

# Computational models for embedded systems

## Assignment 3: **Embedded Hardware Building Blocks.**

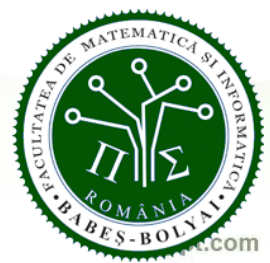
### **Embedded Board**

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Babeş-Bolyai University

Cluj-Napoca

2025-2026

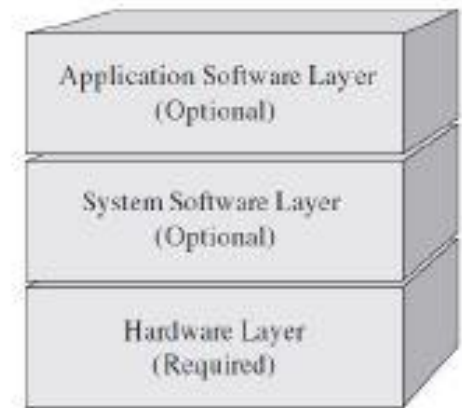


# Outline

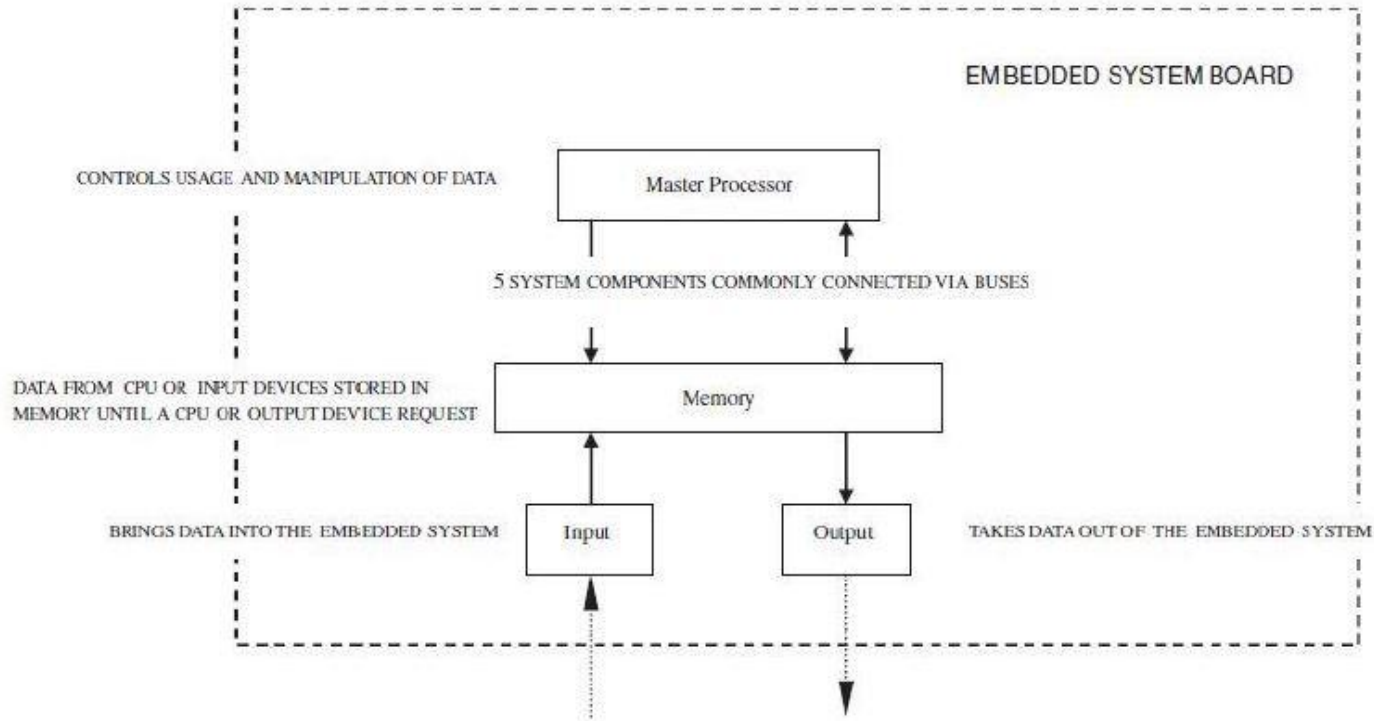
- Embedded Hardware Building Blocks and the Embedded Board
  - CPUs vs. MCUs vs. Embedded Systems
  - Electric Circuits
  - Basic Hardware Materials
- 
- Nucleo STM32F401 – board
  - Nucleo projects

# 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 copper – 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]

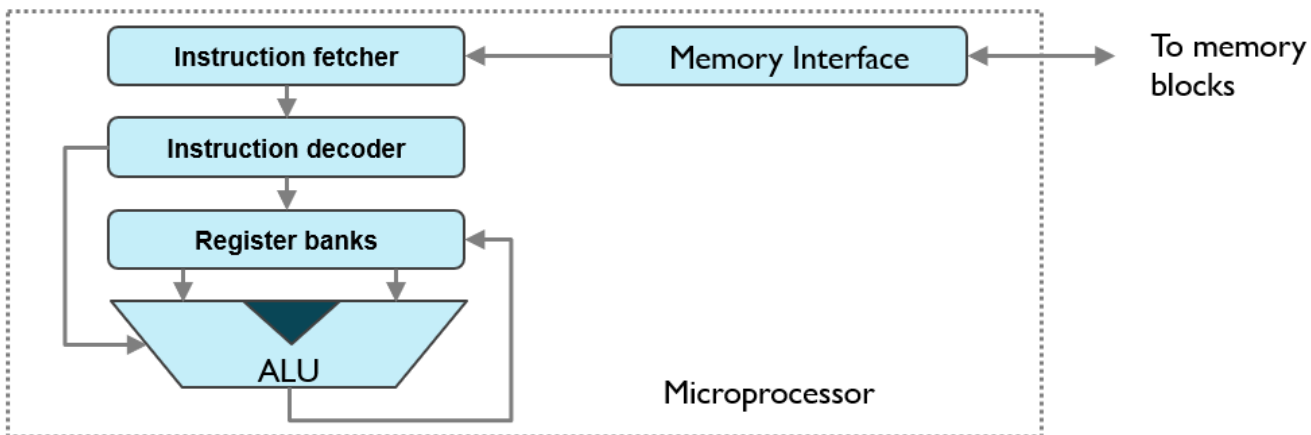
# Embedded Microcomputer System

- 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.



# CPU vs. MCU vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RESO]

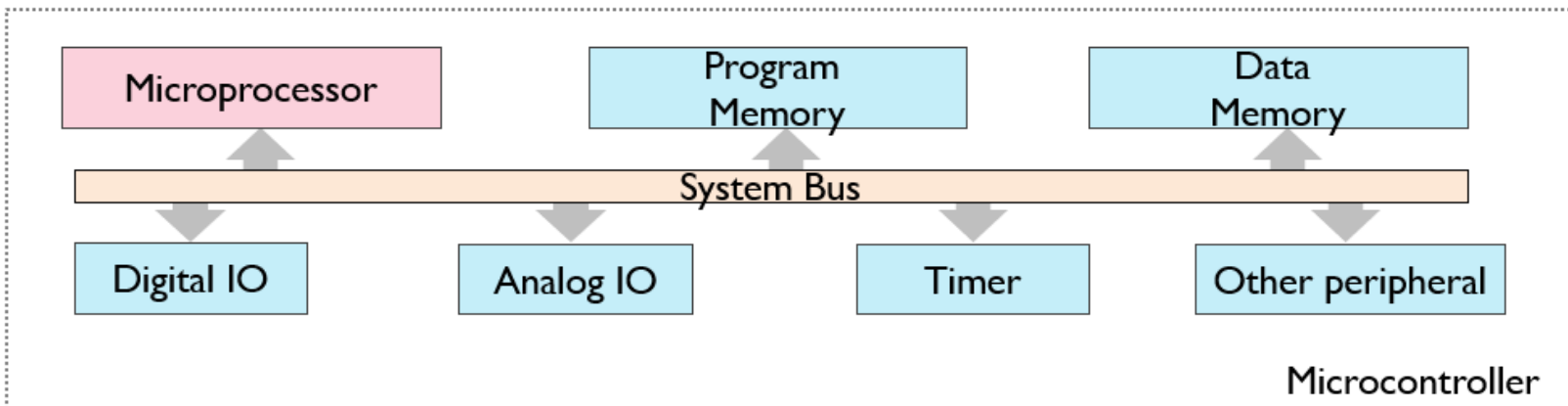
- Microprocessor (CPU)
  - Defined typically as a single processor core that supports at least instruction fetching, decoding, and executing
  - Normally can be used for general purpose computing, but needs to be supported with memories and Input/Outputs(I/Os)



**ARM**

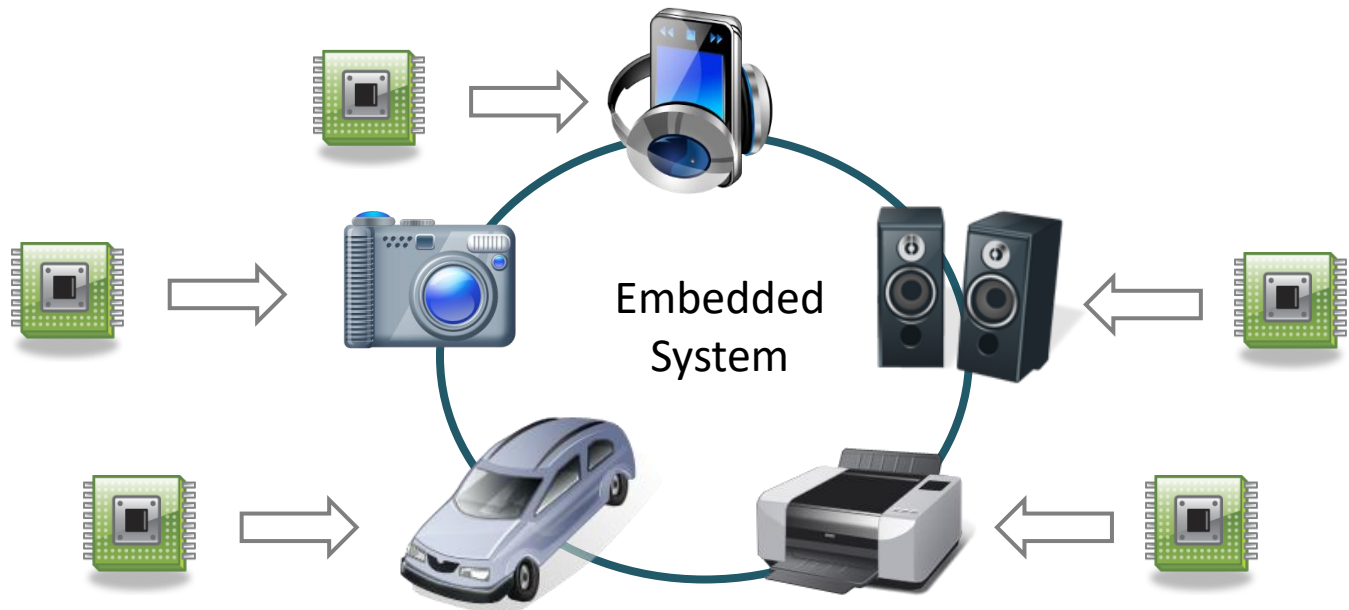
# CPU vs. MCU vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RESO]

- 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



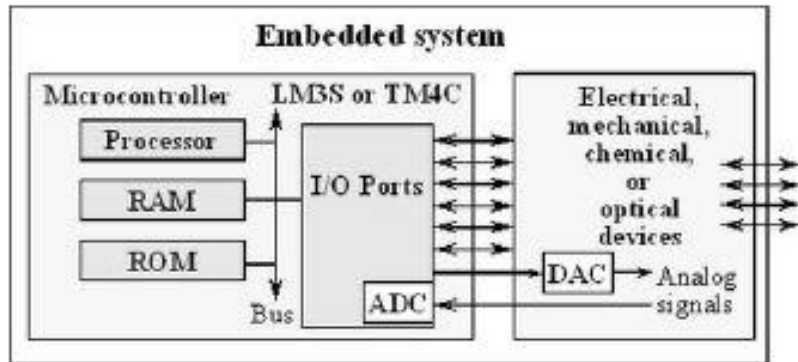
# CPU vs. MCU vs. Embedded Systems [ARM-RES-D]

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

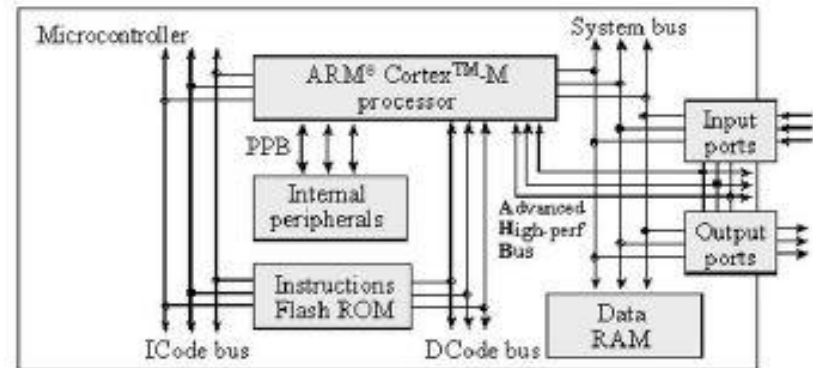




# Non Neumann vs. Harvard Architecture



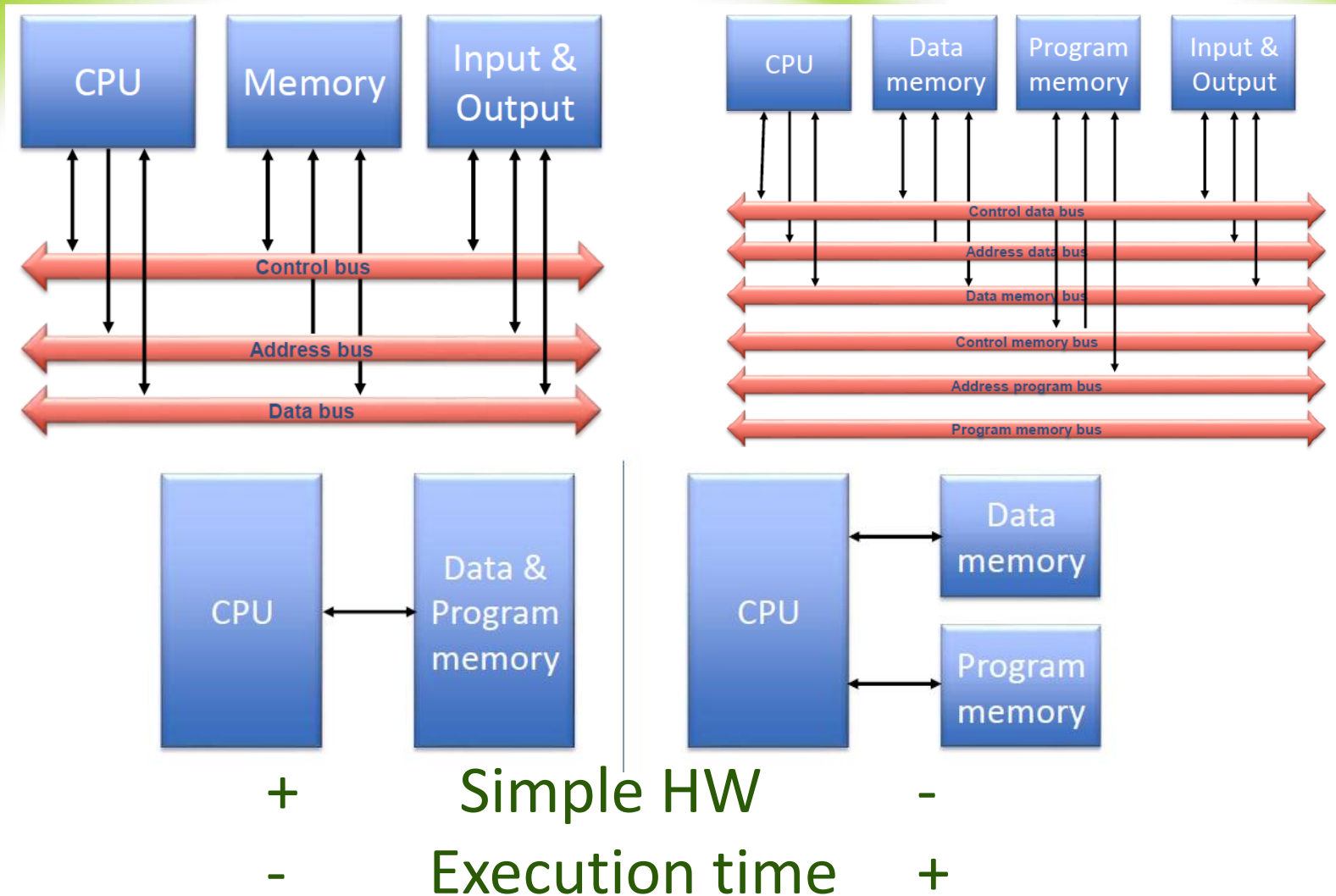
VON NEUMANN  
ARCHITECTURE



HARVARD  
ARCHITECTURE

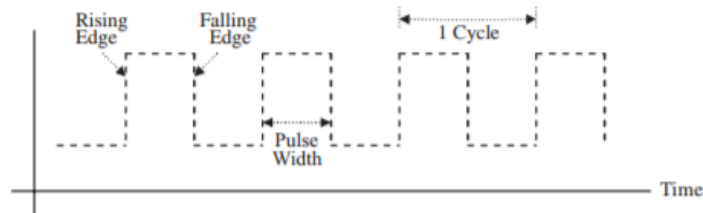
- Harvard architecture – has separate data and instruction buses.
  - Instructions are fetched from flash ROM using ICode bus.
  - Data are exchanged with memory and I/O via the System bus interface.

# 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.



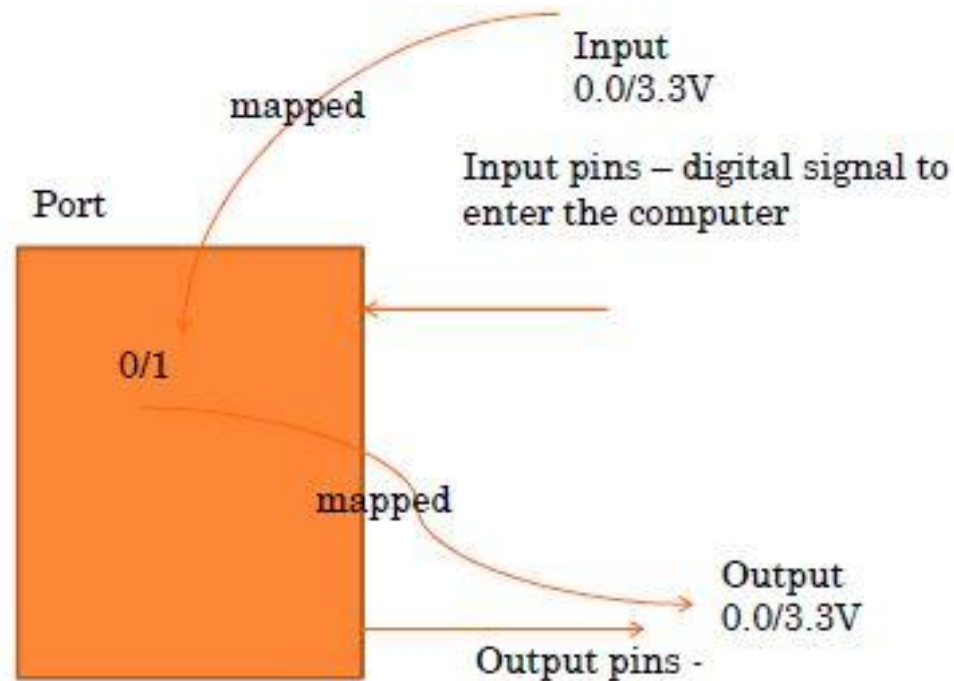
- The CU, along with several other components on an embedded board, depends on this master clock to function.
- Components are driven by either the actual level of the signal (a "0" or a "1"), the rising edge of a signal (the transition from "0" to "1"), and/or the falling edge of the signal (the transition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

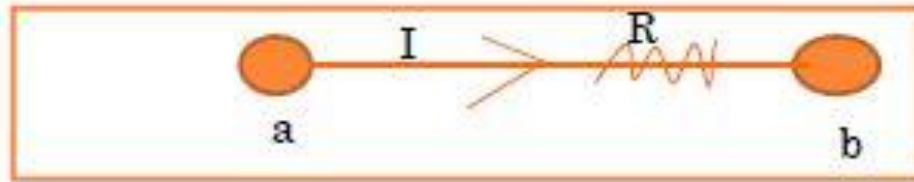
- Parallel
  - How it works?
  - Parallel = binary data are available simultaneously on a group of line.



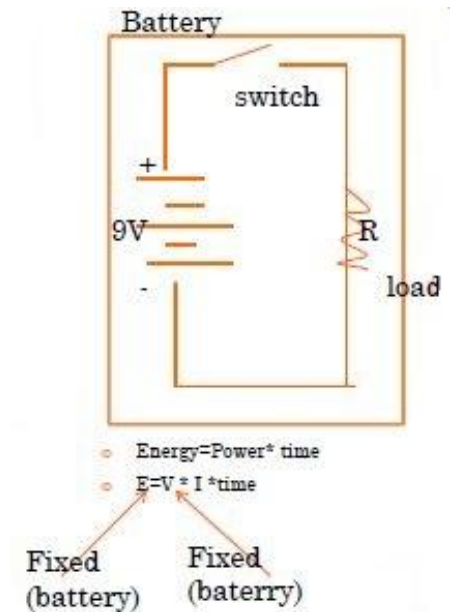


# Electric Circuits

- 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)

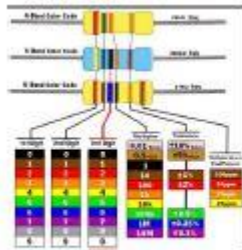
# Basic Hardware Materials

- 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.



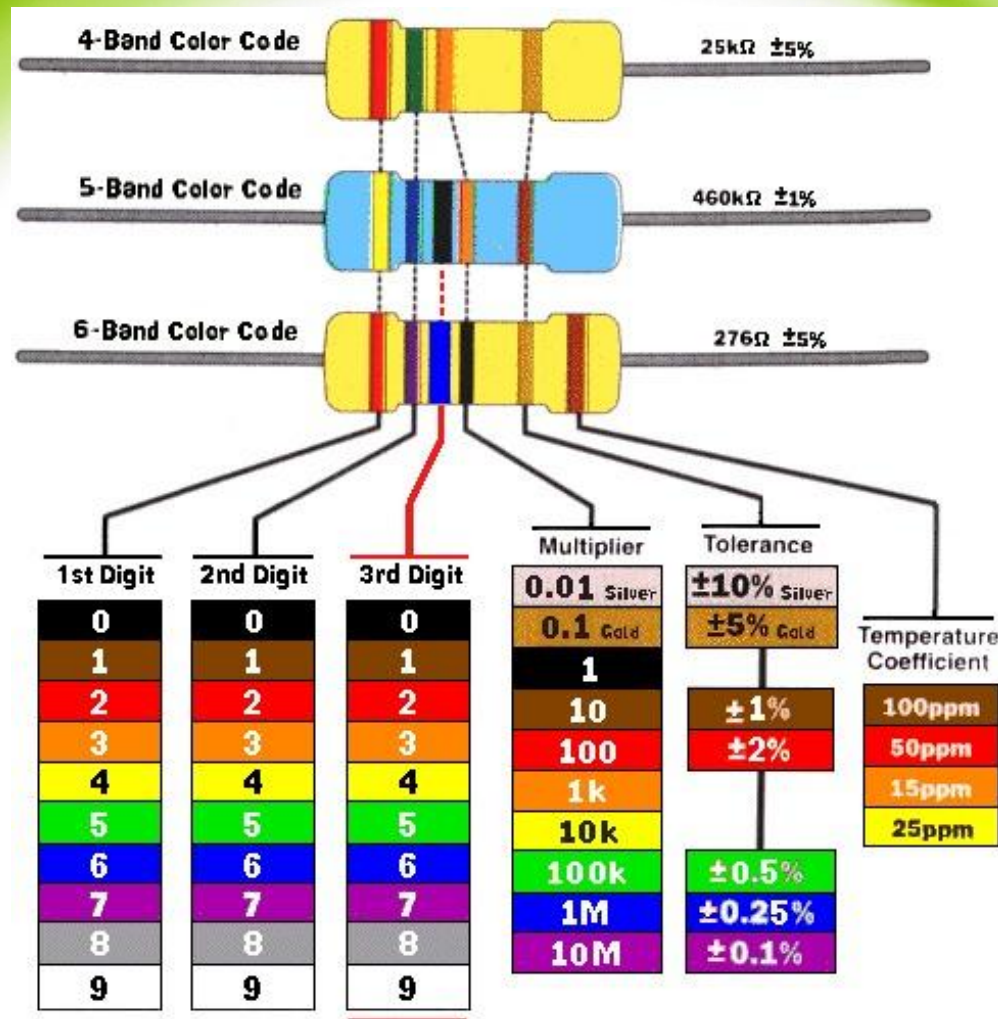
# Passive Components on Boards (and in Chips)

- **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/>



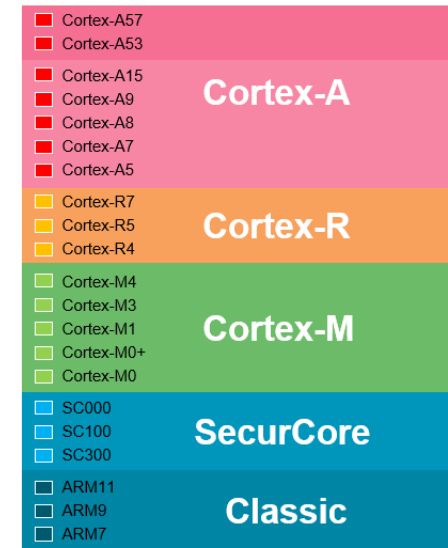
# What is ARM Architecture [ARM-RESO]

- 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-RES-D]

- 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



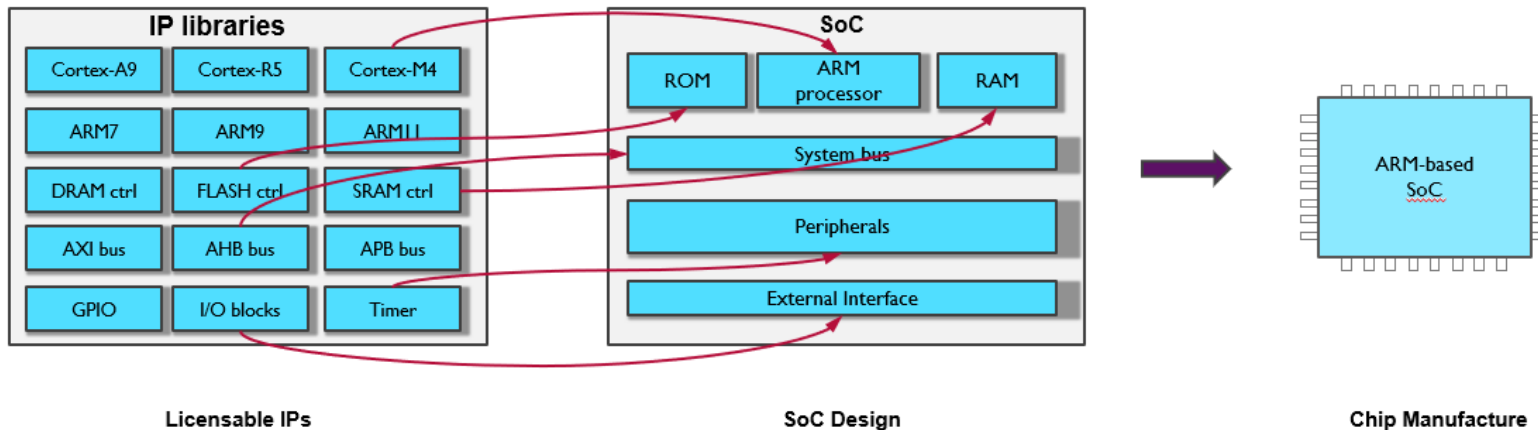
**Cortex**  
Low-Power Leadership from ARM

As of Dec 2013

**ARM**

# Design an ARM-based SoC [ARM-RESO]

- 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

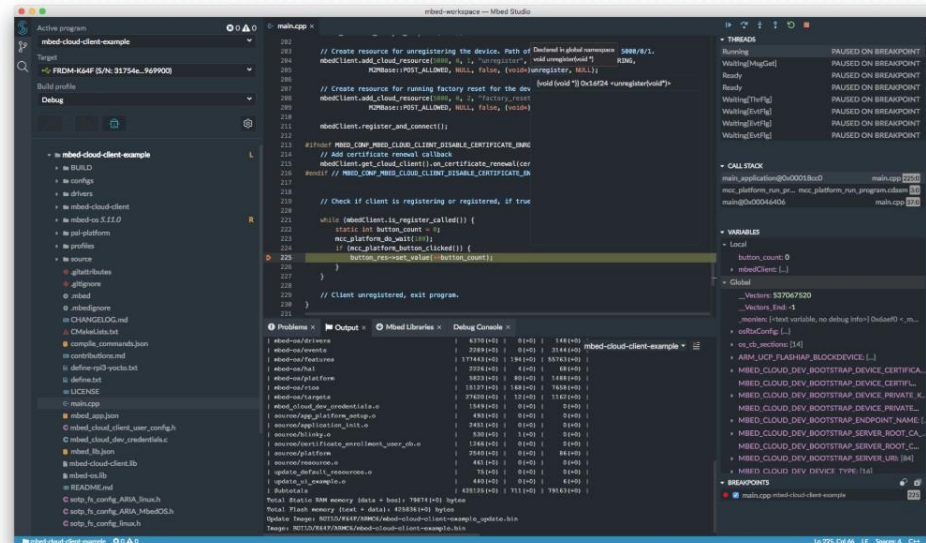
Mbed Studio is a free IDE for Mbed OS application and library development, including all the dependencies and tools you need in a single package so that you can create, compile and debug your Mbed programs on the desktop.

Download for Windows

Download for Mac

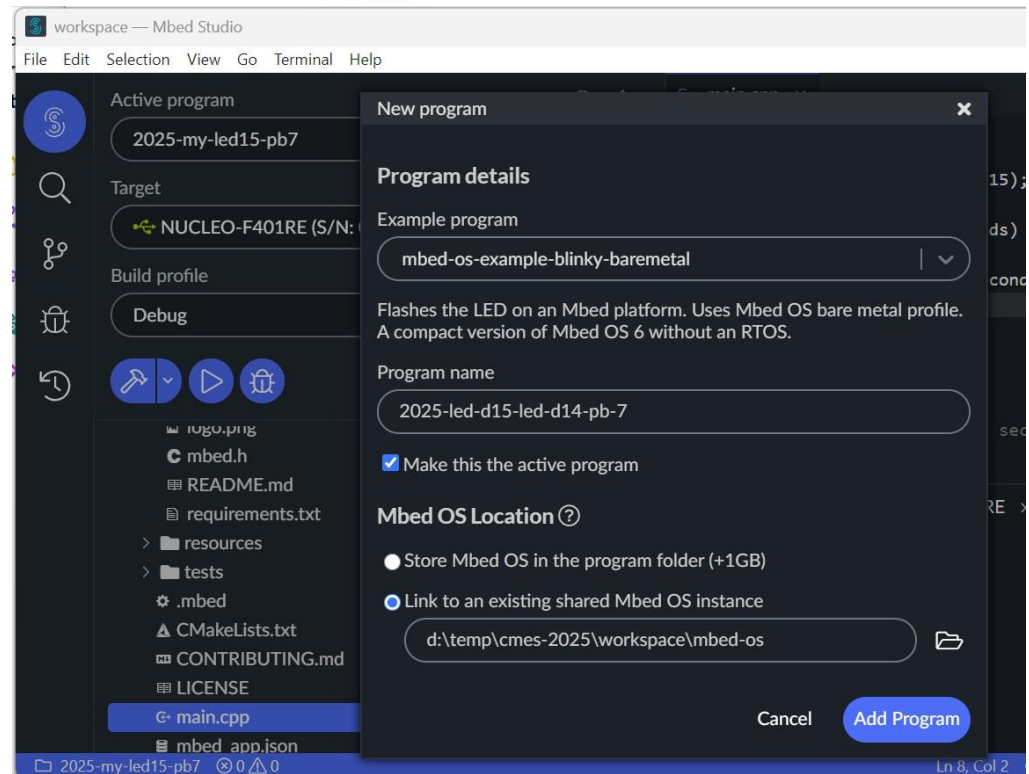
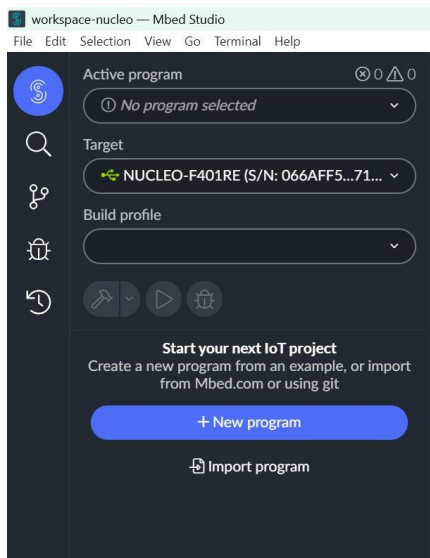
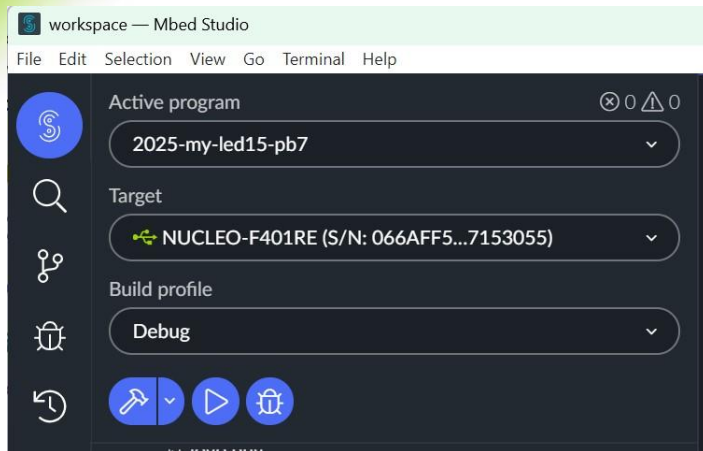
Download for Linux

[Documentation >](#)



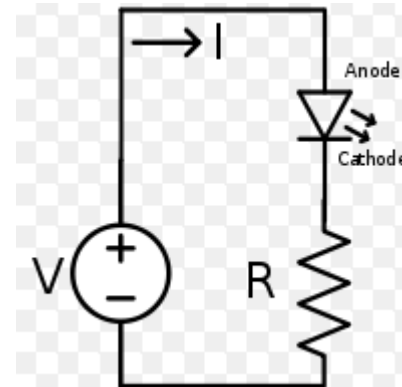
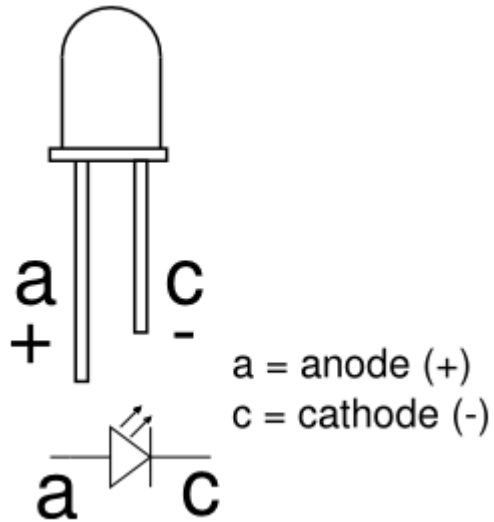
# Installation instructions

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



# LED

- LED – light emitting diode
- <https://www.evilmadscientist.com/2012/resistors-for-leds/>





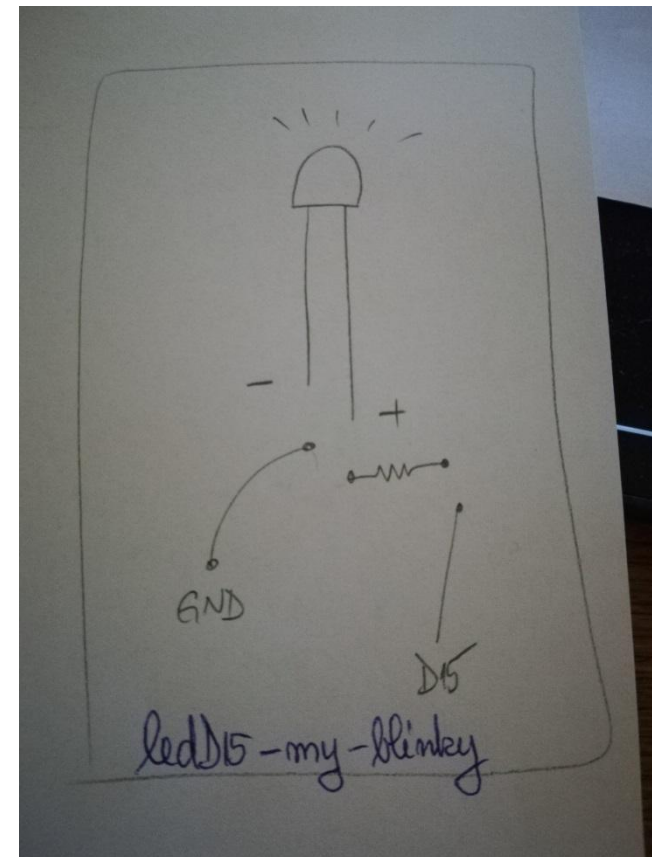
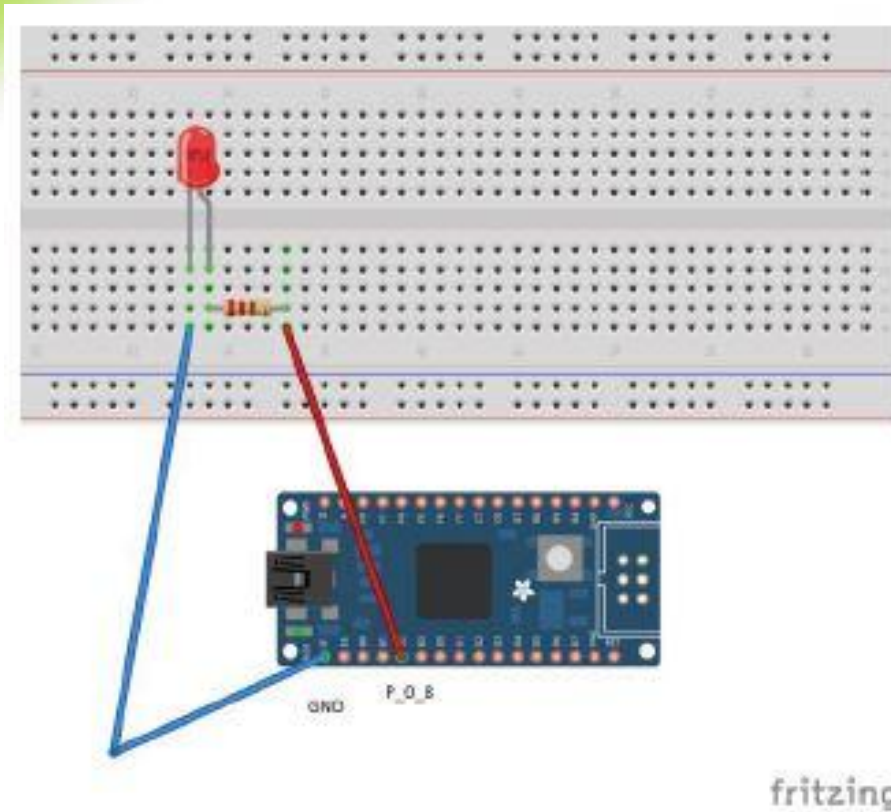
# NUCLEO-F401RE projects

## 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/>

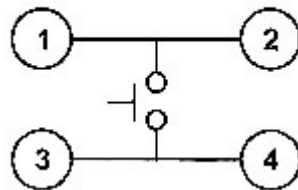




# Push button



Diagrama circuitului

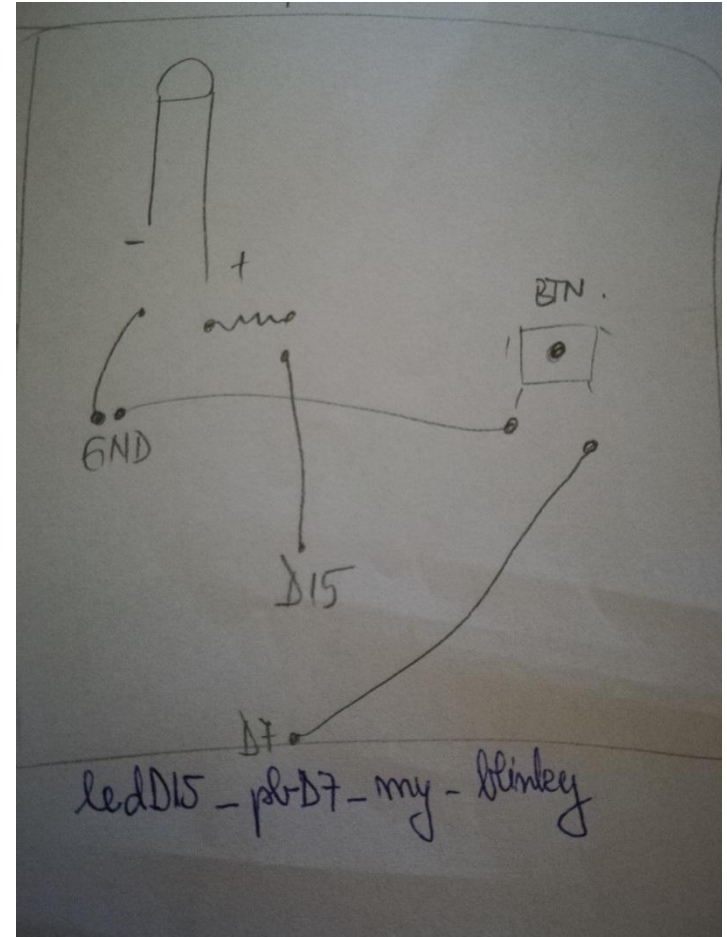
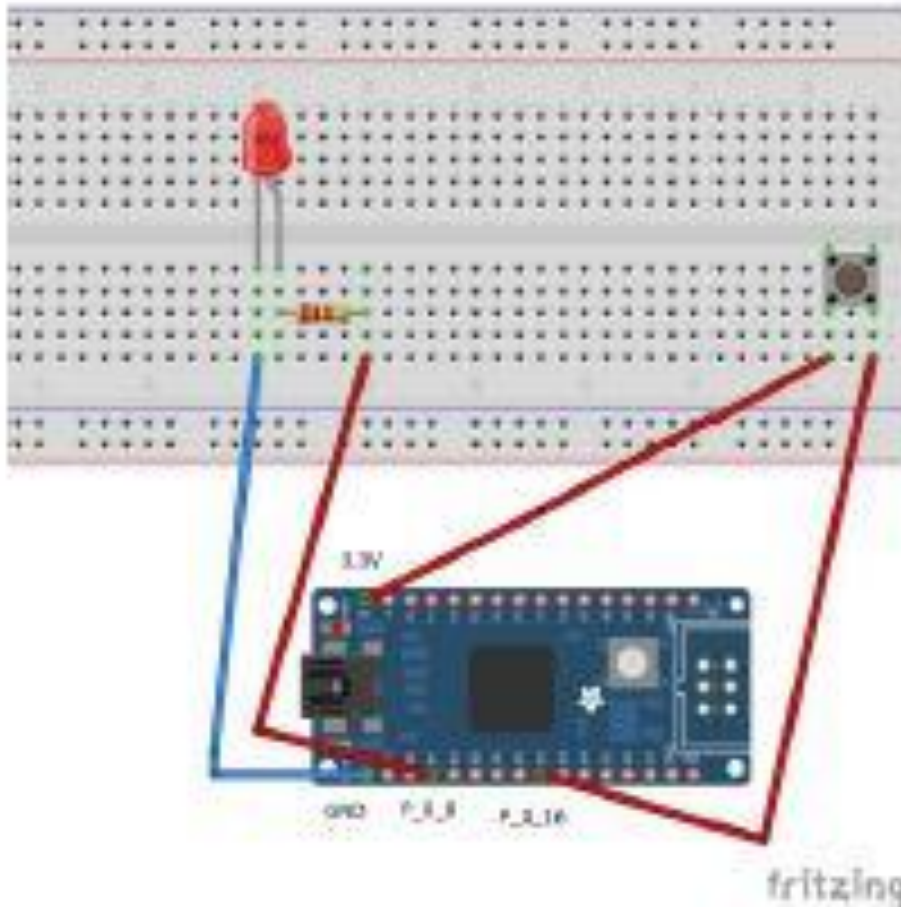


- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_ledD14\_pbD7\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_pbD7\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re

# NUCLEO-F401RE projects

## my\_blinky\_ledD15\_pbD7

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

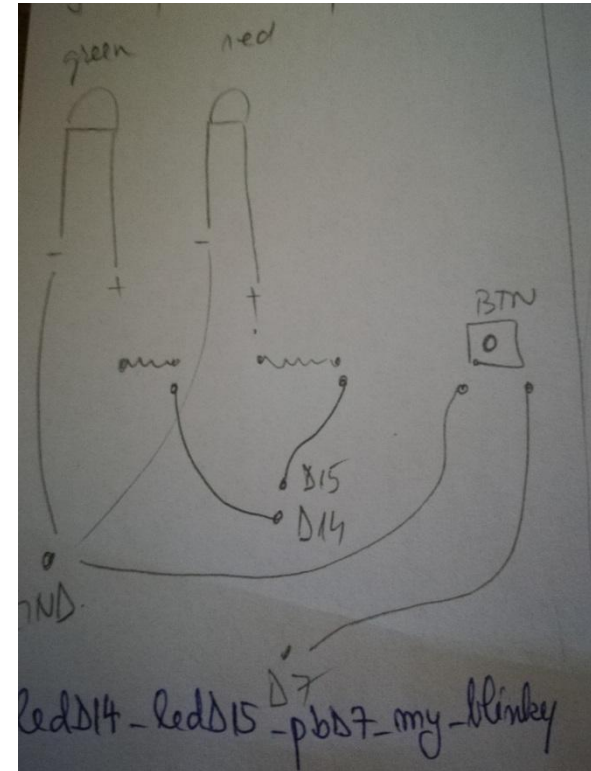
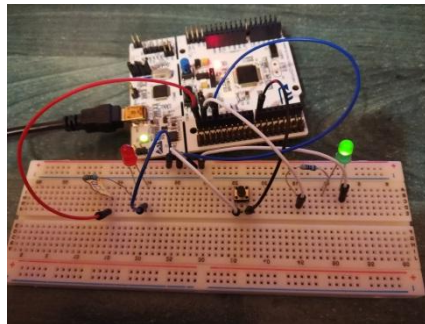
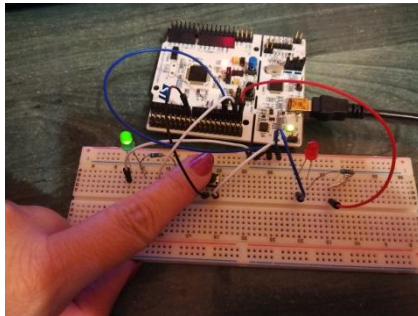
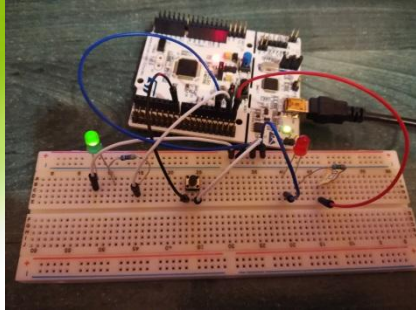


# NUCLEO-F401RE =

my\_blinky\_ledD15\_ledD14\_pbD7

- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_ledD14\_pbD7\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_pbD7\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
- my\_blinky\_ledD15\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re

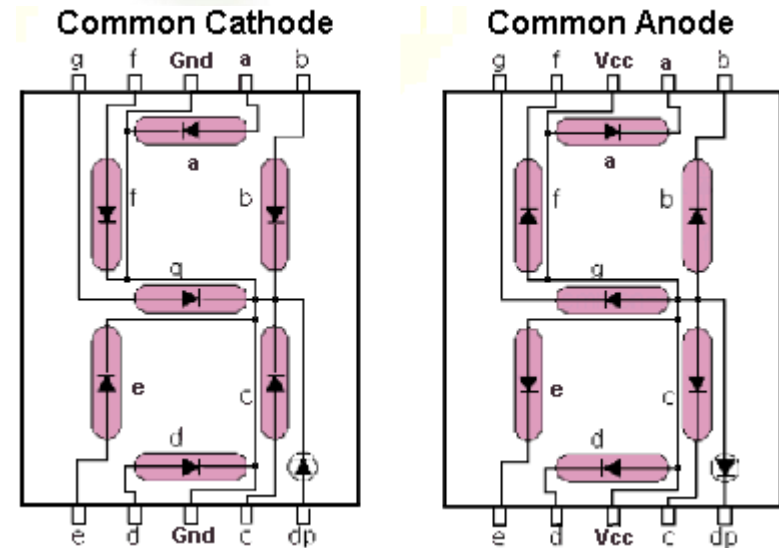
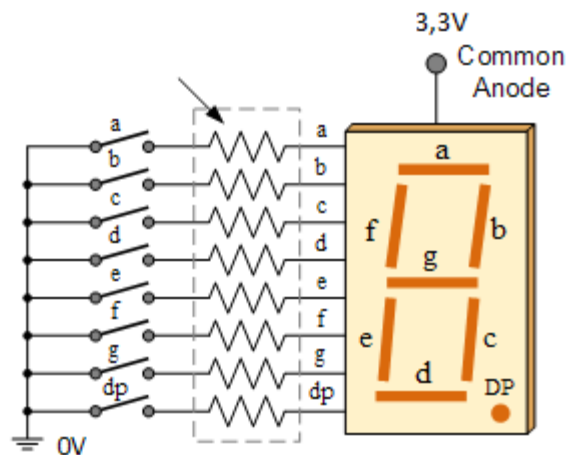
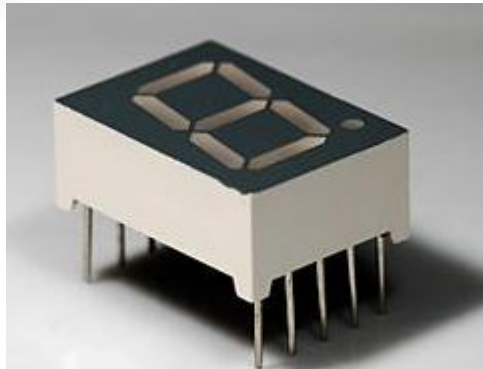
<https://os.mbed.com/studio/>





# NUCLEO-F401RE projects








## 7 segments



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

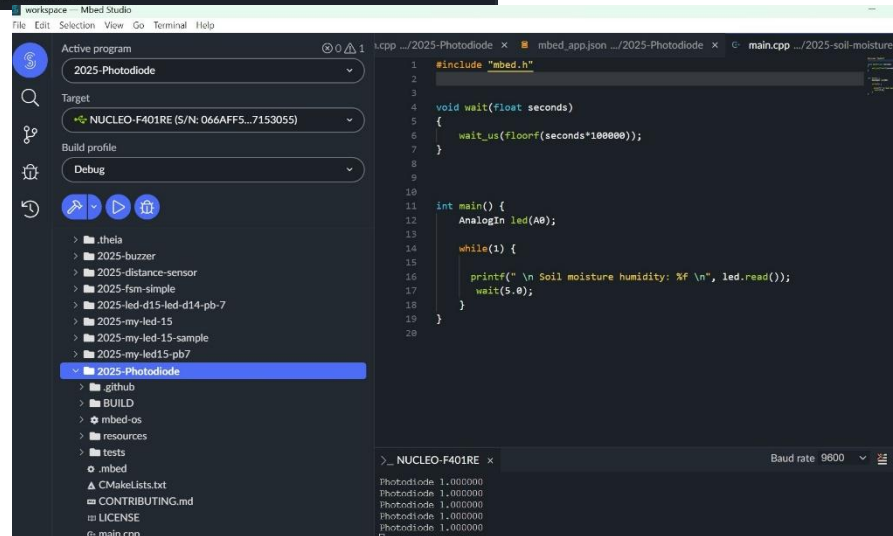
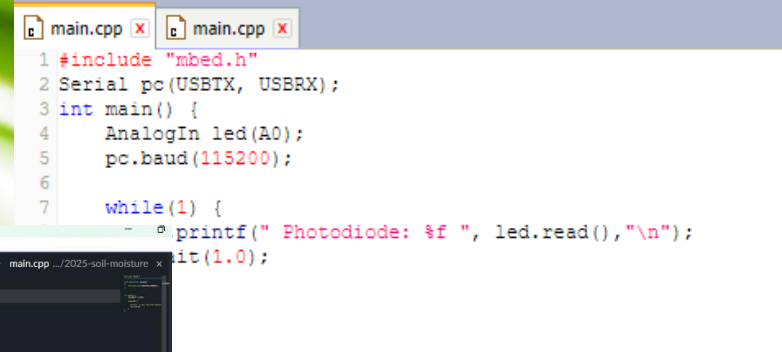
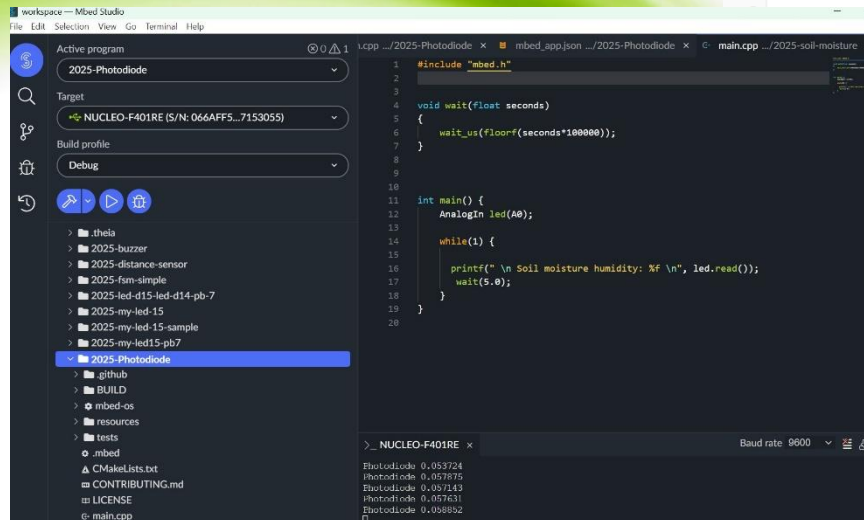
# NUCLEO-F401RE

## Sensors

-  Sensor\_Photodiode\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_Buzzer\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_LCD\_Text\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_Soil\_Moisture\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_Distance\_HCSR04\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_pir\_motion\_hc-sr501\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
  -  Sensor\_Temperature\_Humidity\_Air\_uvision5\_nucleo\_f401re
- } ?



# Photodiode



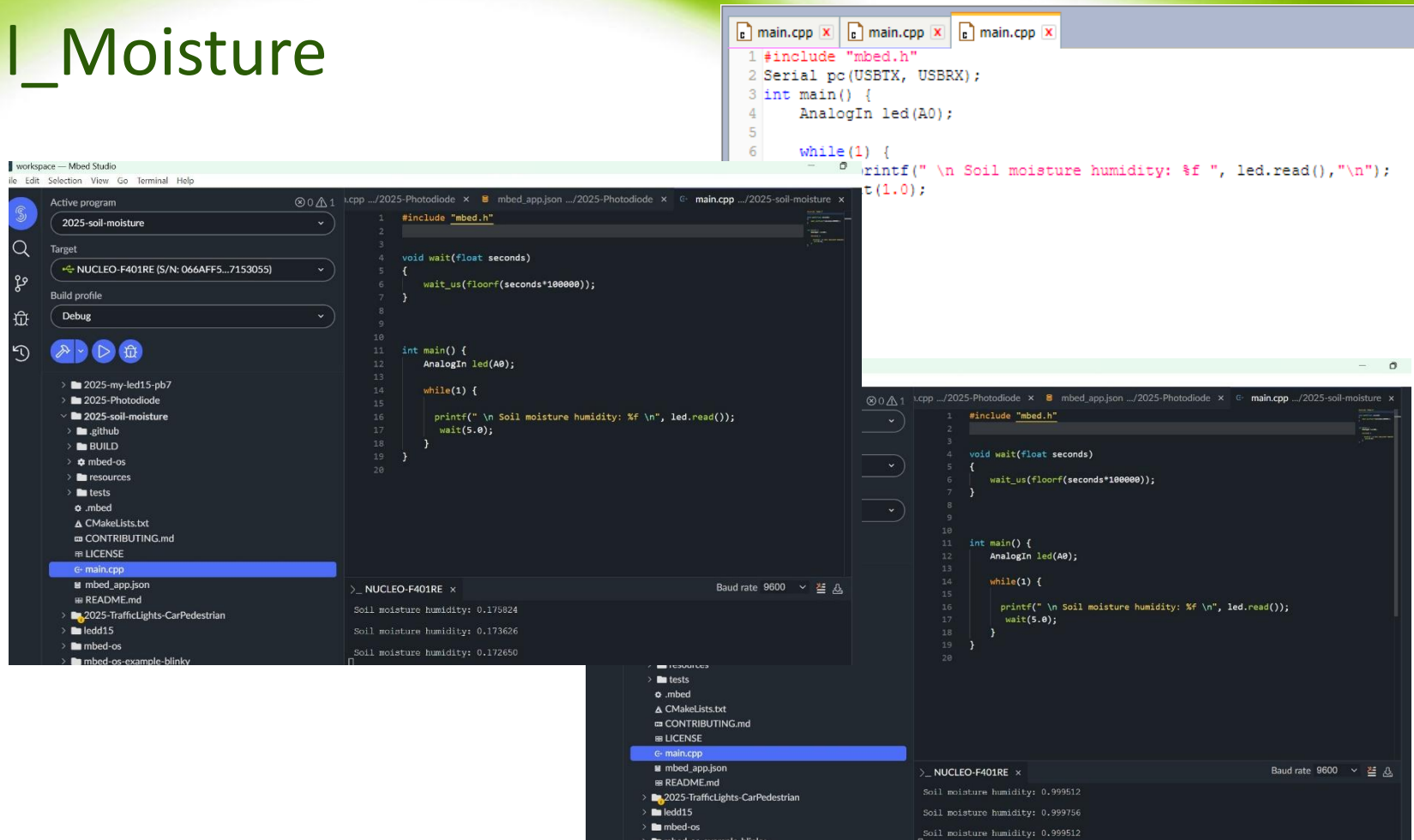
- <https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-optici/5116-modul-cu-fotodioda.html>

# Buzzer

```
main.cpp x main.cpp x
1
2 /** class to make sound with a buzzer, based on a PwmOut
3  *   The class use a timeout to switch off the sound - it is not blocking while making noise
4  *
5  * Example:
6  * @code
7  * // Beep with 1Khz for 0.5 seconds
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
```

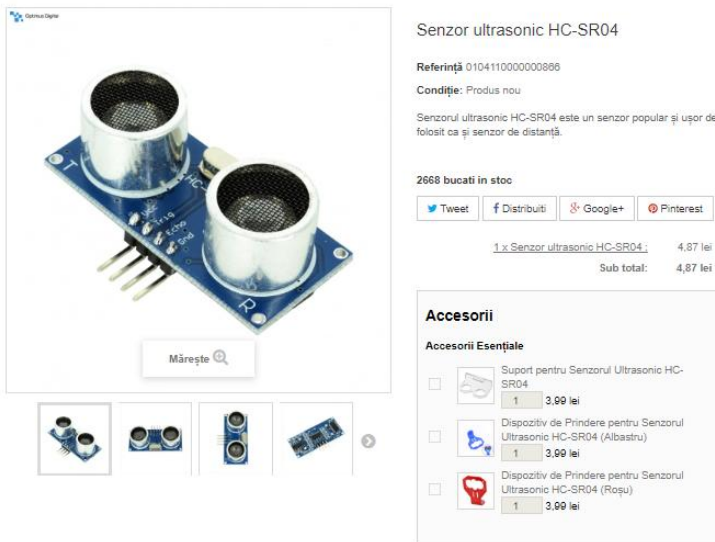
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# Soil\_Moisture



- [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](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)

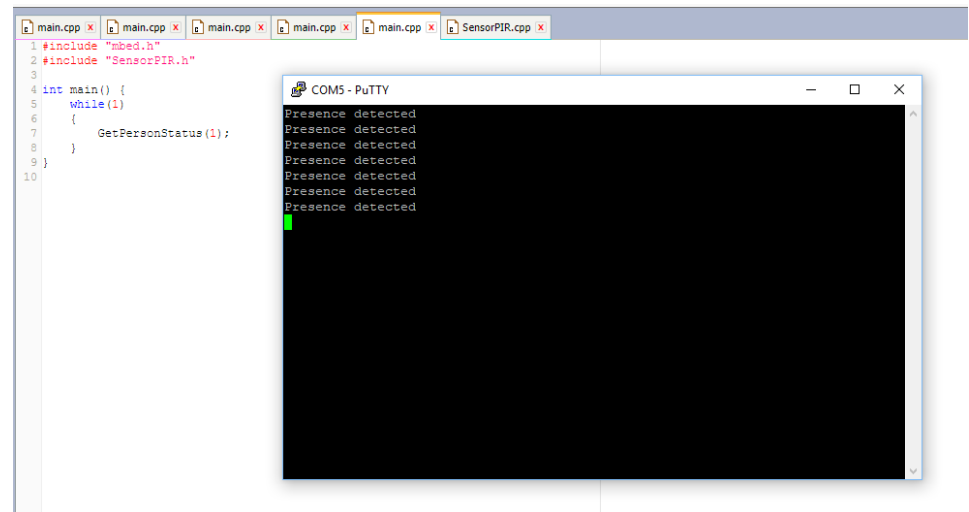
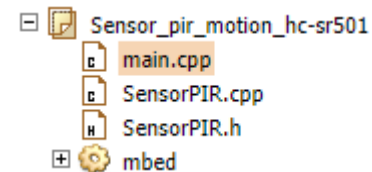
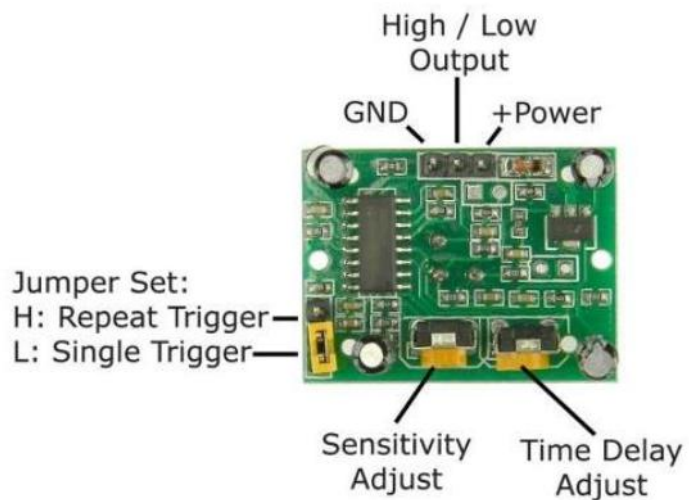
# Distance Sensor - Pir-hc-sr501



```
main.cpp x main.cpp x main.cpp x main.cpp x main.cpp x SensorPIR.cpp x
1 //*****
2 // Here is a sample code usage
3 //*****
4 #include "hcsr04.h"
5 //trigger, echo
6 HCSR04 usensor(D15,D14);
7 //VCC to 5V
8
9 Serial pc(USBTX, USBRX);
10 int main()
11 {
12     unsigned char count=0;
13     while(1) {
14         usensor.start();
15         wait_ms(500);
16         int dist=usensor.get_dist_cm();
17         pc.printf(" cm:%d ",dist);
18         count++;
19     }
20 }
```

- [https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-ultrasonici/9-senzor-ultrasonic-hc-sr04-.html?search\\_query=ultrasonic+hr+sr04&results=25](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



- [https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-pir/106-modul-senzor-pir-hc-sr501.html?search\\_query=senzor+pir+hc+sr501&results=2](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 010411000003803

Condiție: Produs nou

Modul Senzor de Temperatură DHT11 cu LED

315 bucati in stoc



Scrie o recenzie



Imprimă

Mărește

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

Speed: 9600

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

```
COM5 - PuTTY
T: 29C, H: 43%
T: 29C, H: 44%
T: 29C, H: 44%
T: 29C, H: 44%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 43%
T: 28C, H: 44%
T: 28C, H: 44%
T: 28C, H: 45%
T: 28C, H: 56%
T: 28C, H: 65%
T: 28C, H: 72%
T: 28C, H: 77%
T: 29C, H: 82%
T: 29C, H: 86%
```

- [https://www.optimusdigital.ro/ro/senzori-senzori-de-temperatura/4762-modul-senzor-de-temperatura-dht11-cu-led.html?search\\_query=dht11&results=19](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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