

# Inline

Inline Visualization and Manipulation of Real-Time  
Hardware Log for Supporting Debugging of Embedded Programs



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Microsoft



**Yoonji Kim**

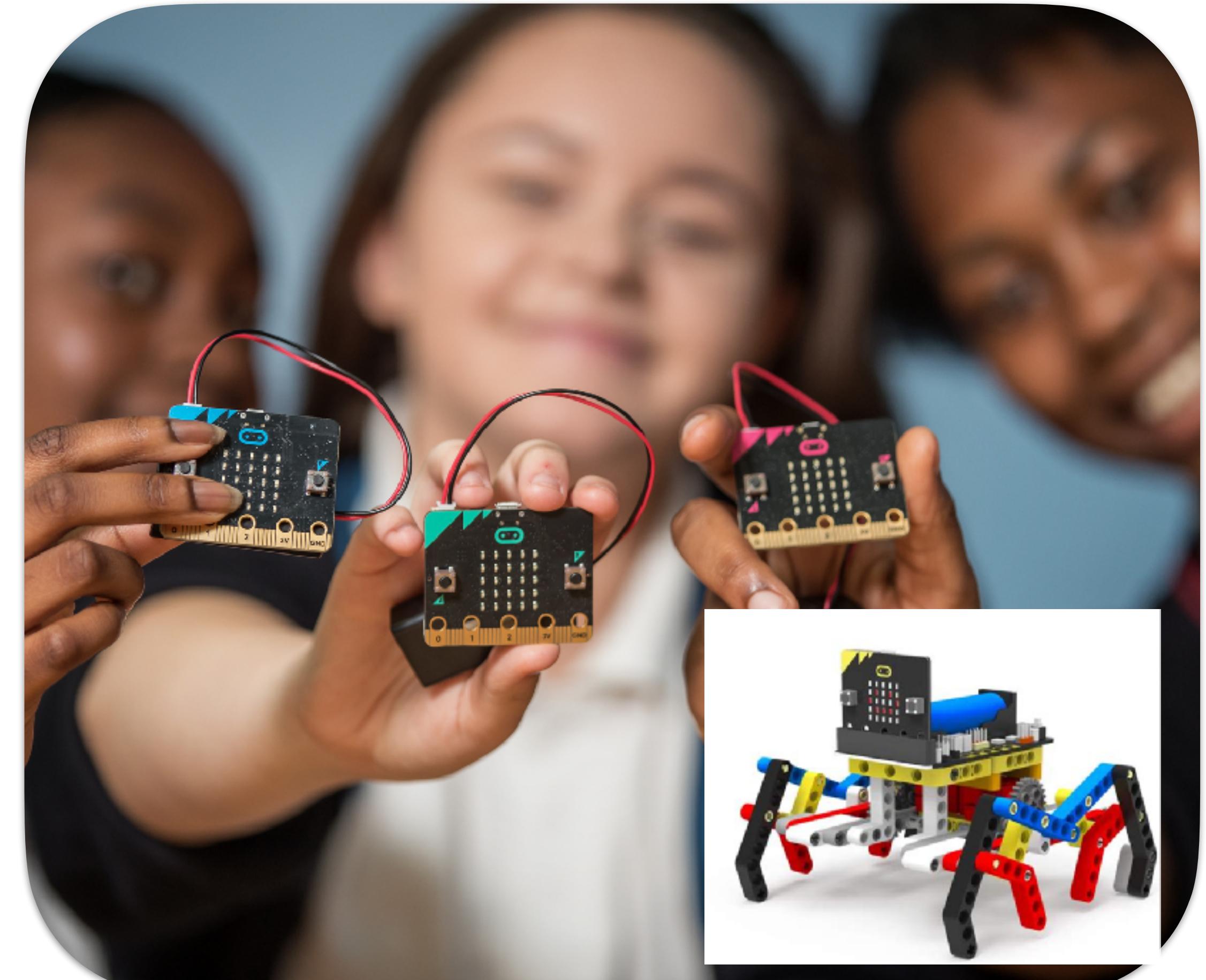
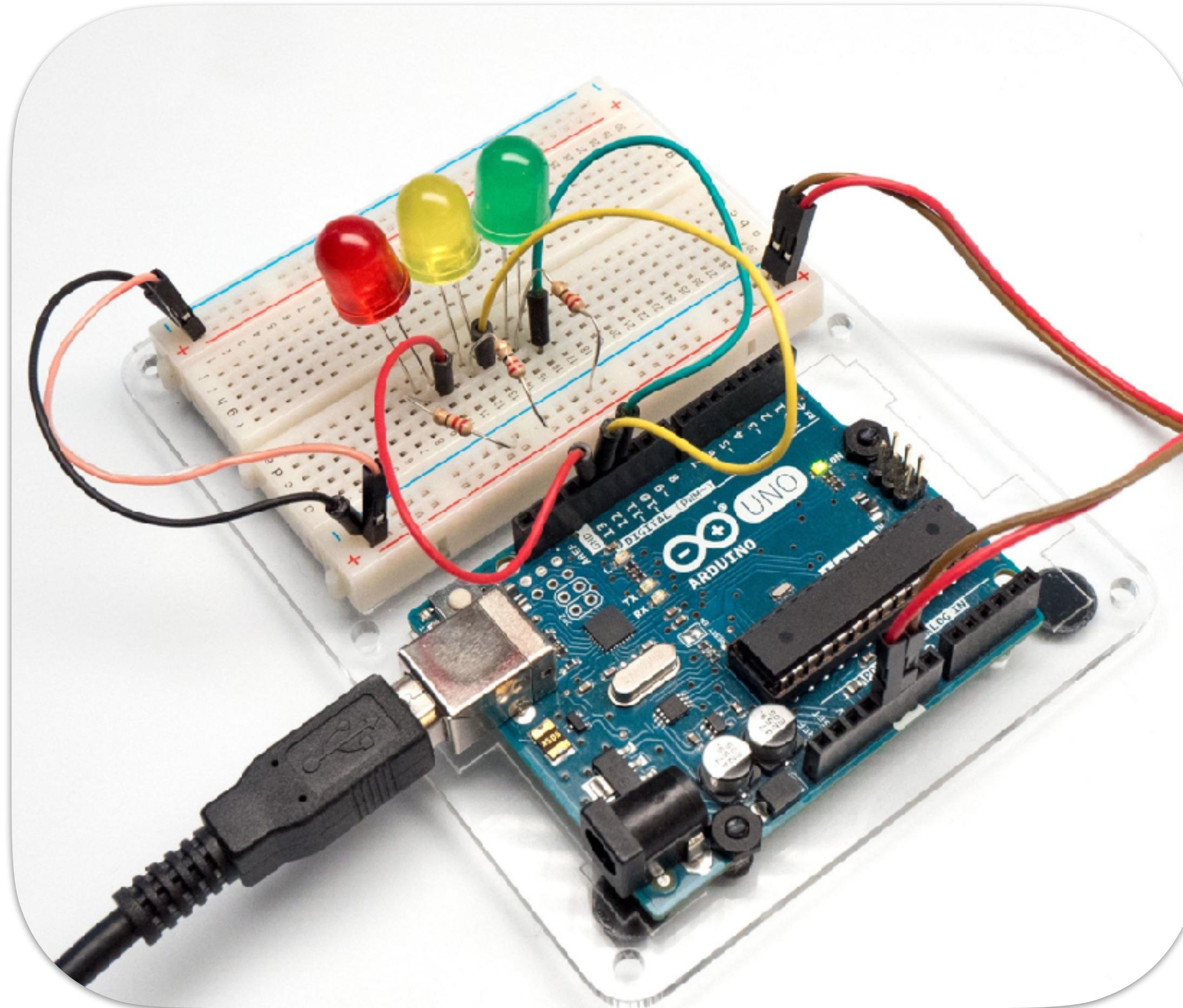


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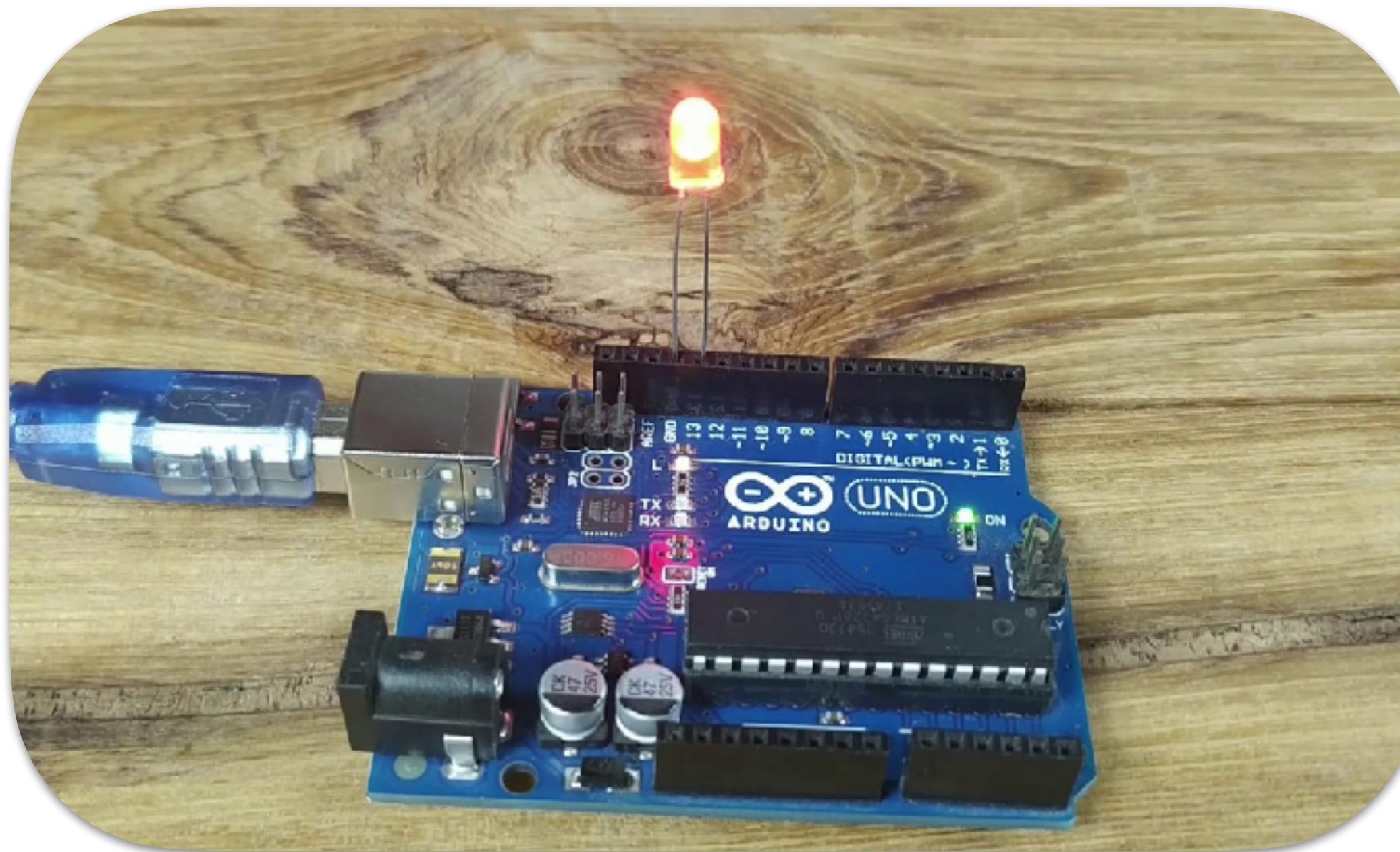
# Physical Computing and STEM education



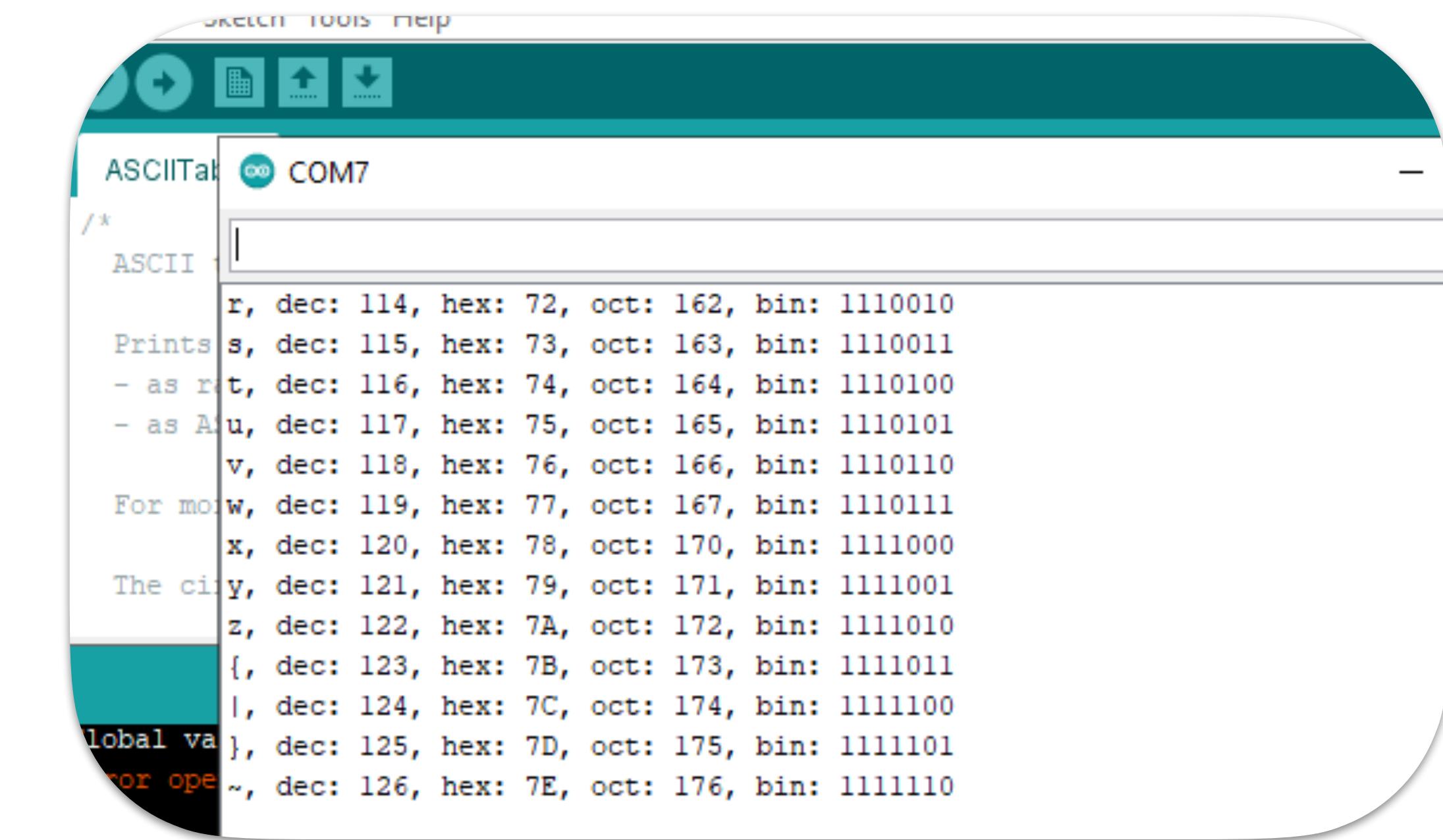
- Widespread **popularization** of user-friendly platforms like Arduino & co.
- Computational thinking with **STEM** through embedded programming

# Challenges with Physical Computing

- Mistakenly perceived as a *simple* activity
- Previous study [Booth 2016] report 54% of unsolved problems at the interplay between software and hardware
- Information barriers [Ko 2004]: interpreting the program internal state from *externally observable information (debugging)*



Blinking LED as *physical proxy*



Printing statements for *console logs*

How to make sense  
of hardware debug logs?

# What are debugging logs anyway?

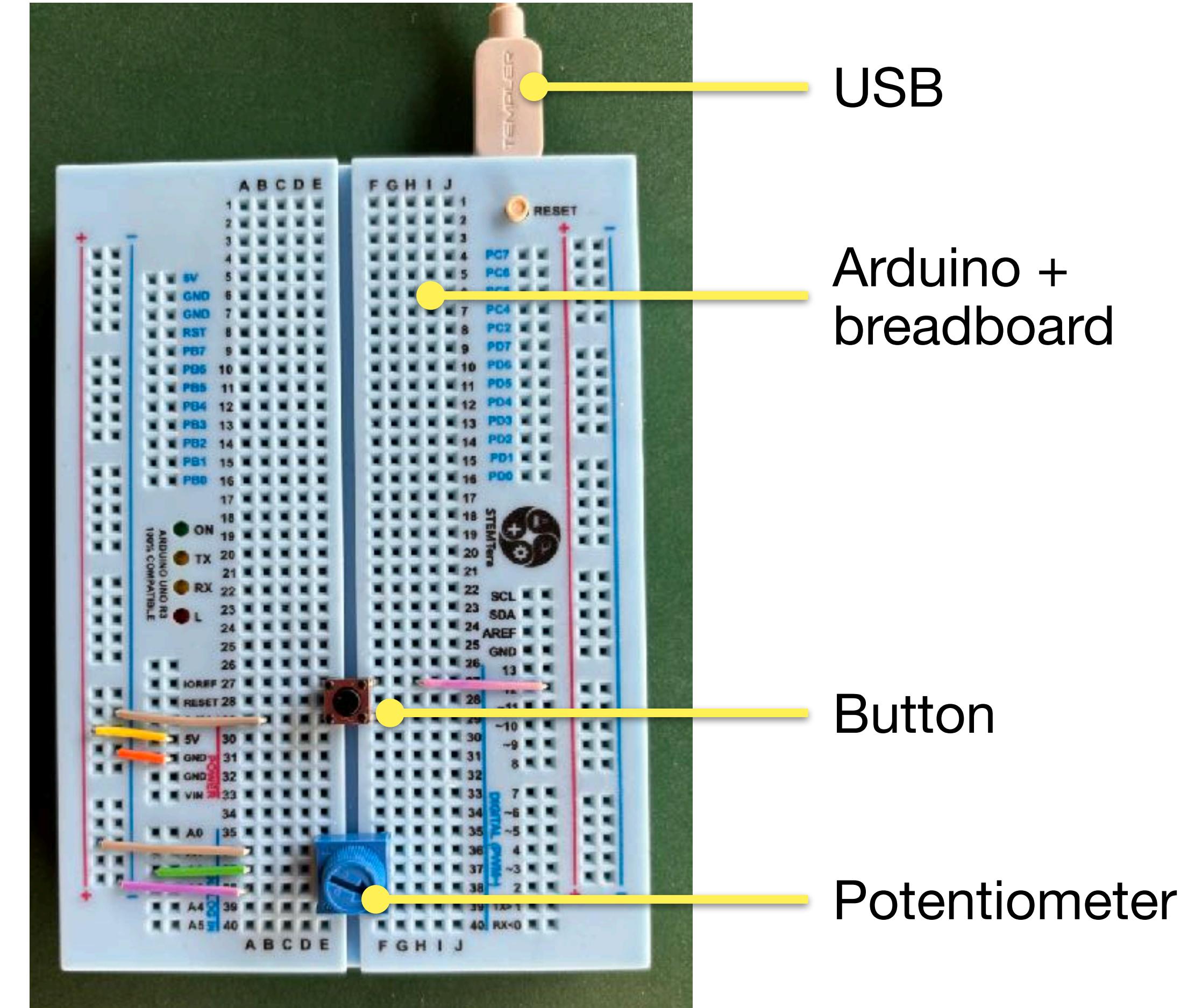
```
void setup(){
    Serial.begin(115200);
}

void loop(){
    // Reading an analog value
    int val = analogRead(A2);
    Serial.println(val);

    // Mapping the value to a suitable
    // duty-cycle for PWM
    int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255);
    Serial.println(mapped);

    analogWrite(3, mapped);

    delay(100);
}
```



# What are debugging logs anyway?

```
void setup(){
    Serial.begin(115200);
}

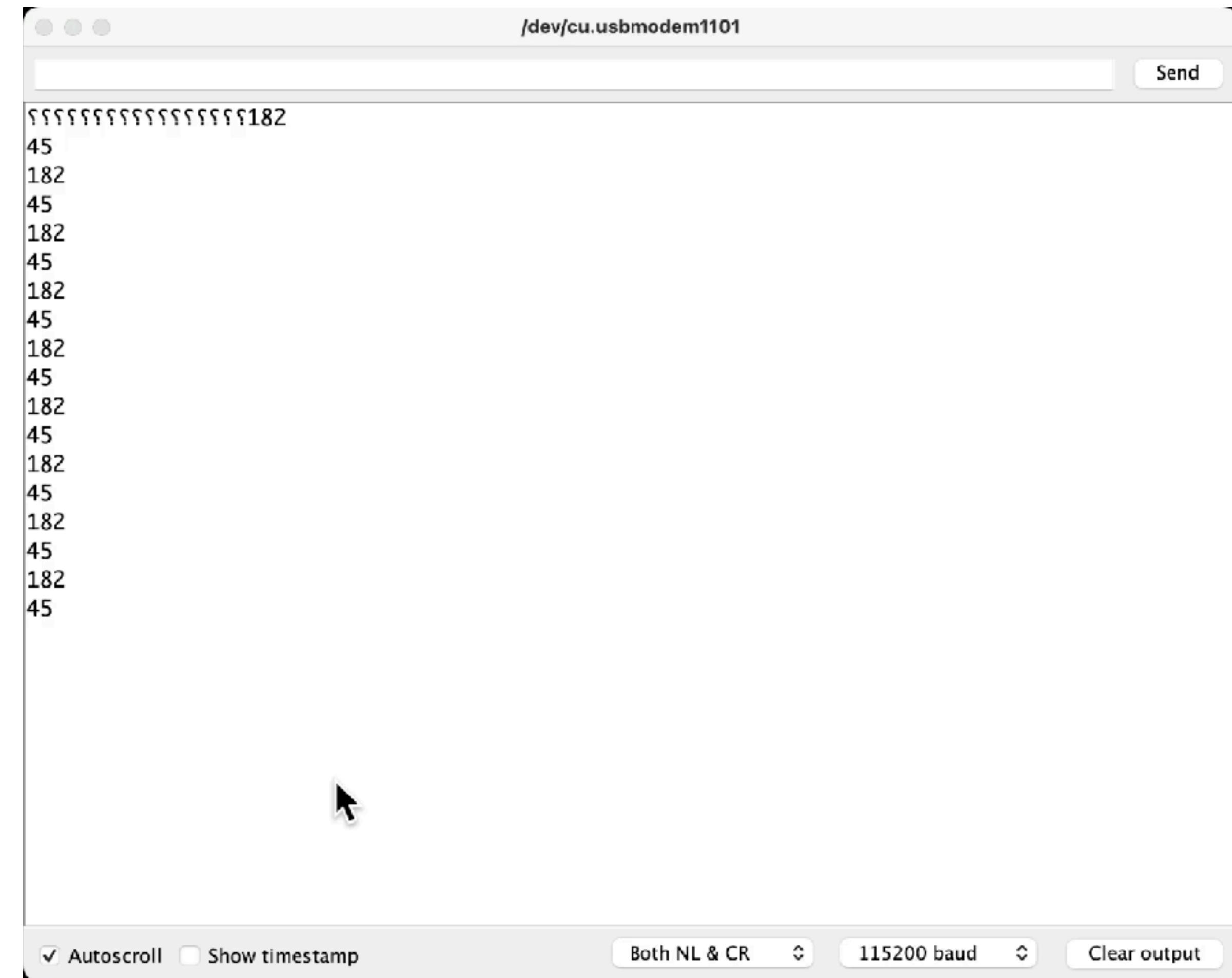
void loop(){

    // Reading an analog value
    int val = analogRead(A2);
    Serial.println(val);

    // Mapping the value to a suitable
    // duty-cycle for PWM
    int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255);
    Serial.println(mapped);

    analogWrite(3, mapped);

    delay(100);
}
```



# What are debugging logs anyway?

```
void setup(){
  Serial.begin(115200);
}

void loop(){
  // Reading an analog value
  int val = analogRead(A2);
  Serial.println(val);

  // Mapping the value to a suitable
  // duty-cycle for PWM
  int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255);
  Serial.println(mapped);

  analogWrite(3, mapped);

  delay(100);
}
```



# What are debugging logs anyway?

- Where/When/How are logs generated?
  - Logs are disjointed from the code
  - How to store or manipulate them in a simple way?



[Extension Development Host] inline-demo

# Bringing the debugging log back in the code

```
4
5 void loop(){
6
7     // Reading an analog value
8     int val = analogRead(A2); //? 383 Display inline and trace execution
9
10    // Mapping the value to a suitable duty-cycle for PWM
11    int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255); //? 95
12
13    analogWrite(3, mapped); //? 37
14
15    delay(100);
16}
17
18
```

**INLINE-DEMO**

demo.ino demo\_start.ino

demo\_start.ino

EXPLORER

INLINE PLAYGROUND

Menu

Upload Release

Reset

Connected /dev/cu.usbmodem1101

Expressions help

Identity tests

assert is

Thresholds

above below

between

Storing variables

save count add

min max

Output

print graph hist

log volt

Advanced

map filter

Variables

\$\$ \$x \$0

Ln 11, Col 47 Spaces: 4 UTF-8 LF ino Prettier

Extension Development Host] inline-demo

EXPLORER ... demo.ino demo\_start.ino

INLINE-DEMO demo\_start.ino demo.ino

INLINE PLAYGROUND

Menu

Upload Release

Reset

Connected /dev/cu.usbmodem1101

Expressions help

Identity tests

assert is

Thresholds

above below

between

Storing variables

save count add

min max

Output

print graph hist

log volt

Advanced

map filter

Variables

\$\$ \$x \$0

demo\_start.ino

```
1 void setup(){
2     Serial.begin(115200);
3 }
4
5 void loop(){
6
7     // Reading an analog value
8     int val = analogRead(A2); //? 684
9
10    // Mapping the value to a suitable duty-cycle for PWM
11    int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255); //? 170
12
13    analogWrite(3, mapped); //? 66
14
15    delay(100);
16 }
17
18
```

Change visualization

Extension Development Host] inline-demo

EXPLORER ... demo.ino demo\_start.ino

INLINE-DEMO demo\_start.ino demo.ino

INLINE PLAYGROUND

Menu

Upload Release Reset

Connected /dev/cu.usbmodem1101

Expressions help

Identity tests assert is

Thresholds above below between

Storing variables save count add min max

Output print graph hist log volt

Advanced map filter

Variables \$\$ \$x \$0

demo\_start.ino

```
1 void setup(){
2     Serial.begin(115200);
3 }
4
5 void loop(){
6
7     // Reading an analog value
8     int val = analogRead(A2); //? 383
9
10    // Mapping the value to a suitable duty-cycle for PWM
11    int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255); // graph? 95
12
13    analogWrite(3, mapped); //? 37
14
15    delay(100);
16 }
17
18 }
```

Manipulate values



Ln 11, Col 53 (5 selected) Spaces: 4 UTF-8 LF ino Prettier

[Extension Development Host] inline-demo

EXPLORER ... demo.ino demo\_start.ino

INLINE-DEMO demo\_start.ino demo.ino

INLINE PLAYGROUND

Menu

Upload Release

Reset

Connected /dev/cu.usbmodem1101

Expressions help

Identity tests assert is

Thresholds above below between

Storing variables save count add min max

Output print graph hist log volt

Advanced map filter

Variables \$\$ \$x \$0

void setup(){  
 Serial.begin(115200);  
}  
  
void loop(){  
  
 // Reading an analog value  
 int val = analogRead(A2); // min-x | max-y?  
  
 // Mapping the value to a suitable duty-cycle for PWM  
 int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255); // graph? 113

Plot multiple values

**What has been done?  
Our Contribution**

# Inspirations: Tools for debugging software

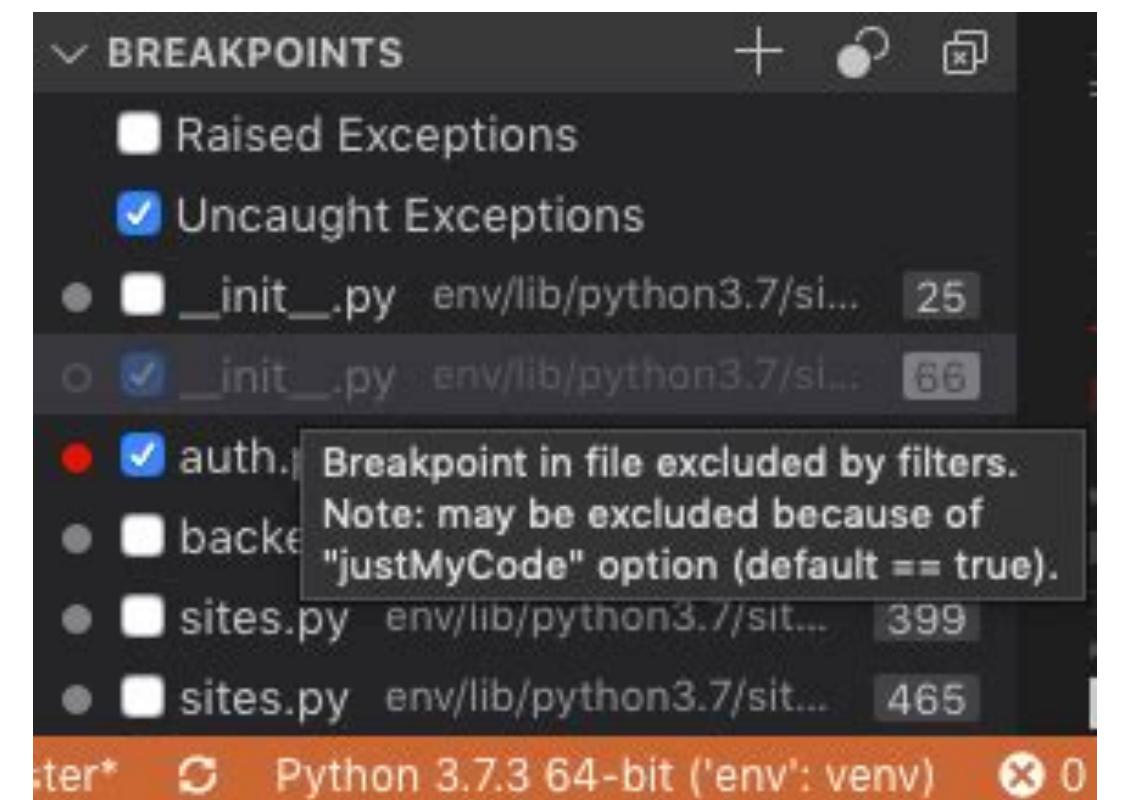
- Lab studies [Ko 2006, Piorkowski 2013] show that **35-50% of programmers' time** is spent navigating code and program output (**debugging**).
- Bret Victor's notion of *representations of dynamic behavior*

- Tools for end user programmer

A) **Symbolic debugger and breakpoints**

B) **QuokkaJS / Console Ninja**

C) **Copilot / ChatGPT and LLM-powered tools**



```
people.map(p => p.age) //? [ 33, 21, 22 ]
```



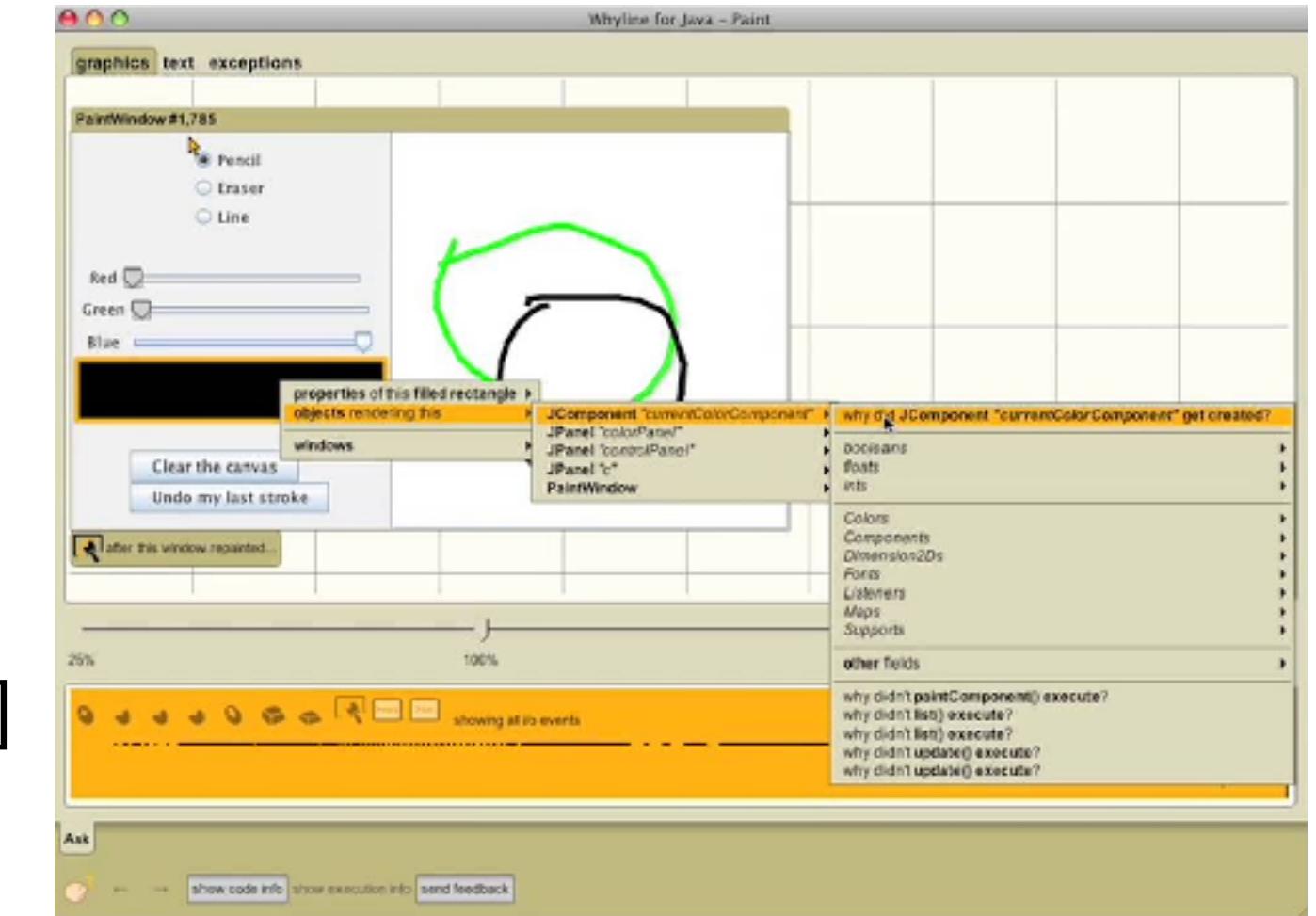
**GitHub**  
Copilot

Cursor

# Inspirations: Research Tools for debugging software

- **Log-it:** instrument logs for better visualization
- **TimeLapse:** replay program execution
- **WhyLine:** ask why and why not

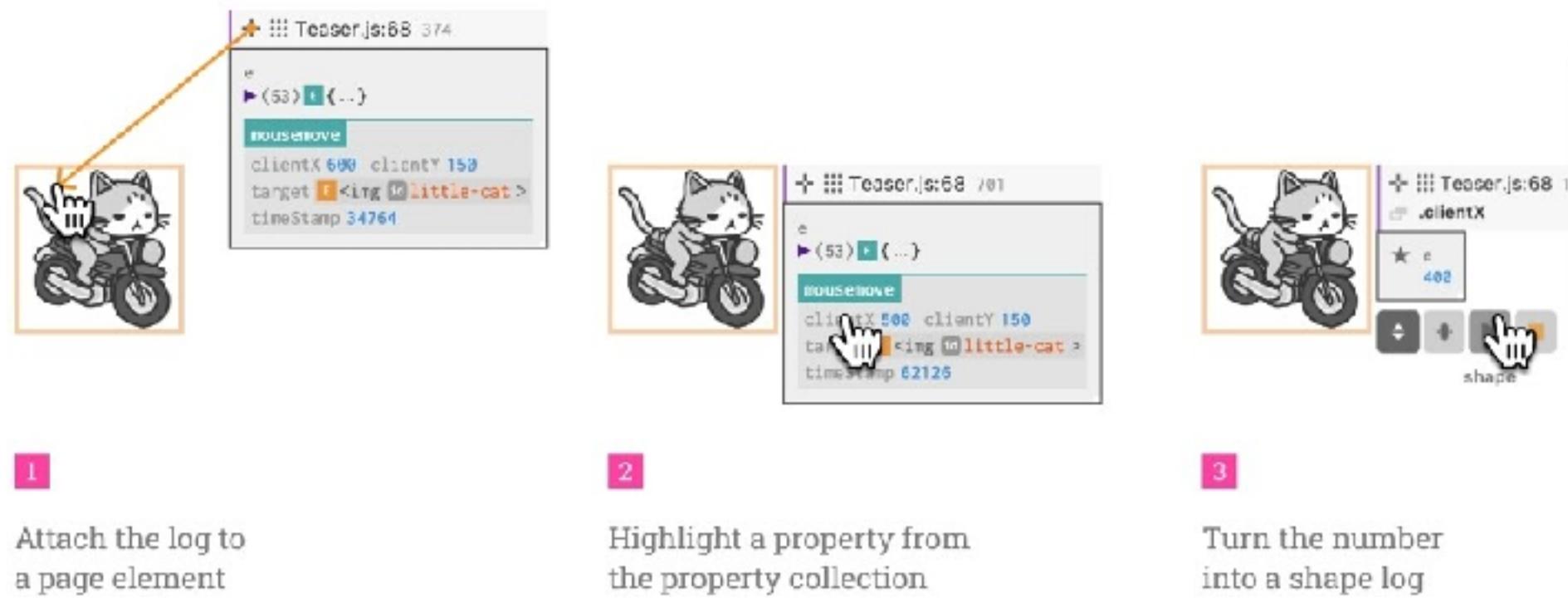
Whyline [CHI 2004]



We focus on hardware instead

TimeLapse [UIST 2013]

Log-it [CHI 2023]



# Related work: Tools for hardware construction

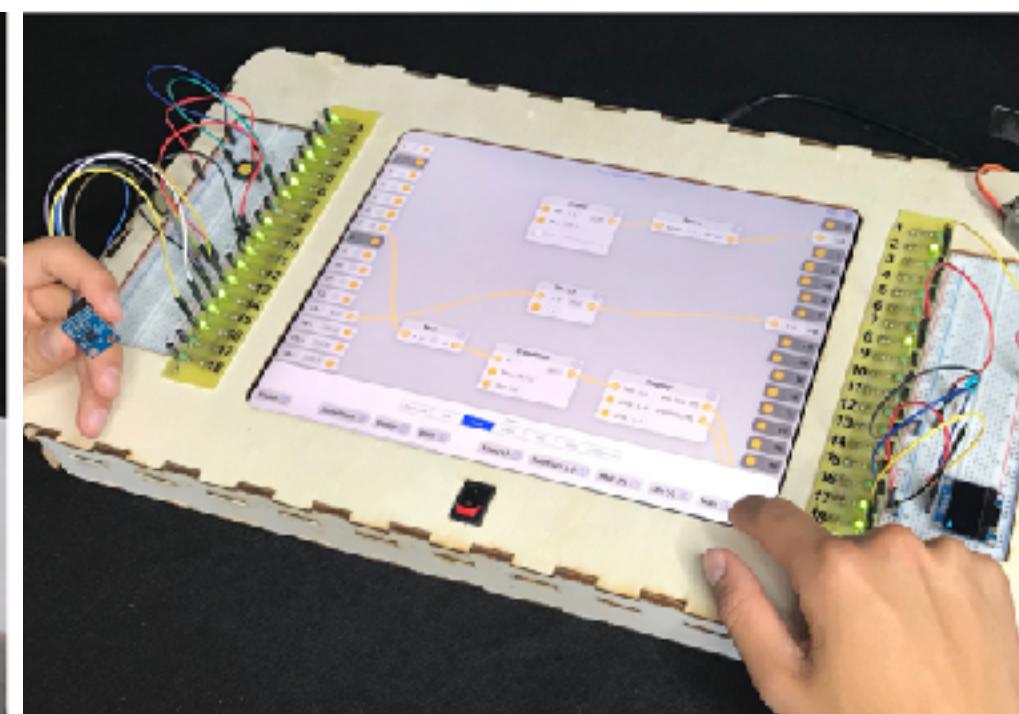
- Hardware tools focused on **facilitating construction** of circuits

A) **Simplifying wiring:**, VirutalWire, FlowBoard, Jacdac

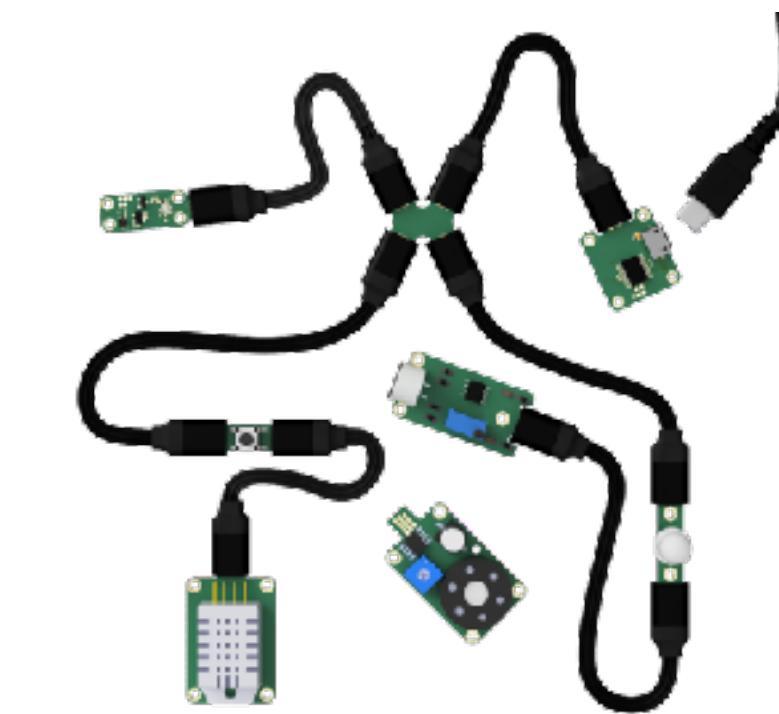
B) **Virtualizing components:** Proxino, VirtualComponent



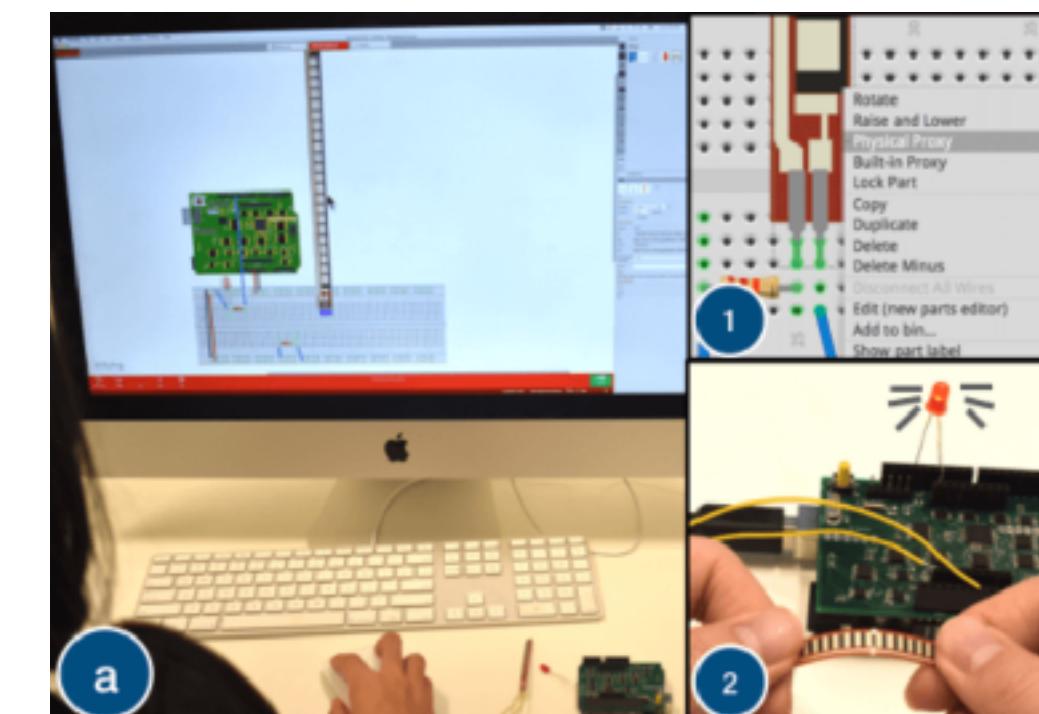
VirtualWire  
[TEI 2021]



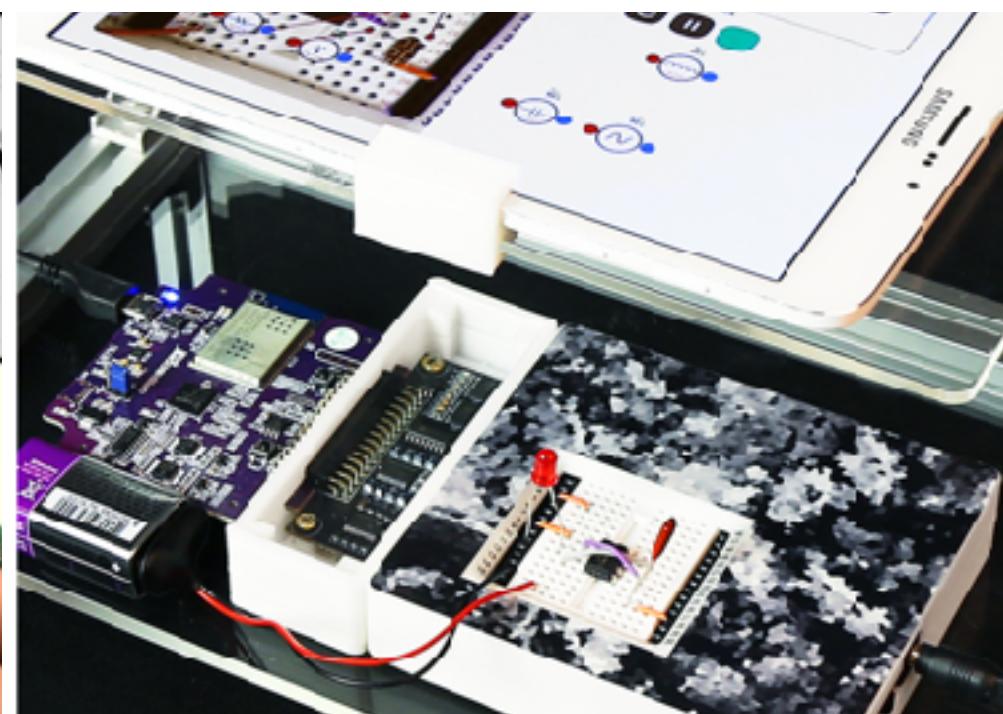
FlowBoard  
[TOCHI 2023]



JacDac  
[IMWUT 2022]



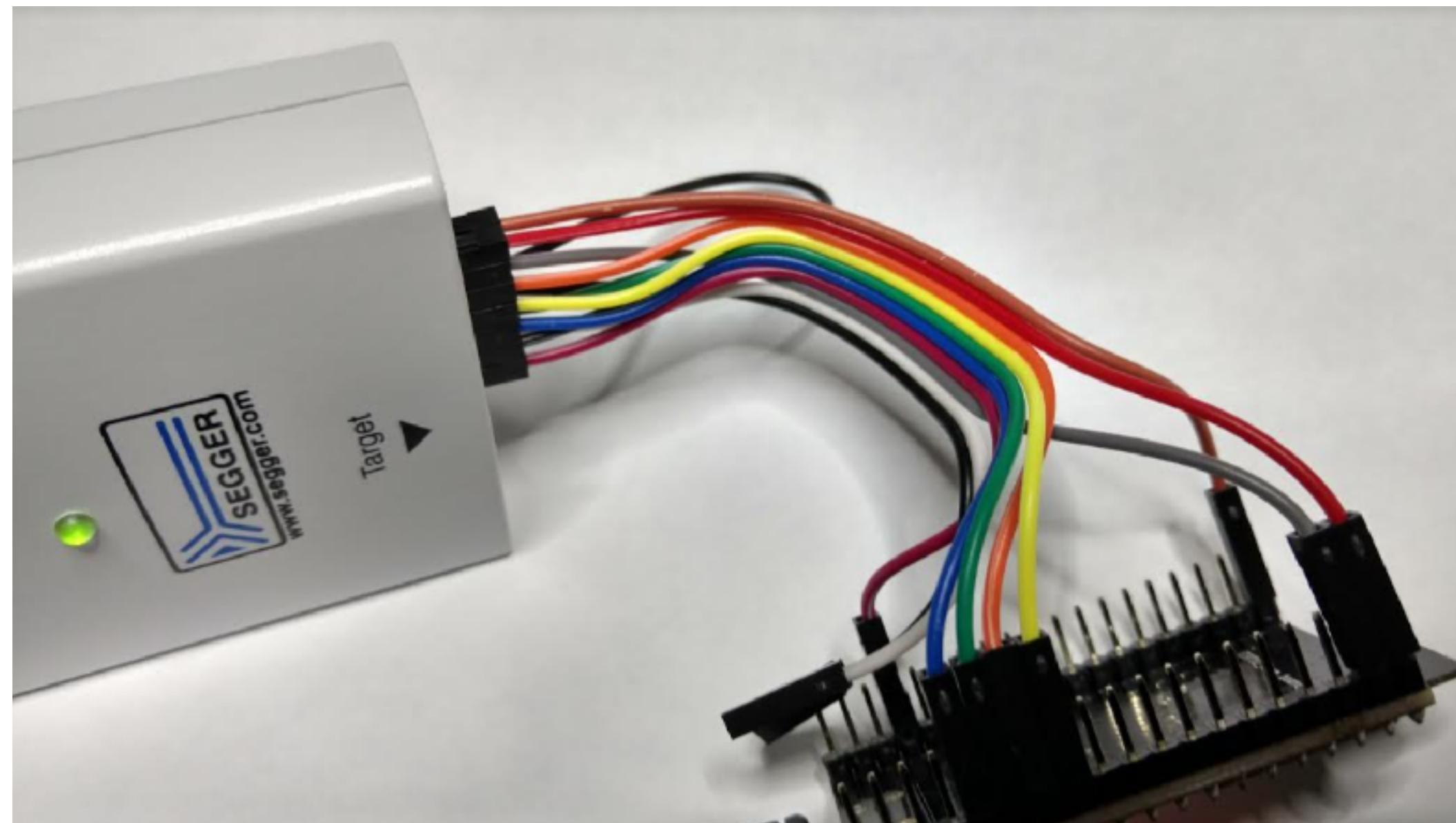
Proxino  
[UIST 2019]



VirtualComponent  
[CHI 2019]

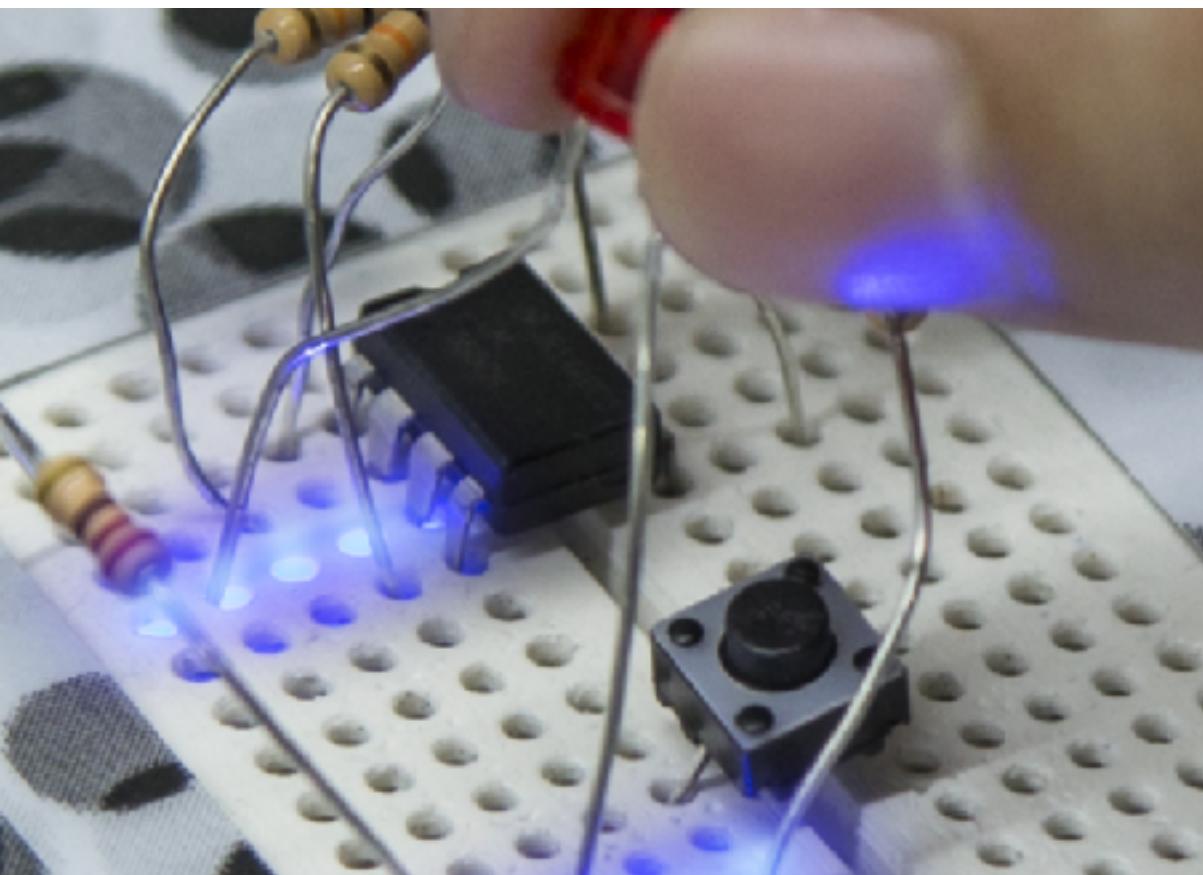
# Related work: Tools for debugging hardware

- JTAG and boundary scanners: the hard way
- SchemaBoard & ARDW: debugging schematic
- CircuitSense & ToastBoard: current and voltage inspector
- PinPoint & HeyTeddy: test driven programming and simulation
- Bifrost: non real-time hardware/code inspector

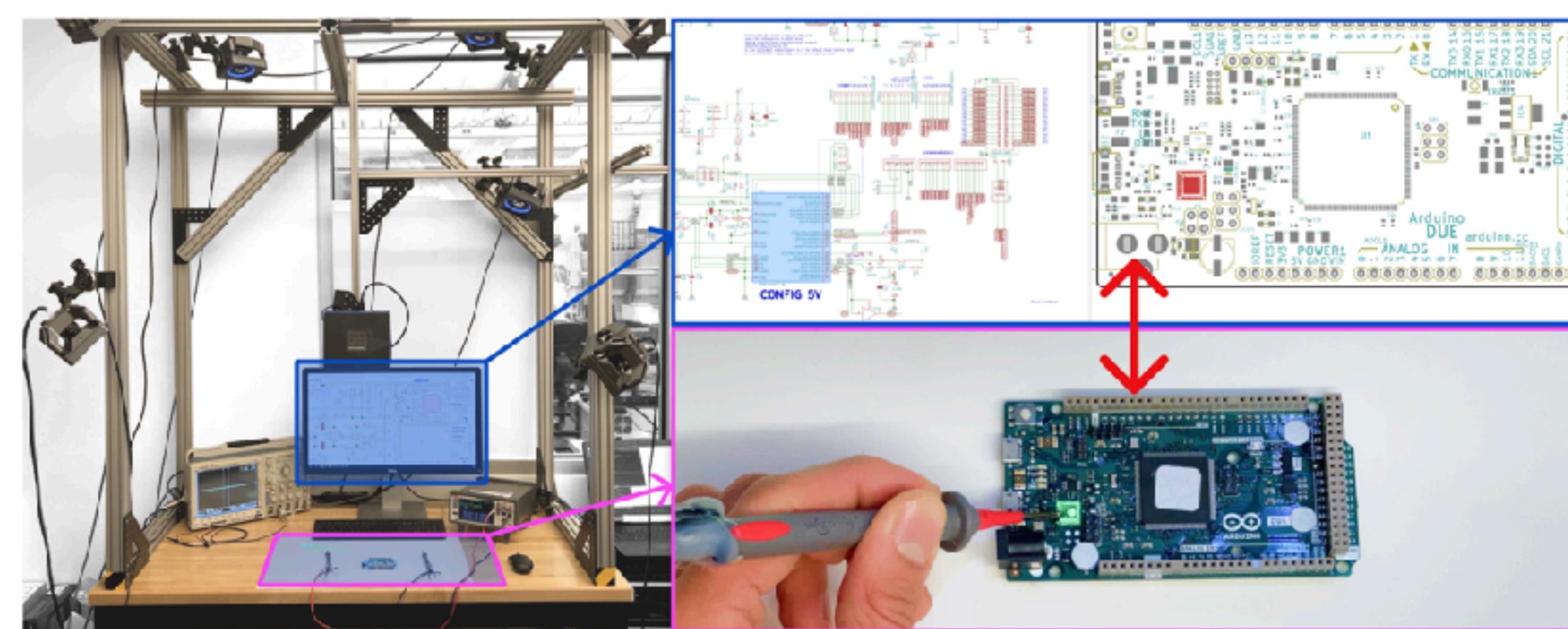


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- PinPoint & HeyTeddy: **test driven programming** and **simulation**
- Bifröst: non real-time hardware/code inspector



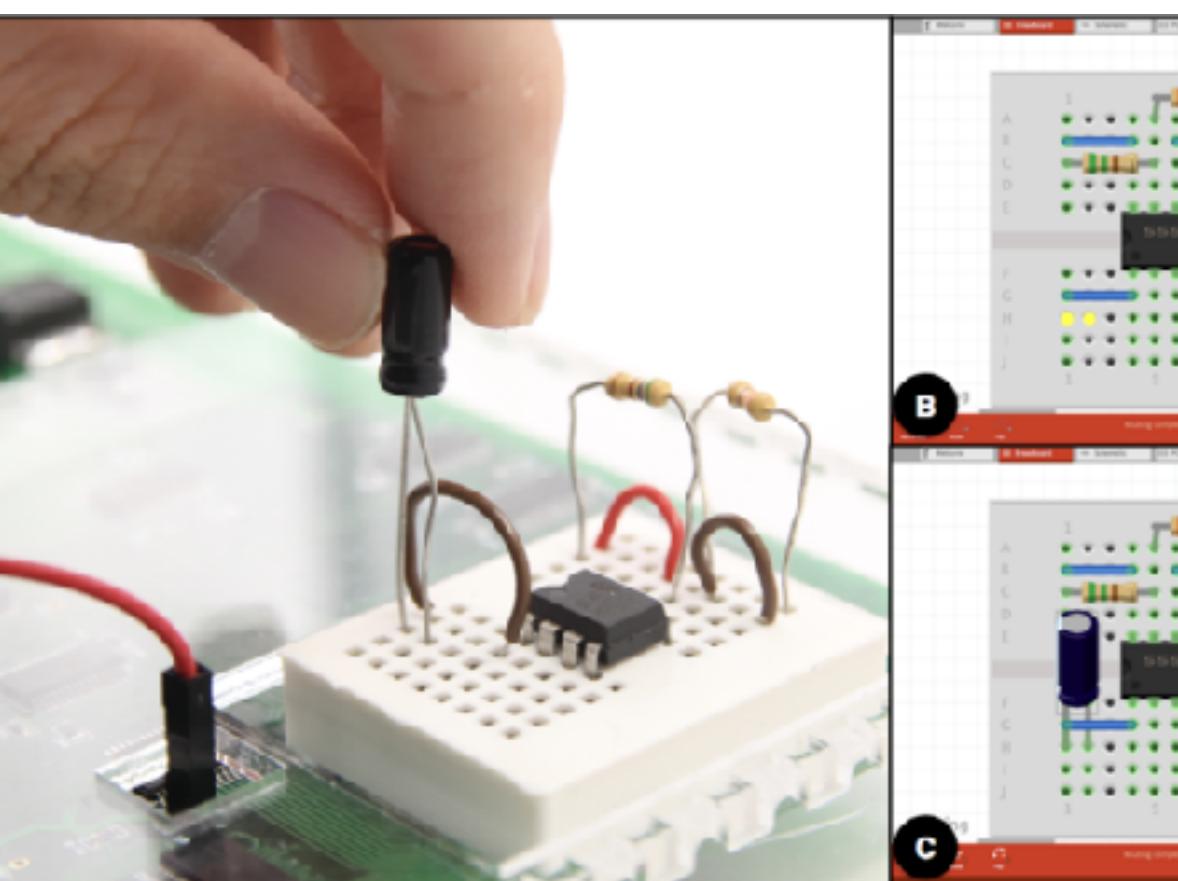
SchemaBoard  
[UIST 2021]



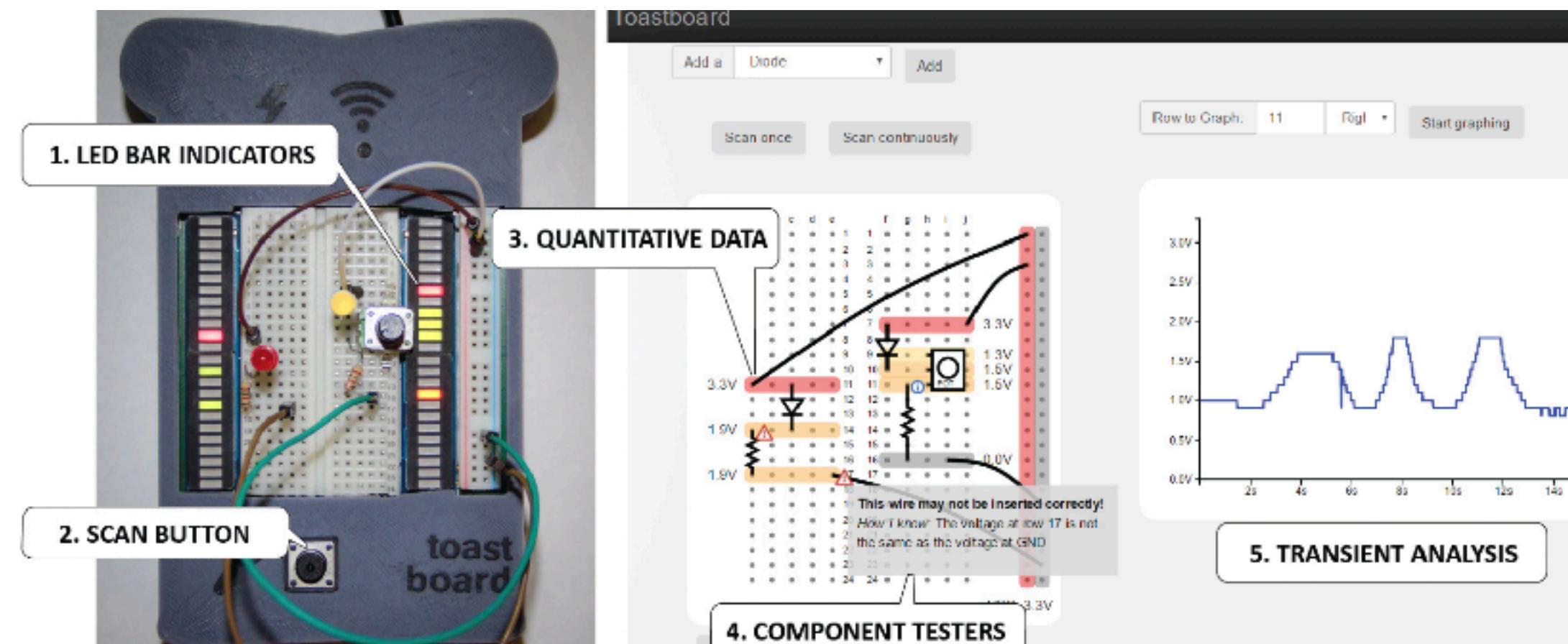
ARDW  
[UIST 2022]

# Related work: Tools for debugging hardware

- JTAG and boundary scanners: the hard way
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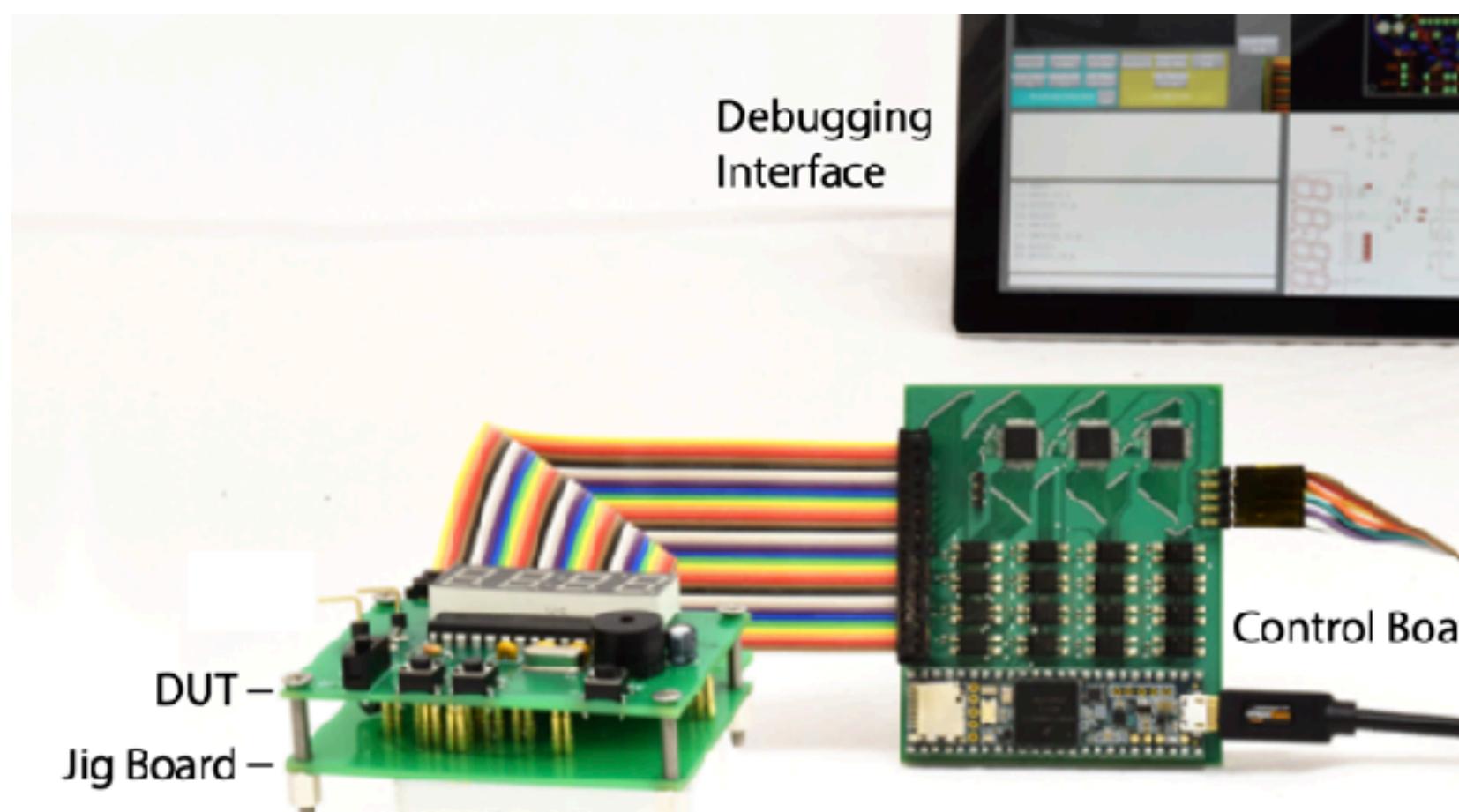
CircuitSense  
[UIST 2017]



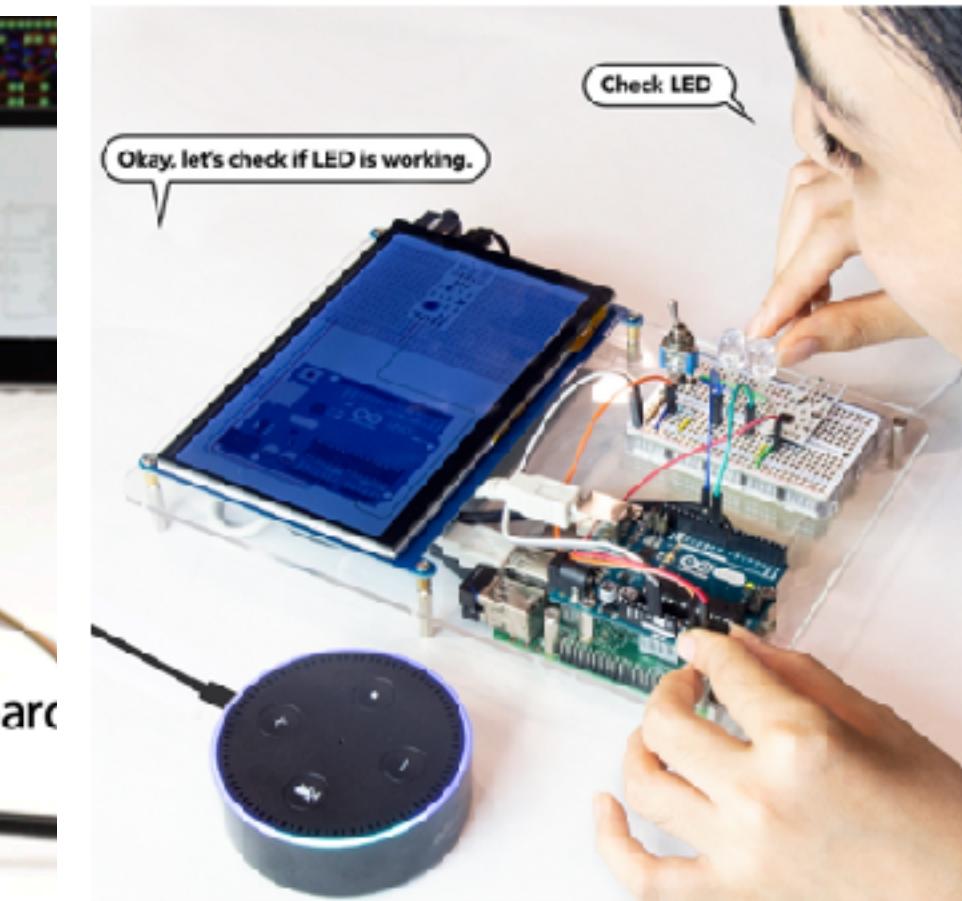
ToastBoard  
[UIST 2016]

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- JTAG and boundary scanners: the hard way
- SchemaBoard & ARDW: debugging **schematic**
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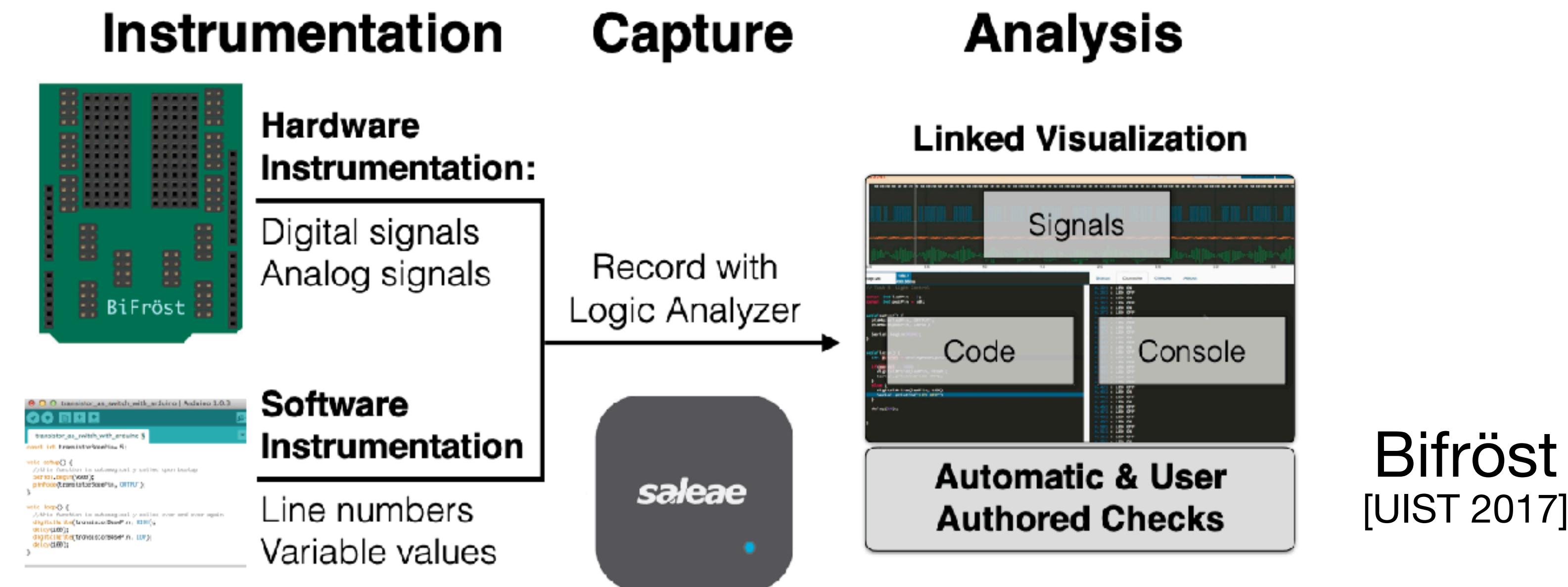
PinPoint  
[CHI 2019]



HeyTeddy  
[IMWUT 2020]

# Related work: Tools for debugging hardware

- JTAG and boundary scanners: the hard way
- Schemaboard & ARDW: debugging schematic
- CircuitSense & ToastBoard: current and voltage inspector
- PinPoint & HeyTeddy: test driven programming and simulation
- Bifröst: non real-time hardware/code inspector



# Our contributions

## 1. Hardware debugging via **inline** visualization

A0); //? 867

```
Serial.print("one");//? ...
delay(1000);
Serial.print("two");//? ...
delay(1000);
Serial.print("three");//? ...
delay(1000);
```

```
//assert? ✓
//is 1? true
//above 0? 1
//below 5? 1
//between 0, 5? 1
//save x? 1
//count y? 18
//add z? 18
//print $x? 1, 1
//log? 1
//volt? 0
//map x=>x/2? 0.5
//filter x=>x<2? 1
```

# Our contributions

## 2. Real-time visitation and directly within the editor

A0); //? | 176

```
Serial.print("one");//? one
delay(1000);
Serial.print("two");//? two
delay(1000);
Serial.print("three");//? three
delay(1000);
```

```
//assert? ✓
//is 1? true
//above 0? 1
//below 5? 1
//between 0, 5? 1
//save x? 1
//count y? 20
//add z? 20
//print $x? 1, 1
//log? 1
//volt? 0
//map x=>x/2? 0.5
//filter x=>x<2? 1
```

# Our contributions

## 3. Manipulation of logs for exploring the data

A0); //? 0

```
Serial.print("one");//? one
delay(1000);
Serial.print("two");//? two
delay(1000);
Serial.print("three");//? three
delay(1000);
```

```
//assert? ✓
//is 1? true
//above 0? 1
//below 5? 1
//between 0, 5? 1
//save x? 1
//count y? 21
//add z? 21
//print $x? 1, 1
//log? 1
//volt? 0
//map x=>x/2? 0.5
//filter x=>x<2? 1
```

Collecting requirements  
via formative study

# Formative Study

- **10 participants** (7 male, 1 female) aged 26-31 + **2 university professors** (2-15 years teaching experience)

Participants	Occupation	Department	Age	Physical Computing Experience (years)	Software Development Experience (years)	Physical Computing Self-Rank (scale:1-7)
P1	maker	Design (M.S)	26	9	6	6
P2	maker	Design (Ph.D)	28	7	7	5
P3	maker	Design (M.S)	26	6	6	6
P4	maker	CS (Ph.D)	26	2	8	3
P5	maker	Design (Ph.D)	29	10	7	6
P6	maker	CS (Ph.D)	31	7	7	6
P7	maker	CS (Ph.D)	32	6	14	4
P8	maker	Design (Ph.D)	28	8	6	6
P9	instructor	Electronics	50	15 (physical computing) + 15 (teaching)	-	-
P10	instructor	Design	35	12 (physical computing) + 2 (teaching)	-	-
Avg (SD)	-	-	28.3 (2.3)	9.9 (7.7)	7.6 (2.7)	5.3 (1.2)

- Semi-structure **interviews** (50 minutes)
- Translation + open-axial coding
- Three main findings

# Challenge 1: Printing and managing logs

Students **use** the serial monitor and are ***formally taught*** to use it in class.

Problem arise when there are **multiple print statements**

“it was almost impossible to follow all different data in the text logs. [...] Even when I wanted to trace them, the scroll bar kept moving on, and I lost them.”

**Solution 1** is to **log in data files** and exploring the patterns later (**not real time**)

**Solution 2** is to print statements **a few at a time**, but this requires continuously changing the code, and recompile/upload (possibly **introducing new bugs**)

“it would be really nice if I could simply **toggle the output of the logs** I want to see in real-time, on and off.”

# Challenge 2: Tracking code execution in real time

Tracking code behavior: e.g. how the value from sensors change over time.

Require **spending time tracking for errors**.

“I needed to **scroll back and forth** in both windows to locate the code that needed fixing and keep track of the logs, which confused me.”

One way is to use known events and **physical proxies**, like LED and actuators.

This is fast reaction time but limited to simple binary checks (e.g., over threshold or condition happens) with **limited bandwidth**.

“For instance, if you expected it to be off but unexpectedly turned on, you could recognize that something was wrong.”

# Challenge 3: Making sense of logs

**Filtering and making sense** of the data is also complex

"They might look at this data, but *it's not helpful for them.*" (instructor)

“students try to print and read text logs to debug their prototypes, but they **cannot explain the meaning of those texts** even though they wrote the code.”

Introducing condition or code to **manipulate the code** might **introduce new bugs**

“I adjusted the cutoff value to make the data smoother, then it started to be too slow and did not match the real-time movement.”

# The system: overview and demo

# The VSCode Extension

Inline Control Panel

Documentation

Menu

- Upload Release
- Reset

Connected  
/dev/cu.usbmodem1301

Expressions help

Identity tests

- assert
- is

Thresholds

- above
- below
- between

Storing variables

- save
- count
- add
- min
- max

Output

- print
- graph
- hist
- log
- volt

Advanced

- map
- filter

Variables

- \$\$
- \$x
- \$o

Select an item for an explanation.

16 int potentiometer = analogRead (A0); //? 309

17

18 if (digitalRead (BUTTON)){ // assert? }

19

20 int val = map(potentiometer, 0, 1024, 0, 255); // between 0, 255? 76

21 analogWrite(LED, val); // graph? 29

22

23 }else{

24     digitalWrite (LED, LOW); // volt | is 0 ? true

25 }

26

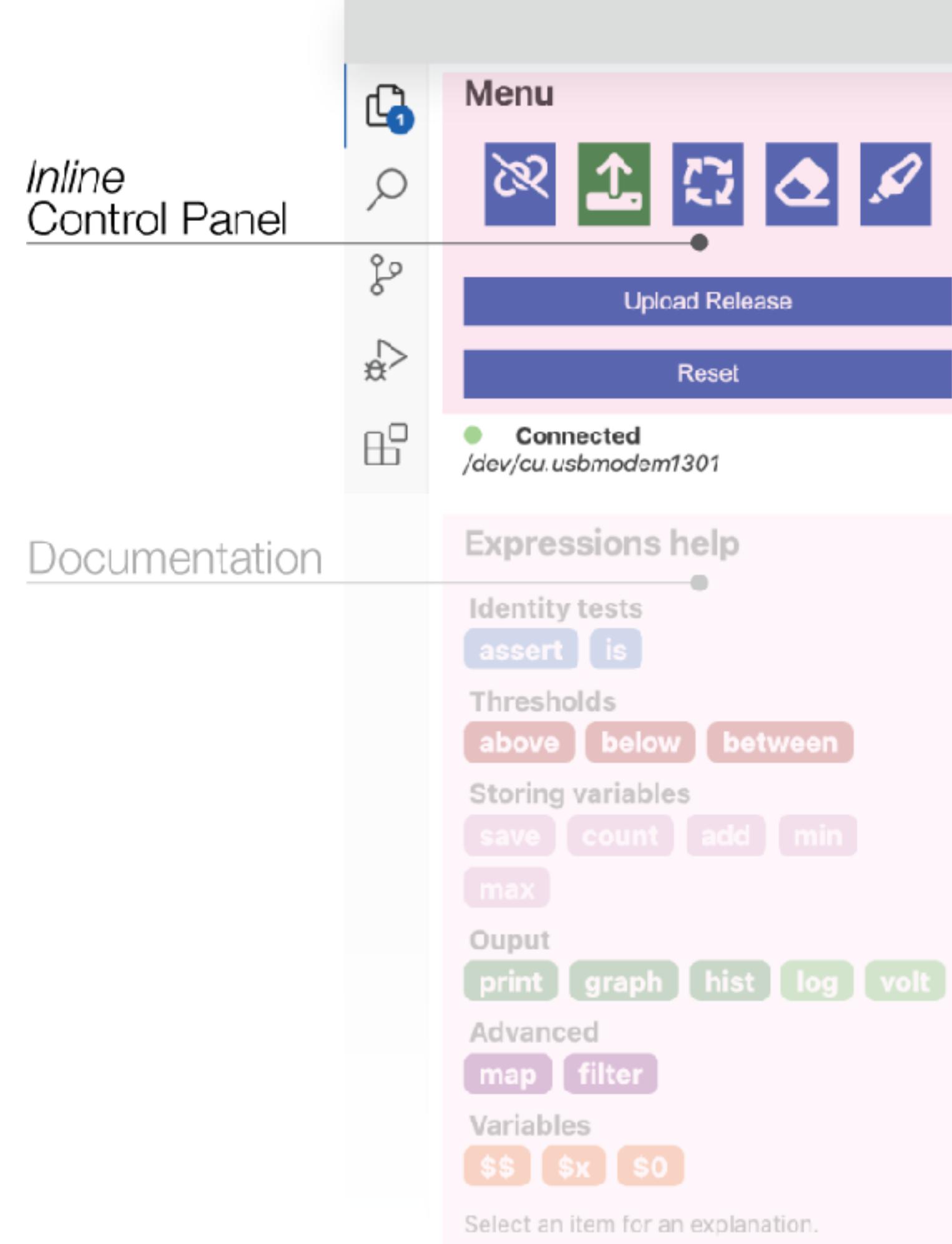
27 int photoresistor = analogRead (A1); // log myFile.txt | hist? 517

28

29

The screenshot displays the VSCode interface with the extension active. On the left, the 'Inline Control Panel' shows a file icon with a '1', a search icon, and four blue icons for upload, release, reset, and settings. Below it, the 'Documentation' section provides a 'Expressions help' sidebar with various operators like assert, is, above, below, between, save, count, add, min, max, print, graph, hist, log, volt, map, filter, and variables \$\$, \$x, \$o. A note at the bottom says 'Select an item for an explanation.' The main area shows a snippet of Arduino-like code with numbered lines (16-29). Lines 18 and 20 are highlighted in yellow, indicating code execution. A red line graph is shown for line 21, with a value of 21 labeled. Lines 23 and 27 also have small callouts pointing to them. At the bottom, a histogram for variable 'photoresistor' is shown with a red bar labeled 'Min: 516'. Annotations on the right side explain these features: 'Real-time inline logs' points to the highlighted lines; 'Highlight of code execution' points to the graph and the highlighted lines; and 'Expressions for analyzing the log' points to the histogram.

# The Menu Panel



## Menu



Connect  
Disconnect



Refresh



Delete  
annotations

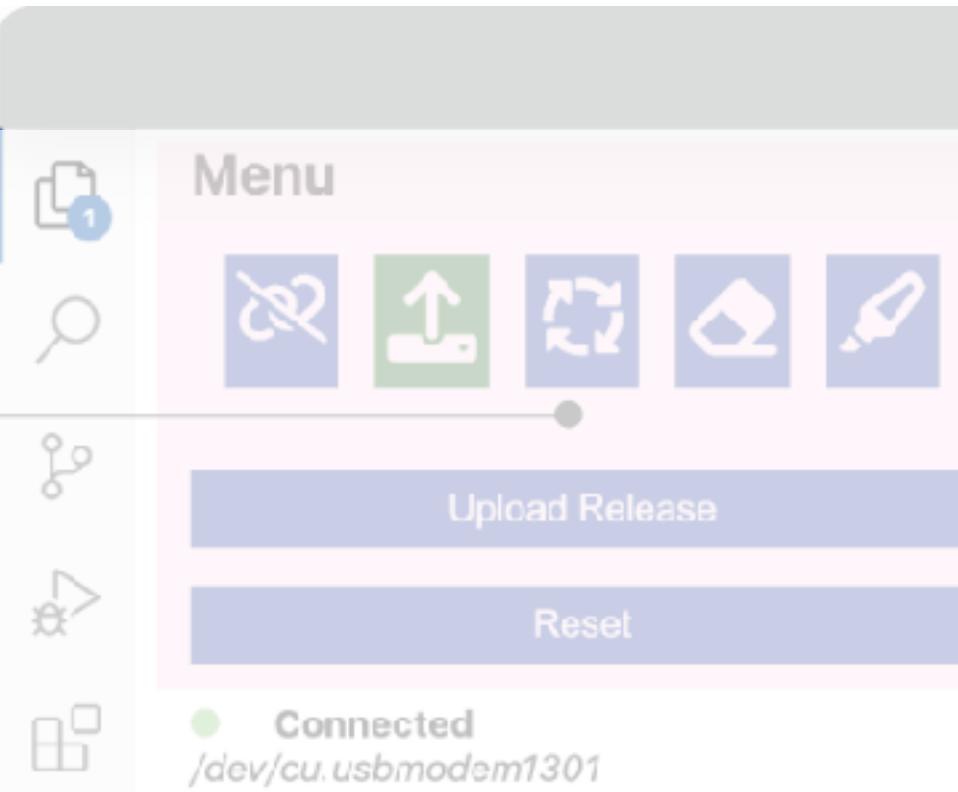


Highlight

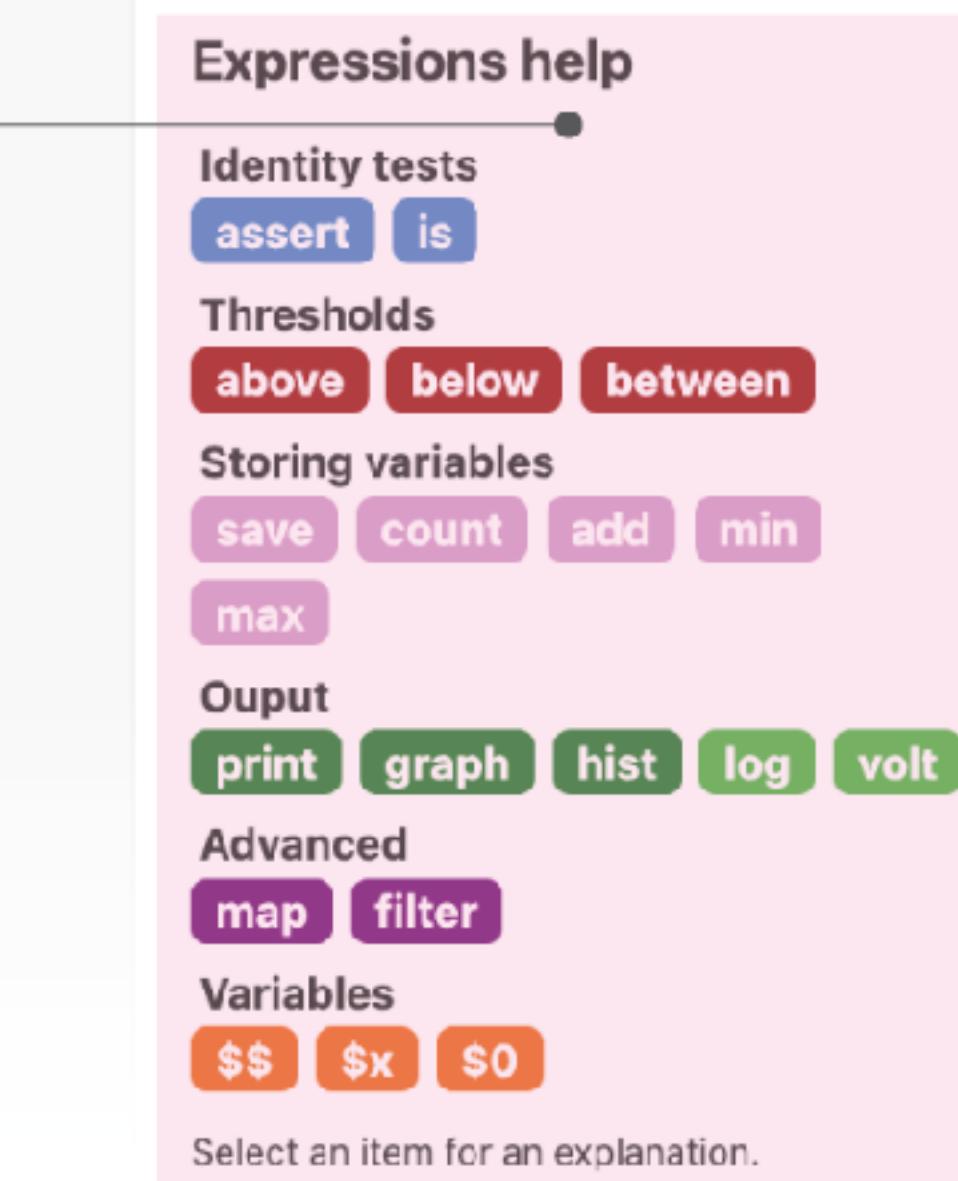
Upload  
Is dirty?

# Documentation

Inline Control Panel



Documentation



## Expressions help

### Identity tests

**assert** **is**

### Thresholds

**above** **below** **between**

### Storing variables

**save** **count** **add** **min** **max**

### Output

**print** **graph** **hist** **log** **volt**

### Advanced

**map** **filter**

### Variables

**\$\$** **\$x** **\$0**

// input | assert ? or

**assert** returns if the **input** expression evaluates to **true**, otherwise .

### Examples

// 2 == 2 | assert ?

copy

// 0 | assert ?

copy

// 15 | above 10 | assert ?

copy

## Feature 1

**1. Trace and view  
the execution flow  
of the program**

[Extension Development Host] inline-demo

EXPLORER ... demo.ino 2\_trace.ino x demo\_start.ino

INLINE-DEMO

- 2\_trace.ino
- demo\_start.ino
- demo.ino

INLINE PLAYGROUND

Menu

- Upload
- Reset
- Connected /dev/cu.usbmodem21101

Expressions help

Identity tests

- assert
- is

Thresholds

- above
- below
- between

Storing variables

- save
- count
- add
- min
- max

Output

- print
- graph
- hist
- log
- volt

Advanced

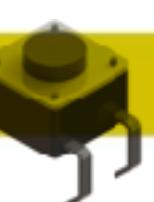
- map
- filter

Variables

- \$\$
- \$x
- \$0

Select an item for an explanation.

void setup(){  
 Serial.begin(115200);  
 pinMode(12, INPUT\_PULLUP);  
}  
  
void loop(){  
  
 if (digitalRead(12) == LOW){  
 int val = analogRead(A2); //? ...  
 int mapped = map(val, 0, 1024, 0, 255); //? ...  
 analogWrite(5, val); //? ...  
 }else{  
 Serial.println("Do other"); //? Do other  
 }  
 delay(1000);  
}



## Feature 2

**2. Display logs  
inline with the code**

//?

```
int value = analogRead(potentiometer); //? 555
```

```
int randomValue = random(5); //? 4
```

```
sqrt(4); //? 2
```

Works with any Arduino function

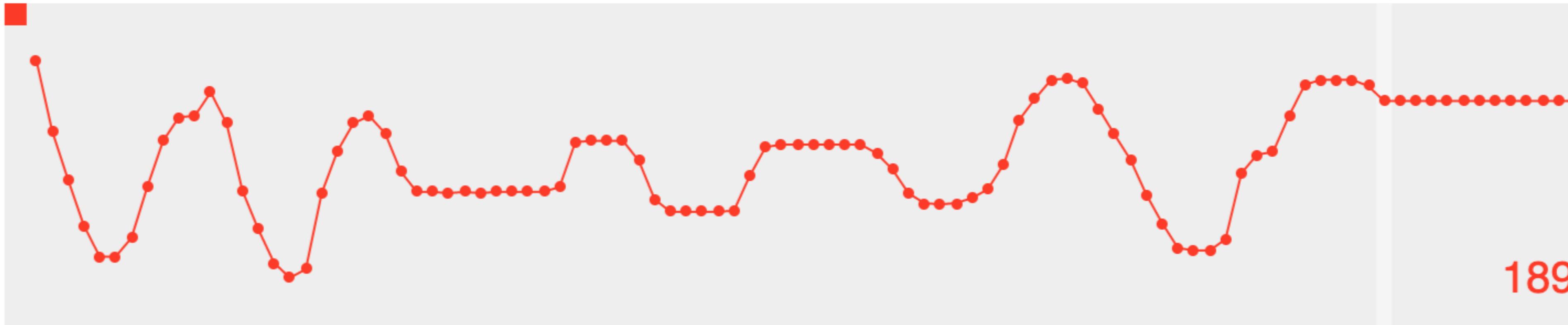
```
int randomValue = random(5); analogRead(potentiometer); //? 556
```

# Chaining with pipe

```
value = analogRead(potentiometer); //below 100 | assert? ✗  
analogWrite(PWM_PIN, value/4); //below 100 | assert? ✓
```

---

```
int value = analogRead(pot1); //above 0 | below 255 | graph? 189
```



### **3. Multiple visualizations along the code**

# Text, Graphs or Histograms

## Textual view

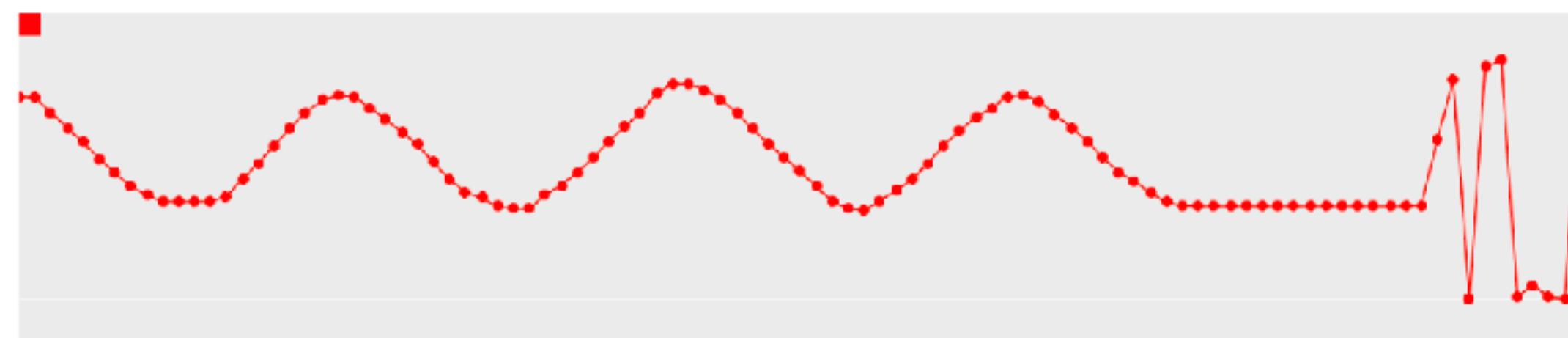
```
value = analogRead(potentiometer); // volt? 2.71  
value = analogRead(potentiometer); // volt 3? 1.63
```

## File logs

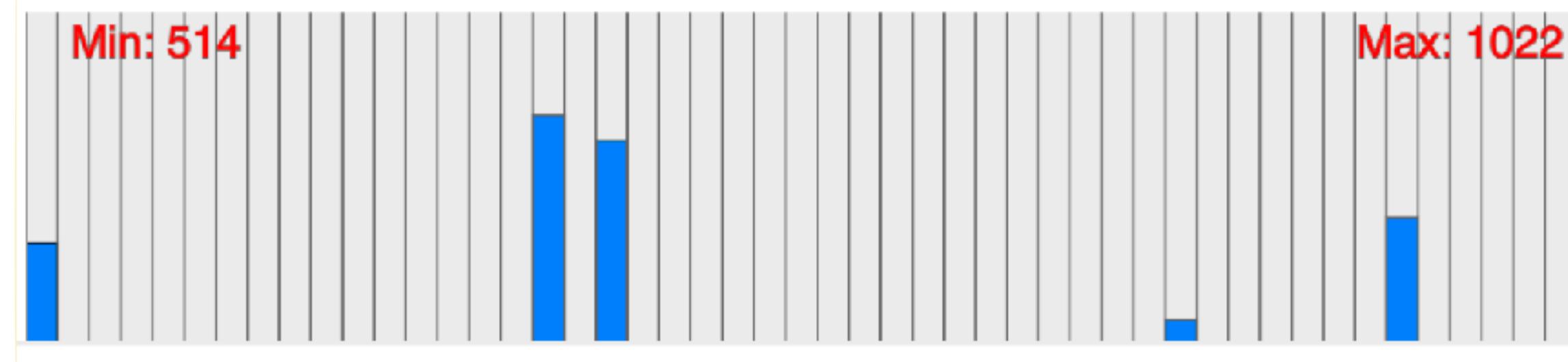
```
EXPLORER ...  
✓ TEST  
> .vscode  
≡ 11C.ino  
⌚ communicating.ino  
⌚ demo.ino  
≡ file.txt  
  
file.txt x  
≡ file.txt  
1 1023,15:54:44  
2 1023,15:54:45  
3 814,15:54:46  
4 582,15:54:47  
5 420,15:54:48
```

# Text, Graphs or Histograms

```
int value = analogRead(pot1); //graph?
```



```
int value = analogRead(pot1); //hist? 703
```



One variable

```
int value = analogRead(pot1); //save x ? 1023  
analogWrite(PWM_PIN, value/4); //hist $x? 100, 1023
```



Multiple variables

## Feature 4

**4. Use runtime **expressions** to explore and manipulate logs**

# Identity / Assertion

assert

returns ✓ if the **input** expression evaluates to **true**, otherwise ✗.

```
// 2 == 2 | assert? ✓  
// 0 | assert? ✗  
// 15 | above 10 | assert? ✓
```

is

checks whether **input** is equal or not to a specified value.

```
// 1 | is 1 ? true  
// 0 | is 1 ? false  
// "string" | is "string"? "string"
```

# Visual Output

print

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 2 == 2 | assert? ✓  
// 0 | assert? ✗  
// 15 | above 10 | assert? ✓
```

graph

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

hist

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

log

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

volt

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

# Using Variables

\$\$ / \$\$0

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

\$name

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

# Thresholds

above

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

below

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

between

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

# Storing Variables

save

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

count

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

add

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

min

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

max

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

map

takes an **input** and maps it with a function to an output.

```
// 10 | map x => x*2 ? 20
```

filter

takes an **input** and return is the filter function returns true, otherwise **None**.

```
// 12 | filter x => x%2==0? 12  
// 5 | filter x => x > 10? None
```

## Thresholds

```
int randomValue = random(5); //between 0,5? 1  
int randomValue = random(5); //above 5? None  
int randomValue = random(5); //below 0? None
```

## Variables

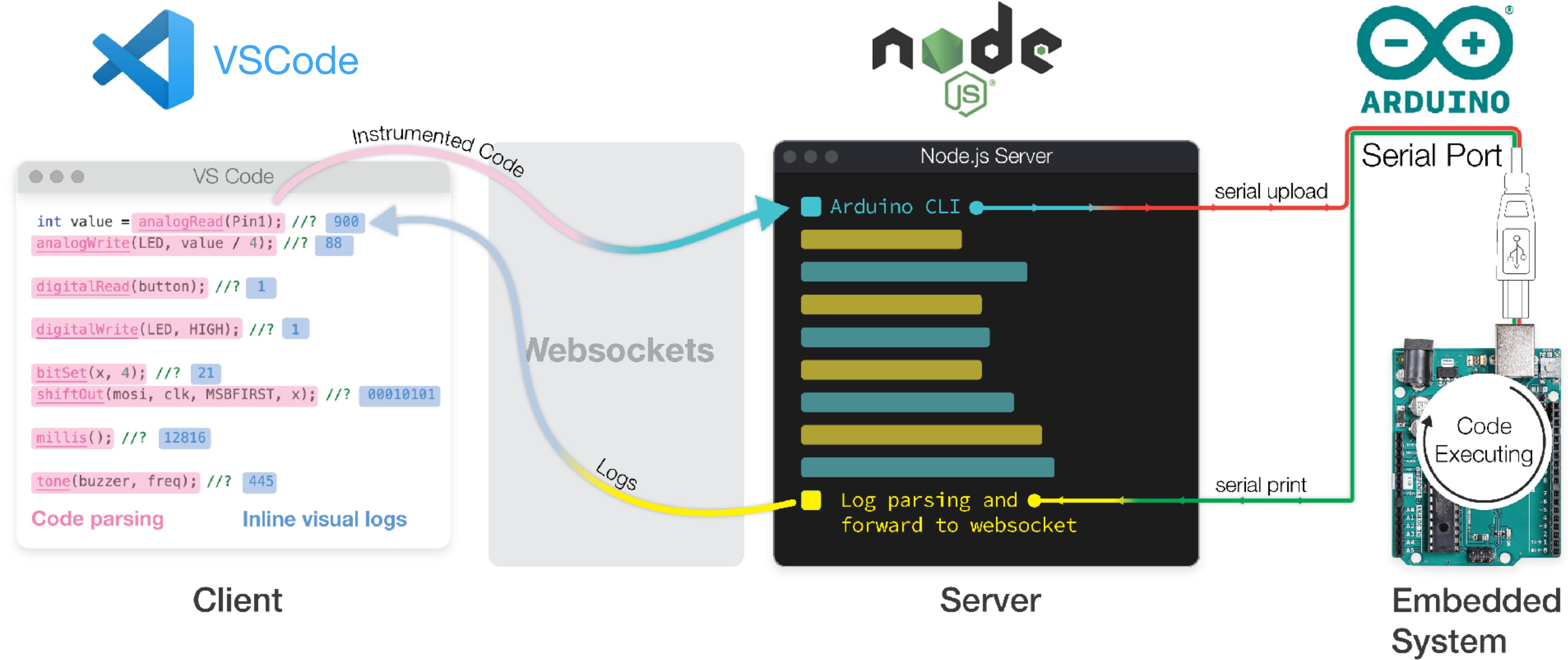
```
int randomValue = random(5); //save x? 3  
analogRead(potentiometer); //\$x? 3
```

## map and filter

```
int value = analogRead(pot1); //map x => x/4? 189.75  
int value = analogRead(pot1); //filter x => (x>=0) && (x<= 255) ? None  
int value = analogRead(pot1); //filter x => (x>=0) && (x<= 255) ? 129
```

# Implementation details

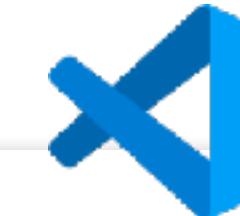
# System Architecture



# Implementation details

## 1. User code

```
1 void loop(){  
2     shiftOut(dataPin, clockPin, MSBFIRST, 10);  
3 }
```



Upload

Serial output

\$a8a4ac\t2\t"00001010"

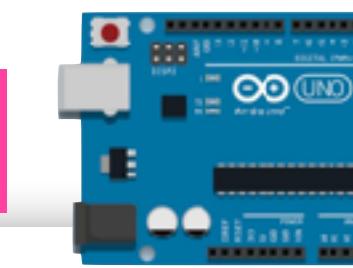
Start tag    identifier    line

payload

Serializer



## 2. Instrumented code



```
1 void loop(){  
2     _shiftOut(dataPin, clockPin, MSBFIRST, 10, "a8a4ac", 2, 1, 1);  
3 }  
  
void _shiftOut(uint8_t dataPin, // user's argument  
               uint8_t clockPin, // user's argument  
               uint8_t bitOrder, // user's argument  
               uint8_t val, // user's argument  
               PARAMS){ // Inline METADATA via MACRO  
    shiftOut(dataPin, clockPin, bitOrder, val);  
    printValueFormatted(SerialWrapper(int2bin(val, bitOrder)),  
                        id, line, index, items);  
}
```

position  
line  
identifier  
logs on line

## 3. *Inline Log Decorators*

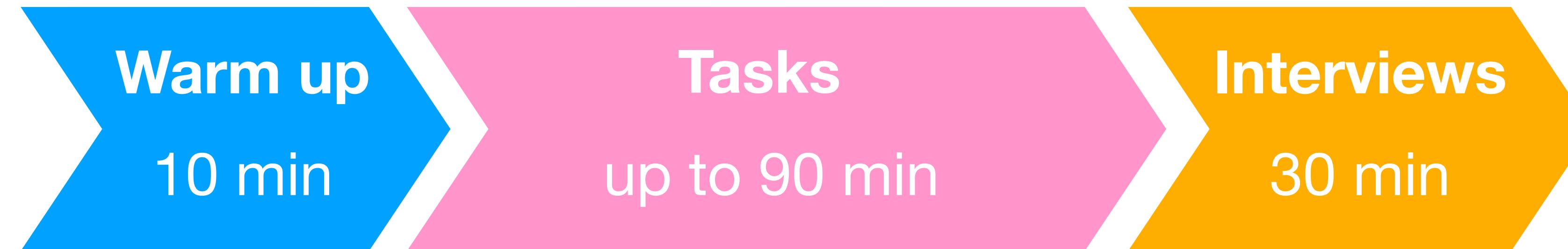
```
1 void loop(){  
2     shiftOut(dataPin, clockPin, MSBFIRST, 10); //? 00001010  
3 }
```



# Evaluation with users

# User Study

- **12 makers** (8 male, 4 female) aged 20-34 (avg=25.7, sd=4) from our institution
- Writing code and **findings software/hardware bugs** in **5** debugging exercises

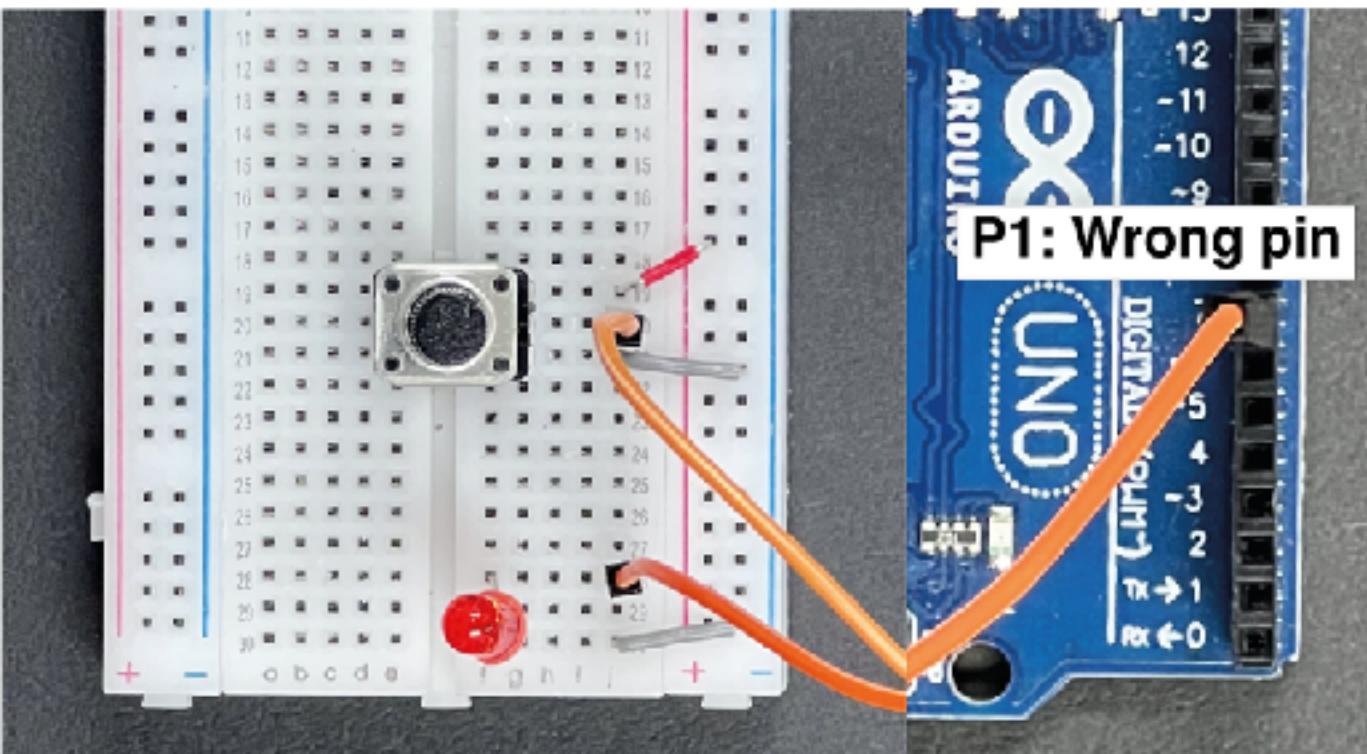


- Data **analyzed by three researchers** (axial coding)
- **Ecological validity:** open ended solutions

# The tasks

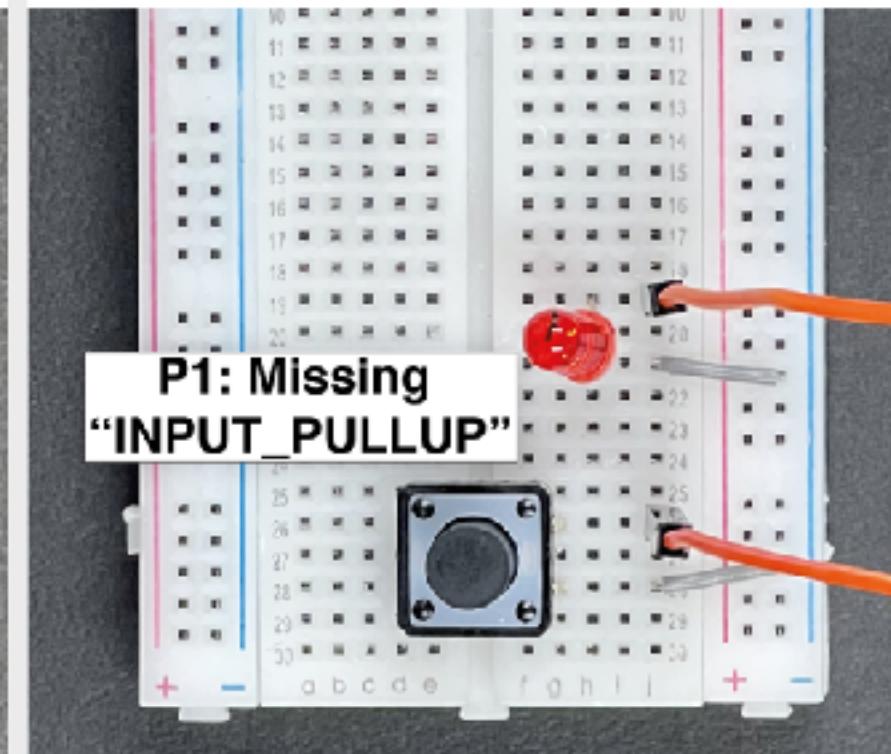
Tasks	Goal	Problems and Solutions
1	Adjust LED brightness using a potentiometer	(HW/SW) Reconnect the LED to a PWM pin, not a digital one (HW/SW) Replace digitalWrite with analogWrite (HW/SW) Map analogRead values to a 0-255 range
2	Toggle the LED with a button	(HW/SW) Set button pinMode as "INPUT_PULLUP" (SW) Use "==" for equality, not "=" (HW/SW) Replace analogRead with digitalWrite
3	Alternate two LEDs using random values	(HW/SW) Set pinMode for LEDs as "OUTPUT" (SW) Adjust if-else condition values to 0 and 1, not 1 and 2
4	Play a tune and silence the buzzer using a bend sensor	(HW) Ground the buzzer (SW) Correct the minimum and maximum value ranges
5	Update LED brightness using a button and a photoresistor	(HW/SW) Modify the upper bound of the value's current range to 9 in the map function

T1: Adjusting brightness of LED with a potentiometer



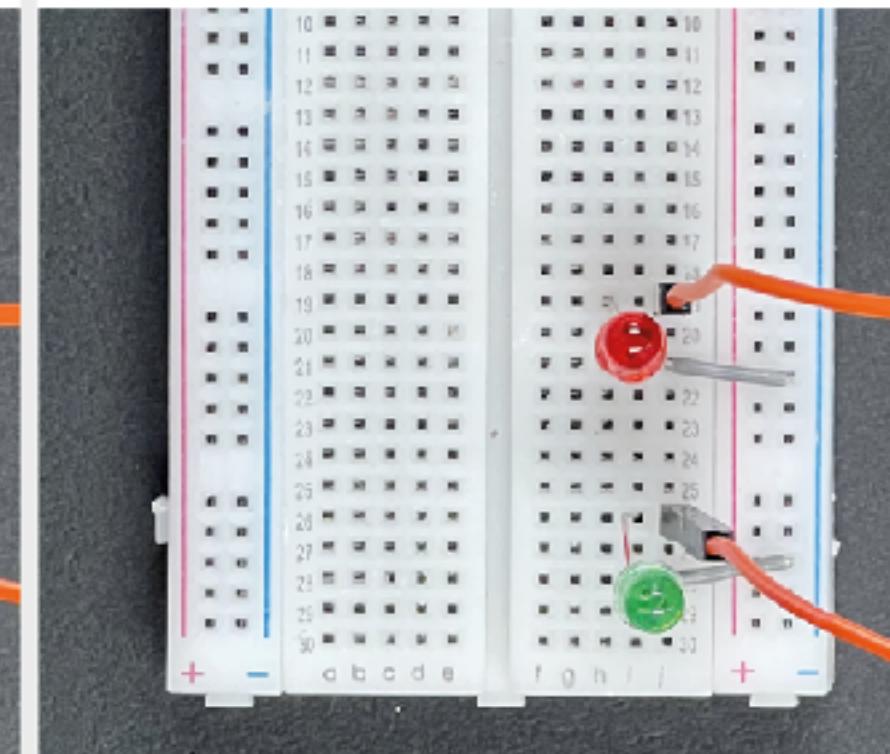
```
int value = digitalRead(potentiometer);  
P2: Incorrect  
read function  
  
P3: Incorrect mapping  
analogWrite(PWM_PIN, value);
```

T2: Turn LED on/off with a button



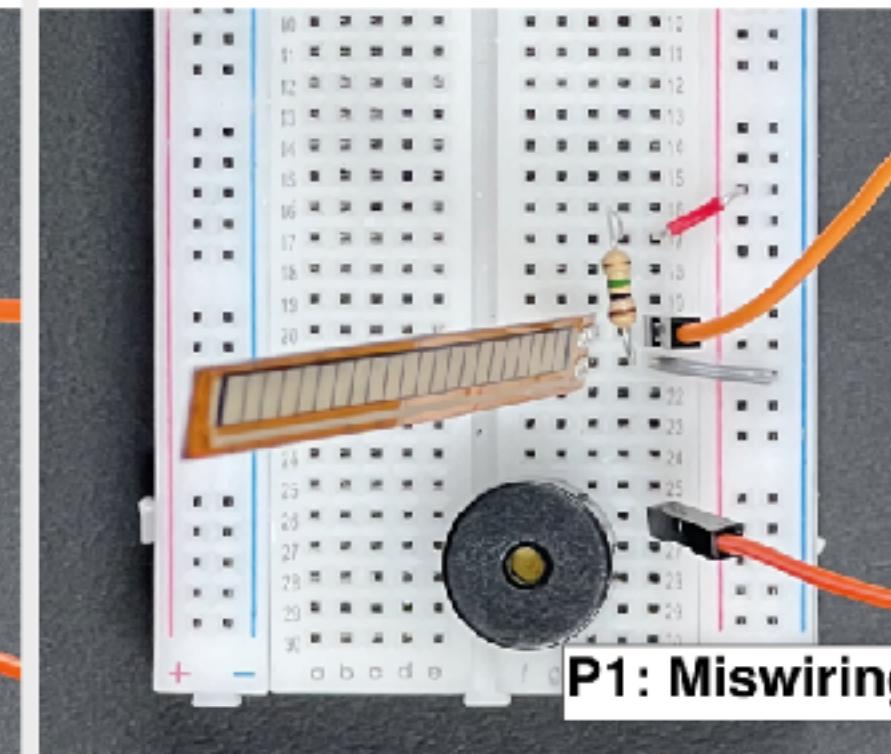
```
if (but == HIGH)  
{  
    analogWrite(LED_PIN, HIGH);  
}  
else  
{  
    analogWrite(LED_PIN, LOW);  
}
```

T3: LEDs randomly light up in turns.



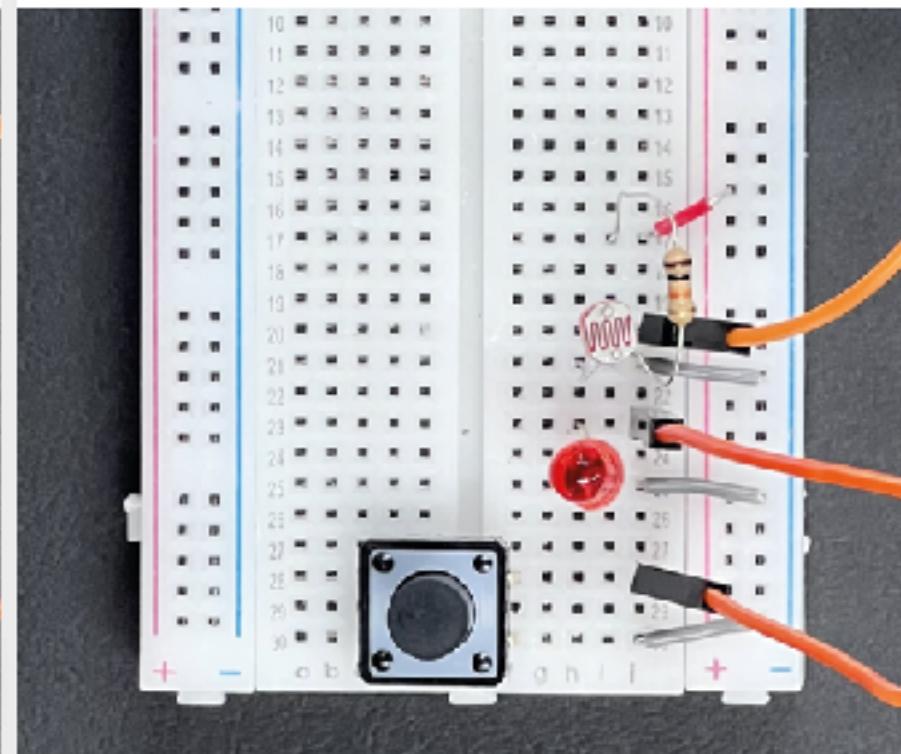
```
pinMode(LED_GREEN, INPUT);  
pinMode(LED_RED, INPUT);  
P1: Wrong  
pin setup  
  
int randomValue = random(2);  
if (randomValue == 1)  
{  
    digitalWrite(LED_RED, HIGH);  
}  
else if (randomValue == 2)  
{  
    P2: Unreachable code  
    digitalWrite(LED_GREEN, HIGH);  
}
```

T4: Tune the buzzer with a bend sensor



```
int val = analogRead(bendSensor);  
P1: Miswiring  
  
int minV = 0;  
int maxV = 1023;  
P2: Incorrect  
mapping  
  
val = map(val, minV, maxV, 0, 1000);
```

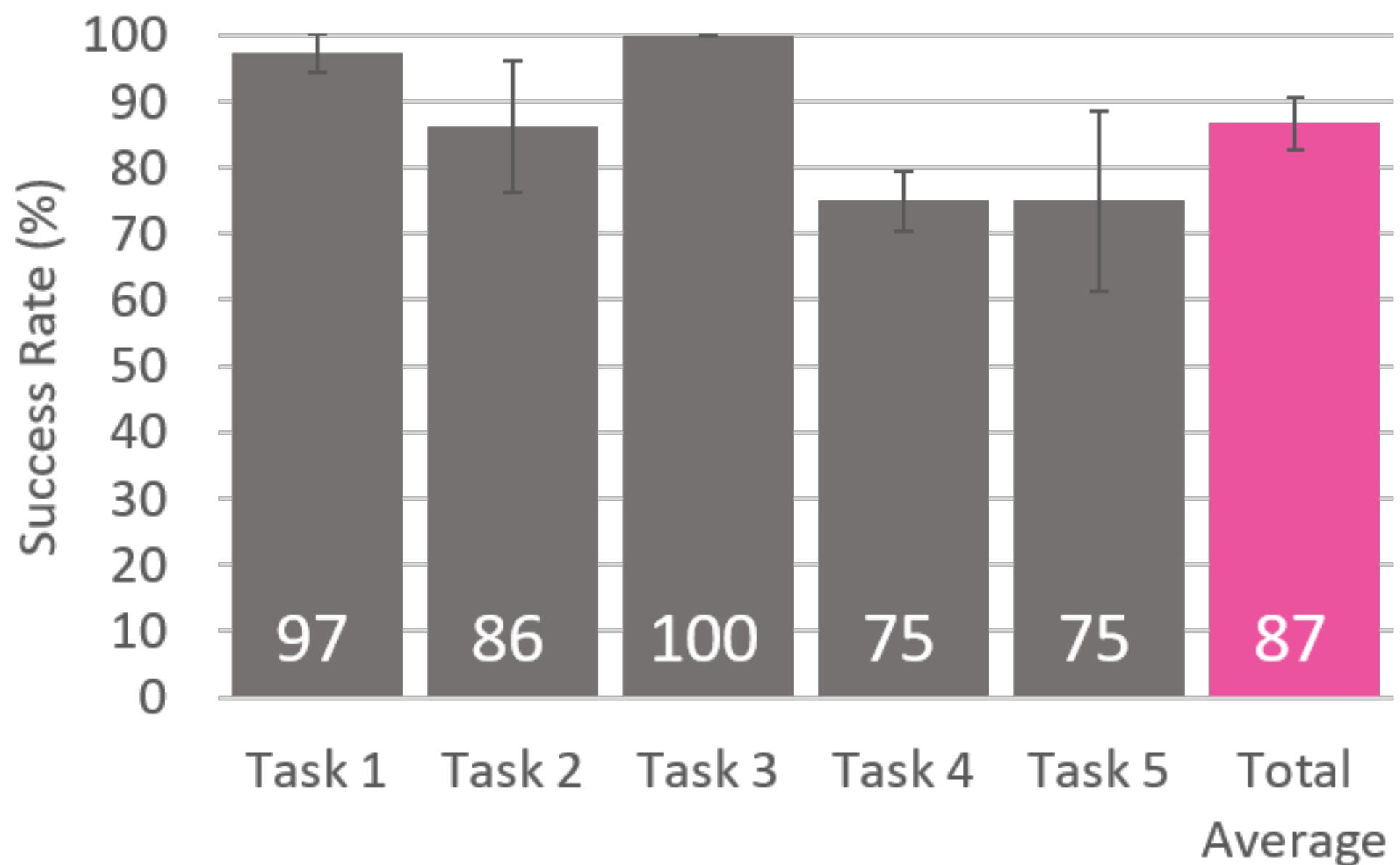
T5: Adjust LED brightness with a photoresistor



```
val = map(val, 0, 1023, 0, 255);  
P1: Incorrect  
mapping
```

# Overall sentiment

- **Ten participants did well.** 8 participants identified all bugs and 2 made a single mistake.
- Two users unable to identify 3-4 bugs



- **Features used:** //? 35% (n=51), output expressions 29% (42), identity tests 16% (24), variables 11% (16), and thresholds 9% (13).
- Overall **appreciation** of convenience ("don't have to change the code every time"). **Histograms** used for identifying operational ranges, line **graphs** to see sensors.

# Patterns of usage

- Start with `//?` and then more specific intent (e.g. `volt`) and then `graph` / `hist`.
- `assert` used to check whether lines were **executed**
- `above 0` to check for **nullish** value
- inline markings **left there** as annotations (can help other understand")
- Typically users were able to **identify the source of a problem**, but not necessarily how to fix it

# In conclusions

1

Print value *Inline*

*printing functions value  
next to the line of code*

*input from hardware      output Inline*

```
analogWrite(LED, value / 4); //? 88
```

```
int value = analogRead(Pin1); //? 900
analogWrite(LED, value / 4); //? 88

digitalRead(button); //? 1

digitalWrite(LED, HIGH); //? 1

bitSet(x, 4); //? 21
shiftOut(mosi, clk, MSBFIRST, x); //? 00010101
```

```
millis(); //? 12816
```

```
tone(buzzer, freq); //? 445
```

2

Highlight

*Tracking code's  
execution flow*

```
if (A && B) {
    quadrature = 0;
    digitalWrite(LED1, HIGH); //? 1
} else if (!A && B) {
    quadrature = 1;
    digitalWrite(LED2, HIGH); //? 1
} else if (!A && !B) {
    quadrature = 2;
    digitalWrite(LED3, HIGH); //? 1
} else if (A && !B) {
    quadrature = 3;
    digitalWrite(LED4, HIGH); //?
```

3

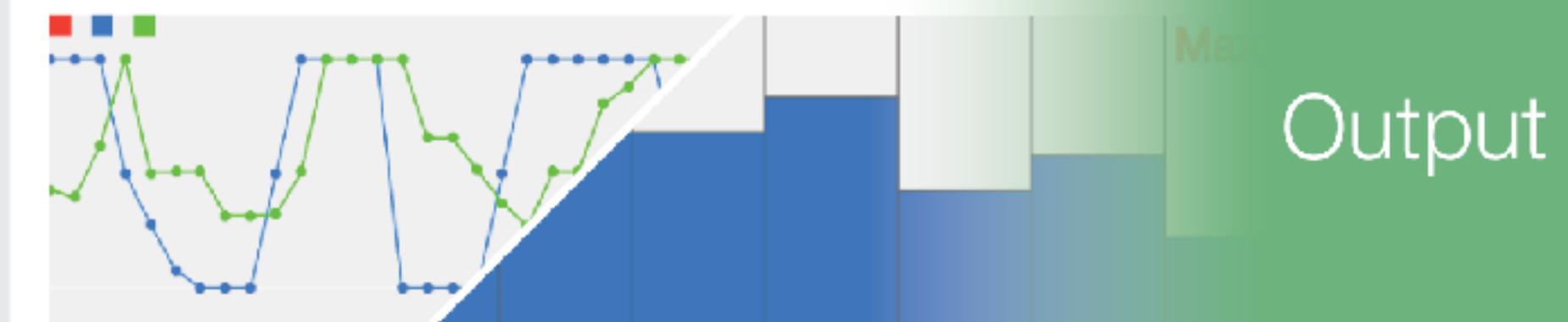
Analyze / Visualize data *Inline*

```
// assert? ✓
// is 1? true

// above 100? 960
// below 100? None
// between 100, 200? None
```

```
// save x? 1023
// count y? 831
// add z? 465522
// min a? 0
// max b? 1023
```

```
// print $x, $y? , 1023, 831
// graph $$, $x? 960, 960, 1023
// hist? 826
```



```
// log myLog.txt ? 960
// volt? 4.69
```

```
// map x => x / 2? 480
// filter x=> x%2 == 0? 960
```

Identity Test

Threshold

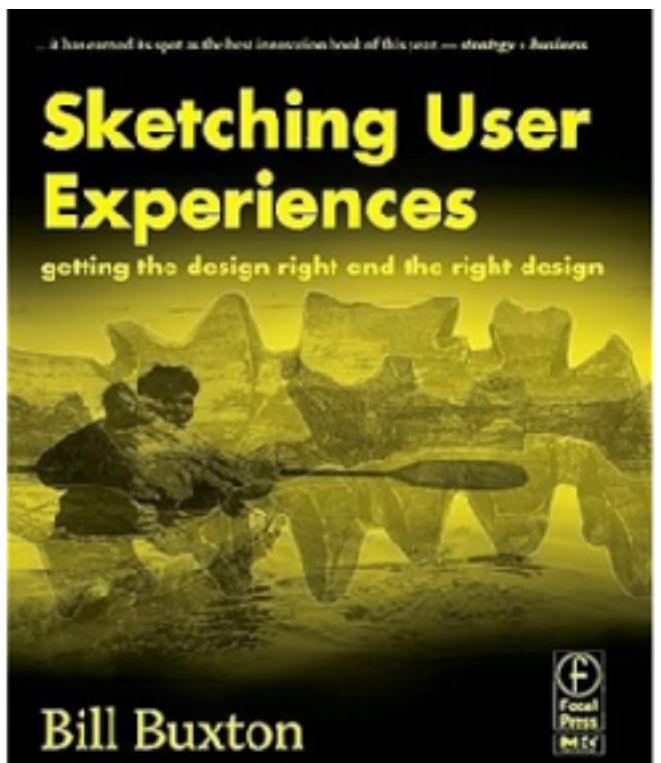
Storing Variables

Output

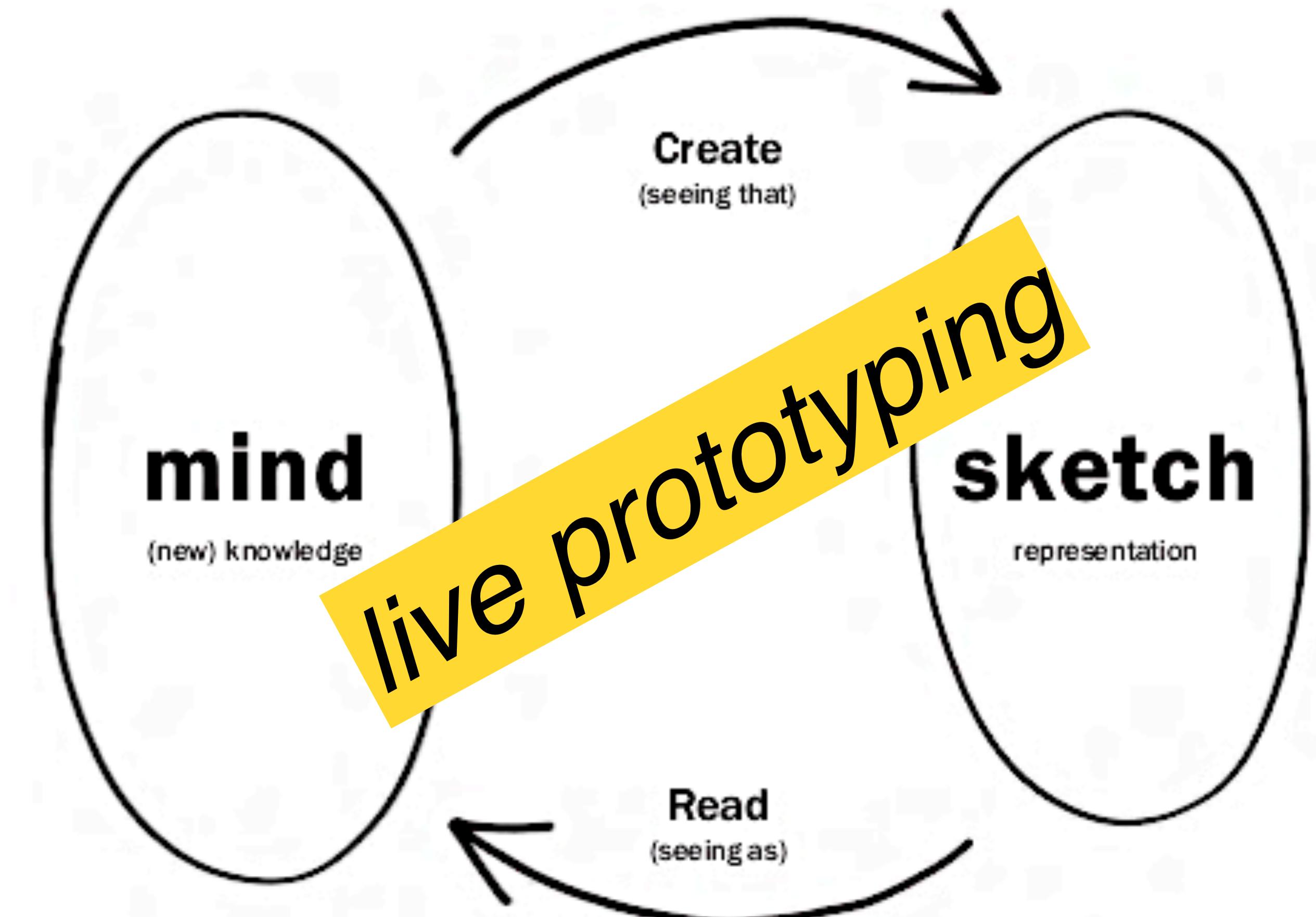
Advanced

**“Sketching is about the activity not the result”**

Bill Buxton



Microsoft®  
**Research**



# Inline



Inline Visualization and Manipulation of Real-Time Hardware Log for Supporting Debugging of Embedded Programs



**Andrea Bianchi**

Department of Industrial Design  
& School of Computing,  
KAIST

A tool for

- **Inline visualization** of debugging logs for hardware
- **Real-time** tracing
- **Manipulation** of logs

Another step toward *live prototyping* with hardware



Zhi Lin Yap

School of Computing,  
KAIST



Punn Lertjaturaphat

Department of Industrial Design,  
KAIST



Austin Z. Henley Kongpyung (Justin) Moon

Microsoft



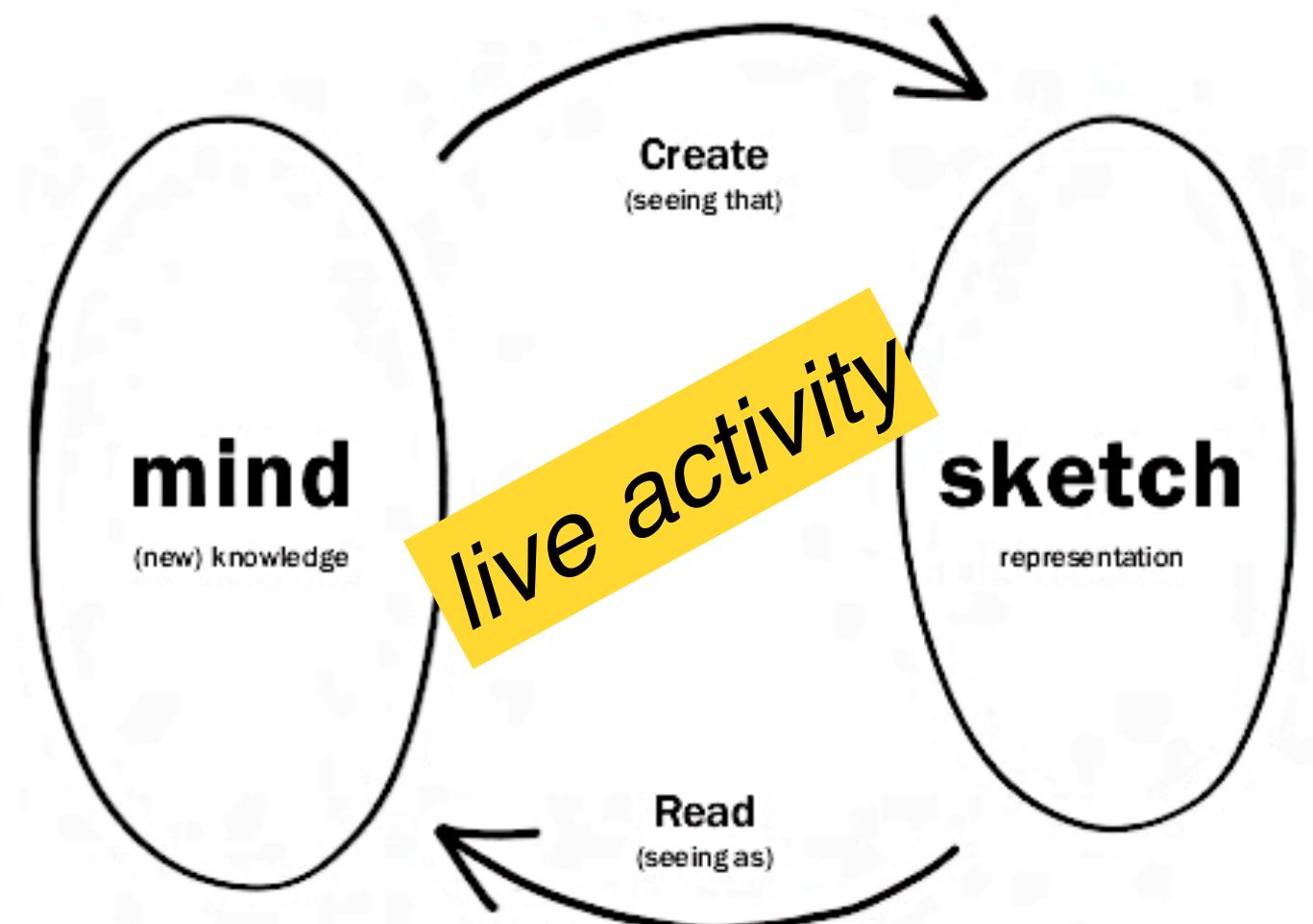
Yoonji Kim

College of Art & Technology,  
Chung-Ang University



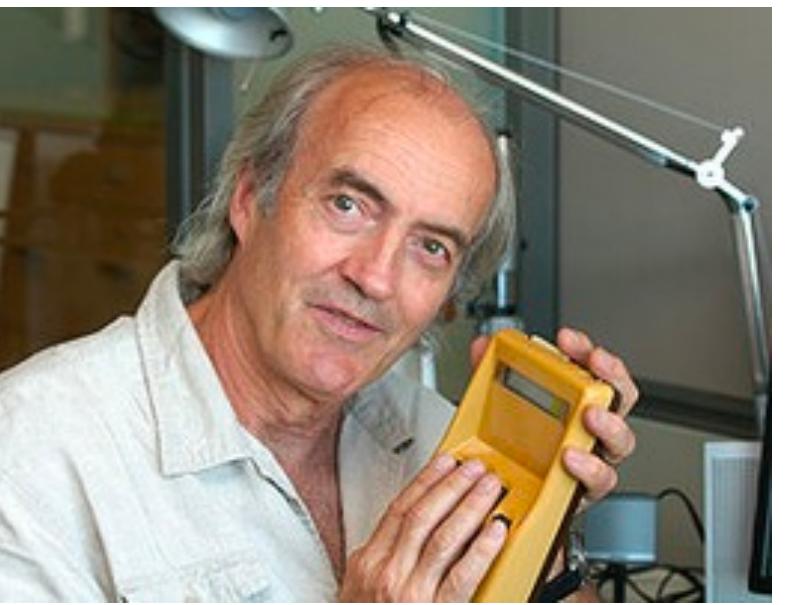
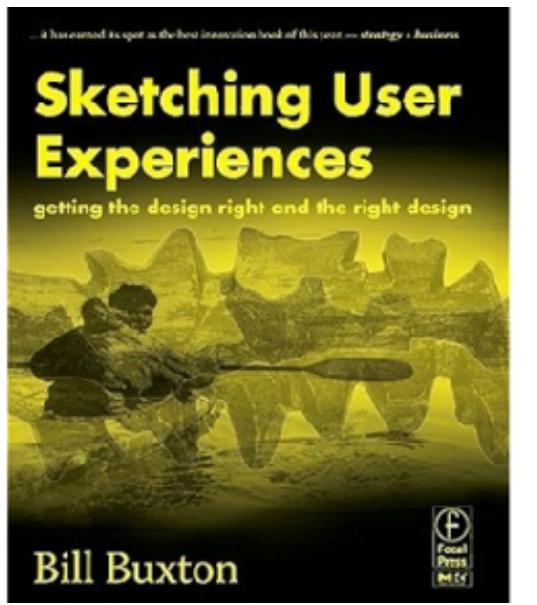


# Appendix



**“Sketching is about the activity not the result”**

Bill Buxton



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Research



# Video

```
152  
153 void loop(){  
154     potVal = analogRead(potPin); //? 0  
155     int length = map(potVal, 0, 1023, 0, 11); //? 0  
156     int brightness = map(potVal, 0, 1023, 10, 50); //? 10  
157  
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170  
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173  
174  
175  
176  
177
```

