An Introduction to Arduino
a low cost digital prototyping platform

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Abstract. What is an Arduino? Some information about what this workshop hopes to achieve etc. Lorem ipsum dolor sit amet, consectetur adipiscing elit. Aenean imperdiet congue nisi, eu ultrices elit sollicitudin nec. Vestibulum vitae pretium enim. Mauris eu nulla lectus. Donec eu arcu sem. Pellentesque quis metus eget quam efficitur fringilla tristique vitae neque. Nulla at erat ac felis mollis vulputate id vitae justo. Donec ac rutrum neque. Pellentesque at mollis arcu, quis blandit orci. Cum sociis natoque penatibus et magnis dis parturient montes, nascetur ridiculus mus.

Keywords: arduino, digital electronics, prototyping, introduction

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Introduction

"Over the years Arduino has been the brain of thousands of projects, from everyday objects to complex scientific instruments. A worldwide community of makers - students, hobbyists, artists, programmers, and professionals - has gathered around this open-source platform, their contributions have added up to an incredible amount of accessible knowledge that can be of great help to novices and experts alike." [Arduino, 2015a]

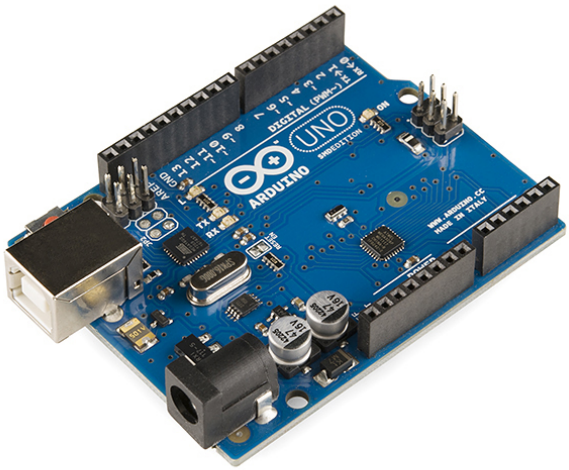

Fig. 1: Arduino Uno R3 [Wikipedia, 2013]

Where might an Arduino be used?

A few contrived examples of where one might use an Arduino in order to automate some process:

Automatic Dog's Water Bowl

An dog owner wants to ensure her pet is never left without water. She attaches a system for measuring the water level in the dog's bowl. Her Arduino is programmed to measure this value every 5 minutes. If this level falls below a certain value, a valve is opened and a water pump is activated to fill up the water bowl. It then sends an SMS to the owner to let her know that the dog is in safe hands.

- Read inputs from a water level sensor
- Control a valve which lets water flow
- Control speed of a water pump
- Send SMS to owner about giving the dog water

Bird Table Camera

A rising social media ornithologist wishes to share pictures from all the visitors to the bird table in his garden. He mounts an infra-red movement sensor on the bird table attached to an Arduino which is configured to record an image and send it to Twitter. His neighbours marvel at how many crows he's feeding.

- Read inputs from a movement sensor
- Control a camera shutter
- Transmit image back to PC
- Send tweet with picture of the bird table visitor

Fingerprint Door Lock

A student is sick of forgetting his keys and being locked out of his house. He uses a fingerprint scanner and an Arduino to make a biometric fingerprint door lock. He needs only scan his thumb print now and the door will unlock.

- Read inputs from a fingerprint sensor
- Compares the finger print against an authorised fingerprint
- Records the time and date a finger was pressed on the scanner
- Makes audio error tone if the fingerprint was invalid
- If valid fingerprint it unlocks the door

Workshop Aims

In this workshop the aim is to give you a crash course in digital electronics, and providing you the basic skills to start using the Arduino micro-controllers in your future projects.

Workshop Requirements

Each person will require the following:

- PC, either Linux, Mac or Windows can be used
- Arduino IDE pre-installed (Internet at the makerspace is flaky!)
- A sambo to keep you going

Learning Outcomes

Each person will leave with:

- Arduino starter kit
- Crash course in digital electronics
- Confidence to use Arduino in future projects

Arduino Starter Kit Contents

The Arduino starter kit contains the following components, which we will be making use of during the workshop.

- 1 × Arduino Compatible R3 Uno
- 1 × Breadboard
- 16 × jumper wires various colours
- 20 × 5mm LED's assorted colours
- 10 × 10k ohm resistors
- 10 × 330ohm resistors
- 1 × RGB LED
- 1 × photo resistor
- 2 × push buttons
- 1 × temperature sensor

Basic Circuit Theory

In an electrical circuit there is a fundamental relationship between voltage, current and resistance and it is explained by Ohms Law [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015].

Voltage

Voltage, (SI Unit: V - Volts) is the potential energy of an electrical supply stored in the form of an electrical charge. Voltage can be thought of as the force that pushes electrons through a conductor and the greater the voltage the greater is its ability to push the electrons through a given circuit [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015].

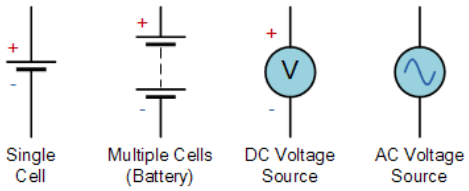

Fig. 2: Voltage Symbols [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015]

Current

Current, (SI Unit: A - Ampere) is the movement or flow of electrical charge and is measured in Amperes. It is the continuous and uniform flow (called a drift) of electrons (the negative particles of an atom) around a circuit that are being pushed by the voltage source [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015].

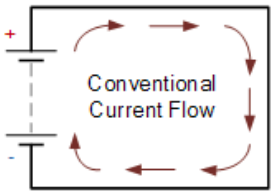

Fig. 3: Current Symbols [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015]

Resistance

Resistance, (SI Unit: Ω - Ohms) of a circuit is its ability to resist or prevent the flow of current (electron flow) through itself making it necessary to apply a greater voltage to the electrical circuit to cause the current to flow again. Note that Resistance cannot be negative in value only positive [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015].

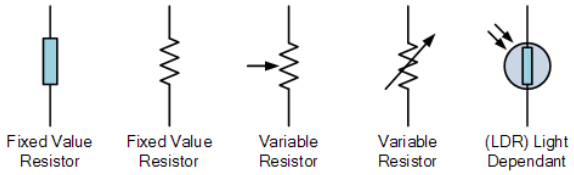

Fig. 4: Resistance Symbols [ElectronicsTutorials, 2015]

Ohm's Law

The following equation Ohm's Law explains the relationship between Voltage, Current and Resistance for an electrical circuit.

$$V = I \times R \tag{1}$$

$$I = \frac{V}{R} \tag{2}$$

$$R = \frac{V}{I} \tag{3}$$

Fig. 5: Ohm's Law

Analogue vs Digital Signals

The world we live in is an analogue one. There are an infinite number of possible combinations of colours smells and sounds. The digital world however is not infinite. It is discrete and finite where we are limited by several factors, such as memory and computational capabilities. In order to represent a real world thing digitally, it is by necessity that some information is lost.

Analogue Signal Examples

The following are some examples of analogue signals:

- Temperature
- Sound
- EM Radiation

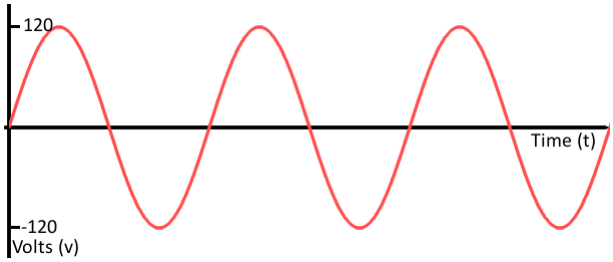

Fig. 6: Analogue Signal [Lindblom, 2015]

Digital Signal Examples

The following are some examples of digital signals:

- Morse Code
- WIFI
- Binary

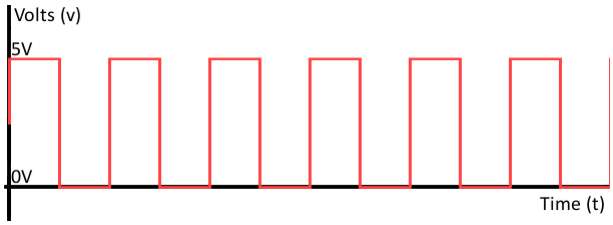

Fig. 7: Digital Signal [Lindblom, 2015]

Basic Arduino Coding Concepts

Variables

A variable is a way of naming and storing a value for later use by the program, such as data from a sensor or an intermediate value used in a calculation [Arduino, 2015b]. There are other more advanced data types such as Arrays,

Type	Example
char	'a'
string	'Hello there'
byte	0 to 255
int	-32,768 to 32,767
unsigned int	0 to 65,535
long	-2,147,483,648 to 2,147,483,647
unsigned long	0 to 4,294,967,295
float	-3.4028235E38 to 3.4028235E38

Table 1: Variable Types in Wiring

Strings and Pointers, which we won't be going into in this introduction. More information can be found regarding these data types online. See the Arduino online reference library at: https://www.arduino.cc/en/Reference/HomePage.

setup() function

The setup() function is called when a sketch starts. Use it to initialize variables, pin modes, start using libraries, etc. The setup function will only run once, after each powerup or reset of the Arduino board [Arduino, 2015c].

```
// setup initializes serial and the button pin
void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
}

// write to serial, then wait 2 seconds
void loop(){
  Serial.write("Hello World");
  delay(2000);
}
```

loop() function

After creating a setup() function, which initializes and sets the initial values, the loop() function does precisely what its name suggests, and loops consecutively, allowing your program to change and respond. Use it to actively control the Arduino board [Arduino, 2015d].

```
// Create int variable to represent
// a physical pin on the Arduino
int buttonPin = 3;

// setup initializes serial and the button pin
void setup()
{
  Serial.begin(9600);
  pinMode(buttonPin, INPUT);
}

// loop checks the button pin each time,
// and will send serial if it is pressed
void loop()
{
  if (digitalRead(buttonPin) == HIGH)
    Serial.write('H');
  else
    Serial.write('L');

  delay(1000);
}
```

Experiment 1 - Blink

This example is what one might call the *hello world* example for Arduino sketches. We wire up the experiment as shown in the diagram fig: 8. And upload the sketch code in the next section on page: 12.

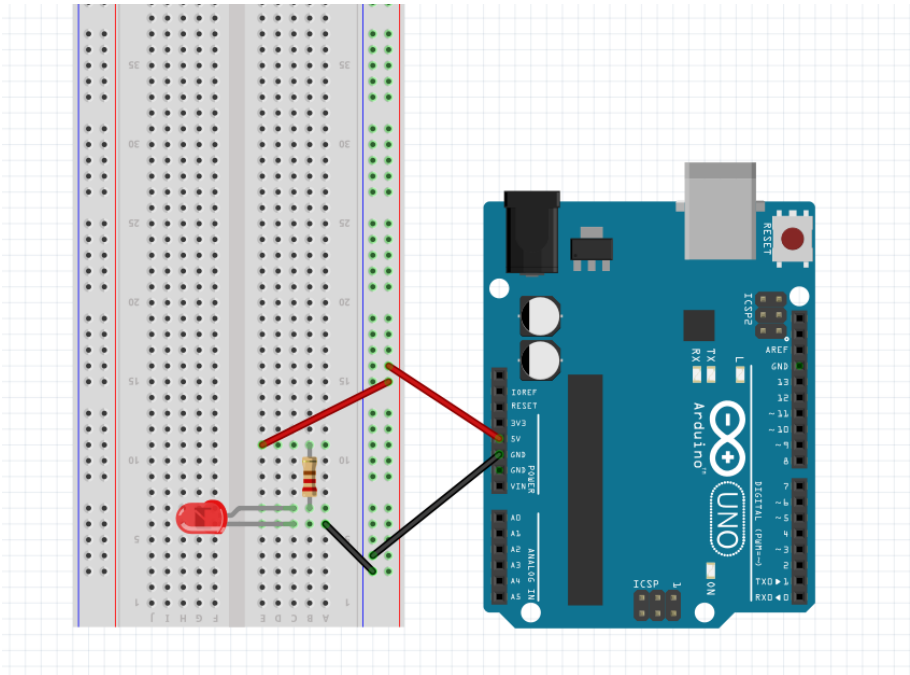

Fig. 8: LED Blink [Fritzing, 2015]

When the Arduino boots, the led should flash on for a second, then off for a second and repeat.

Sketch Code

```
/*
Blink
Turns on an LED on for one second, then off for one second, repeatedly.

This example code is in the public domain.
*/

// the setup function runs once when you press reset or power the board
void setup() {
  // initialize digital pin 13 as an output.
  pinMode(13, OUTPUT);
}

// the loop function runs over and over again forever
void loop() {
  // turn the LED on
  // (HIGH is the voltage level)
  digitalWrite(13, HIGH);

  //wait for 1000 milliseconds
  delay(1000);

  // turn the LED off by making
  // the voltage LOW
  digitalWrite(13, LOW);

  // wait for 1000 milliseconds
  delay(1000);
}
```

Experiment 2 - Button

We wire up the experiment as shown in the diagram fig: 9. And upload the sketch code in the next section on page: 14.

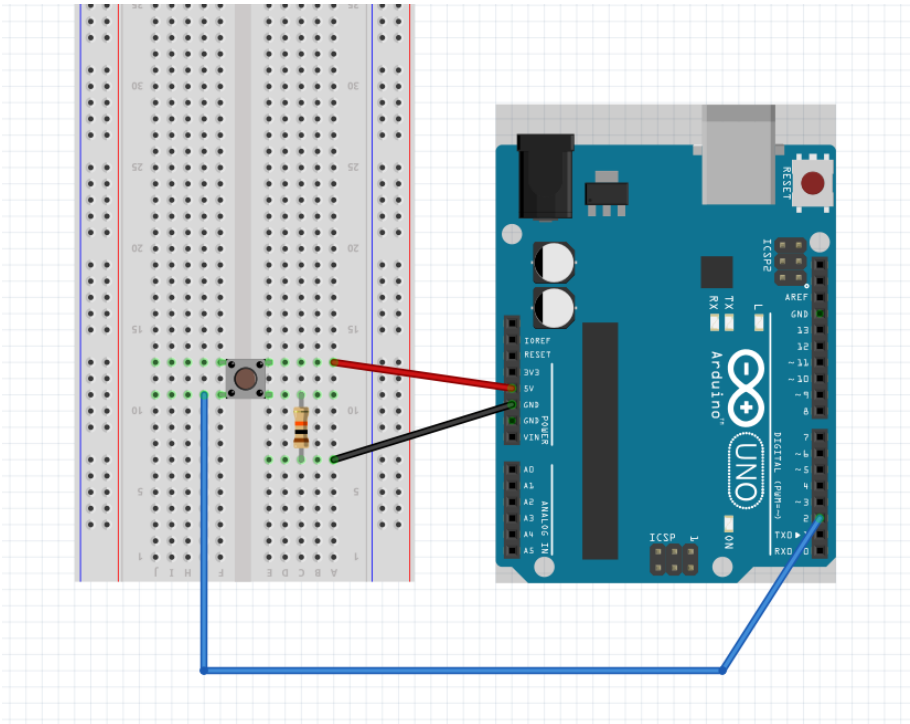

Fig. 9: Read a buttons input [Fritzing, 2015]

Open the *serial monitor* inside the Arduino IDE, every second a 0 should be printed in the console window. When the button is pressed, a 1 will be printed instead.

Sketch Code

```
/*
DigitalReadSerial
Reads a digital input on pin 2, prints the result to the serial monitor

This example code is in the public domain.
*/

// digital pin 2 has a pushbutton attached to it. Give it a name:
int pushButton = 2;
int buttonState;

// the setup routine runs once when you press reset:
void setup() {
  // initialize serial communication at 9600 bits per second:
  Serial.begin(9600);
  // make the pushbutton's pin an input:
  pinMode(pushButton, INPUT);
}

// the loop routine runs over and over again forever:
void loop() {
  // read the input pin:
  buttonState = digitalRead(pushButton);
  // print out the state of the button:
  Serial.println(buttonState);
  // delay in between reads for stability
  delay(100);
}
```

Experiment 3

Outline each experiment in a separate chapter

Experiment 4

Outline each experiment in a separate chapter

Experiment 5 - Phenakistoscope Creation

Outline each experiment in a separate chapter
[Kalif, 2013] [Kalif, 2015]

Conclusions

- item 1
- item 2
- item 3
- item 4

Glossary

Arduino an open-source electronics platform based on easy-to-use hardware and software. It's intended for anyone making interactive projects. https://www.arduino.cc. 3, 4

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