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<> Code

Issues 4

Pull requests

Actions

Security

Insights

technical-info / uart-protocol.md



bliss and dleeh Fix broken link in uart-protocol.md

d54754c · 2 months ago



650 lines (481 loc) · 26.9 KB

Preview

Code

Blame



Raw



LEGO Powered Up UART Protocol

The LEGO Powered Up UART sensor protocol seems to be based on the EV3 UART sensor protocol with some new extensions. Information on this page can be assumed to apply to both EV3 UART sensors and Powered Up UART devices unless it is explicitly stated otherwise.

Note: Identifier names used here come from [lms2012.h](#) and [d_uart_mod.c](#). Other names are inspired by [LWP3](#). Some new identifier names are invented. Identifiers currently used by Pybricks are available from [lump.h](#).

Conventions: In the format specifiers below, `[]` means that the enclosed content is optional and `<>` means that the content is variable and should be replaced with a suitable value.

UART Device Synchronization

When a sensor is powered on, it will start sending data at 2400 baud. The data being contains information about the device and its modes of operation. This sequence is sent repeatedly until the device receives an ACK from the programmable brick it is connected to.

The programmable brick watches for `CMD_TYPE`, which is always the first message in the sequence of data. Once this message has been identified, then the brick can decode the remaining messages in the sequence.

The sequence starts with `MESSAGE_CMD` messages that give information about the device followed by `MESSAGE_INFO` commands that give information about each mode. The last mode in the sequence is considered the default mode. In practice, the modes are enumerated from highest to lowest (0 always being the lowest).

The sequence sent by the device is terminated by `BYTE_ACK` and `BYTE_SYNC`. If there were no errors reading any of the messages, the brick will reply with `BYTE_ACK`. Both devices will then change baud rates (the actual rate is contained in one of the messages) and the device will start sending sensor data to the brick. The brick sends `BYTE_NACK` every 100 milliseconds to let the device know it is still there. If the device does not receive `BYTE_NACK`, it will reset and go back to sending the informational messages at 2400 baud.

Newer LPF2 I/O devices can send information messages at 115200 baud instead of 2400 baud. A `CMD_SPEED` message with the baud rate (115200) must be sent to the I/O device before it starts transmitting information messages. If the I/O device supports this feature, it will reply with a `BYTE_ACK` message. If no `BYTE_ACK` is received, then it is assumed the feature is not supported and it is expected that the information messages will be received at 2400 baud.

Message Format

The general message format is `HEADER [DATA [...]] CHECKSUM`. That is, a one-byte header, followed by 0 to 32 data bytes and concluding with a checksum.

Bits 7-6 of the header are the message type. Bits 5-3 of the header are the message size and bits 2-0 are the command or mode depending on the message type.

The checksum is computed by XORing `0xff` with each byte of the message.

System Messages

System messages (`MESSAGE_SYS`) are a single byte and don't include a checksum. As mentioned above `BYTE_ACK` and `BYTE_SYNC` are sent at the end of the device information sequence. `BYTE_NACK` is sent to the device after synchronization at a regular interval (100 milliseconds) to prevent the device from resetting.

Note: The LEGO EV3 Infrared sensor appears to send a checksum (`0xff`) after `BYTE_SYNC`.

Command Messages

Command messages (`MESSAGE_CMD`) part of the device information sequence received from the device with the exception of `CMD_SELECT` and `CMD_WRITE` which are used to control the device (sent from brick to device).

CMD_TYPE

`CMD_TYPE` tells the brick what type of device this is. This command is required and must be the first command in the sequence sent by a device.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_TYPE, <type-id>, <checksum>
```



The values for (`<type-id>`) can be found in the [Assigned Numbers](#) document.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0x40, 0x25, 0x9a
  ^      ^      ^
  |      |      |
  |      |      | checksum
  |      |      | type ID 37
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_TYPE
```



CMD_MODES

`CMD_MODES` tells the brick how many modes this device has. This message is required.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_<n> | CMD_MODES, <modes>, [<views>, [<modes2>,
<views2>,]] <checksum>
```



`<modes>` is the total number of modes minus one (limited to a max value of 7).

`<views>` is the number of modes (also minus one) that can be used in Port View or Data Logger (limited to a max value of 7). If `<views>` is not provided, it is implied that it has the same value as `<modes>`. `<modes2>` and `<views2>` are only provided by Powered Up devices. These are the same values, but are limited to a max value of 15 instead of 7). `<n>` is 1, 2 or 4 depending on how many values are provided.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:


```

0x51, 0x07, 0x07, 0x0a, 0x07, 0xa3
^      ^      ^      ^      ^      ^
|      |      |      |      |      checksum
|      |      |      |      8 views
|      |      |      11 modes
|      |      8 views (for EV3)
|      8 modes (for EV3)
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_4 | CMD_MODES

```



Example, LEGO EV3 Color sensor:

```

0x49, 0x05, 0x02, 0xb1
^      ^      ^      ^
|      |      |      checksum
|      |      3 views
|      6 modes
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_2 | CMD_MODES

```



CMD_SPEED

`CMD_SPEED` tells the brick the baud rate to use after synchronizing. This message is optional. If omitted, it is implied that the device will remain at 2400 baud. In practice, this message is always provided.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_4 | CMD_SPEED, <speed>, <checksum>
```



<speed> is a 32-bit little-endian integer value.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```

0x52, 0x00, 0xc2, 0x01, 0x00, 0x6e
^      ^      ^      ^      ^
|      |      |      |      |      checksum
|      |      |      |      speed = 115200
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_4 | CMD_SPEED

```



CMD_SELECT

`CMD_SELECT` is used to set the mode of the device.

The message is formatted as follows::


```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_SELECT, <mode>, <checksum>
```



<mode> is the mode.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0x43, 0x02, 0xbe
  ^      ^      ^
  |      |      |
  |      |      | checksum
  |      |      | mode = 2 ("COUNT")
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_SELECT
```



CMD_WRITE

CMD_WRITE writes arbitrary data to the sensor.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_<n> | CMD_WRITE, <data>, <checksum>
```



<data> is <n> bytes of device-specific data.

Example, LEGO EV3 Gyro sensor:

```
0x44, 0x17, 0xac
  ^      ^      ^
  |      |      |
  |      |      | checksum
  |      |      | reset command
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_WRITE
```



Note: the value for the reset command comes from EV3-G software. Not sure if it actually does anything.

CMD_VERSION

CMD_VERSION receives the firmware version and hardware version of the device. This message is optional. It is not present on EV3 sensors.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_8 | CMD_VERSION, <fw-version>, <hw-version>,
<checksum>
```




```

0x5f, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x10, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x10, 0xa0
^      ^-----^      ^-----^      ^
|      |             |             |
|      |             |             | checksum
|      |             |             |
|      |             |             | hw-version = 1.0.00.0000
|      |             |             |
|      |             |             | fw-version = 1.0.00.0000
MESSAGE CMD | LENGTH 8 | CMD VERSION

```




```
0x98, 0x20, 0x53, 0x50, 0x45, 0x43, 0x20, 0x31, 0x00, 0x00, 0x53
^      ^      ^-----^      ^
|      |      |                                     checksum
|      |      | "SPEC 1\0\0"
|      |      | INFO_NAME | INFO_MODE_PLUS_8
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_8 | MODE_0
```

Example, LEGO Technic Large Linear Motor:

Byte	Bit	Description
0	7	requires constant power on pin 2
0	6	requires constant power on pin 1
0	5	is a motor
0	4	POWER
0	3	
0	2	POS

Byte	Bit	Description
0	1	APOS
0	0	SPEED
1	7	
1	6	CALIB
1	5	
1	4	
1	3	
1	2	
1	1	
1	0	
2	-	
3	-	
4	7	
4	6	
4	5	
4	4	
4	3	
4	2	?
4	1	
4	0	uses power on pins 1 and 2
5	7	?
5	6	
5	5	
5	4	
5	3	
5	2	?
5	1	?

Byte	Bit	Description
5	0	

INFO RAW

`INFO_RAW` provides information about the scaling of the raw sensor value for a mode. This information should be disregarded since UART devices always send scaled data values. This message is optional. If omitted, the min and max values are assumed to be 0.0 and 1023.0.

This message is formatted as follows:

```
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_8 | MODE_<m>, INFO_RAW [| INFO_MODE_PLUS_8],
<min>, <max>, <checksum>
```

<min> and <max> are 32-bit little-endian IEEE 754 floating point values.

The mode `<m>` is limited to 7. If the mode is greater than 7, `INFO_MODE_PLUS_8` must be set in the second byte of the message and `<m>` must be set to the mode minus 8.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0x9a, 0x01, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0x00, 0xc8, 0x42, 0xee  
^      ^      ^      ^      ^      ^      ^      ^  
|      |      |      |      |      |      |      | checksum  
|      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  
|      |      |      |      |      |      |      | max = 100.0  
|      |      min = 0.0  
| INFO_RAW  
MESSAGE INFO | LENGTH 8 | MODE 2
```

INFO_PCT

INFO_PCT provides information on scaling the sensor value for a mode to a percentage. Basically, this is either going to be 0 to 100% or -100% to 100%. This message is optional. If omitted, the values are assumed to be 0.0 and 100.0.

This message is formatted as follows:

```
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_8 | MODE_<m>, INFO_PCT [| INFO_MODE_PLUS_8],
<min>, <max>, <checksum>
```

<min> and <max> are 32-bit little-endian IEEE 754 floating point values.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

INFO_SI provides information on the scaled data value for a mode. For some sensors, this may be the min and max possible values. For other sensors without such bounds, the max value may indicate, for example, one rotation of a motor (360.0). This message is optional. If omitted, the values are assumed to be 0.0 and 1023.0.

This message is formatted as follows:

<min> and <max> are 32-bit little-endian IEEE 754 floating point values.

The mode `<m>` is limited to 7. If the mode is greater than 7, `INFO_MODE_PLUS_8` must be set in the second byte of the message and `<m>` must be set to the mode minus 8.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

`INFO_UNITS` provide a string giving the units of measurement for a mode. The value is limited to 4 characters (not including the null terminator). This message is optional. If omitted, it is assumed to be an empty string.

This message is formatted as follows:

```
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_<n> | MODE_<m>, INFO_UNITS [| INFO_MODE_PLUS_8],  
<unit>, <checksum>
```

<unit> is the units of measurement encoded using ASCII characters. The length <n> must be a power of 2, so unused data bytes should be set to 0x00 . The data does not need to include a null terminator, e.g. if the name is 4 characters, the length can be set to 4.

The mode <m> is limited to 7. If the mode is greater than 7, INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 must be set in the second byte of the message and <m> must be set to the mode minus 8.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0x92, 0x04, 0x43, 0x4e, 0x54, 0x00, 0x30
^      ^      ^      ^      ^
|      |      |      |      |
|      |      |      |      | checksum
|      |      |      |      |
|      |      |      |      | unit = "CNT\0"
|      |      |      |      |
|      |      |      |      | INFO_UNITS
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_4 | MODE_2
```

Note: The EV3 sources header files use the name INFO_SYMBOL instead of INFO_UNITS for this feature.

INFO_MAPPING

INFO_MAPPING provides mode mapping information for Powered Up devices. This message is omitted on EV3 sensors.

The message is formatted as follows::

```
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_2 | MODE_<m>, INFO_MAPPING [| INFO_MODE_PLUS_8],  
<input>, <output>, <checksum>
```

<input> and <output> are 8-bit flags.

Bit	Description
7	Supports NULL value
6	Supports Functional Mapping 2.0+
5	N/A

Bit	Description
4	ABS (Absolute [min..max])
3	REL (Relative [-1..1])
2	DIS (Discrete [0, 1, 2, 3])
1	N/A
0	N/A

The mode `<m>` is limited to 7. If the mode is greater than 7, `INFO_MODE_PLUS_8` must be set in the second byte of the message and `<m>` must be set to the mode minus 8.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0x8a, 0x05, 0x08, 0x00, 0x78
  ^      ^      ^      ^      ^
  |      |      |      |      checksum
  |      |      |      |      output = 0
  |      |      |      |      input = 8
  |      |      |      |      INFO_MAPPING
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_2 | MODE_2
```



INFO_MODE_COMBOS

`INFO_MODE_COMBOS` provides mode combination information for Powered Up devices. This message appears after the `INFO_FORMAT` message on mode 0 only, making it more akin to `CMD...` instead of `INFO...`. This message is omitted on EV3 sensors.

The data values 16-bit flags with each bit representing a mode. The number of data values will depend on the device. If the number of data values does not fit the length (since length can only be power of 2), then zero values will be added to pad the remaining length. There is a limit of 8 mode combination values since messages are limited to 32 bytes.

The message is formatted as follows:

```
MESSAGE_INFO | LENGTH_<1> | MODE_8, INFO_MODE_COMBOS, <data0>,
[<data1>, [...] ], <checksum>
```



`<data1>` and `<data2>` are unknown 8-bit values.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:



Data messages (`MESSAGE_DATA`) are sent from the device to the brick after the synchronization process has been complete (when brick sends ACK to device after parsing info messages). Messages are sent whenever the device has new sensor info or in response to a NACK (keep-alive) message from the brick.

LPF2 devices also have the ability to write data to the device for modes that support it, for example, controlling the color of the light on a color sensor.

MESSAGE_DATA

This message is formatted as follows:

```
MESSAGE_DATA | LENGTH_<n> | MODE_<m>, <data>, <checksum>
```



The size and format of `<data>` determined by the `<data-sets>` and `<format>` values returned in the `INFO_FORMAT` message. `<n>` is the length of `<data>` in bytes. Since `<n>` must be a power of 2, there may be some extra bytes in `<data>` that should be ignored.

Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

```
0xC0, 0x00, 0x3f
|      |      |
|      |      | checksum
|      |      | color index = 0
MESSAGE_DATA | LENGTH_1 | MODE_0
```



Writing Data

LPF2 sensors have the added capability of being able to write formatted data to a specific mode of the sensor. The format is the same as the one for data received. The messages are actually two combined message to account for the extended mode on LPF2 devices. The first message has the format:

```
MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_EXT_MODE, EXT_MODE_<m>, <checksum>
```



`<m>` is either 0 or 8 and will be added to the mode in the `MESSAGE_DATA` message to get the actual mode.

The second message has the same format as data messages that are received from the device (see previous section for details):

MESSAGE_DATA | LENGTH_<n> | MODE_<m>, <data>, <checksum>



Example, LEGO BOOST Color and Distance sensor:

0x46, 0x00, 0xb9, 0xC5, 0x00, 0x3a

^
^
^
^
^
^

|
|
|
|
|
checksum

|
|
|
|
color index = 0

|
|
|
MESSAGE_DATA | LENGTH_1 | MODE_5

|
|
checksum

|
EXT_MODE_0

MESSAGE_CMD | LENGTH_1 | CMD_EXT_MODE



Definitions


```
// FIRST BYTE
```



```
// bits 7-6
```

```
#define MESSAGE_SYS           0x00    // System message
0b00 << 6
#define MESSAGE_CMD           0x40    // Command message
0b01 << 6
#define MESSAGE_INFO          0x80    // Info message
0b10 << 6
#define MESSAGE_DATA          0xC0    // Data message
0b11 << 6
```

```
// bits 5-3
```

```
#define LENGTH_1              0x00    // 1 byte
0b000 << 3
#define LENGTH_2              0x08    // 2 bytes
0b001 << 3
#define LENGTH_4              0x10    // 4 bytes
0b010 << 3
#define LENGTH_8              0x18    // 8 bytes
0b011 << 3
#define LENGTH_16             0x20    // 16 bytes
0b100 << 3
#define LENGTH_32             0x28    // 32 bytes
0b101 << 3
```

```
// MESSAGE_SYS bits 2-0
```

```
#define BYTE_SYNC             0x00    // Synchronization
byte
#define BYTE_NACK             0x02    // Not acknowledge
byte (keep alive)
#define BYTE_ACK              0x04    // Acknowledge byte
```

```
// MESSAGE_CMD bits 2-0
```

```
#define CMD_TYPE              0x00    // CMD command - TYPE
(device type for VM reference)
#define CMD_MODES             0x01    // CMD command - MODES
(number of supported modes minus one)
#define CMD_SPEED             0x02    // CMD command - SPEED
(maximum communication speed)
#define CMD_SELECT            0x03    // CMD command -
SELECT (select mode)
#define CMD_WRITE             0x04    // CMD command - WRITE
(write to device)
#define CMD_EXT_MODE          0x06    // CMD command -
EXT_MODE (value will be added to mode in CMD_WRITE_DATA - LPF2 only)
#define CMD_VERSION           0x07    // CMD command -
VERSION (device firmware and hardware versions)
```

```
// MESSAGE_INFO and MESSAGE_DATA bits 2-0
```

```
#define MODE_0                0x00    // MODE 0 (or 8 if
```



```
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_1                0x01    // MODE 1 (or 9 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_2                0x02    // MODE 2 (or 10 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_3                0x03    // MODE 3 (or 11 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_4                0x04    // MODE 4 (or 12 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_5                0x05    // MODE 5 (or 13 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_6                0x06    // MODE 6 (or 14 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)
#define    MODE_7                0x07    // MODE 7 (or 15 if
INFO_MODE_PLUS_8 bit is set)

// CMD_EXT_MODE payload
#define    EXT_MODE_0            0x00    // mode is < 8
#define    EXT_MODE_8            0x08    // mode is >= 8

// SECOND INFO BYTE

#define    INFO_NAME              0x00    // INFO command - NAME
(device name)
#define    INFO_RAW              0x01    // INFO command - RAW
(device RAW value span)
#define    INFO_PCT              0x02    // INFO command - PCT
(device PCT value span)
#define    INFO_SI               0x03    // INFO command - SI
(device SI value span)
#define    INFO_UNITS            0x04    // INFO command -
UNITS (device SI unit symbol)
#define    INFO_MAPPING          0x05    // INFO command -
MAPPING (input/output value type flags)
#define    INFO_MODE_COMBOS      0x06    // INFO command -
COMBOS (mode combinations - LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK7             0x07    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK8             0x08    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK9             0x09    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK10            0x0a    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK11            0x0b    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_UNK12            0x0c    // INFO command -
unknown (LPF2-only)
#define    INFO_MODE_PLUS_8      0x20    // Bit flag used in
powered up devices to indicate that the mode is 8 + the mode specified
in the first byte
#define    INFO_FORMAT           0x80    // INFO command -
```



```
FORMAT (device data sets and format)
```

```
// INFO_FORMAT formats
```

```
#define DATA8 0x00 // 8-bit signed
```

```
integer
```

```
#define DATA16 0x01 // 16-bit little-
```

```
endian signed integer
```

```
#define DATA32 0x02 // 32-bit little-
```

```
endian signed integer
```

```
#define DATAF 0x03 // 32-bit little-
```

```
endian IEEE 754 floating point
```