

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Christopher Peters
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DATE: 21 Oct 2021
SUBJECT: ECE-303 Lab 3: Serial Communication

Summary

In this experiment, the same circuit schematic is used as in the previous one. The duty cycle is being incremented from 1% to 100% in 1% increments. For each iteration, points are taken and plotted on the graph to visualize the system behavior.

Introduction

In this experiment, the LED and photocell circuits from previous lab are kept intact. Unlike the previous experiment, the PWM approach can be replaced with `analogWrite()`. The goal of this lab is to implement automatic measuring and data acquisition, and to establish communication from the Arduino to MATLAB through the serial port. Either MATLAB or Python can be used for writing code. MATLAB was used in this instance and, as per lab protocol, the code was written without using the Arduino toolkit. Note that if Python was used instead of MATLAB, neither of the Arduino-focused toolkit/library/packages would have been permitted by the lab protocol as well.

Methods

Experimental apparatus used in this lab:

- Breadboard.
- Arduino MEGA 2560 connected as follows:
 - To laptop via USB cable.
 - To outlet via power cable.
- One 1k Ω resistor.
- One 10k Ω resistor.
- One photocell.
- Four jump wires.

The LED used in this experiment is a red LED in series with a 1k Ω resistor (either one can be connected to ground). On a different circuit, the photocell will be connected to the 5V pin, and in series with a 10k Ω resistor (resistor to ground).

The circuit used for the lab is shown in Figure 1.

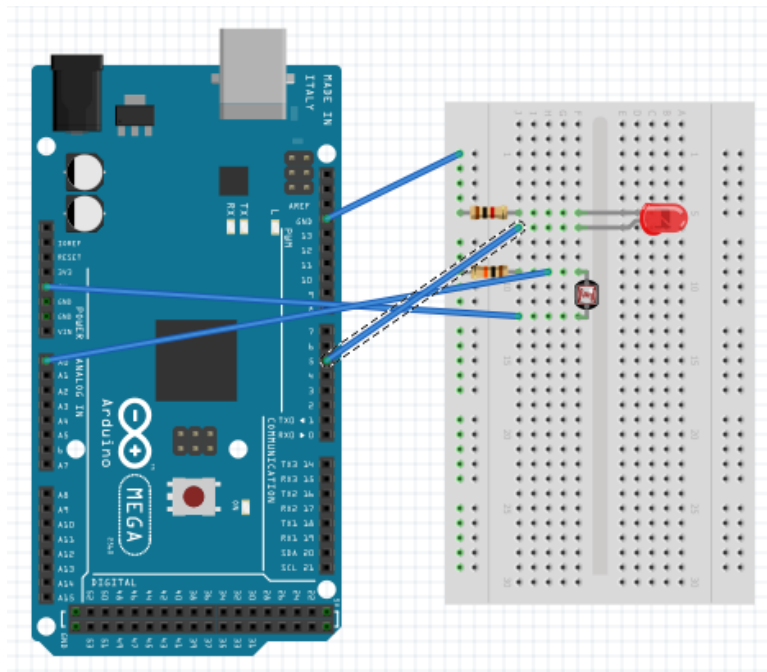


Figure 1. Circuit setup

Note that the LED should be placed near the photocell head, and photocell wiring needs to be bent such that the photocell head is in direct line with the LED. This minimizes energy losses, resulting in a more accurate measurement. In addition, the measurements should be performed in a dark environment so that external light sources do not interfere.

Results

The physical circuit used for the experiment, built according to Figure 1, is displayed in Figure 2.

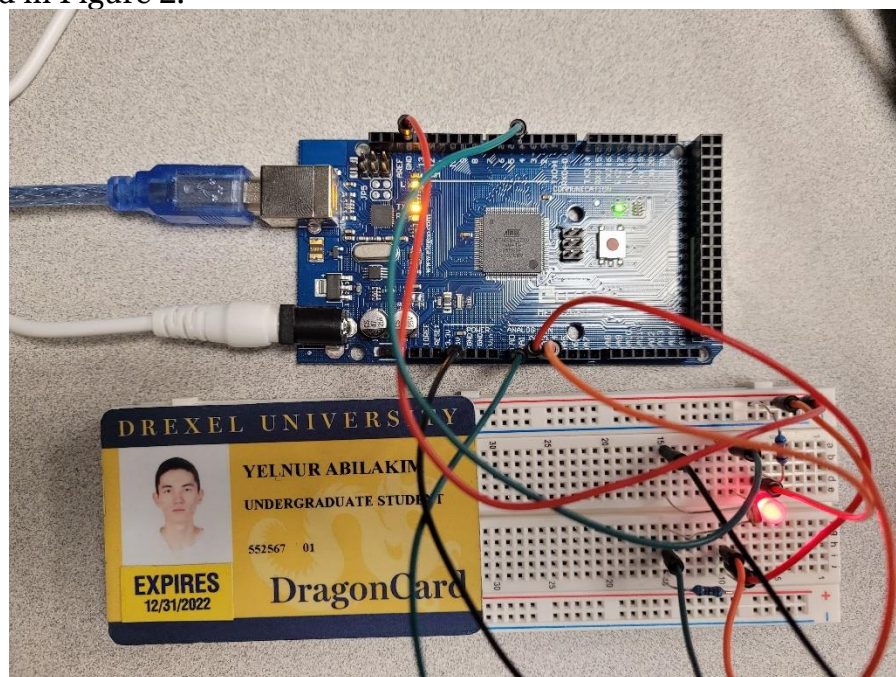


Figure 2. Physical circuit

Due to a big number of outputs, only some parts of the outputs are displayed below. Figures 3-5 demonstrate Serial Monitor outputs through the MATLAB window at different ranges. In particular, Figure 3 shows part of the first half of the outputs, while Figures 4 and 5 indicate most of the second half of outputs. In addition, Figure 3 also includes the MATLAB code along with the resulting graph.

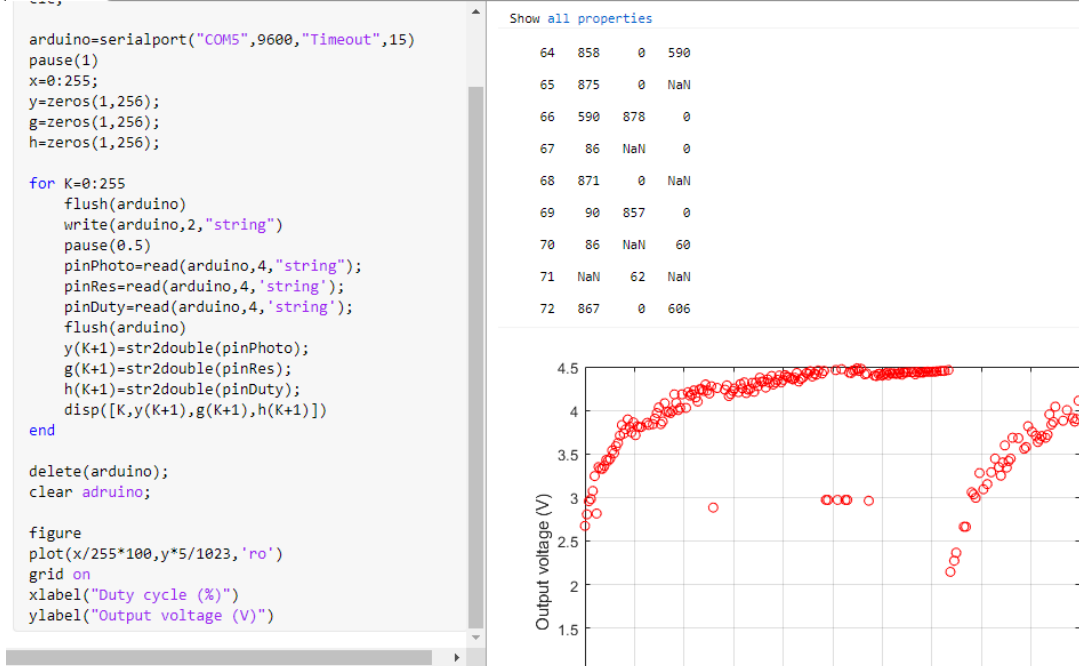


Figure 3. Outputs (part 1), MATLAB code, and graph

124	608	91	NaN
125	608	90	NaN
126	60	NaN	8
127	NaN	14	NaN
128	91	NaN	0
129	913	0	NaN
130	608	912	0
131	8	916	0
132	915	0	NaN
133	NaN	8	907
134	608	913	0
135	608	91	NaN
136	907	0	609
137	906	0	609
138	912	0	609
139	912	0	609

Figure 4. Outputs (part 2)

183	911	0	607
184	911	0	607
185	911	0	607
186	91	NaN	61
187	913	0	612
188	439	0	NaN
189	0	441	0
190	465	0	0
191	484	0	NaN
192	NaN	51	NaN
193	0	540	0
194	54	NaN	0
195	545	0	0
196	545	0	NaN
197	0	570	0
198	0	583	0

Figure 5. Outputs (part 3)

The Arduino code used for this experiment is appended at the end.

Conclusions/Recommendations

The experiment was successful. Automatic measuring and data acquisition were implemented, and communication from the Arduino to MATLAB through the serial port was established, thus achieving the goal of the lab. Taking advantage of `analogWrite()` function significantly reduces the complexity of the Arduino code, making the script shorter and easier to write. The Serial Monitor has displayed all required values as expected.

Appendices

Arduino code is shown in Figure 6.

```
const int pinLED = 5; // timer 3
const int pinPhoto = A0; // photocell at analog pin 0
const int pinRes = A1;
const int pinDuty = A2;
int val1 = 0;
int val2 = 0;
int val3 = 0;
unsigned int val = 0;
unsigned int counter = 0;

void setup() {
  Serial.begin(9600);
  pinMode(pinLED, OUTPUT);
}

void loop() {
  val = Serial.parseInt();
  analogWrite(pinLED, counter);
  delay(500);
  val1 = analogRead(pinPhoto);
  Serial.println(val1);
  val2 = analogRead(pinRes);
  Serial.println(val2);
  val3 = analogRead(pinDuty);
  Serial.println(val3);
  counter += 1;
}
```

Figure 6. Arduino code