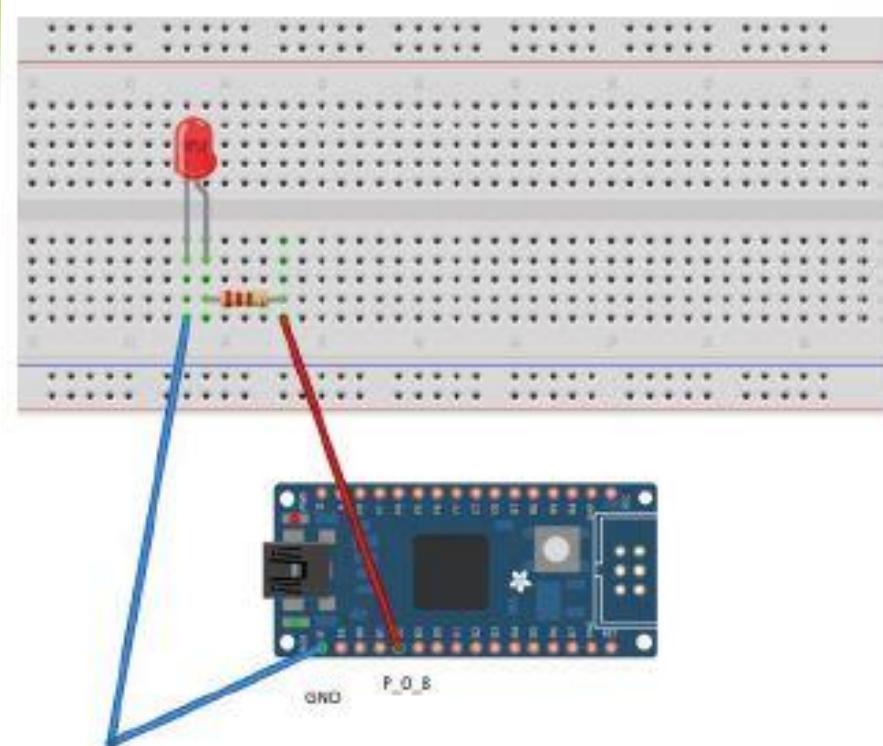
NUCLEO-F401RE projects

my_blinky_ledD15

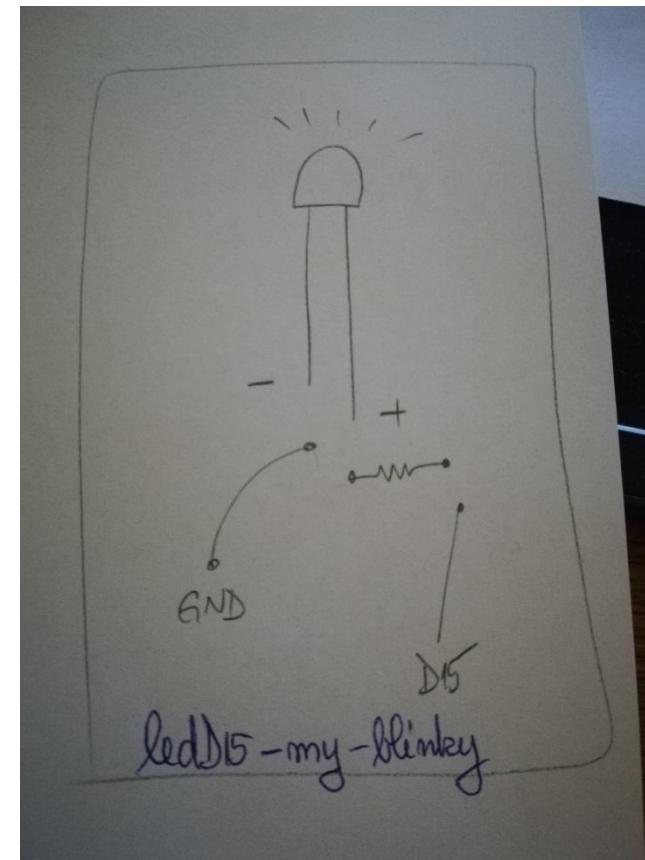
Electronic Circuit

my_blinky_ledD15_ledD14_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
my_blinky_ledD15_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
my_blinky_ledD15_uvision5_nucleo_f401re

<https://os.mbed.com/studio/>



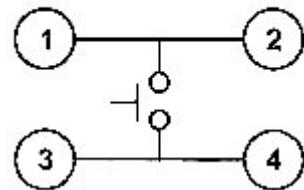
fritzing



Push button



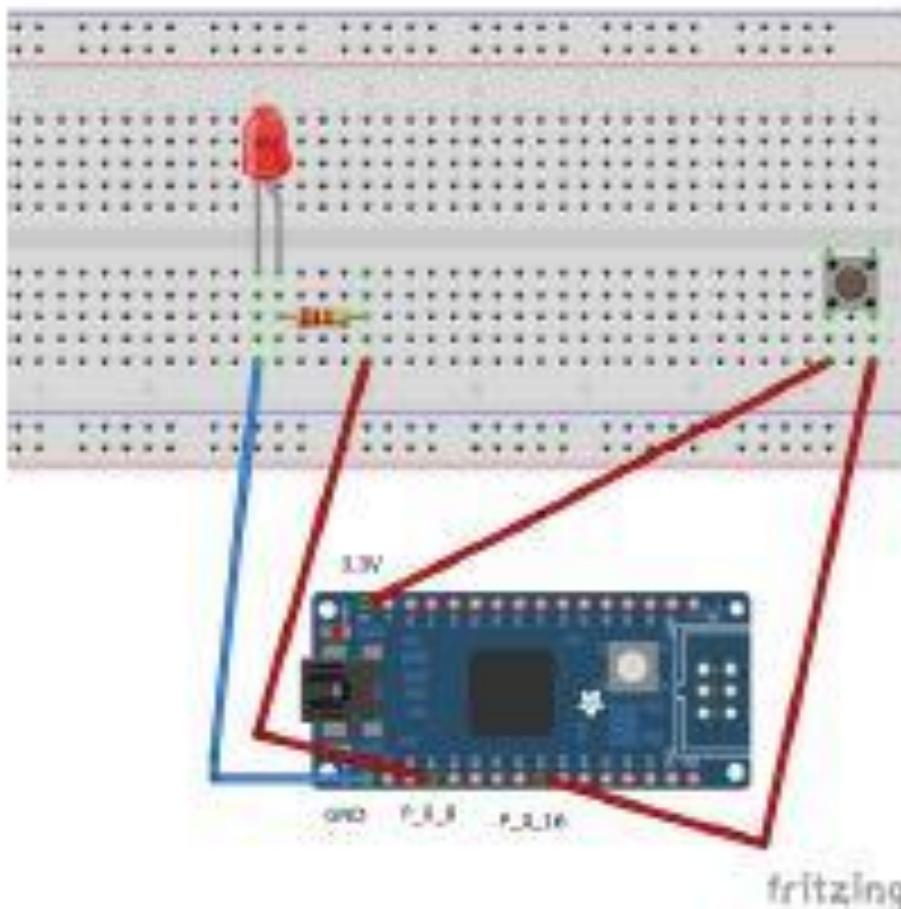
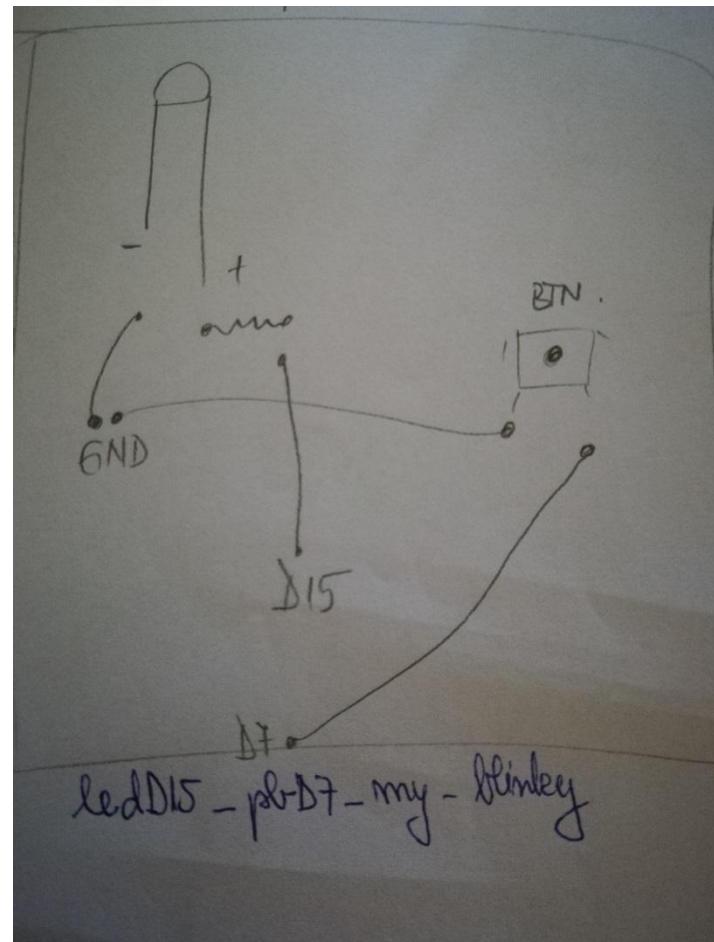
Diagrama circuitului



NUCLEO-F401RE projects

my_blinky_ledD15_pbD7

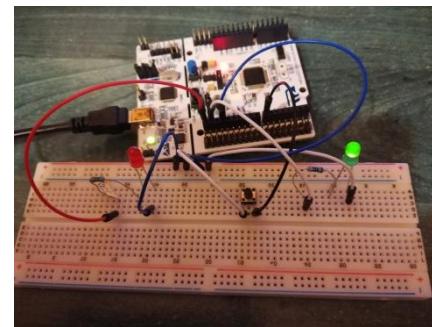
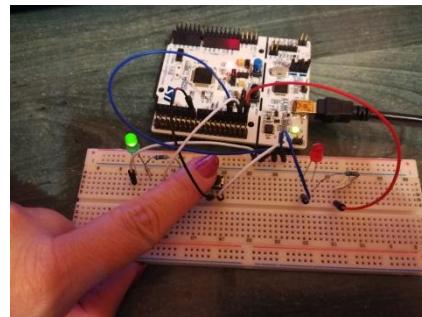
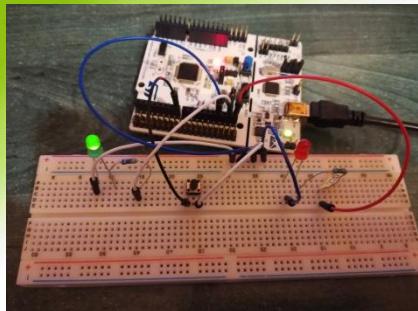
<https://os.mbed.com/studio/>



- my_blinky_ledD15_ledD14_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
- my_blinky_ledD15_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
- my_blinky_ledD15_uvision5_nucleo_f401re

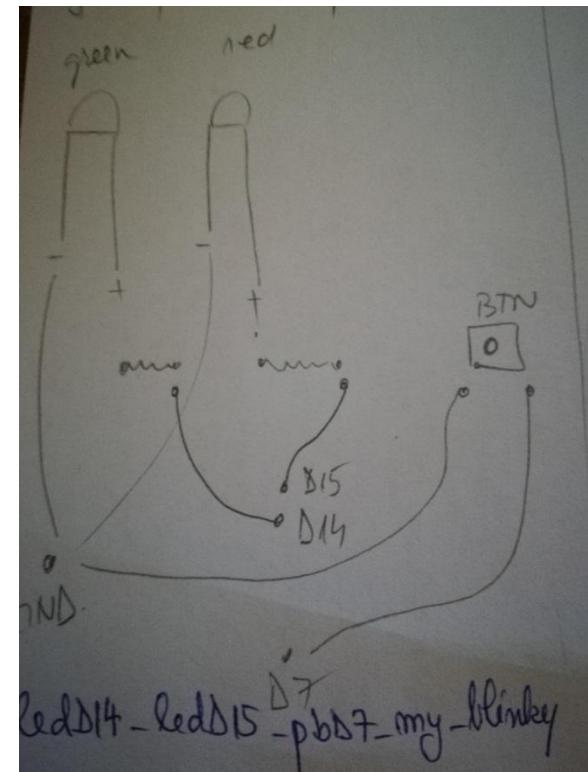
NUCLEO-F401RE =

my_blinky_ledD15_ledD14_pbD7



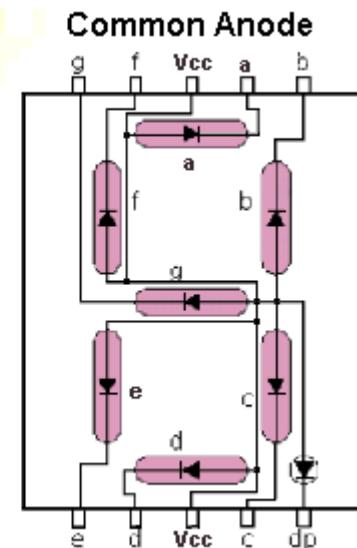
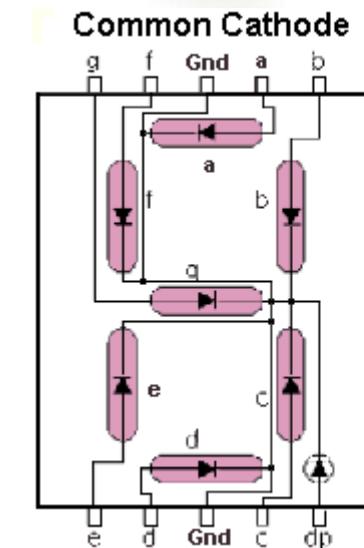
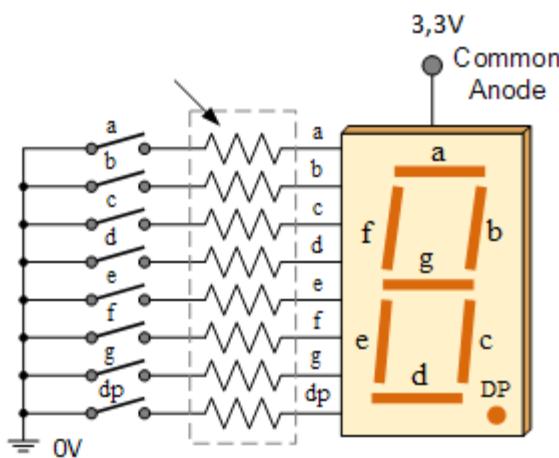
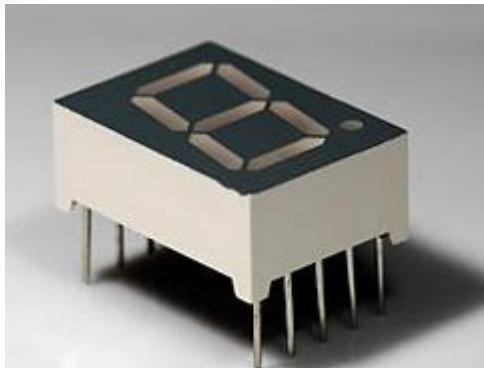
<https://os.mbed.com/studio/>

```
my_blinky_ledD15_ledD14_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re  
my_blinky_ledD15_pbD7_uvision5_nucleo_f401re  
my_blinky_ledD15_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
```



NUCLEO-F401RE projects

7 segments



- Write number “2”.
- Bonus: Activity in class: 25 XP

NUCLEO-F401RE

Sensors

- Sensor_Photodiode_uvision5_nucleo_f401re
- Sensor_Buzzer_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re
- Sensor_LCD_Text_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re
- Sensor_Soil_Moisture_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re
- Sensor_Distance_HCSR04_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re
- Sensor_pir_motion_hc-sr501_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re } ?
- Sensor_Temperature_Humidity_Air_uvvision5_nucleo_f401re

Photodiode

The image shows two side-by-side screenshots of the Mbed Studio IDE interface. Both windows have the title bar "workspace — Mbed Studio".

Top Window:

- Active program:** 2025-Photodiode
- Target:** NUCLEO-F401RE (S/N: 066AFF5...7153055)
- Build profile:** Debug
- Code Editor:** main.cpp (Content shown below)
- Baud rate:** 9600

```
#include "mbed.h"
Serial pc(USBTX, USBRX);
int main() {
    AnalogIn led(A0);
    pc.baud(115200);

    while(1) {
        printf(" Photodiode: %f ", led.read());
        wait(1.0);
    }
}
```

Bottom Window:

- Active program:** 2025-Photodiode
- Target:** NUCLEO-F401RE (S/N: 066AFF5...7153055)
- Build profile:** Debug
- Code Editor:** main.cpp (Content shown below)
- Baud rate:** 9600

```
#include "mbed.h"
void wait(float seconds)
{
    wait_us(floorf(seconds*100000));
}

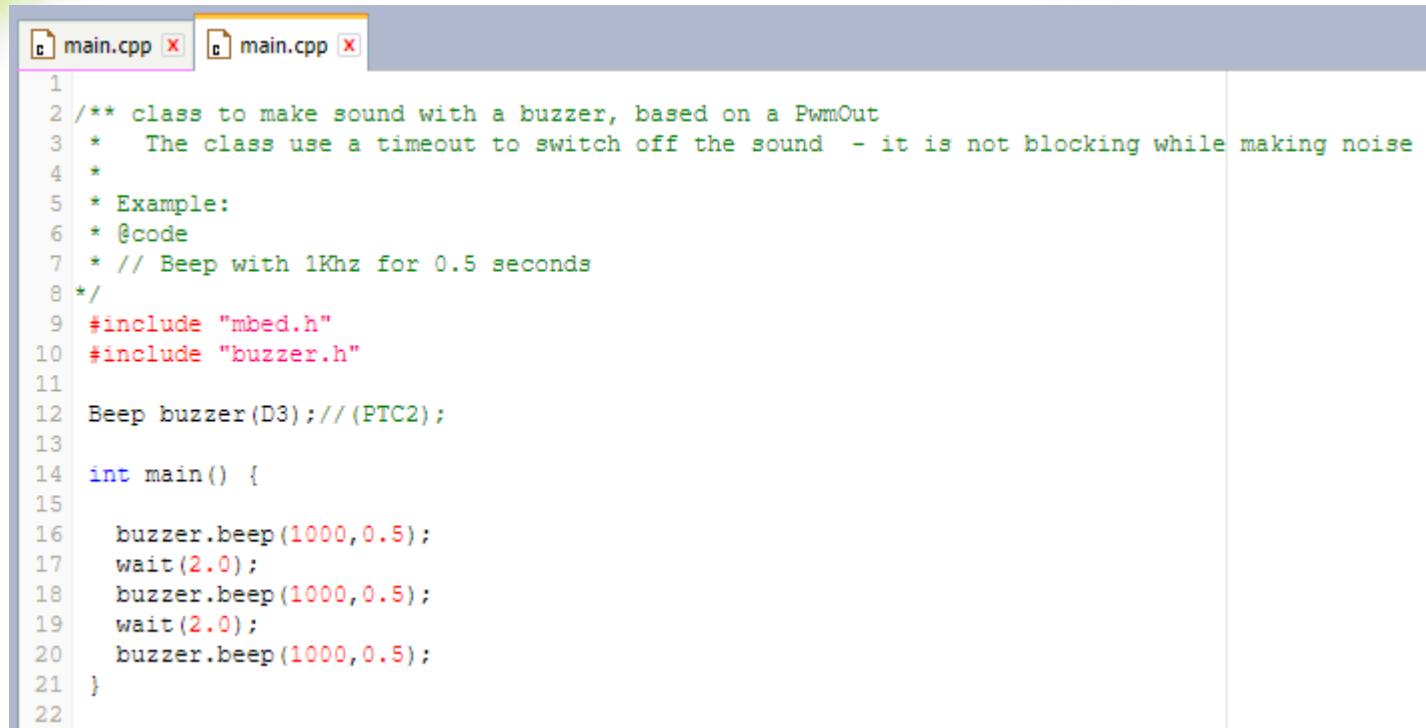
int main() {
    AnalogIn led(A0);

    while(1) {
        printf(" \n Soil moisture humidity: %f \n", led.read());
        wait(5.0);
    }
}
```

The code in both windows is identical, demonstrating a simple application that reads the analog input from pin A0 (connected to a photodiode) and prints the value to the serial port every second.

- <https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-optici/5116-modul-cu-fotodioda.html>

Buzzer



```
1  /** class to make sound with a buzzer, based on a PwmOut
2   *   The class use a timeout to switch off the sound - it is not blocking while making noise
3   *
4   * Example:
5   * @code
6   * // Beep with 1Khz for 0.5 seconds
7   */
8
9  #include "mbed.h"
10 #include "buzzer.h"
11
12 Beep buzzer(D3); // (PTC2);
13
14 int main() {
15
16     buzzer.beep(1000,0.5);
17     wait(2.0);
18     buzzer.beep(1000,0.5);
19     wait(2.0);
20     buzzer.beep(1000,0.5);
21 }
22
```

- https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/audio-buzzere/635-buzzer-activ-de-3-v.html?search_query=buzzer&results=48

Soil_Moisture

The image shows two side-by-side workspaces in Mbed Studio. Both workspaces have the same project structure:

- Active program: 2025-soil-moisture
- Target: NUCLEO-F401RE (S/N: 066AFF5...7153055)
- Build profile: Debug

Left Workspace (2025-soil-moisture):

```
#include "mbed.h"
Serial pc(USBTX, USBRX);
int main() {
    AnalogIn led(A0);

    while(1) {
        printf("\n Soil moisture humidity: %f ", led.read());
        wait(1.0);
    }
}
```

Right Workspace (2025-Photodiode):

```
#include "mbed.h"
void wait(float seconds)
{
    wait_us(floor(seconds*100000));
}

int main() {
    AnalogIn led(A0);

    while(1) {
        printf("\n Soil moisture humidity: %f ", led.read());
        wait(5.0);
    }
}
```

Both workspaces show the same output in the terminal window:

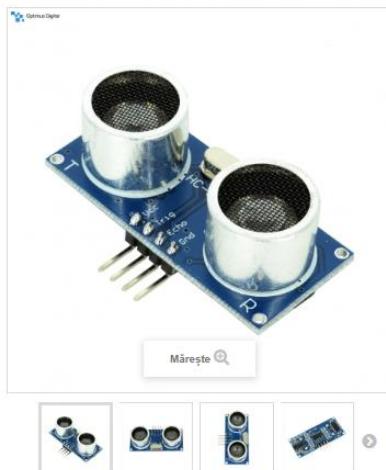
```
>_ NUCLEO-F401RE x Baud rate 9600
Soil moisture humidity: 0.175824
Soil moisture humidity: 0.173626
Soil moisture humidity: 0.172650
```

Below the terminal, the file structure is shown again:

- tests
- .mbed
- CMakeLists.txt
- CONTRIBUTING.md
- LICENSE
- main.cpp
- mbed_app.json
- README.md
- 2025-TrafficLights-CarPedestrian
- led15
- mbed-os
- mbed-os-example-blinky

- https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-de-umiditate/73-senzor-de-umiditate-a-solului.html?search_query=senzor+de+umiditate+a+solului&results=2

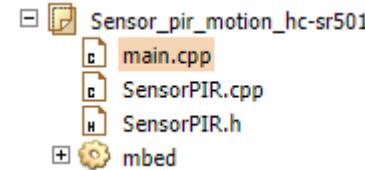
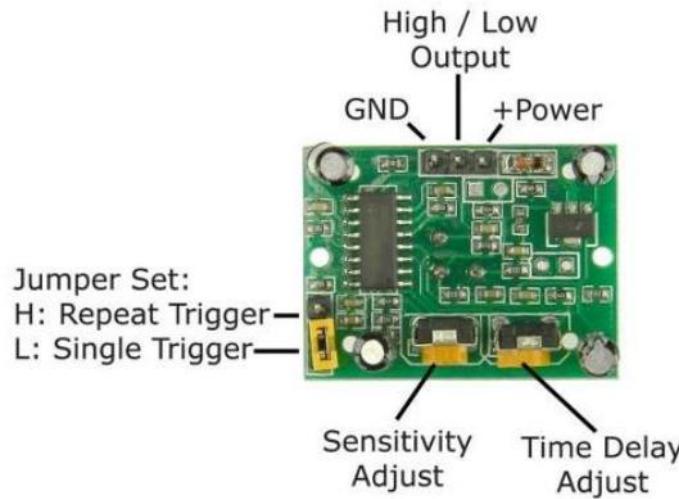
Distance Sensor - Pir-hc-sr501



```
main.cpp // Here is a sample code usage
#include "hcsr04.h"
HCSR04 usensor(D15,D14);
//VCC to 5V
Serial pc(USBTX, USBRX);
int main()
{
    unsigned char count=0;
    while(1) {
        usensor.start();
        wait_ms(500);
        int dist=usensor.get_dist_cm();
        pc.printf(" cm:%d ",dist);
        count++;
    }
}
```

- https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-ultrasonici/9-senzor-ultrasonic-hc-sr04-.html?search_query=ultrasonic+hr+sr04&results=25

Motion Sensor - Pir-hc-sr501



A screenshot of a terminal window titled "COM5 - PuTTY". The window displays the text "Presence detected" repeated multiple times, indicating continuous motion detection. At the bottom of the terminal window, there is a small green icon.

```
1 #include "mbed.h"
2 #include "SensorPIR.h"
3
4 int main() {
5     while(1)
6     {
7         GetPersonStatus(1);
8     }
9 }
```

- https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-pir/106-modul-senzor-pir-hc-sr501.html?search_query=senzor+pir+hc+sr501&results=2

Temperature-Air



Modul Senzor de Temperatură DHT11 cu LED

Referință 010411000003680

Condiție: Produs nou

245 L

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 Imprimir

Three small blue components, likely sensors or actuators, each with two wires (one red, one black) attached. They are arranged horizontally within a white-bordered box.

```
1 // main.cpp x [c] main.cpp x [c] main.cpp x [c] main.cpp x [c] main.cpp x [SensorPIR.cpp x] [c] main.cpp x
2
3 #include "DHT11.h"
4
5
6 PinName myledD15(D15);
7 // Humidity sensor
8 DHT11 d(myledD15);
9
10 Serial pc(USBTK, USBRX);
11
12
13 int main() {
14     int state;
15
16     while(1) {
17
18
19         state = d.readData();
20
21
22         if (state != DHT11::OK) {
23
24             printf("\n Error: %d", state);
25         } else {
26
27             printf("\n T: %dC, H: %d%%", d.readTemperature(), d.readHumidity());
28         }
29
30         //pc.printf("\n T: %dC, H: %d%%", d.readTemperature(), d.readHumidity());
31
32
33         wait(2.0);
34
35 }
```

Speed: 9600

```
6 PinName myledD15(D15);
7 // Humidity sensor
8 DHT11 dmyledD15;
9
10 Serial pc(USBTX, USBRX);
11
12 int main() {
13     int state;
14
15     while(1) {
16
17         state = d.readData();
18
19         state == 43% ? T: 28C, H: 43% : T: 28C, H: 44%
20
21         if (state != DHT11::OK) T: 28C, H: 44% : T: 28C, H: 43%
22         printf("\n Error: %d", state); T: 28C, H: 44% : T: 28C, H: 45%
23         } else { T: 28C, H: 56% : T: 28C, H: 65%
24             printf("\n T: %dC", state); T: 28C, H: 72% : T: 28C, H: 77%
25             //pc.printf("\n T: %dC", state); T: 29C, H: 82% : T: 29C, H: 86%
26
27             wait(2.0);
28
29 }
30
31 //pc.printf("\n T: %dC", state); T: 29C, H: 82% : T: 29C, H: 86%
32
33
34 }
```

- https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-de-temperatura/4762-modul-senzor-de-temperatura-dht11-cu-led.html?search_query=dht11&results=19

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