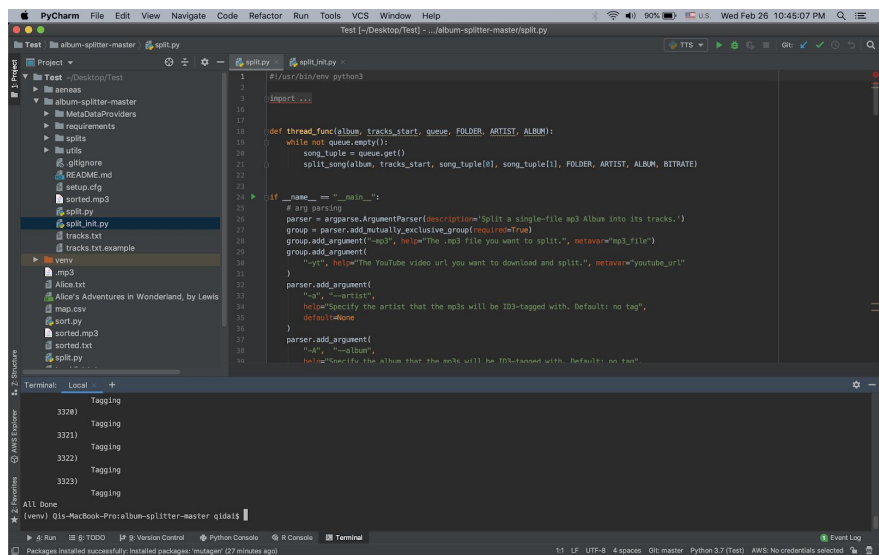
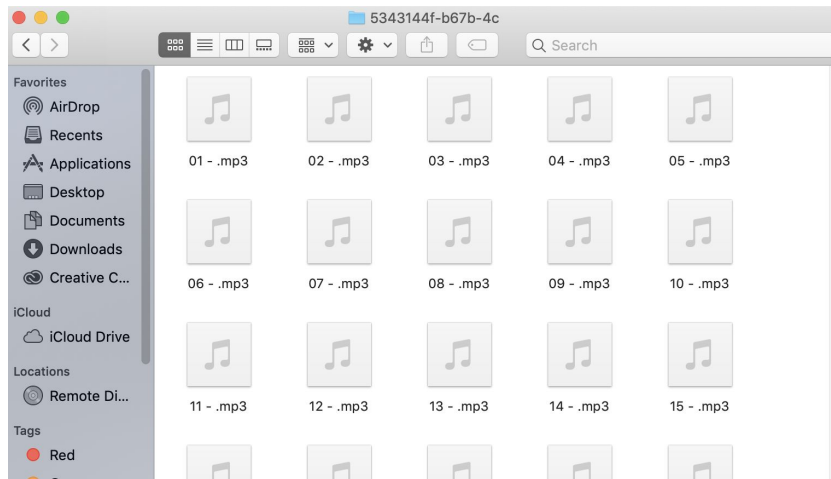


Week 7

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:

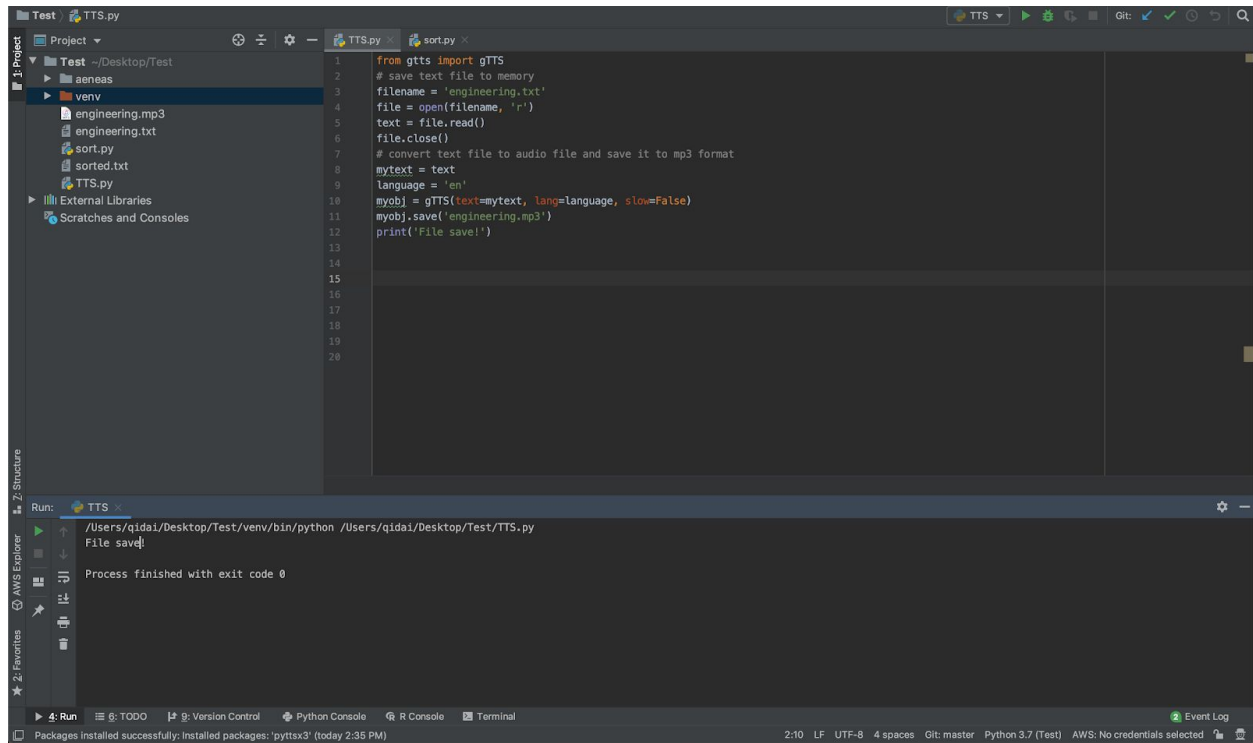
- Ask for help on ADC configuration with LED frequency (either update on pre-scaler or using PWM)
- Check on updates with position control on playing selected audio files

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



```
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 saved!')
```

Run: TTS

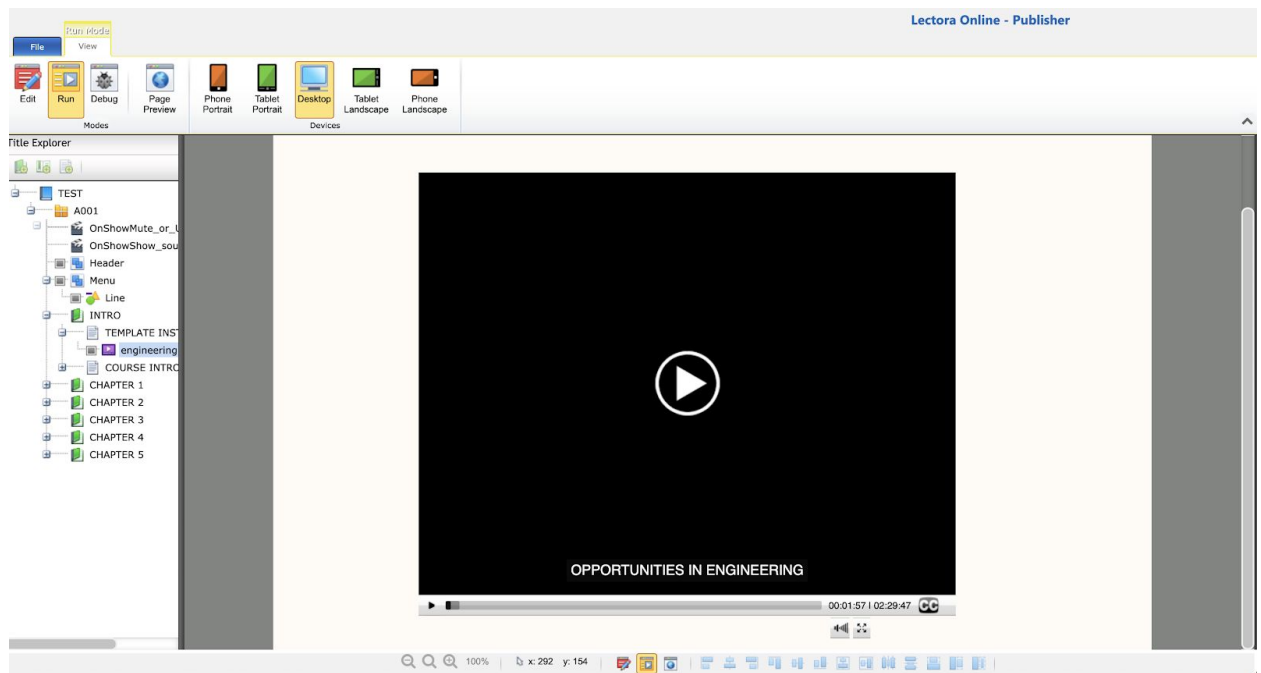
/Users/qidai/Desktop/Test/venv/bin/python /Users/qidai/Desktop/Test/TTS.py

File saved!

Process finished with exit code 0

- 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:

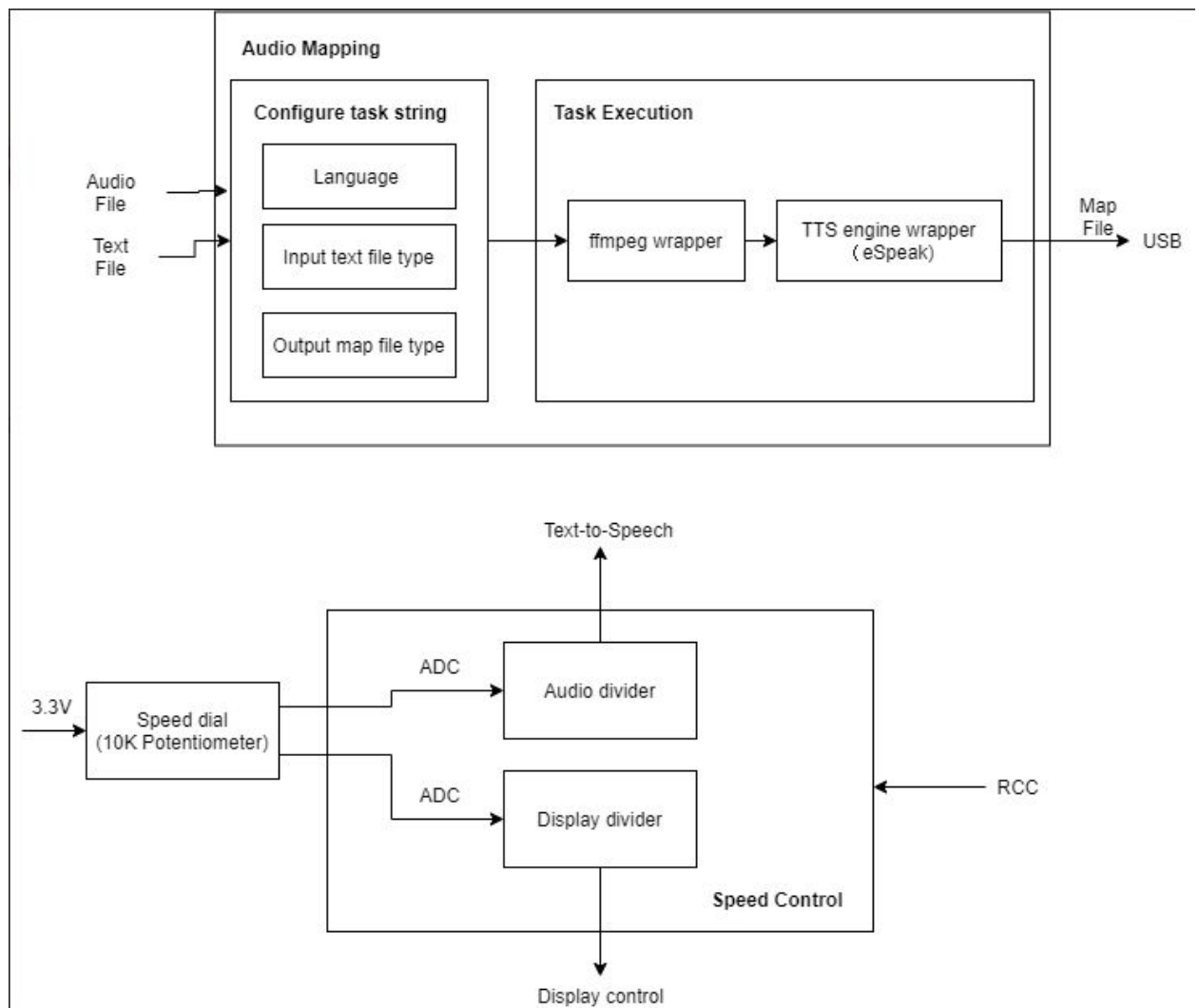
Thoughts: Plan to implement this method because i need to continuously record measurement data and send it to the DMA for future usage.

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:

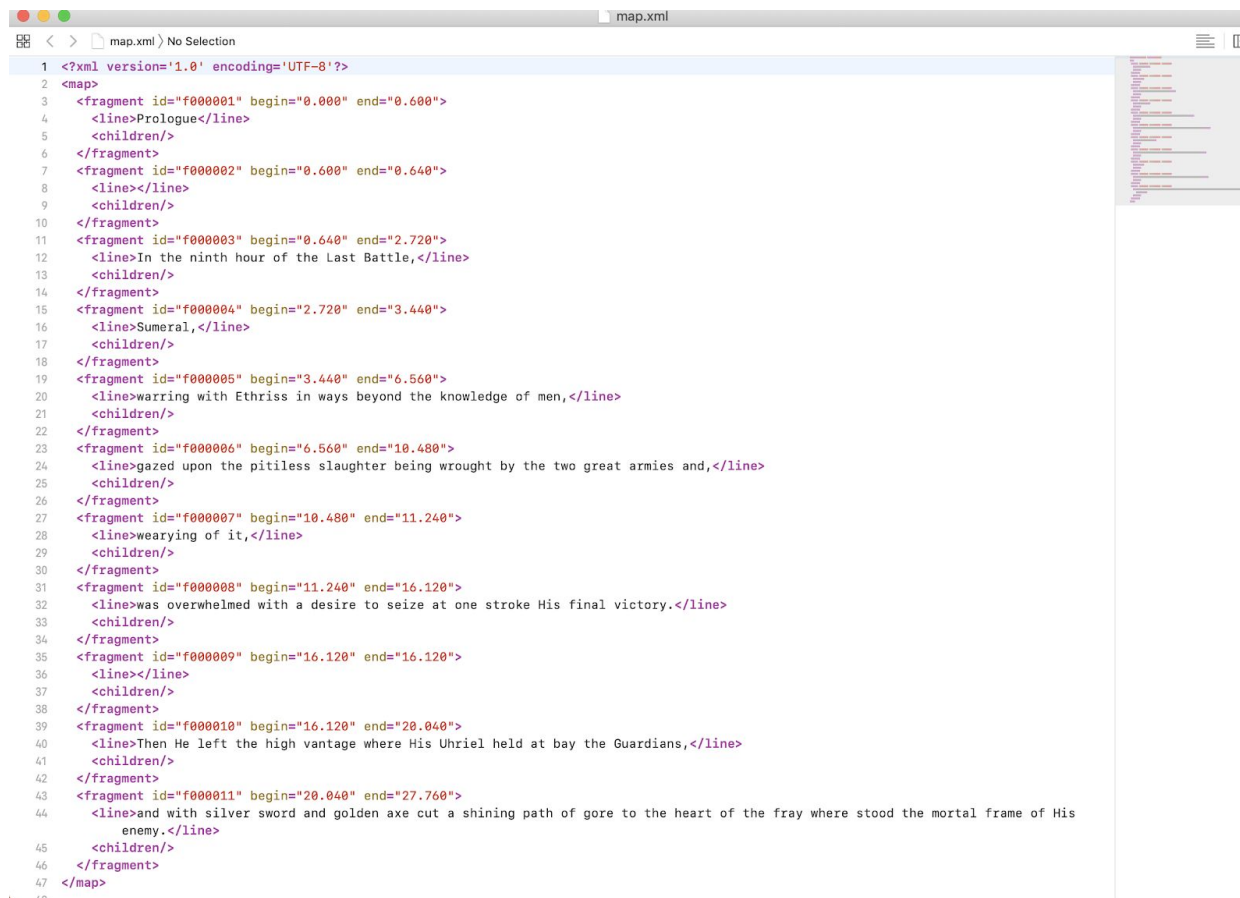
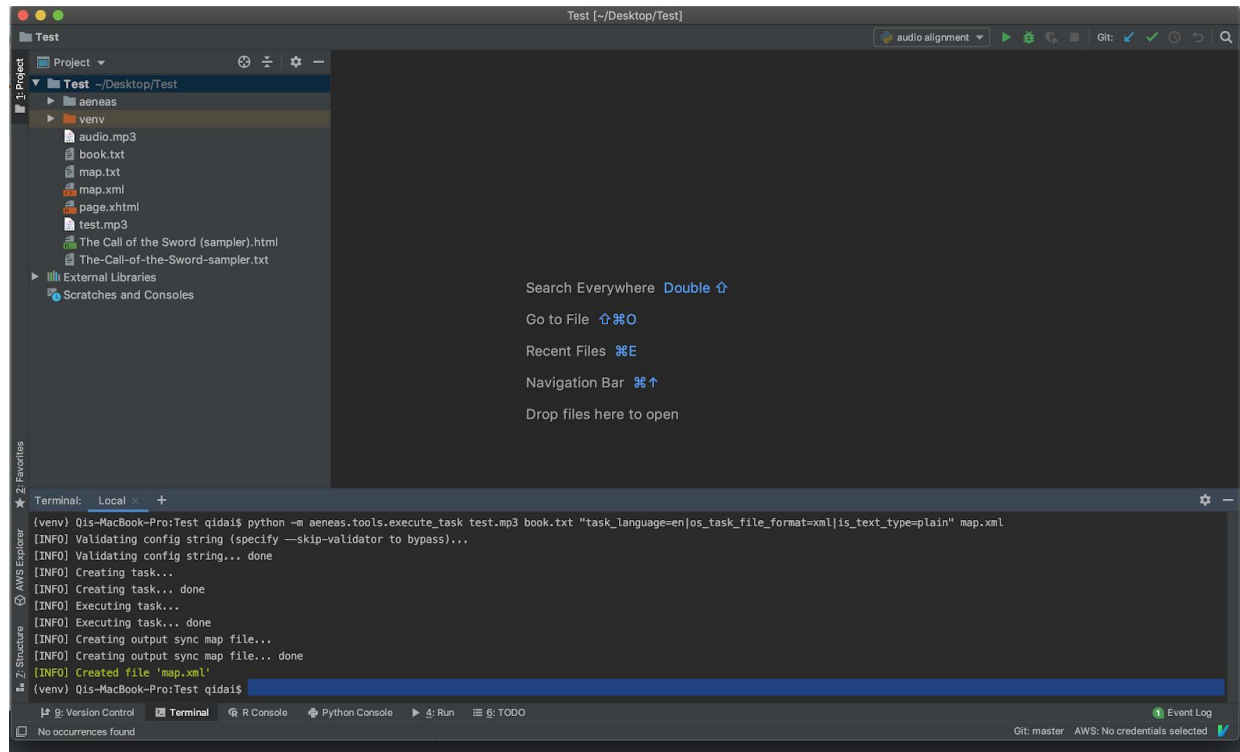
<https://github.com/readbeyond/aeneas/blob/master/wiki/HOWITWORKS.md>

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.

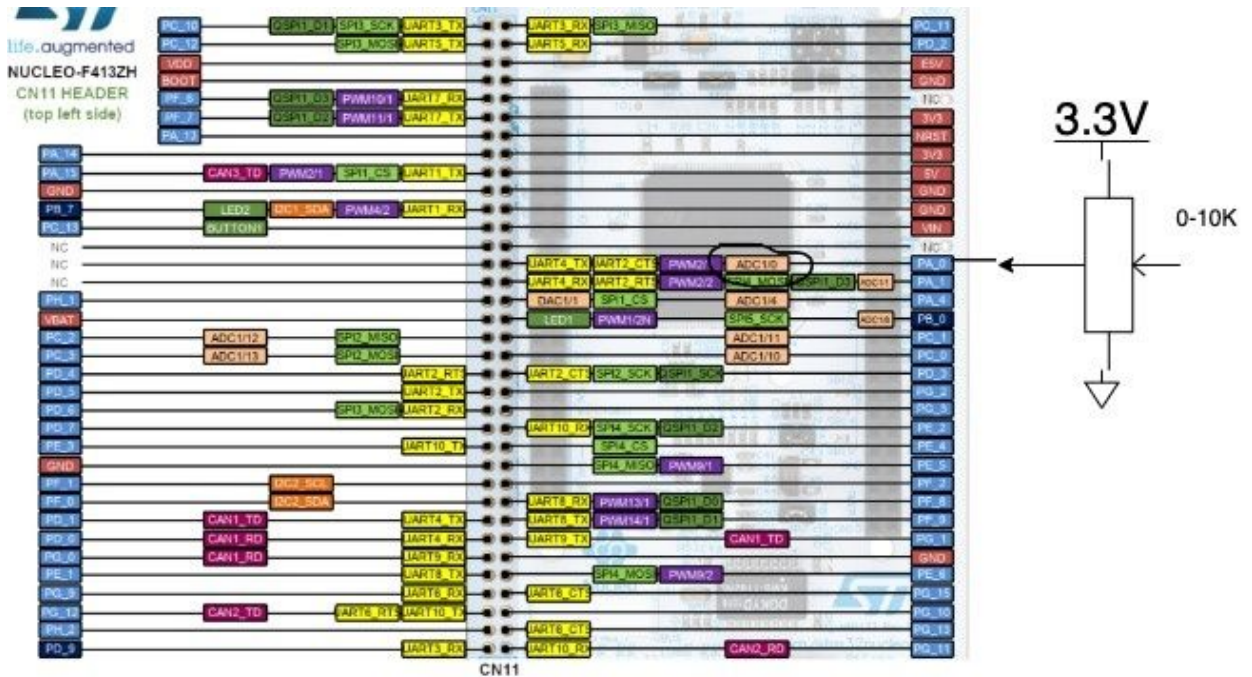
Week 4

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>

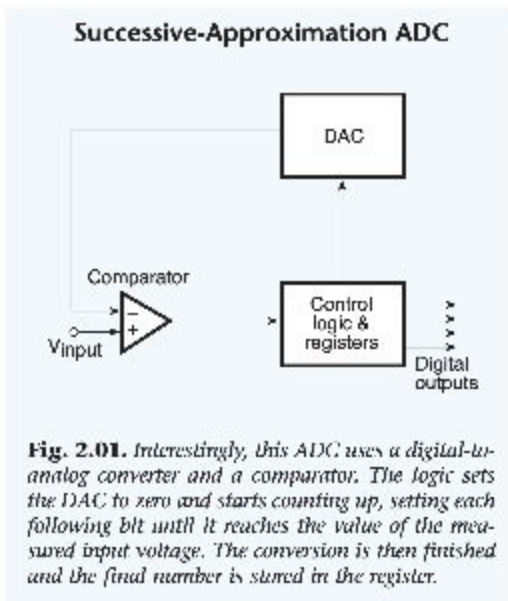
Thoughts:

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/>

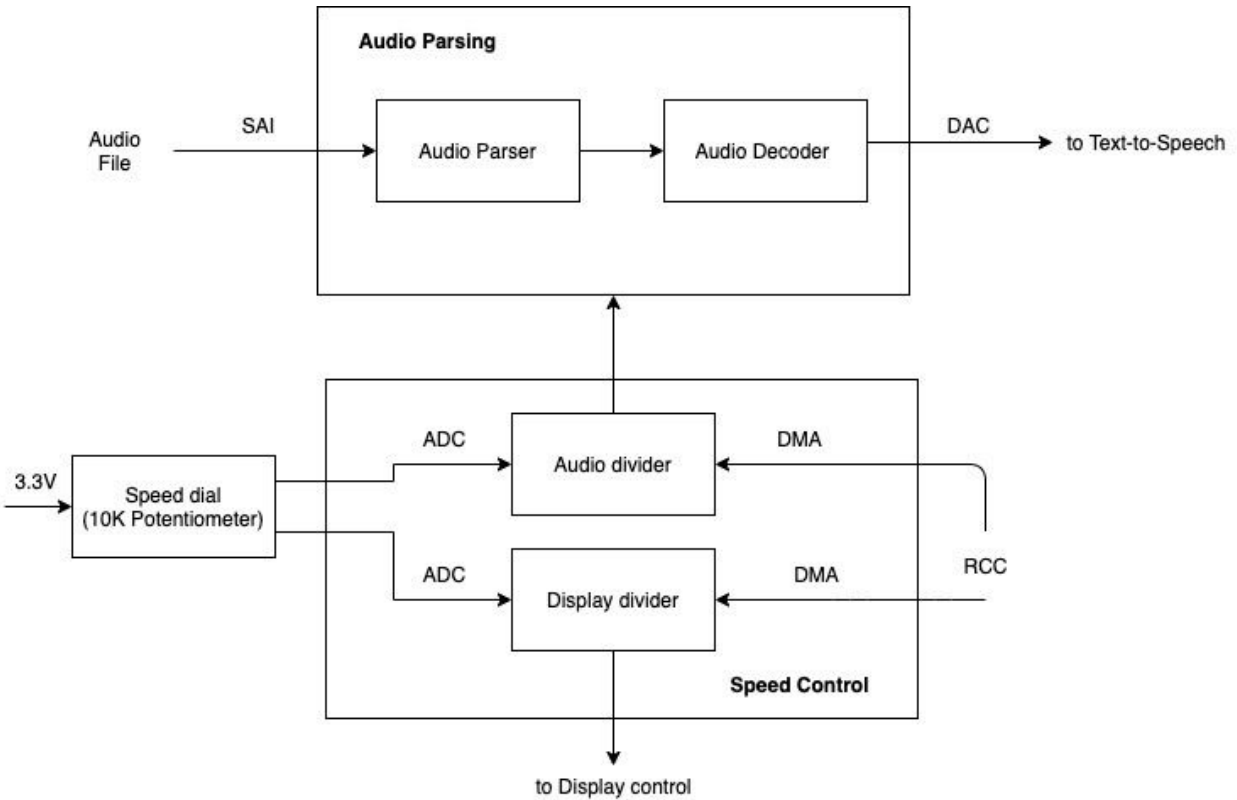
Thoughts: When we try to map ebook, I found out that when mapping the whole book it would be mapped based on blanks and paragraphs. So it is better to pre-clean the text document into parsed lines or removed punctuations so that it would work better.

Week 3

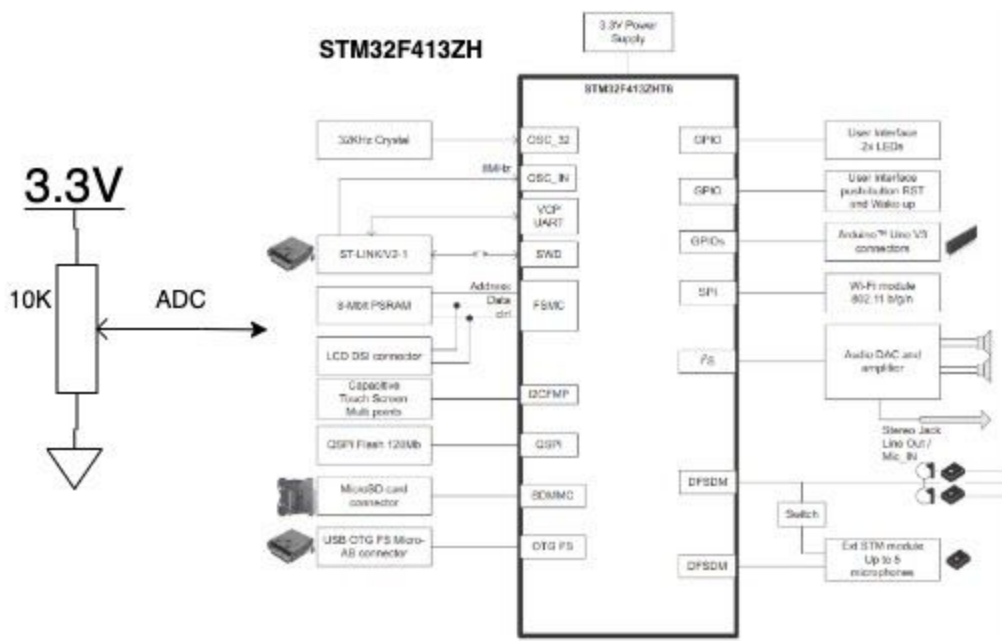
Main tasks completed for the week:

- 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:



Schematic:



- Researched audio parsing (definition, algorithm, articles)
 - .wav file input format and .xml output format
 - How to parse .wav file
 - How to tag and sync audio with text

■ 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.