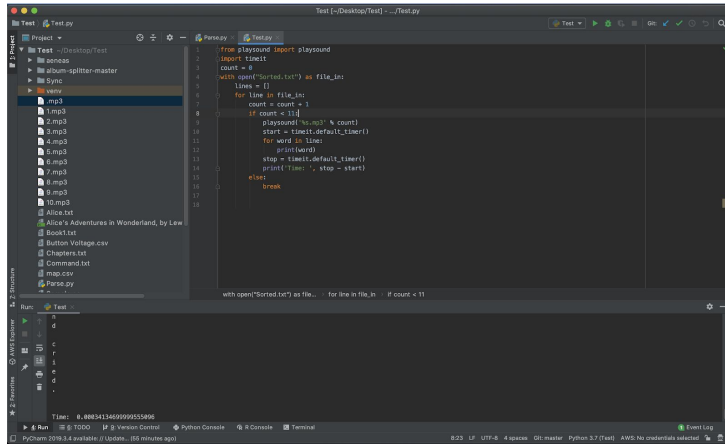


Week 15

Main tasks completed this week:

- Researched on latency calculation method
 - Used timeit library:
<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/5622976/how-do-you-calculate-program-run-time-in-python>
- Calculated latency time for each line of the text-speech syncing process as the difference in end time lying between the end of line of text-printing and the end of the audio-playing

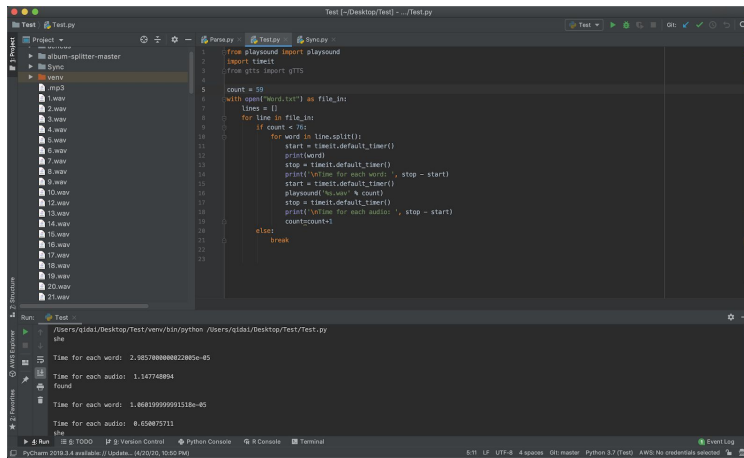


```
from playback import playback
import timeit
count = 0
with open('sorted.txt') as file_in:
    lines = []
    for line in file_in:
        count = count + 1
        if count < 10:
            playback('mp3' % count)
            start = timeit.default_timer()
            for word in line:
                stop = timeit.default_timer()
                print('Time: ', stop - start)
            else:
                break
```

- Latency calculation result:

Latency (sec)	Latency (ms)
0.000203985	0.203985
0.00028844	0.28844
0.000392361	0.392361
0.000366115	0.366115
0.000418226	0.418226
0.000350542	0.350542
0.000676993	0.676993
0.000492075	0.492075
0.000614097	0.614097
0.000341347	0.341347
Averaged Latency (ms)	0.4144181

- Redo latency calculation based on each word (parsed the audio to word based to make measurement more accurate):



- Selected the shortest and longest sentence in the sample paragraph

Measured difference between the end of each word and its audio					
Word List	Word time (sec)	Word time (ms)	Audio time (sec)	Audio time (ms)	Latency (ms)
After	2.53E-05	0.025264	1.228081998	1228.081998	1228.056734
A	8.75E-06	0.00875	0.685626023	685.626023	685.617273
While	8.70E-06	0.008697	0.764989581	764.989581	764.980884
				Averaged Latency (s)	0.892884964
she	2.99E-05	2.99E-02	1.147748094	1147.748094	1147.718237
found	1.06E-05	1.06E-02	0.650075711	650.075711	650.065109
she	8.63E-06	8.63E-03	0.683879108	683.879108	683.870478
could	8.87E-06	8.87E-03	0.574664955	574.664955	574.656087
not	1.01E-05	1.01E-02	0.730860783	730.860783	730.850683
possibly	9.36E-06	9.36E-03	1.024056818	1024.056818	1024.047458
reach	8.82E-06	8.82E-03	0.763969712	763.969712	763.960894
it	9.10E-06	9.10E-03	0.43034349	430.34349	430.33439
she	9.17E-06	9.17E-03	0.68789972	687.89972	687.890546
could	1.95E-05	1.95E-02	0.578115299	578.115299	578.095777
see	9.03E-06	9.03E-03	0.839717889	839.717889	839.708862
it	9.10E-06	9.10E-03	0.422604042	422.604042	422.594946
quite	9.31E-06	9.31E-03	0.665092489	665.092489	665.083179
plainly	1.17E-05	1.17E-02	0.890717219	890.717219	890.70551
through	2.40E-05	2.40E-02	0.765192357	765.192357	765.168387
the	1.09E-05	1.09E-02	0.500548967	500.548967	500.538051
glass	8.95E-06	8.95E-03	0.936420386	936.420386	936.411439
				Averaged Latency (s)	0.723041178

Plan for next week:

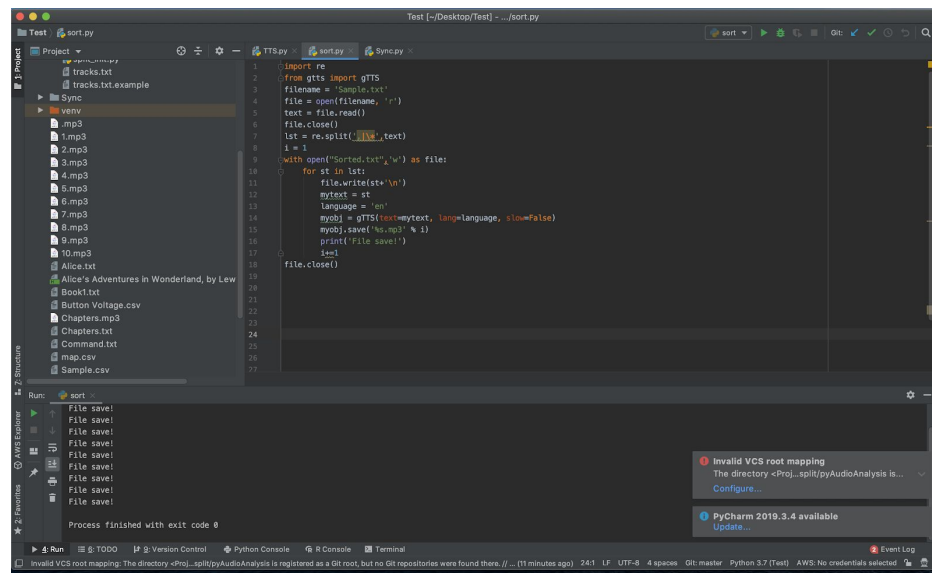
- Record video for demo
- Clear any revision on subsystem

Week 14

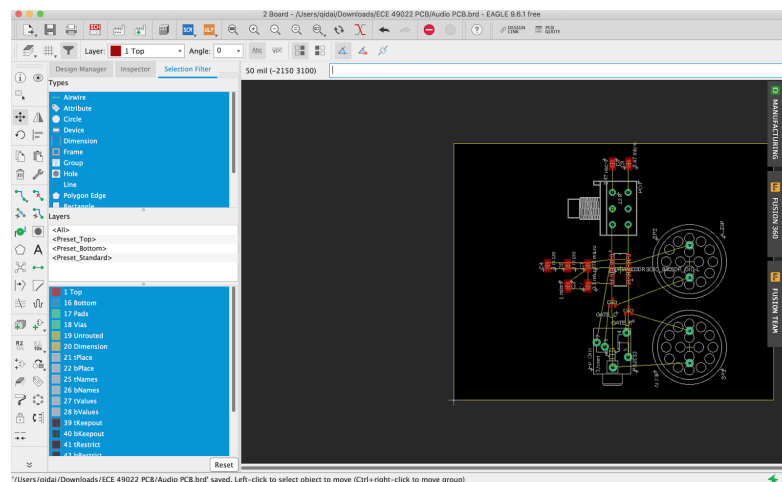
Main tasks completed this week:

- Completed Whitepaper review
- Wrote new audio parsing code
 - when sorting the text file line by line, use gTTs to produce a new audio file for that line of text

- produced with higher accuracy than the previous one with less complexity



- Going to make various speed audio samples from new parsed audio files
 - PCB design for audio system:
 - Downloaded library for PAM8403 and installed in EAGLE
 - Converted schematic into PCB design and started to follow the instructions to test around the lay out
- <https://www.autodesk.com/products/eagle/blog/pcb-layout-basics-component-placement/>



- Completed requirement check for rubric

Plan for next week:

- Produced different-speed audio file for the new parsed samples
- Sync demo with the new sample and configured latency calculation

Week 13

Main tasks completed this week:

- Tested sorting text using a variety of blank lines in between each line of text
 1. The audio parser has the highest at 8/10 accurate audio parsed at right timing and worst is 5/10

A	B	C	D
f000001	0	1.04	After a while
f000050	1.04	3.36	finding that nothing more happened
f000099	3.36	7.32	she decided on going into the garden at once; but
f000148	7.32	11.04	alas for poor Alice! when she got to the door
f000197	11.04	14.28	she found she had forgotten the little golden key
f000246	14.28	16.88	and when she went back to the table for it
f000295	16.88	22.68	she found she could not possibly reach it: she could see it quite plainly through the glass
f000344	22.68	26.6	and she tried her best to climb up one of the legs of the table
f000393	26.68	31.84	but it was too slippery; and when she had tired herself out with trying
f000442	31.96	34.48	the poor little thing sat down and cried.

2. The blank line can increase slight the time difference between each line but very dependent on the speaker's line break and the timestamps also got rounded up or down depending on the conversion from seconds to hh:mm:ss format using time/86400, which means the milliseconds part may be affected during parsing
3. Couple alternative ways:
4. Find a audio parser with resolution up to ms (still in search but seems like most up to seconds)
5. Parse a longer fragment of audio instead
6. Use gTTs on each line of text instead of the whole text

Materials that may be helpful:

<https://github.com/naudio/NAudio>

Plan for next week:

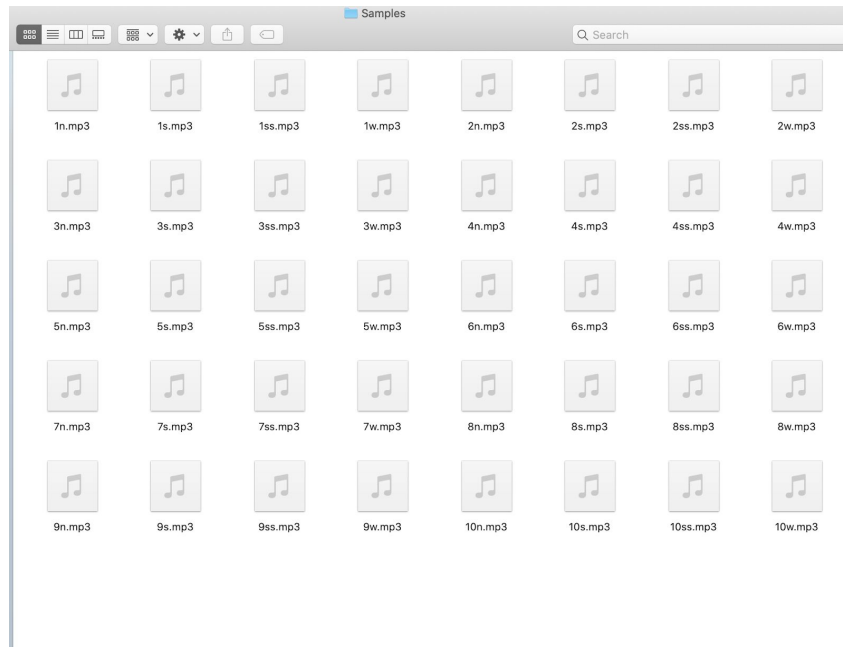
- complete whitepaper review research and document
- complete audio parsing alternative plan

Week 12

Main tasks completed this week:

- Selected a paragraph from the Alice text as test sample
 - Sorted the text
 - Parsed audio file for each line of text

- Generated audio files at 50%, 100%, 150% and 200% speed



n: normal speed at 100% original

w: slower speed at 50% original

s: faster speed at 150% original

ss: much faster speed at 200% original

- Meeting with prof. Boutin and discussed how to display text at various speed by inserting pulse between words
- Researched about "sleep" function for pausing between word
<https://www.pythoncentral.io/pythons-time-sleep-pause-wait-sleep-stop-your-code/>

Plan for next week:

- Whitepaper review
- Try to manipulate the blank in the text to see how to make the space between each line of the audio longer to make it parse accurately
- Test sample uses one line first then uses a paragraph

Week 11 (Week 10-Spring Break)

Main tasks completed this week:

- DD3 doc: Updated measurement for specifications, citation, audio syncing portion
- Figured out the skill assessment replacement
- Integration of all buttons with Cody's subsystem
- Figured out how to generate speed-up and slow-down audio file:
 - First method: Matlab Phase Coder
(<https://www.ee.columbia.edu/~dpwe/resources/matlab/pvoc/>)

- Able to generate audio file in different speed but sound weird if not adjusting pitch and also only produced .wav file
- Second method: Online Audio Speed Changer (<https://www.audiospeedchanger.com/>)
 - Able to generate audio file in different speed with more original sound and supportive with .mp3 file output

Plan for next week:

- Test parsing sample on book (paragraph)
- Generate more audio files with different speed

Week 9

Main tasks completed this week:

- Updated subsystem block diagram, flow diagrams, schematic, test result for most spec
- Completed urgent senior design plan

Plan for next week:

- Continue on integration with other subsystems
- PCB design for speed button

<https://www.mathworks.com/help/audio/examples/measure-audio-latency.html>

Week 8

Main tasks completed this week:

- Successfully wrote an algorithm to demo the way we are syncing the audio on micro-controller using Python

```

1 from playsound import playsound
2
3 count = 1
4 i = 0
5 with open("Chapters.txt") as file_in:
6     lines = []
7     for line in file_in:
8         lines.append(line)
9     while count < len(lines):
10        print(lines[i])
11        playsound('mp3/' + count)
12        i += 1
13        count += 1
14
15

```

Run: Sync (1)

```

You are currently on Chapter 9
You are currently on Chapter 18
You are currently on Chapter 11
You are currently on Chapter 12
Process finished with exit code 0

```

- How we plan for on board syncing to work: we will have separate folder called "Chapters" and "Page number" for parsed audio files and text, once the text display notifies the specific line of the text array for text-to-speech output, we would have the file-path for which audio file is going to output on the speaker/audio jack using DAC and then the file-path variables will be updated to match the position.
- Updated block diagram and demo plan for speed control portion
- Successfully updated prescaler for LED timer frequency in ADC interrupt, however ADC value fluctuate so much even without using potentiometer knob to adjust the speed, so switched to using bounceless push button to set 4 different states for 4 prescaler values
 - able to update prescaler values (speed divider) everytime push button is pressed and after 4 values will cycle back to the first one
 - text-to-speech (audio output) will maintain constant speed as playing for now and has its own clocking frequency, but I will still try to make speeded up audio files just in case
 - speed divider will only be sent to text display at this point

Plan for next week:

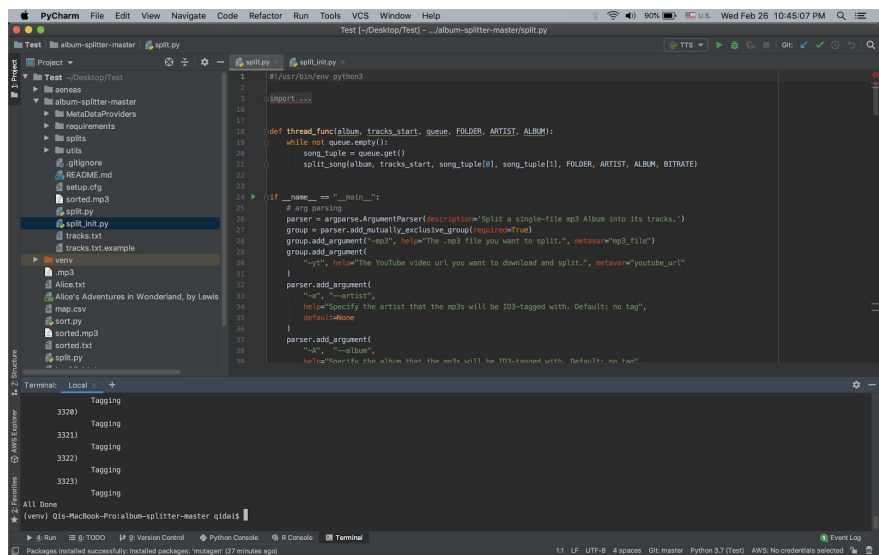
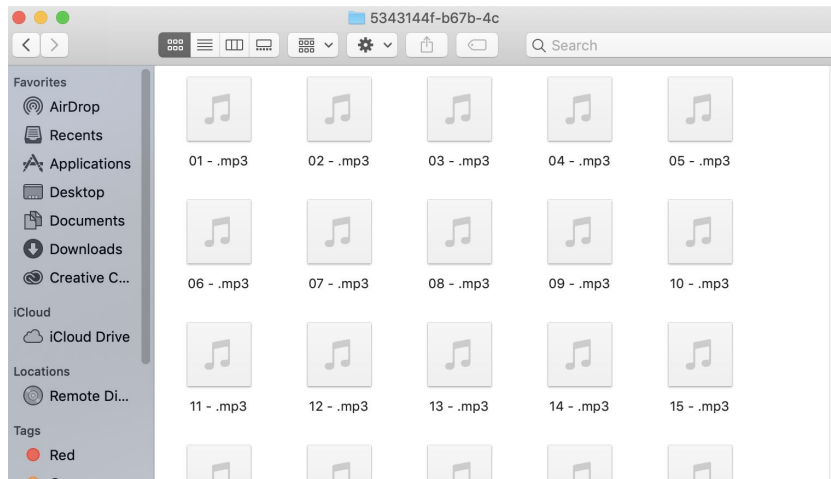
- Revise design document, update subsystem details
- Start integrating speed control with other subsystems

Week 7

Main Tasks completed this week:

- Updated subsystem diagram, specs and flow diagram
- Reconfigured ADC
 - using single mode with 100ms delay, 8 bit resolution and 50ms conversion gap

- using interrupt-based mode
 - ADC will work as potentiometer turns around, however, it kept updating its measurement value even without using knob??
 - LED configuration successfully, but could not update its pre-scaler value and had to do it manually, which means it would not reflect the update prescaler value for different ADC measurements
- Converted sorted text file to mp3 using gTTS, mapped the audio file with original text file, tested the accuracy of map file in srt format using Lectora Online
 - Mapping accuracy tested increased 95%, which meant the timestamps matched the audio and the text as expected
- Imported .csv map file into excel and converted timestamps in seconds into hh:mm:ss format and exported as .txt for audio parsing
 - successfully parsed audio file into fragments of audio files, each file corresponded to a line of the book with file name in order
reference: <https://github.com/crisbal/album-splitter>
- audio files are expected to save on the usb drive or sd card, line position would be tracked and then the position control would notify the text-to-speech output to play the corresponding audio file for that specific line
 - accuracy anticipated to be average 75% depending on the html file we are using since the parsed audio file matched the sorted .txt file of the ebook
 - parsing process time for 2h47 audio: approximately 15 mins for over 3000 audio clips (217.3 MB)



Plan for next week:

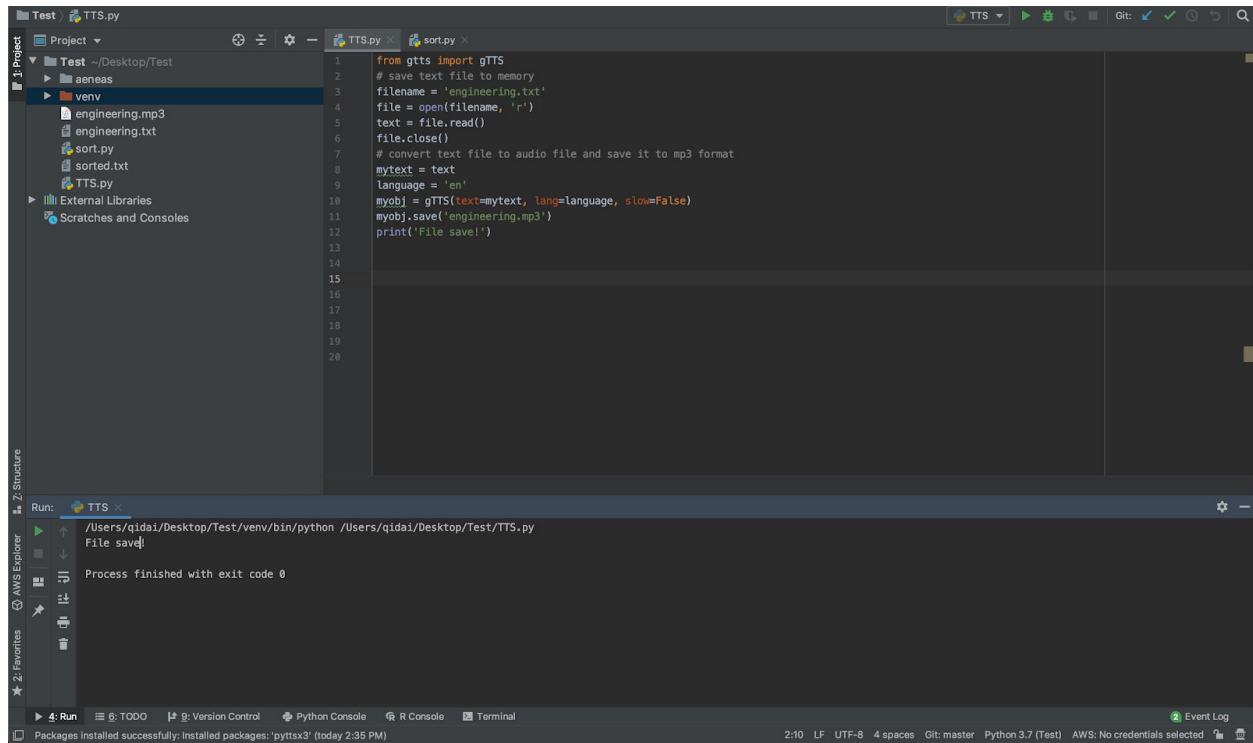
- Ask for help on ADC configuration with LED frequency (either update on pre-scaler or using PWM)
- Check on updates with position control on playing selected audio files

Week 6

Main Tasks completed this week:

- Tested ADC configuration using potentiometer under 3.3 V
 - Speed divider for the led blinking frequency was not reflected
 - found out that this was caused by the errors in ADC conversion(ADC data was jumping all over the place even without changing potentiometer) → need to reconfigure ADC and see what happened
- Completed sorting the file by comma, which will be better for mapping

- Generated audio for text file using gTTS(<https://www.geeksforgeeks.org/convert-text-speech-python/>), which would be useful if the user does not have a audio on file
 - The whole process took more time than I think, around 13mins to finish processing the whole textbook and produced a 2h30min audio file for the book, and it took around 1min to produce the .srt mapping file



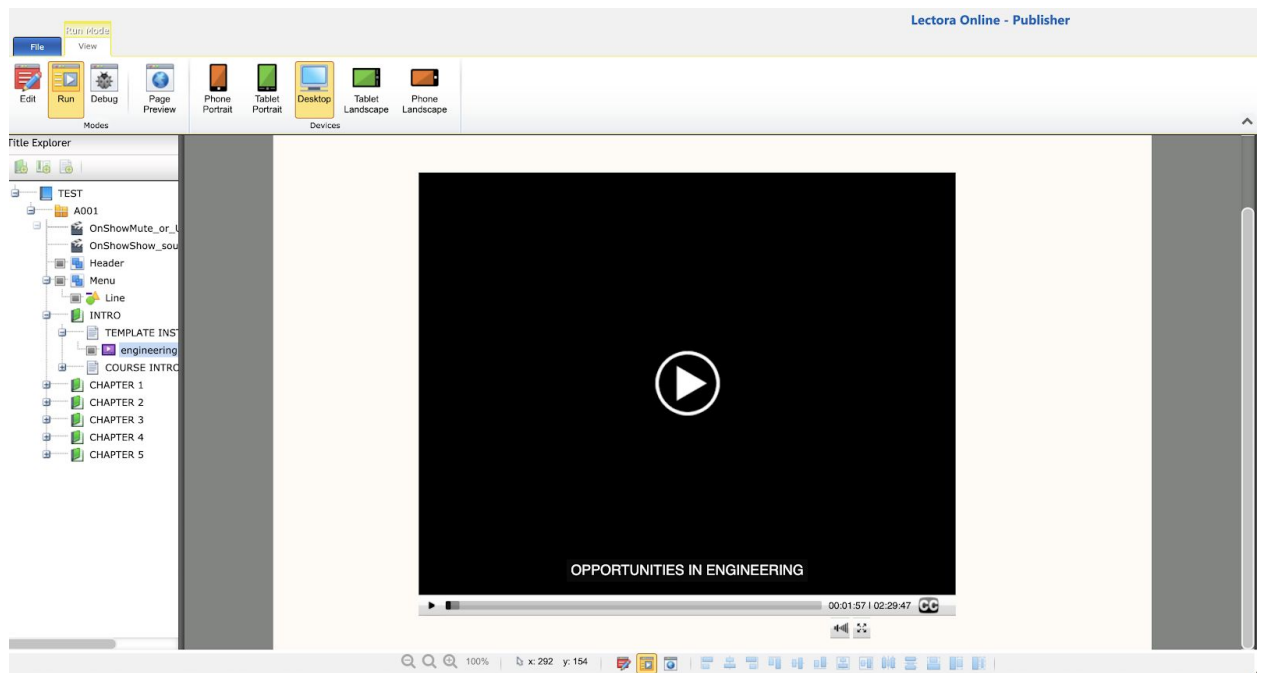
The screenshot shows a code editor with a project named 'Test' located at '~/Desktop/Test'. The project structure includes a 'venv' directory and files: 'engineering.mp3', 'engineering.txt', 'sorted.txt', 'sort.py', and 'TTS.py'. The 'TTS.py' file is open, showing the following code:

```
1 from gtts import gTTS
2 # save text file to memory
3 filename = 'engineering.txt'
4 file = open(filename, 'r')
5 text = file.read()
6 file.close()
7 # convert text file to audio file and save it to mp3 format
8 mytext = text
9 language = 'en'
10 myobj = gTTS(text=mytext, lang=language, slow=False)
11 myobj.save('engineering.mp3')
12 print('File save!')
```

The 'Run' panel at the bottom shows the command executed: `/Users/qidai/Desktop/Test/venv/bin/python /Users/qidai/Desktop/Test/TTS.py`. The output is `File save!` and the process finished with exit code 0. The status bar at the bottom indicates the package manager installed 'pyttsx3' successfully.

- In order to test the accuracy of the mapping file, I used this online audio captioning web app, which allowed me to input the video of the audio file and the generated mapping file to create the captioning (for this process I used .mp4 for audio and .srt for mapping instead of .mp3 and .xml)

<https://www.trivantis.com/blog/add-closed-captions-video-audio-lectora/>



- I have played the closed captioning to my teammates and the text matched large portion of the audio but when it got to the later part, captioning started to fall behind the audio for 1-2 phrases (audio file is based on the original text file while the mapping file is based on the sorted file, which I removed some of the irrelevant punctuation signs like "*" and ",", so the audio contained reading of the signs while the mapping file did not)

Plan for next week:

- Reconfigure ADC using single mode instead
- Tested captioning for audio based on the sorted file and see if accuracy increased

Note for the week:

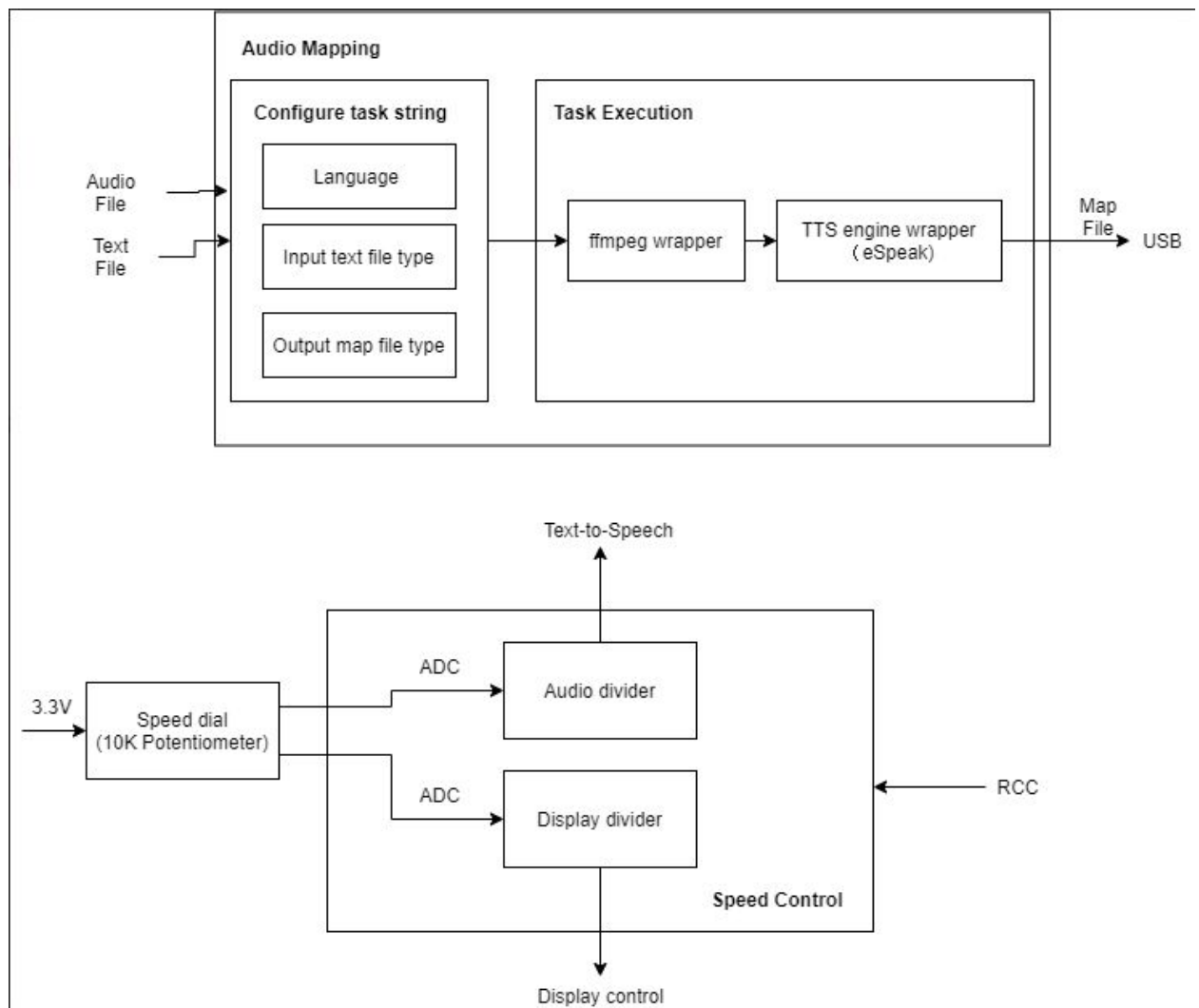
Thoughts: Plan to implement this method because i need to continuously record measurement data and send it to the DMA for future usage.

Week 5

Main Tasks completed this week:

- Completed flow diagram for subsystem
- Completed preparation for managers' meeting

-
- life.augmented
NUCLEO-F413ZH
CN11 HEADER
(top left side)
- 3.3V
- 0-10K
- CN11



Plan for next week:

- Complete initialization for ADC in continuous mode

Weekly Research:

how does ADC work on stm32f4 in single mode for multiple channel input:

Thoughts:

This is really helpful especially when I am planning to use this program as one of my resource in figuring how how to code for ADC exactly from start to end and how I can continue to work on the assignment based on this conversion structure.

Intro to ffmpeg:

<https://www.ffmpeg.org/about.html>

Thoughts: basically this is a CLT convert multimedia file between format and able to decode, encode, transcode, mux, demux, stream, filter and play.

Intro to eSpeak: (TTS)

<http://espeak.sourceforge.net/>

Thoughts: eSpeak is a compact open source software speech synthesizer, which will be able to converts text to phonemes with pitch and length information and be adapted as a front end for another speech synthesis engine

More explanation on aeneas library:

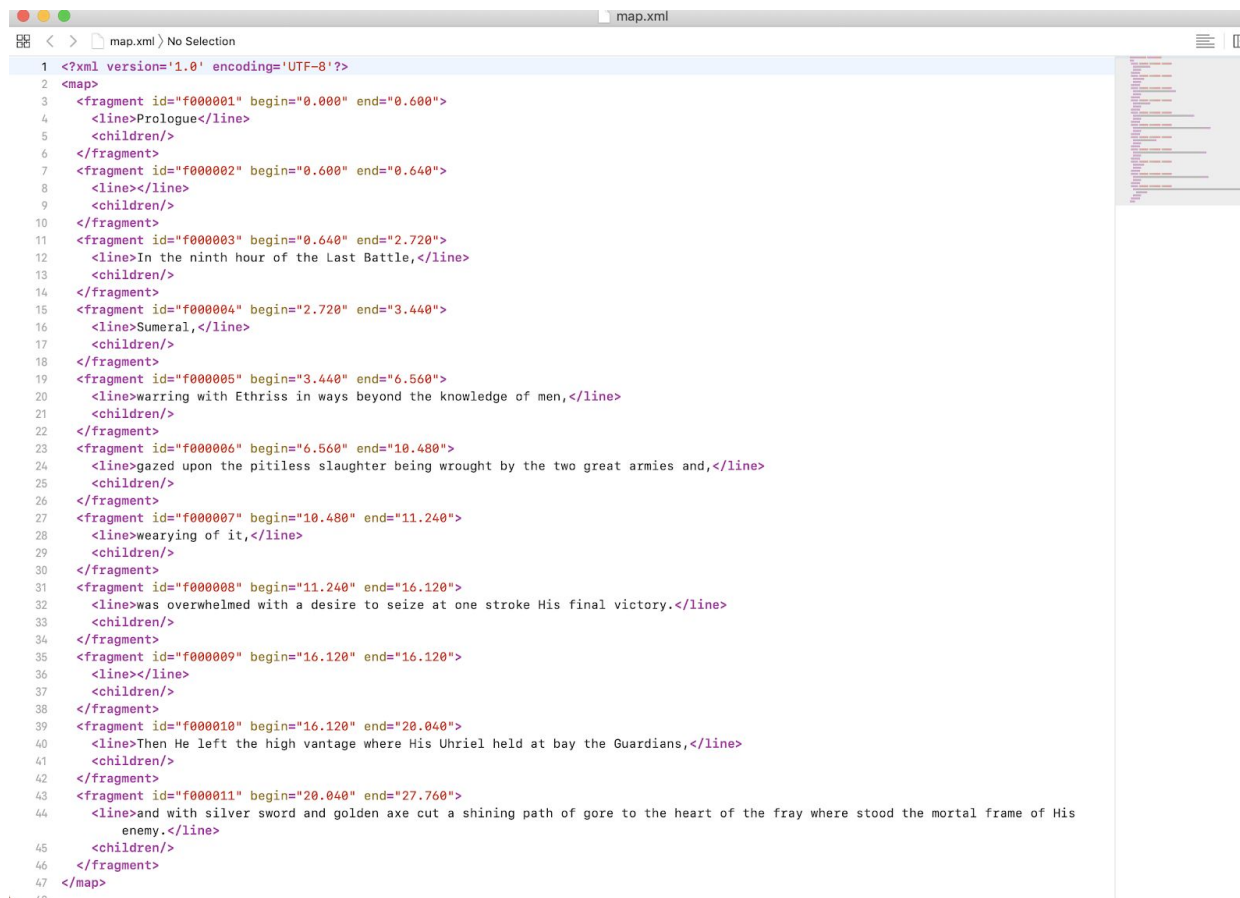
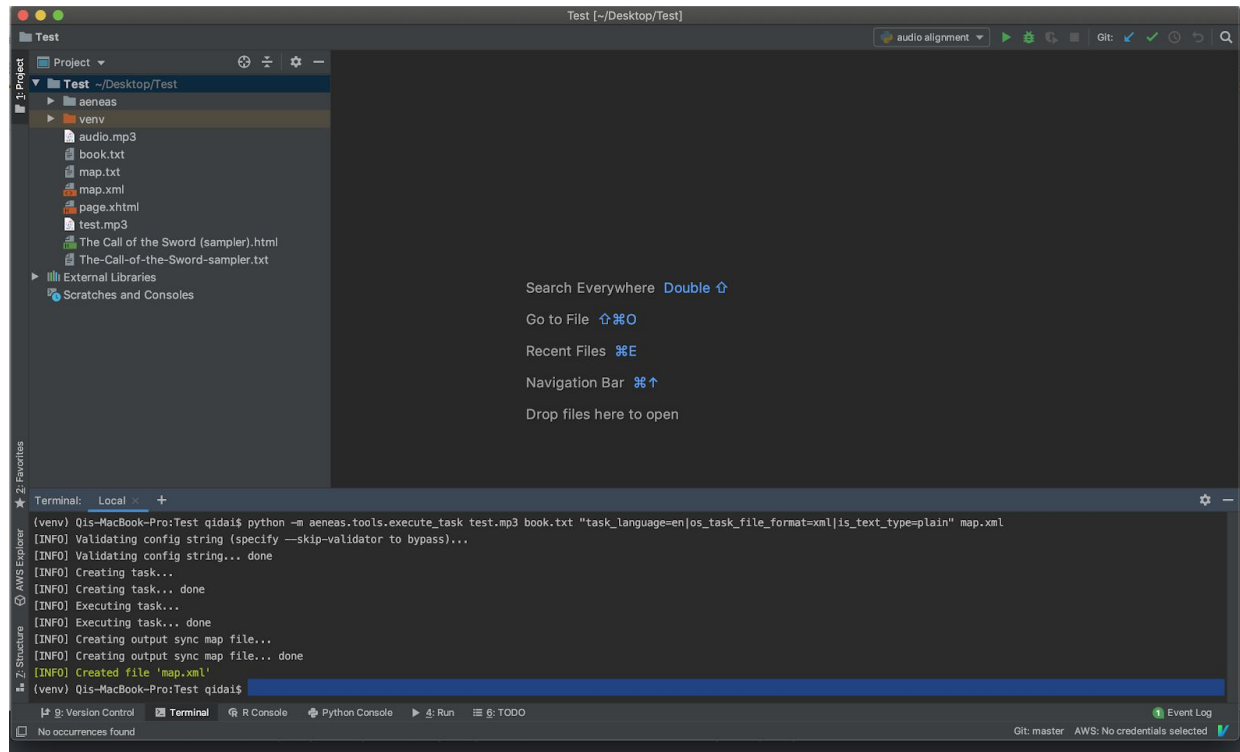
<https://github.com/readbeyond/aeneas/blob/master/wiki/HOWITWORKS.md>

Using the Sakoe-Chiba Band Dynamic Time Warping (DTW) algorithm to align the Mel-frequency cepstral coefficients (MFCCs) representation of the given (real) audio wave and the audio wave obtained by synthesizing the text fragments with a TTS engine, eventually mapping the computed alignment back onto the (real) time domain.

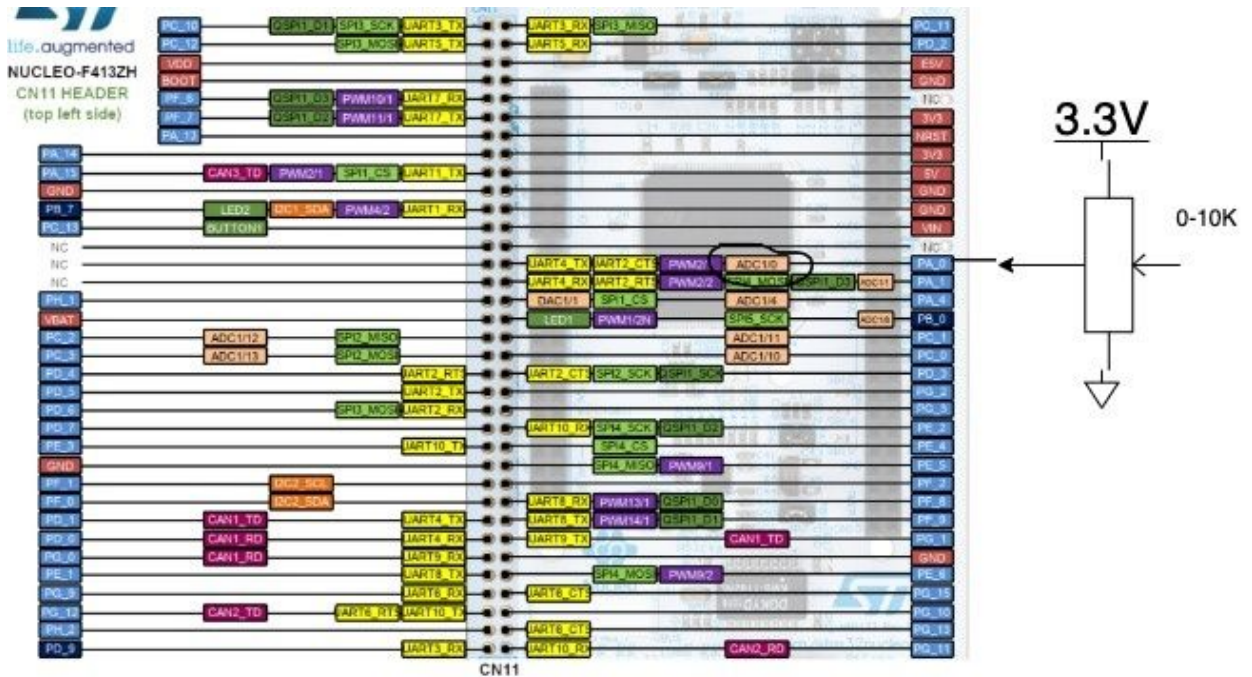
Week 4

Main tasks completed for the week:

- Updated block diagram and subsystem design document
- Researched more on the audio and ext synchronization method in the aeneas library in Python and downloaded on Pycharm
 - Successfully generated audio-text-alignment using this library and output a mapping file with all ids for each fragment in .xml format, the parsing is by line(phrases separated by comma), the input format is .txt and .mp3
 - The process time for audio parsing the whole ebook I selected is around 40 sec
 - according to my experiment, using a sorted plain .txt (with all lines separated by comma) or using .xhtml will work better in mapping it; while using unsorted plain .txt, the map file will randomly mapped it using blanks and paragraphs.



- Learned how to find the correct registers and pins for my subsystem (ex: find RCC→ RCC AHB1 peripheral clock enable→look for ADC) on https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/reference_manual/group0/81/ea/88/1f/97/9e/4a/d0/DM00305666/files/DM00305666.pdf/jcr:content/translations/en.DM00305666.pdf
- Updated schematic



Goal for next week:

- Prepare for manager meeting
- Research a way to connect divider in c with audio parsing in python

Research note:

Analog to Digital Conversion

<https://www.mccdaq.com/PDFs/specs/Analog-to-Digital.pdf>

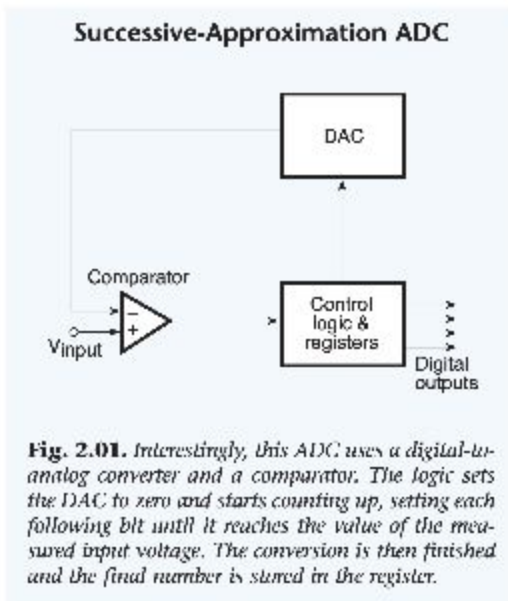
Thoughts:

Some definitions:

ADC: converts a analog voltage to binary number(1s/0s) and then to a base 10 digital number

MSB: the farthest bit to the left

A helpful diagram to understand how ADC works:



The ADC on our controller is 12 bit ($2^{12} = 4096$ resolution), which means that the voltage will be converted to a 12 bit digital number by successively comparing each digit until getting the closest voltage and then it would be assigned to certain speed for both the display divider and the audio divider.

The RCC basically set up the cycle of conversion time (sampling time), like how frequently the machine sample the voltage and convert it digitally.

$V_{sys} = 3.3V$

Resolution/System Voltage = ADC reading/Analog Voltage Measured

Conversion time (T_c) = $N \cdot T_{clk}$ (depending on RCC?)

aeneas python library:

<https://pypi.org/project/aeneas/1.4.0.0/>

Useful info:

- the input format can support .txt (with plain/parsed/subtitles/unparsed format) or .xhtml(with all ids and class attributed)
- the input audio file can be in all ffmpeg supported format including both mp3. and .wav
- the output sync map can be CSV, JSON, RBSE, SMIL, SSV, TSV, TTML, TXT, VTT, XML

Thoughts: this library can support a variety of input and output format, which includes the ones we are using for our ebook; however, it is a challenge to import a python library on our microcontroller without using like micropython to support the language. So i think it is more effective to

pre-processed all the books and save them on the usb and then the text-to-speech system can simply call the audio and xml file and play them in the required speed, which can reduce the work load of microcontroller as well.

how to use XML to data drive the application to play sounds based on the content of the xml file?

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/21584503/playing-sound-files-based-on-xml-in-c-sharp/21585656>

Thoughts:

I think the xml file contains all the ids to identify the audio intervals for the correct line of text, which will be accessible for text-to-speech system to play the sound based on these ids.

Text cleaning method:

<https://machinelearningmastery.com/clean-text-machine-learning-python/>

Thoughts: When we try to map ebook, I found out that when mapping the whole book it would be mapped based on blanks and paragraphs. So it is better to pre-clean the text document into parsed lines or removed punctuations so that it would work better.

Week 3

Main tasks completed for the week:

- Surveyed braille users and got feedback on how they expect the design to be in general
- Design document formation
 - Discussed individual subsystem division including block diagram details
 - Wrote revision log and subsystem description
 - Updated requirement

Block diagram:

■ Researched closed-caption standards

- Researched speed control design (schematic, potentiometer design, algorithm)
- Researched existent braille reader design
- Researched common reading speed for braille users and speaking speed for audiobook
- Researched STM32F413ZH specs document
- Updated project timeline Gantt chart

Goal for next week:

- Start looking into the detailed specs of microcontroller and figure out the correct pin to use
- Understand how a speed dial work and how to pass speed information
- Figure out how RCC plays in the speed control
- Start looking into the algorithm and the overall logical structure

Research note:

A library for syncing text with audio fragment:

<https://www.readbeyond.it/aeneas/>

https://github.com/readbeyond/aeneas/blob/master/aeneas/cdtw/cdtw_driver.c

<http://software.sil.org/downloads/r/readingappbuilder/Reading-App-Builder-07-Using-aeneas-for-Audio-Text-Synchronization.pdf>

Thoughts:

Once we have parsed audio we can load it into this synchronizer and make the text sync with the audio and output .xml file, however it seemed like it mostly work in python

Specs for microcontroller STM32F413ZH:

https://www.st.com/content/ccc/resource/technical/document/user_manual/group0/ad/82/4d/ae/b/b/7a/42/9f/DM00340446/files/DM00340446.pdf/jcr:content/translations/en.DM00340446.pdf

Thoughts:

This source will help me identify the specs of the microcontroller we are using and make sure that I mark up the correct pins and signal inputs/outputs.

Braille reading speed:

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/228463176_Measuring_Braille_reading_speed_with_the_MNREAD_test

Thoughts:

The maximum reading speed is 185 words/min and minimum speed is 65 words/min for braille readers, so the speed should be range from 0.25 to 6 letters/sec for a reasonable slow to fast range for readers.

Common speaking speed:

<https://virtualspeech.com/blog/average-speaking-rate-words-per-minute>

Thoughts:

Common Audiobook speaking speed between 150 - 160 wpm, which is the upper range that people comfortably hear and vocalise words, which means the audio speed should range from 2 letters/sec to 11 letters/sec.

Audio parsing in C for WAV file:

<http://truelogic.org/wordpress/2015/09/04/parsing-a-wav-file-in-c/>

Libsndfile is a C library for reading and writing files containing sampled sound:

<http://www.mega-nerd.com/libsndfile/>

Audio parsing code reference:

<https://github.com/rakyll/audio/blob/master/riff/parser.go>

Thoughts:

In order to parse .wav file, we will have to store all the header info as well as the audio data and then parse them based on each line of the text file using markup language. However, I have to make sure what are the elements needed to sort the audio signal and output the write format for decoder to mark up the audio-text file.

Design and Implementation of an Audio Parser and Player:

<http://docsdrive.com/pdfs/medwelljournals/jeasci/2017/5301-5306.pdf>

Thoughts:

This research article gave ideas on how to input and parse an audio and actually use ID3 tag to specify each audio fragment and play it.

Cornell portable e-book for the blind design:

https://people.ece.cornell.edu/land/courses/ece4760/FinalProjects/f2017/mmm389_ahs278/mmm389_ahs278_final_report_2/mmm389_ahs278_final_report_2.html

Thoughts:

A 10K potentiometer for controlling speed and convert the resistance to reading speed (ADC), and the displaying speed will mainly depend on the common reading speed for braille reader while audio will share a different speed range so that it will not be messed up by the displaying speed. The specific details to convert the resistance to speed also requires clock and other parameters that I have to consider very carefully in writing my own algorithm.

How does potentiometer work?

<https://randomnerdtutorials.com/electronics-basics-how-a-potentiometer-works/>

Thoughts: this website provides a basic schematic diagram for the potentiometer that I am going to use to connect my circuit.

What is a .XML file format?

<https://www.howtogeek.com/357092/what-is-an-xml-file-and-how-do-i-open-one/>

<https://www.rev.com/blog/close-caption-file-format-guide-for-youtube-vimeo-netflix-and-more>

Thoughts: The .XML file XML is a markup language created by the World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) to define a syntax for encoding documents that both humans and machines could read. It does this through the use of tags that define the structure of the document, as well as how the document should be stored and transported.

Week 1-2

Main tasks completed for the week:

- Learned the difference between contracted and uncontracted braille language
- Detailed the design of braille reader
 - Design document write-up
 - Executive description
 - User story
 - Requirement
 - Influential factors
 - Discussed functionalities of the device
- Searched for potential mini speaker for audio output of the device
- Searched for potential mini push-pull solenoid products on the market
 - Compare prices between buying and building solenoid
 - Estimated specs for solenoid actuators

Goal for next week:

- Deciding which subsystem to work on
- Complete the design document revision
- Brainstorm questions to ask the DRC person
- More background research
- Create a project timeline

Research notes:

Portable Braille reader inspiration:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N5iTWgvzhU8>

Thoughts:

As shown in the video, the solenoids were all attached to the pin key pads directly, which means that when the actuator received the instruction from the microcontroller, the actuator pushed the pins up and down.

How to make a mini size solenoid:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvHiPvuWDPg>

Thoughts:

Considering our budget is tight and the cheapest mini push-pull solenoid on the market would be around \$5 each and we need around 48 solenoids, therefore, we may have to build our own solenoids if necessary.

Possible speaker choice for our audio system:

https://www.radioshack.com/products/radioshack-8-ohm-mini-speaker?variant=20332224901&utm_medium=cpc&utm_source=google&utm_campaign=Google%20Shopping&gclid=CjwKCAiAgqDxBRBTEiwA59eEN0Wc5nuAtmsliGCme7ke9AVYahdqlP_jP2SLQW7PASx0L5ksvPXzRhoC2HMQAvD_BwE

Thoughts:

It is an 8-ohm speaker with reasonable size and price, however, not sure if this will supply enough volume needed for our device.

How to translate text to Braille using C:

http://liblouis.org/documentation/liblouis.html#lou_005fhyphenate

How to translate Grade 2 Braille from text using Python:

<https://github.com/LazoCoder/Braille-Translator>

Thoughts:

First of all, we have to make sure that the translator recognizes the “break point” of each sentence or paragraph; second, we have to make sure that representation of numbers and letters are differentiated because they usually use the same representation in Braille; third, there should be an escape code”.” for the capital letters.

The module code size is 11.74kB (2.93 for printing Braille→ maybe switch to connecting to the actuator end)

Grade 1 vs Grade 2 Braille:

<http://www.acb.org/tennessee/braille.html>

Thoughts:

In grade 2 Braille, a cell can represent a shortened form of the word, so if we want to use contracted Braille then we can consider using this translation above.

How to extract plain text from html file using C:

<https://stackoverflow.com/questions/15319329/extract-plain-text-from-an-html-file-in-c>

How to extract plain text from html file using Python:

<https://github.com/Alir3z4/html2text>

Thoughts:

Since we are using html file for our input text format, the converter control will have to first extract text from html file then they can store the converted Braille for the use of further text-to-speech processing.