

introduction to  
**Digital  
Electronics**

LED Arrays & Strips

**MIT ILLUMINATIONS SEMINAR**

Hello!

# Warm Up!

Come up with as many  
uses as possible for  
**10,000 red light bulbs**



# Today

Deeper dive into RGB

Pulse Width Modulation

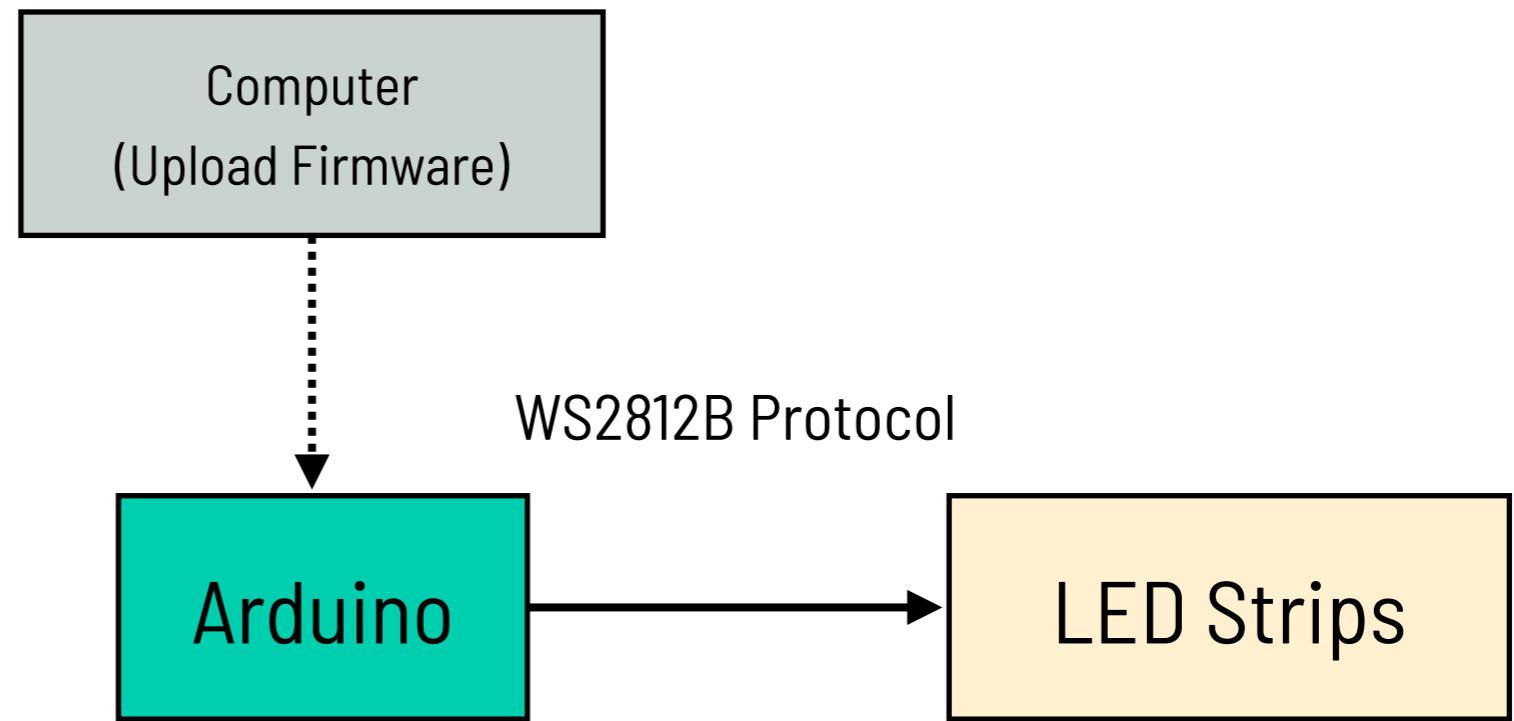
Light arrays & controlling many lights at once

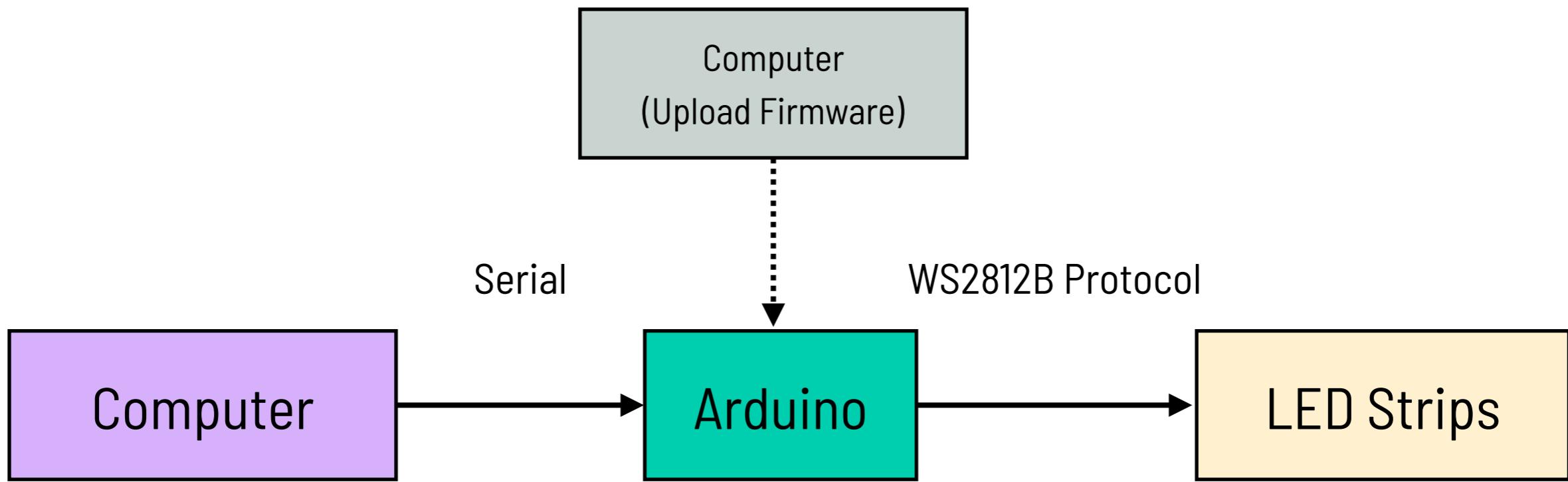
WS2812B Protocol & LEDs

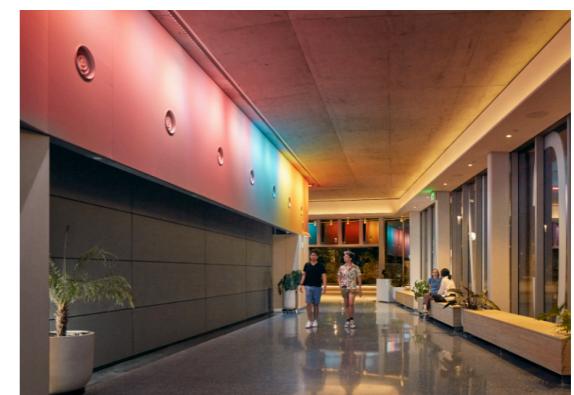
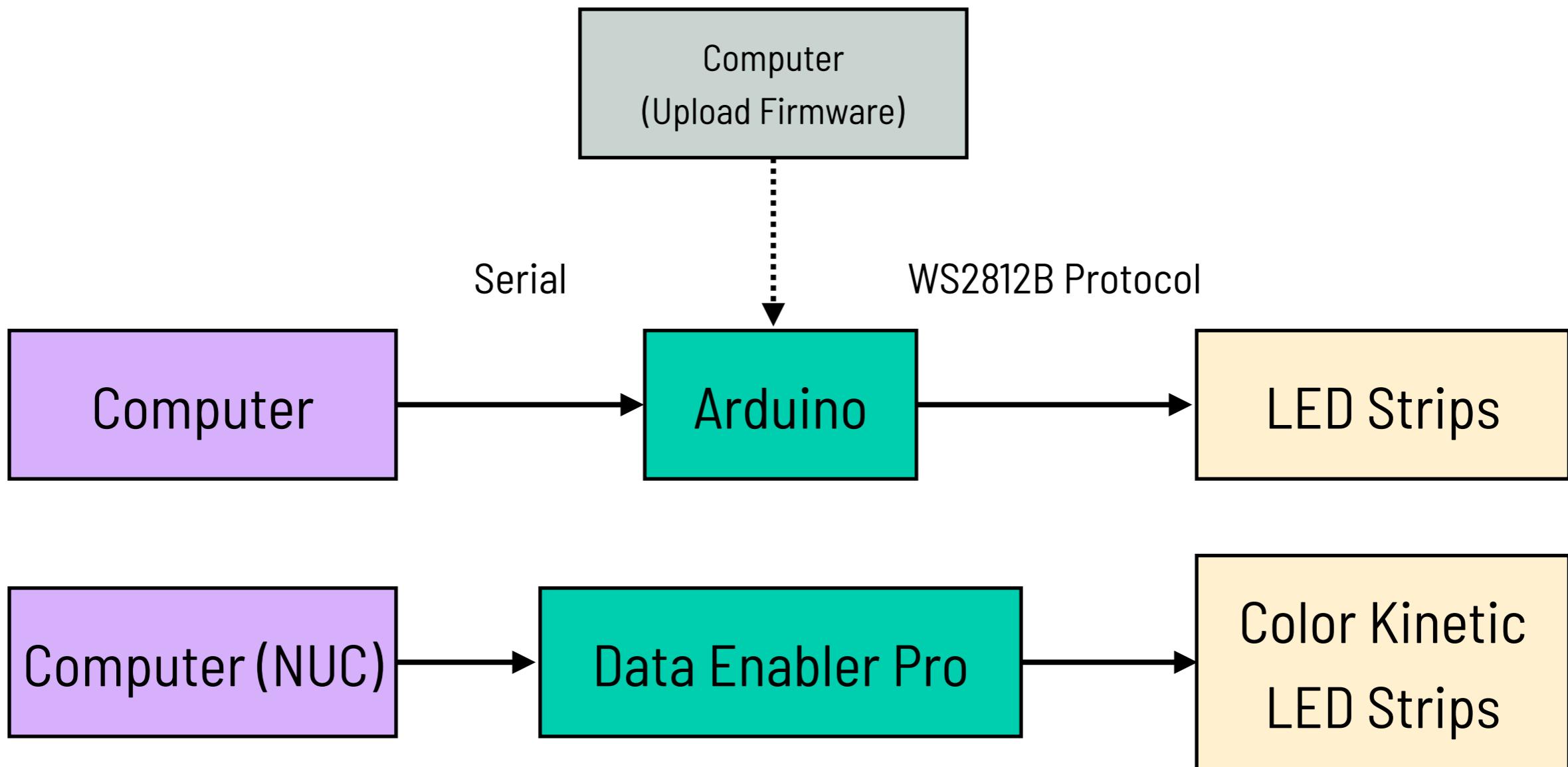
Computer  
(Upload Firmware)

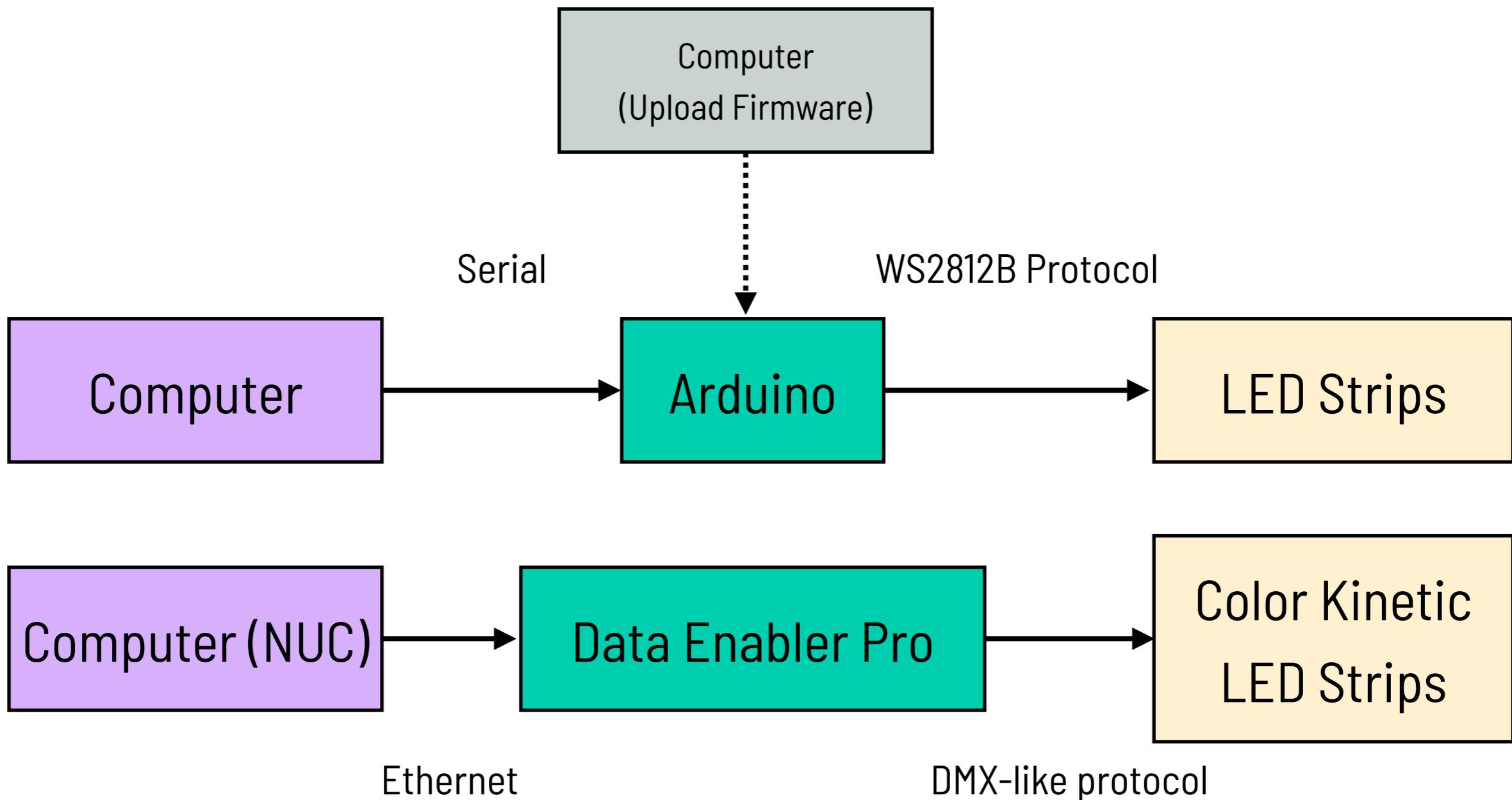
Arduino

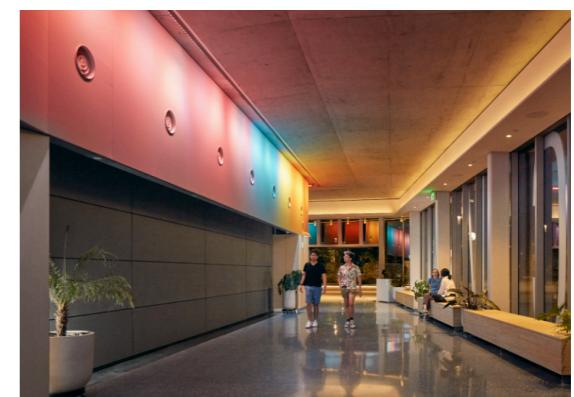
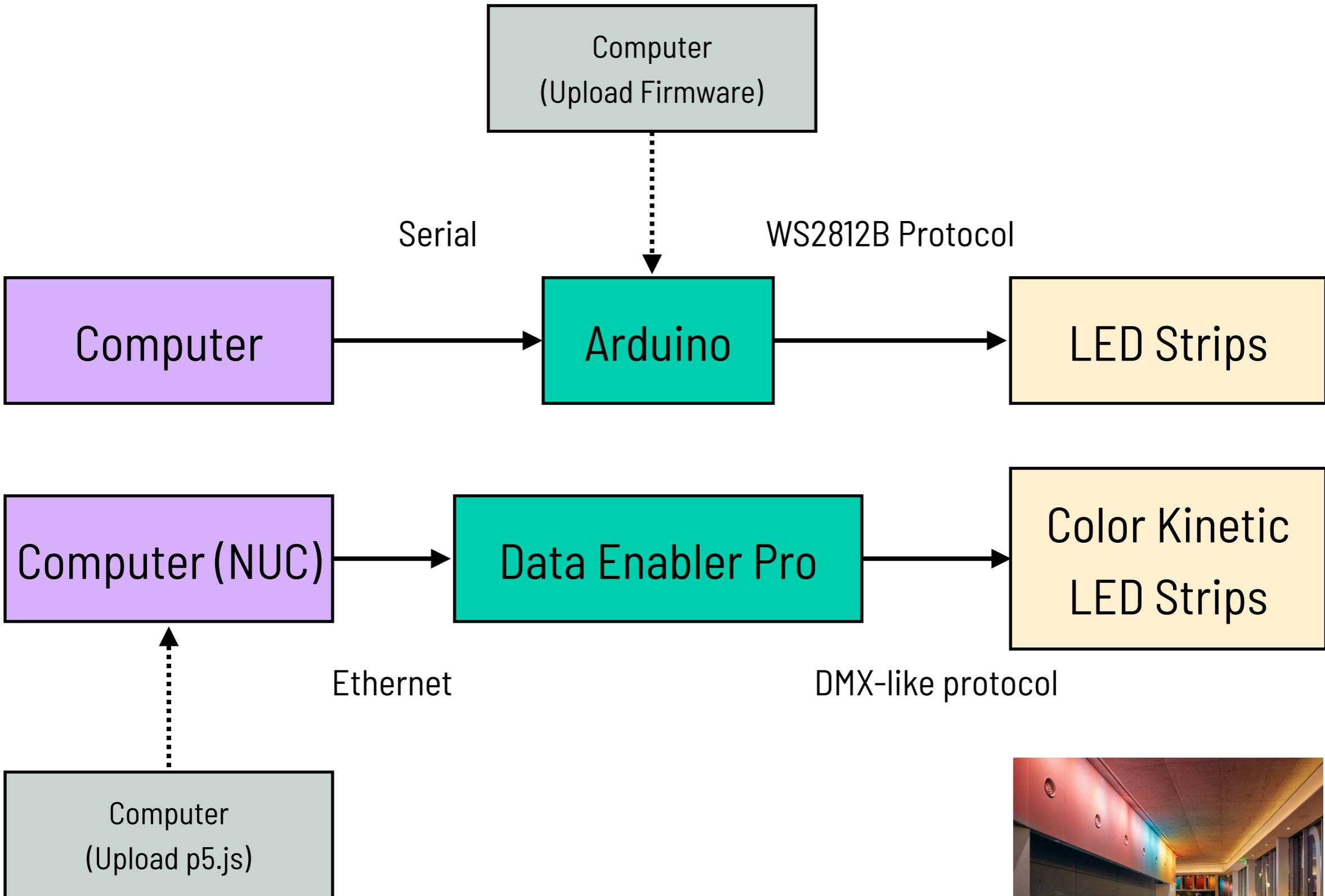


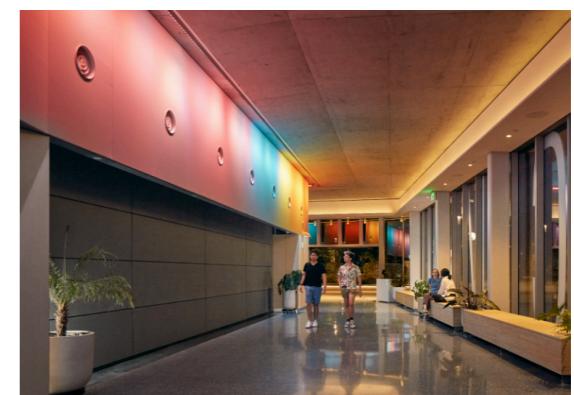
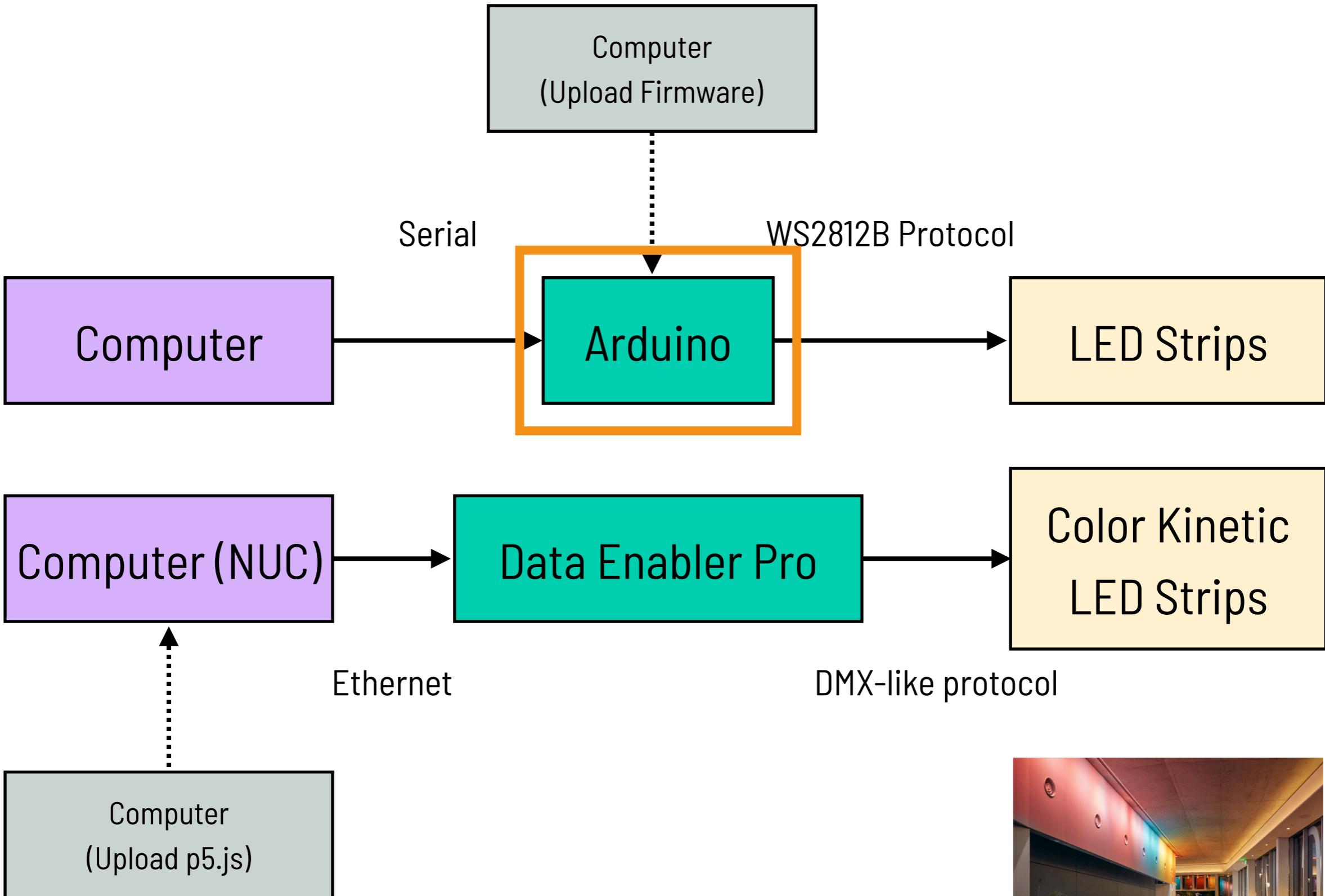


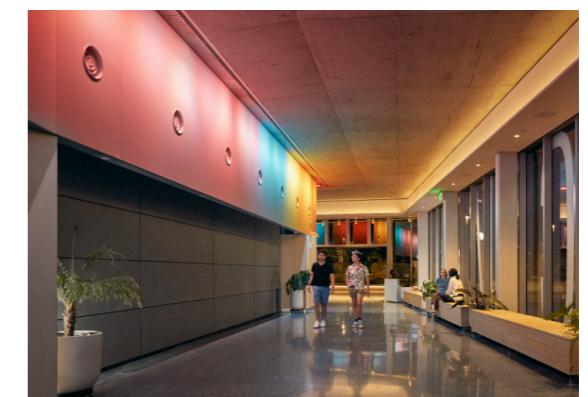
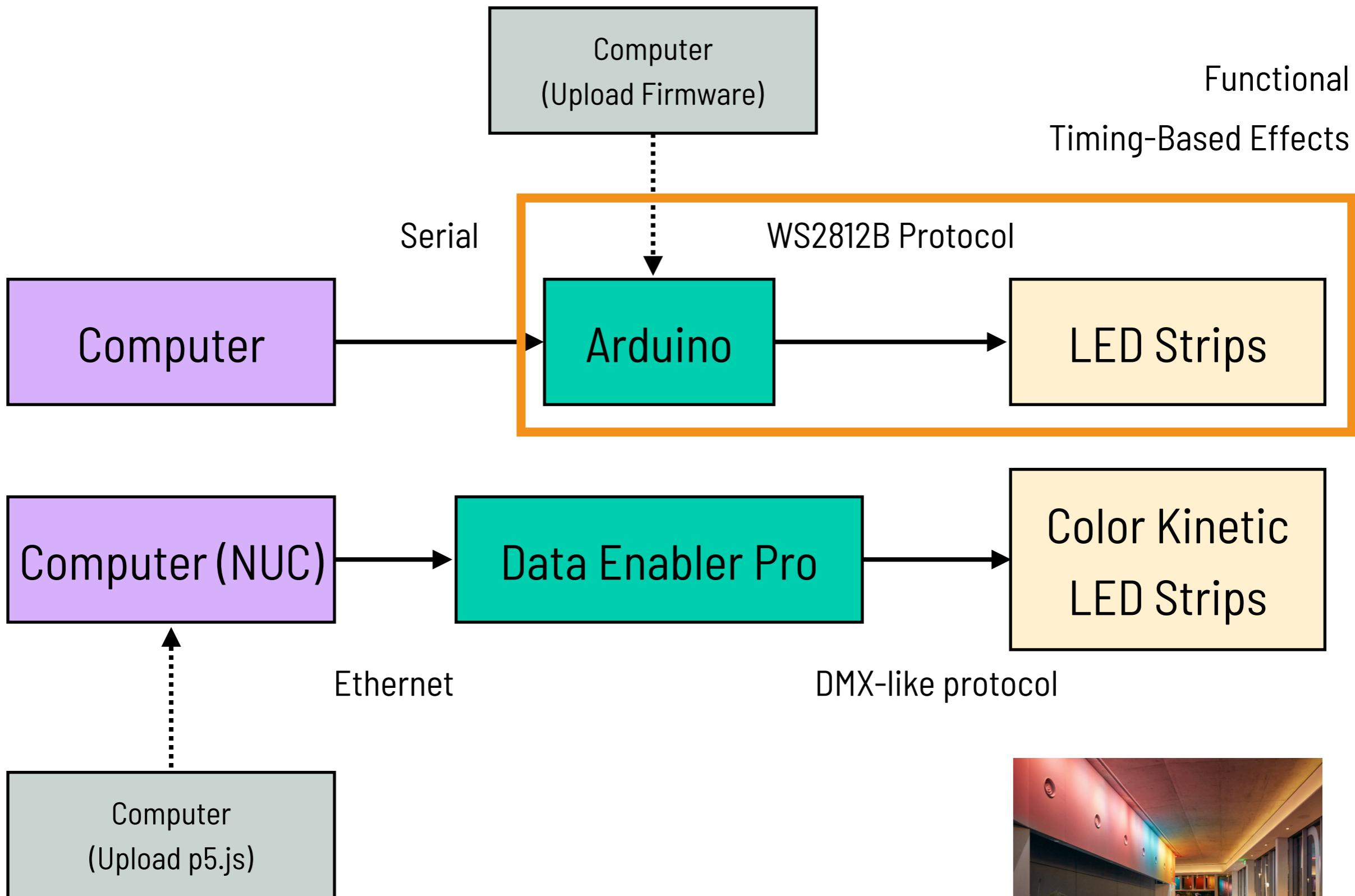






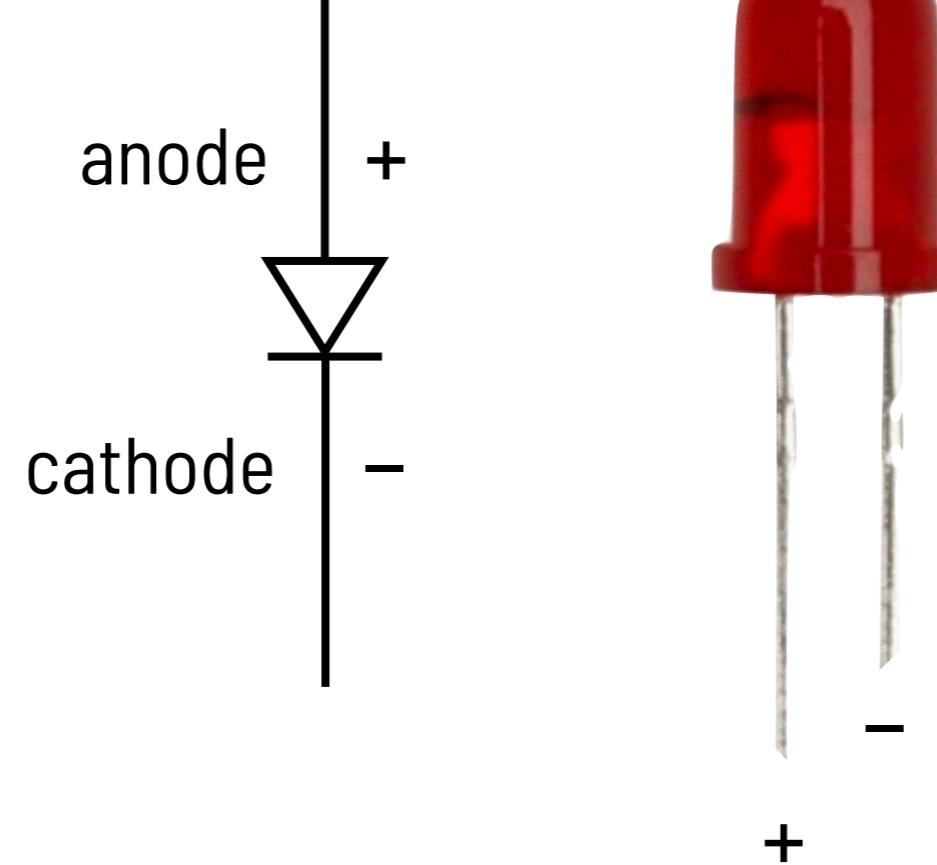






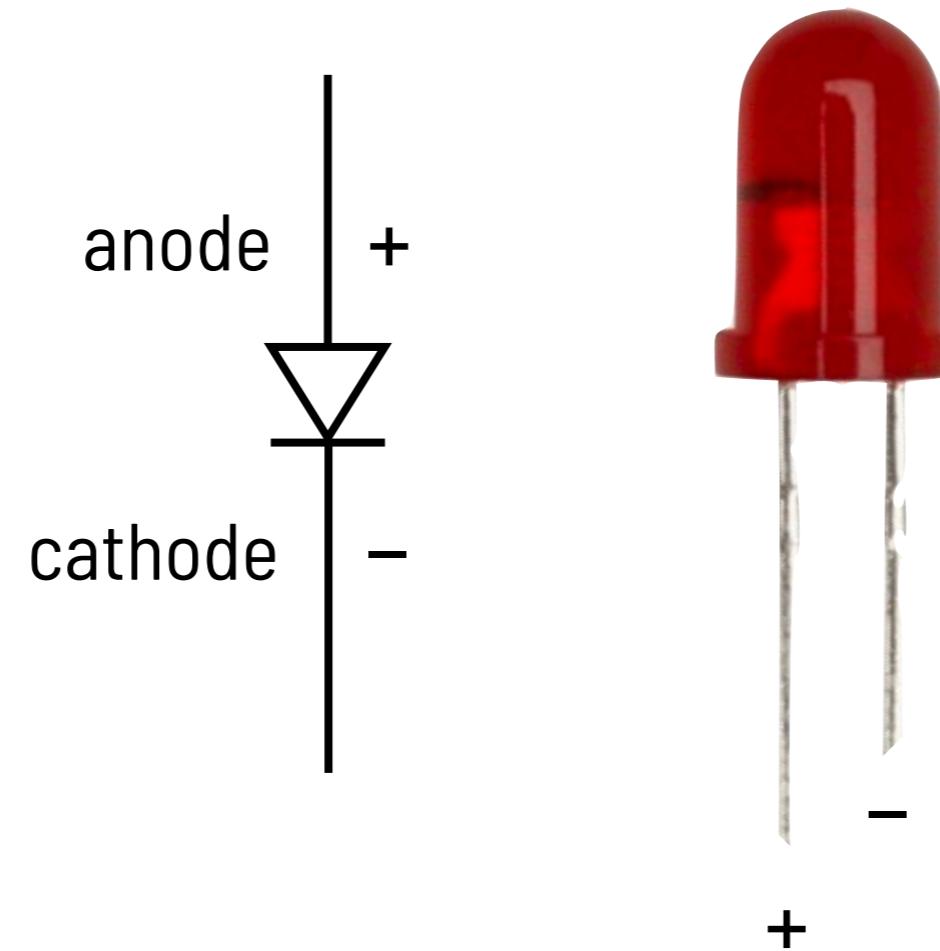
# Recap

## The Humble Diode



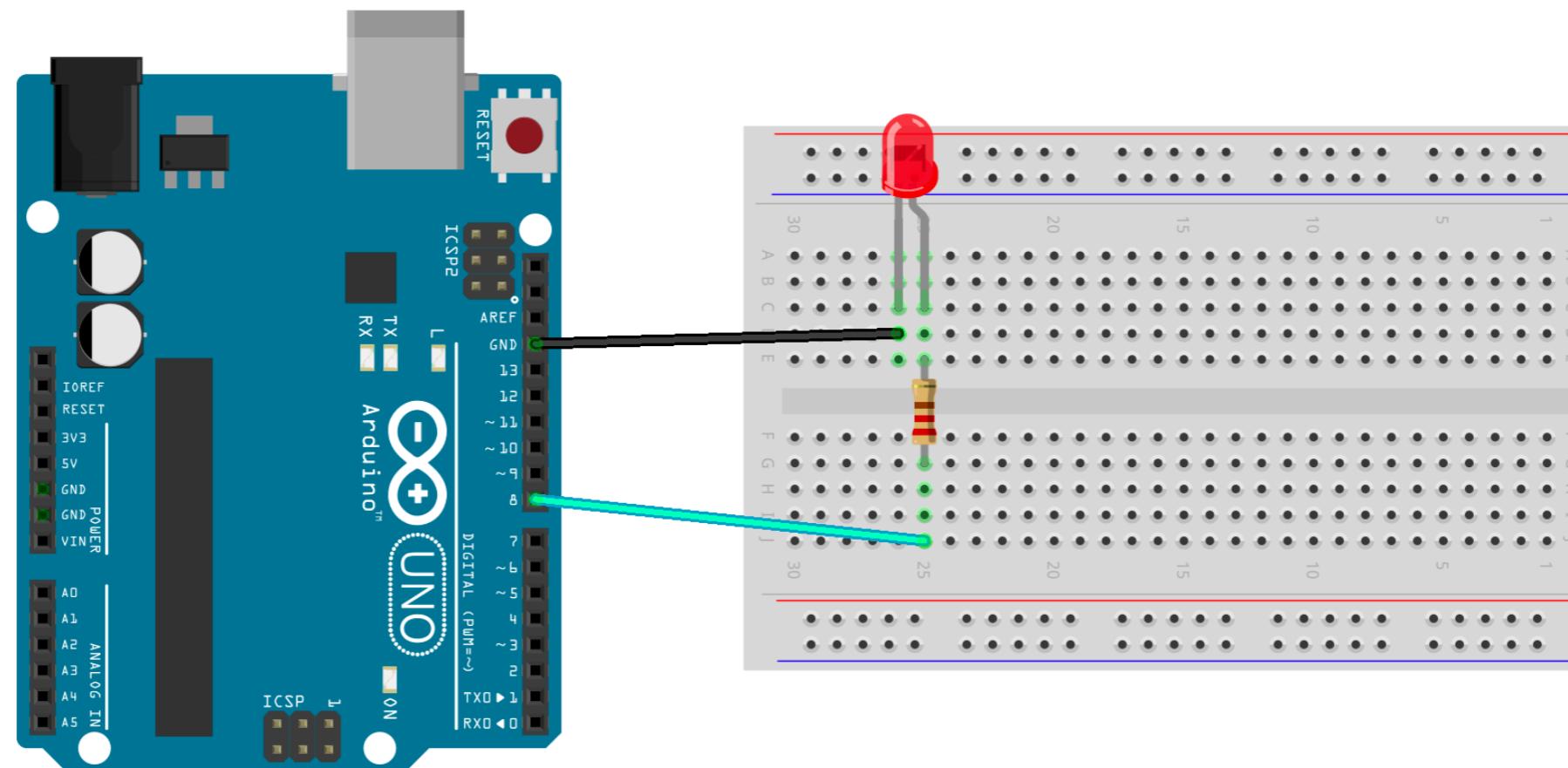
Recap

# The Humble Light Emitting Diode



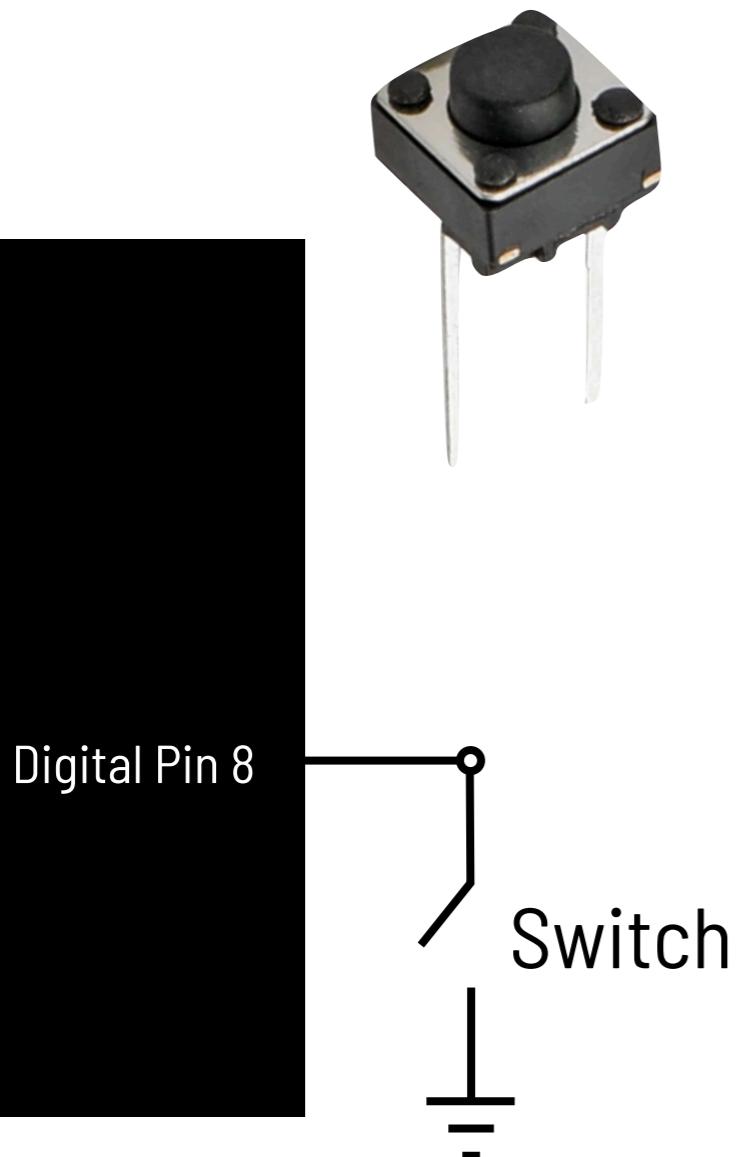
# Recap

# Output



# Recap

## Input



```
int inPin = 8;      // pushbutton connected to digital pin 8
int val = 0;        // variable to store the read value

void setup()
{
    pinMode(inPin, INPUT);    // sets the digital pin 8 as input
}

void loop()
{
    val = digitalRead(inPin); // read the input pin
}
```

## MINIQUIZ!

1. What is the value of **val** when the button is pressed
2. What about when the button is not pressed?
3. What are 2 ways of fixing this?

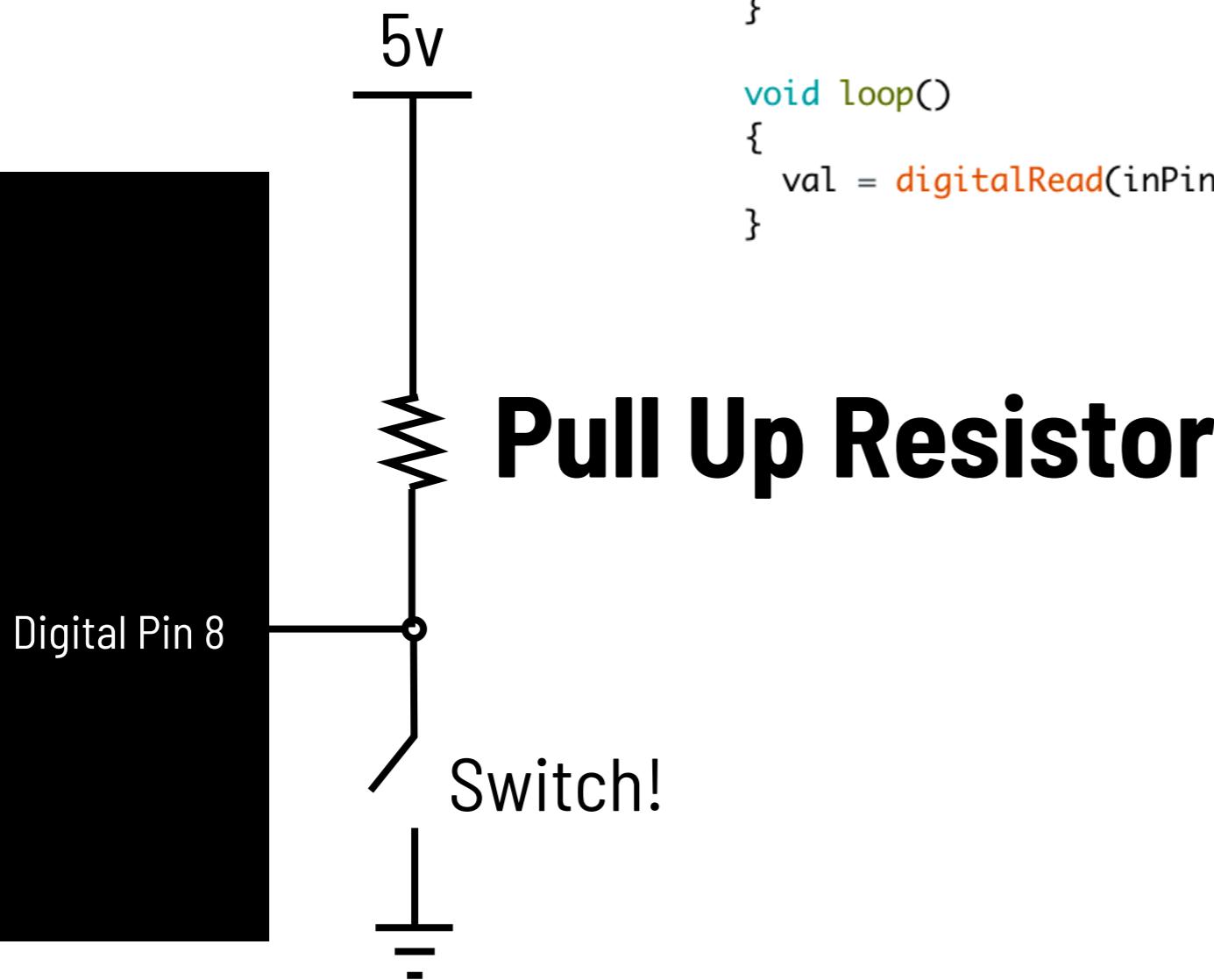
# Recap

## Input

```
int inPin = 8;          // pushbutton connected to digital pin 8
int val = 0;            // variable to store the read value

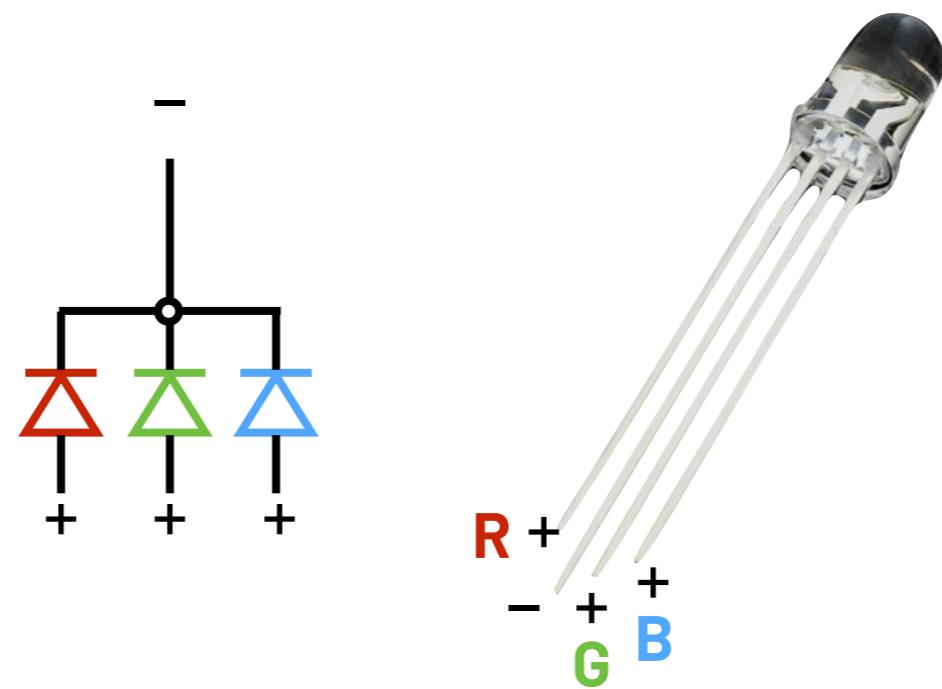
void setup()
{
    pinMode(inPin, INPUT_PULLUP); // sets the digital pin 8 as input
}

void loop()
{
    val = digitalRead(inPin); // read the input pin
}
```



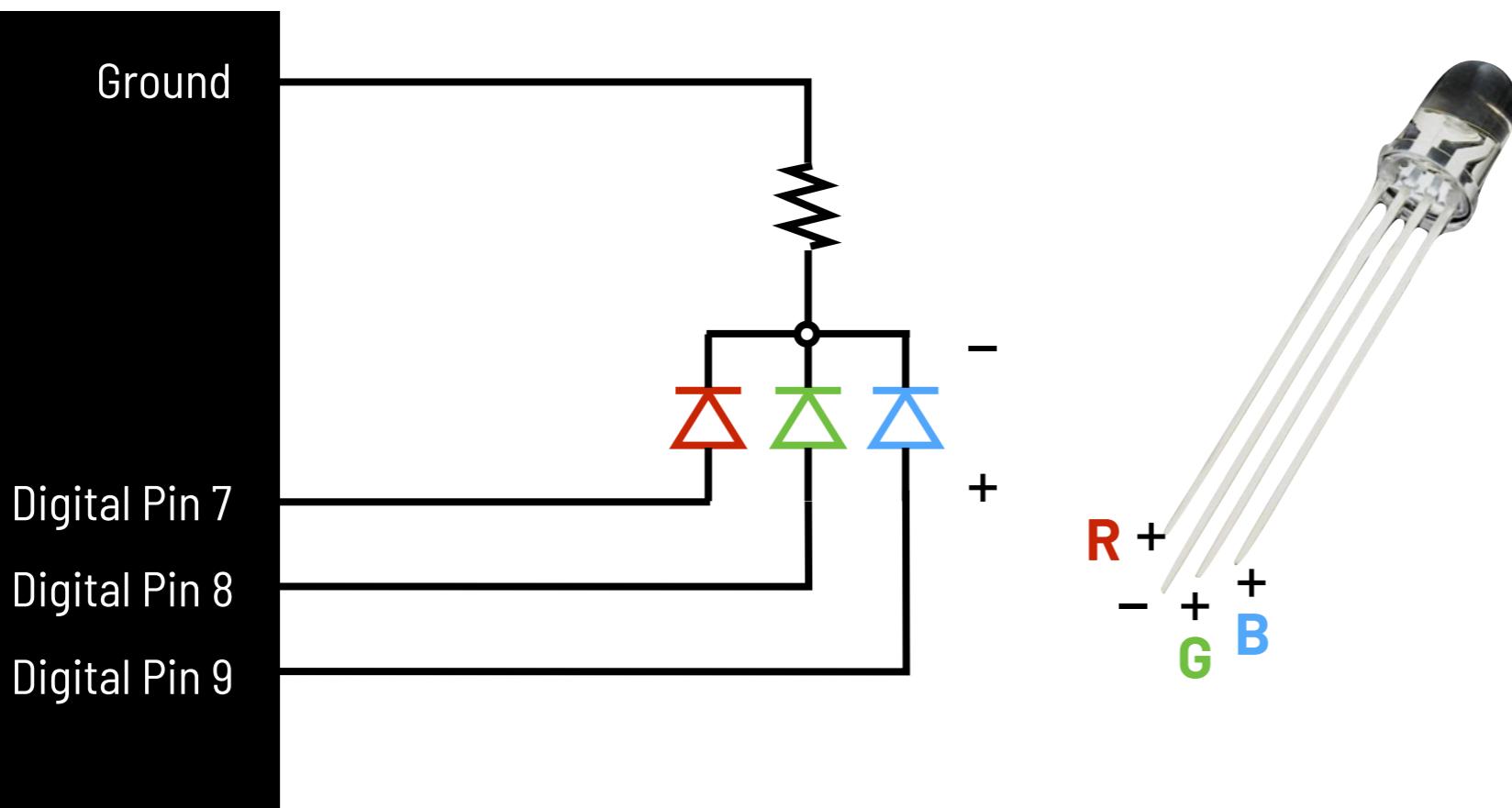
# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



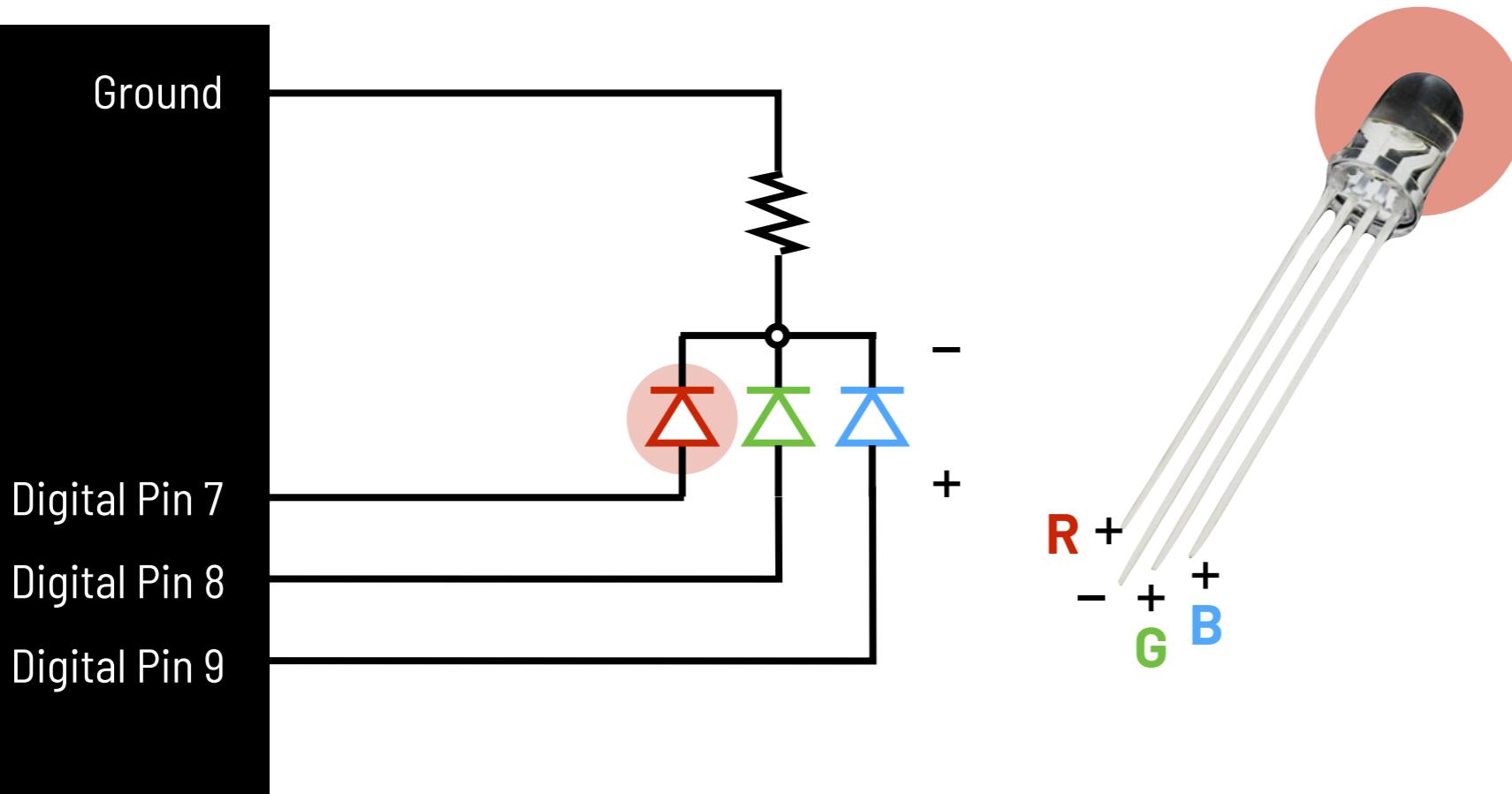
# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



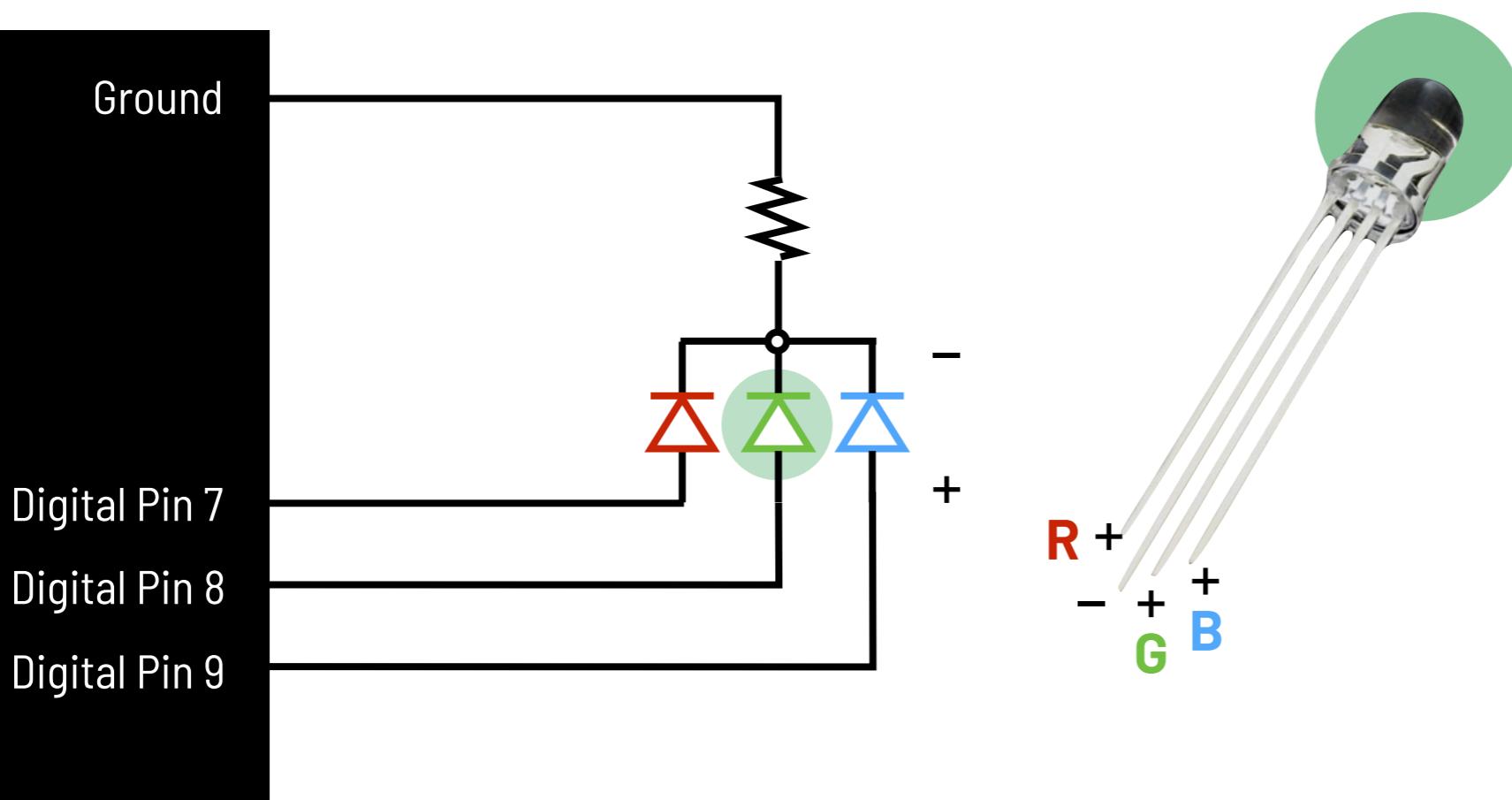
# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



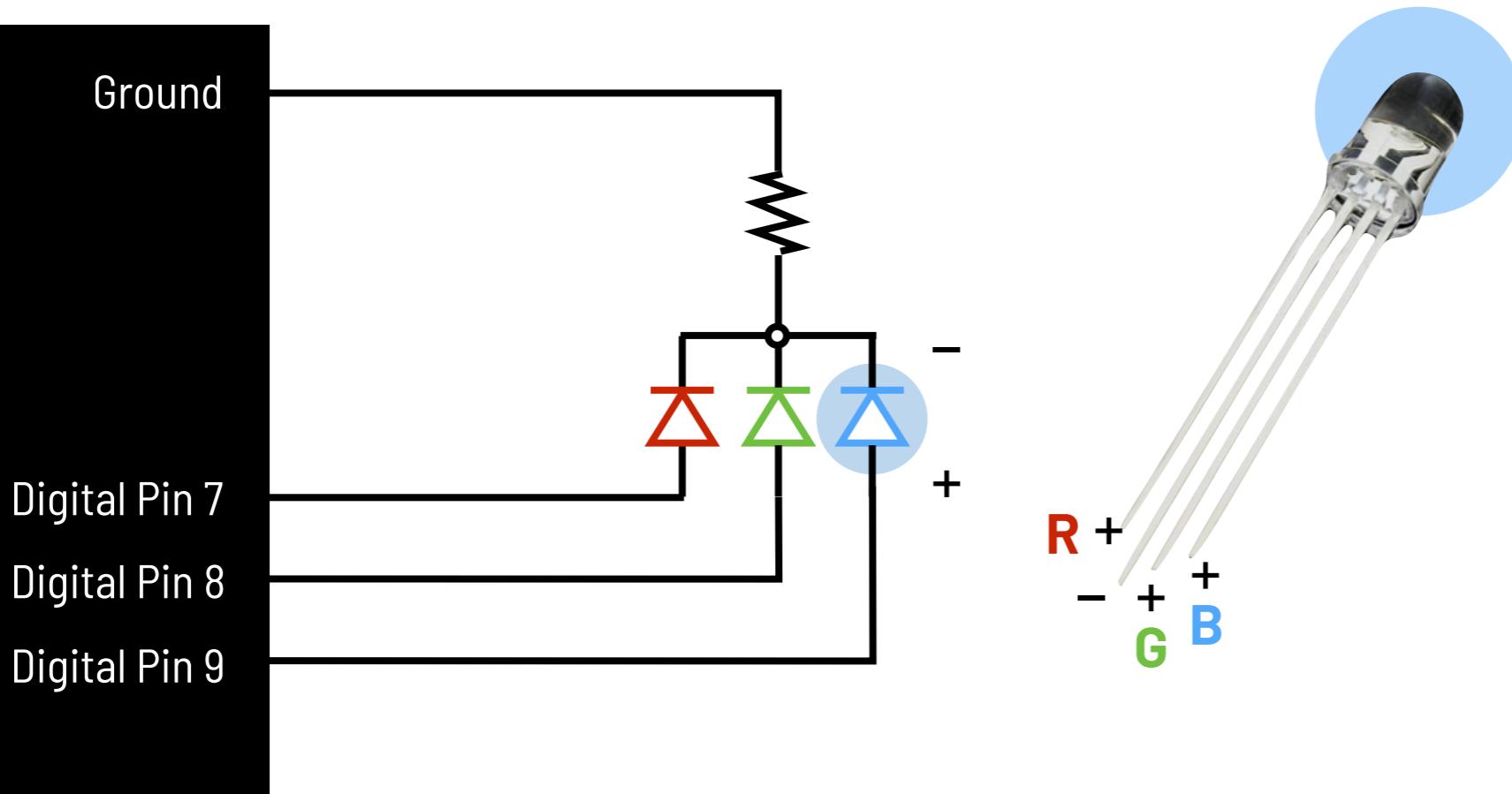
# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



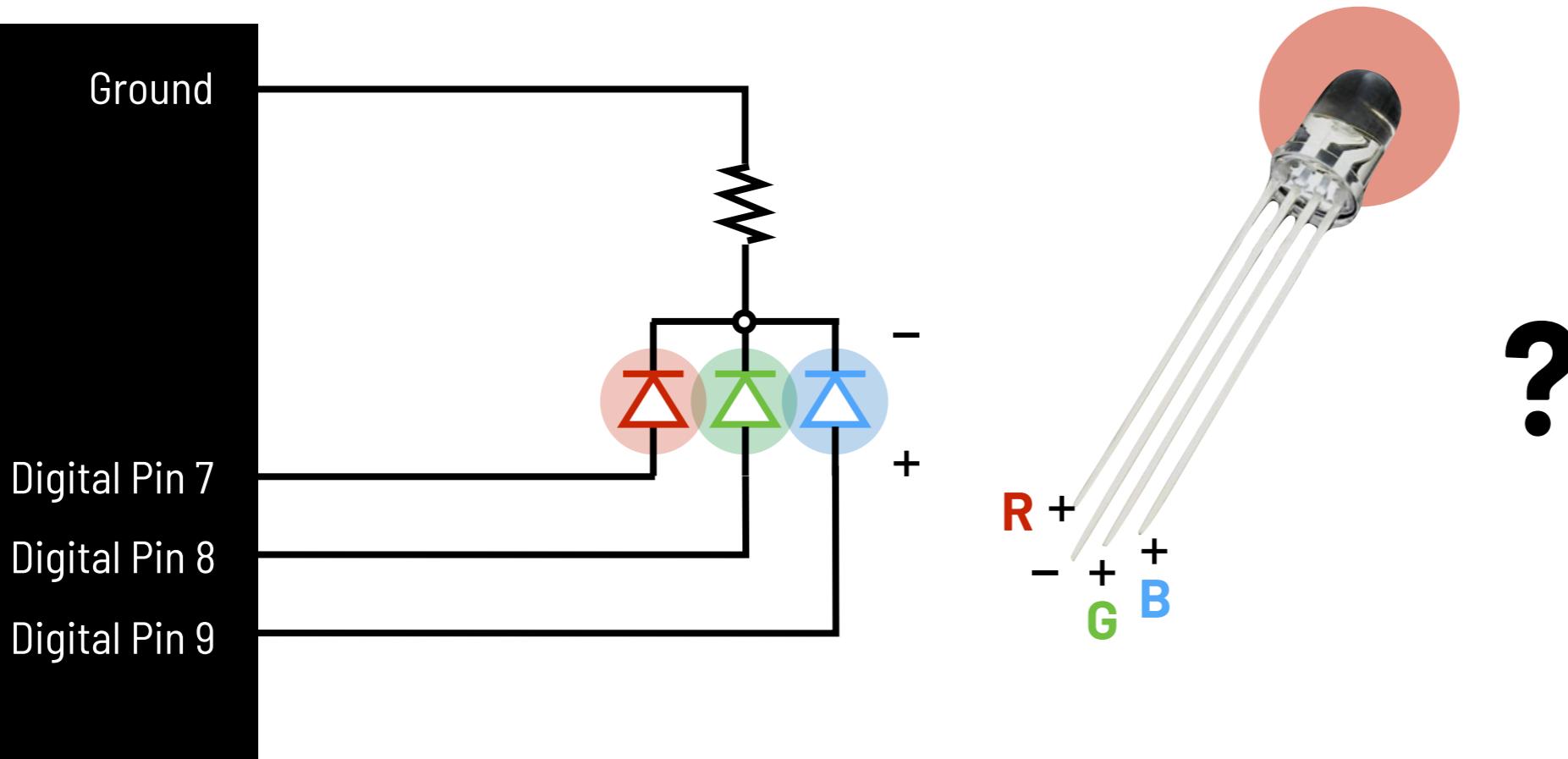
# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs

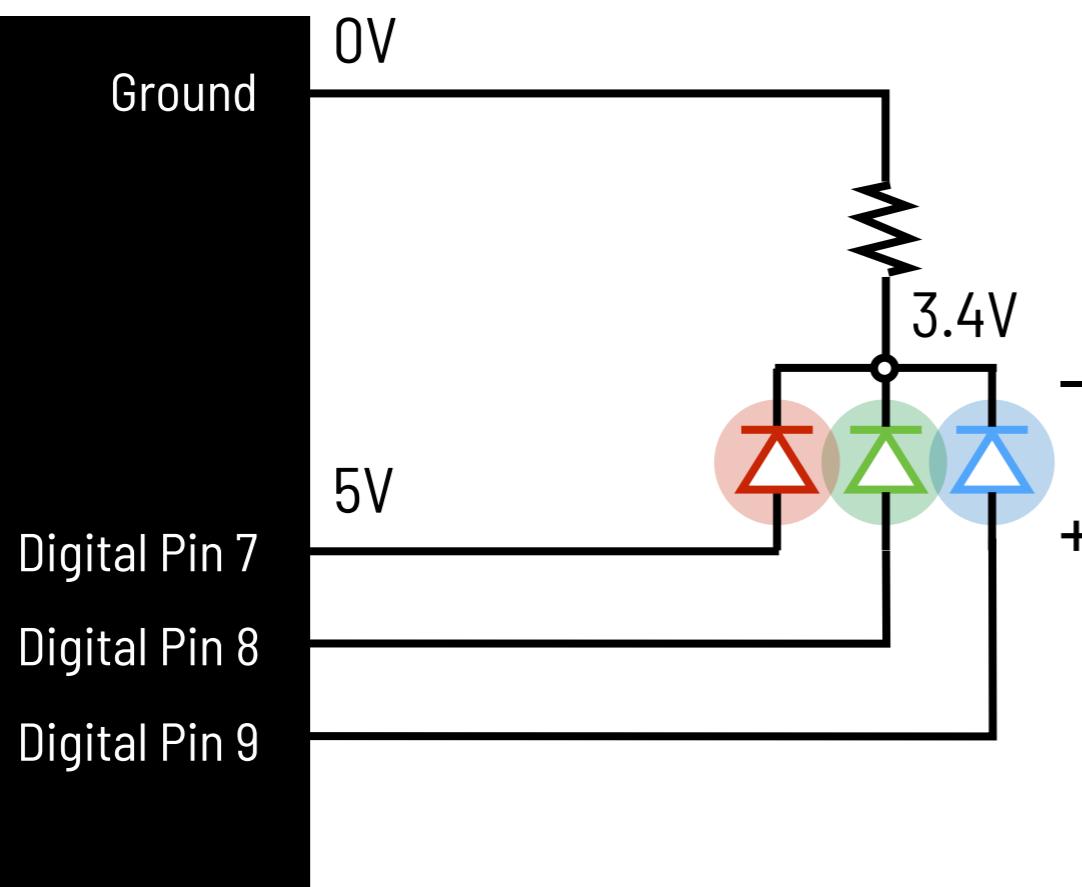


## LED COLORS AND MATERIALS

Color	Wavelength Range (nm)	Forward Voltage (V)	Material
Ultraviolet	< 400	3.1 - 4.4	Aluminium nitride (AlN) Aluminium gallium nitride (AlGaN) Aluminium gallium indium nitride (AlGaInN)
Violet	400 - 450	2.8 - 4.0	Indium gallium nitride (InGaN)
Blue	450 - 500	2.5 - 3.7	Indium gallium nitride (InGaN) Silicon carbide (SiC)
Green	500 - 570	1.9 - 4.0	Gallium phosphide (GaP) Aluminium gallium indium phosphide (AlGaInP) Aluminium gallium phosphide (AlGaP)
Yellow	570 - 590	2.1 - 2.2	Gallium arsenide phosphide (GaAsP) Aluminium gallium indium phosphide (AlGaInP) Gallium phosphide (GaP)
Orange / Amber	590 - 610	2.0 - 2.1	Gallium arsenide phosphide (GaAsP) Aluminium gallium indium phosphide (AlGaUInP) Gallium phosphide (GaP)
Red	610 - 760	1.6 - 2.0	Aluminium gallium arsenide (AlGaAs) Gallium arsenide phosphide (GaAsP) Aluminium gallium indium phosphide (AlGaInP) Gallium phosphide (GaP)
Infrared	> 760	> 1.9	Gallium arsenide (GaAs) Aluminium gallium arsenide (AlGaAs)

# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs



LED Forward  
Voltage Drop

Red ~ 1.6V

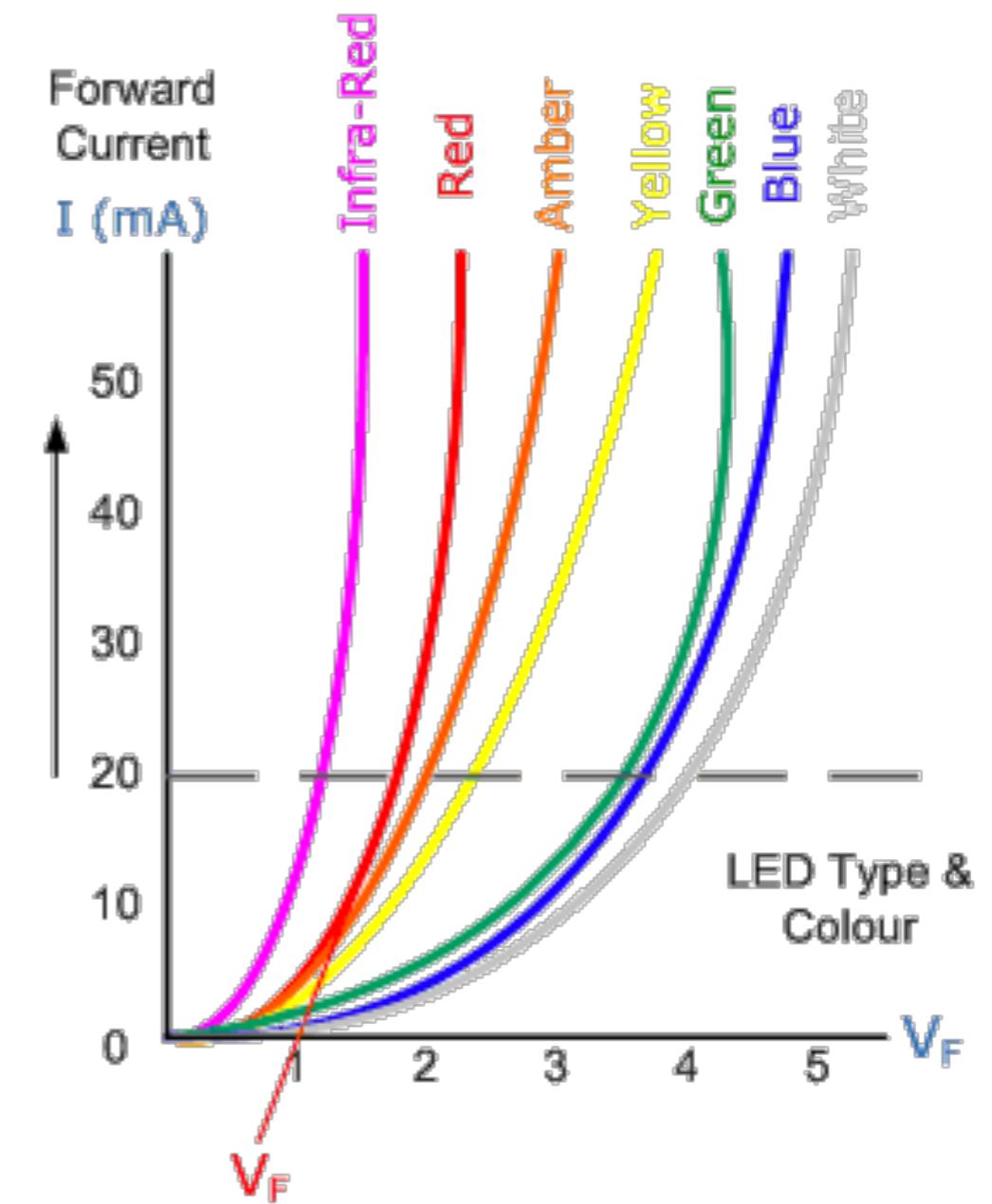
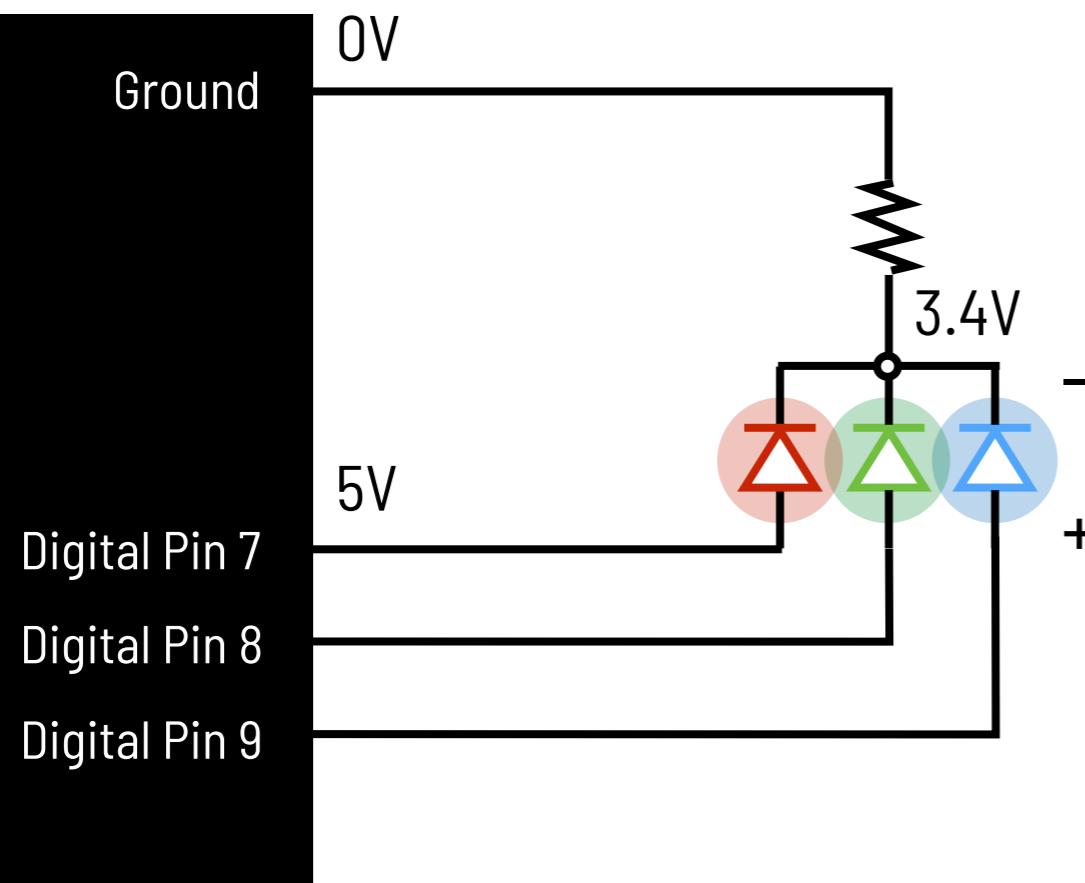
Green ~ 1.9V

Blue ~ 2.5V



# Recap

## Single RGB LEDs

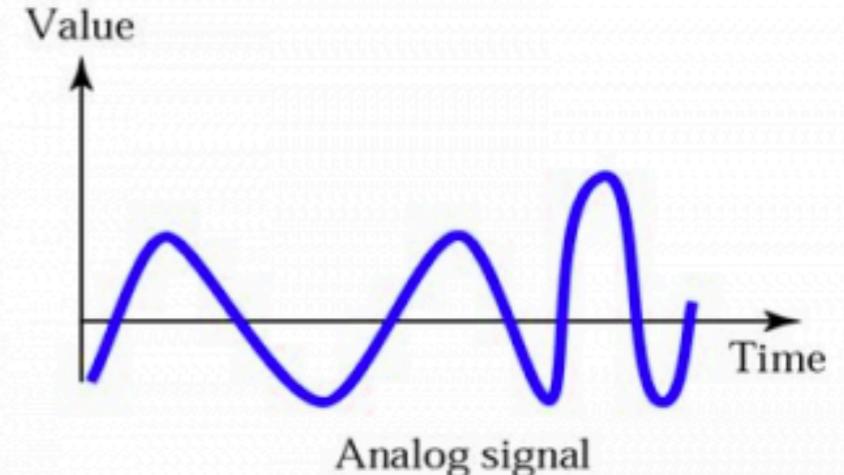


# Digital vs Analog Circuits

## Analog Circuits

Range of voltages

Usually requires math!

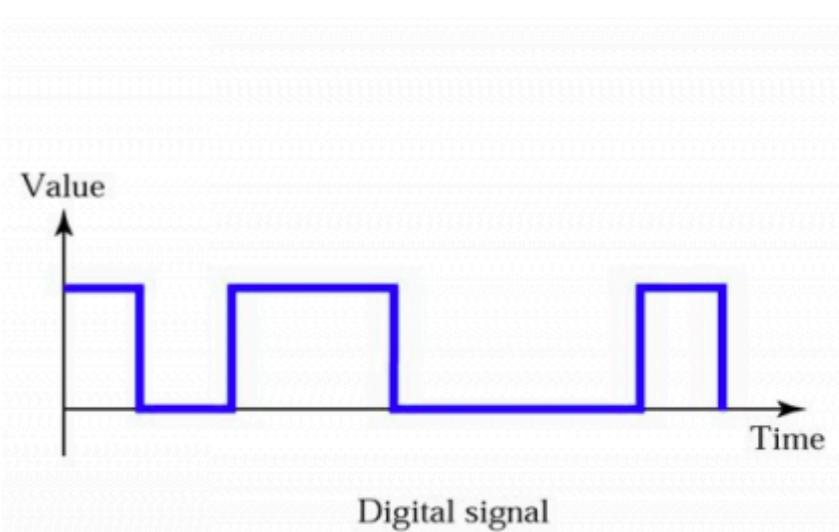


## Digital Circuits

Usually 2 distinct voltages ([high](#) & [low](#))

5v and 0v (roughly)

```
0110010101101011000010110100101101100  
01110101011100110110001001101001011101000  
111001100100001
```

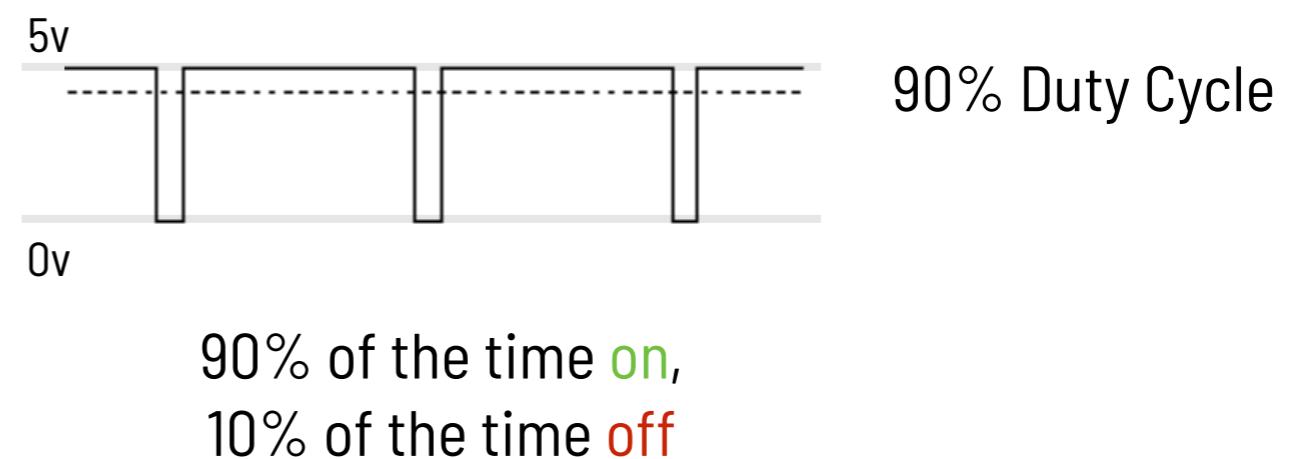
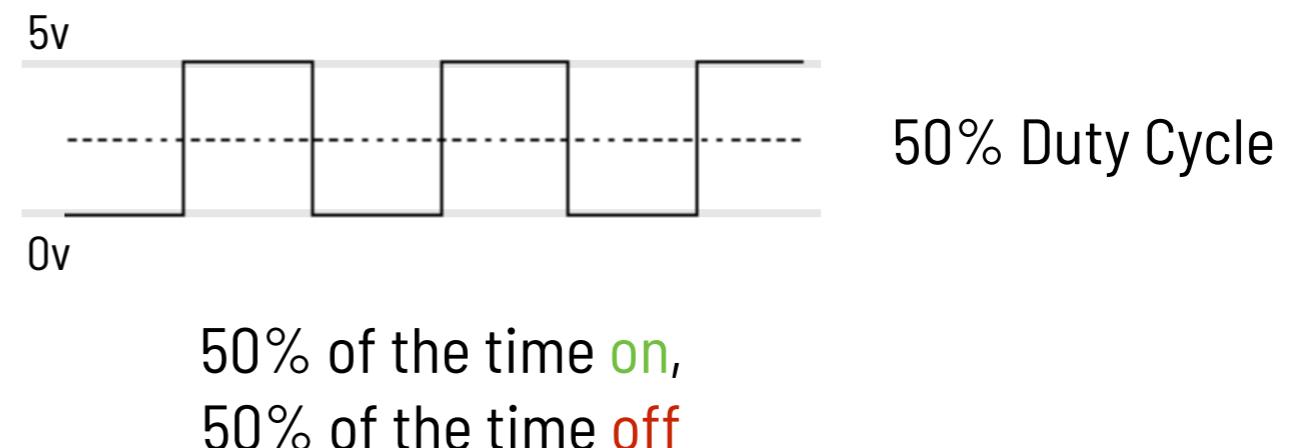
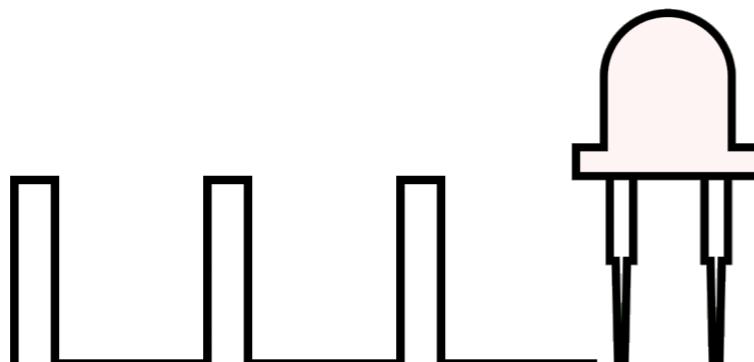


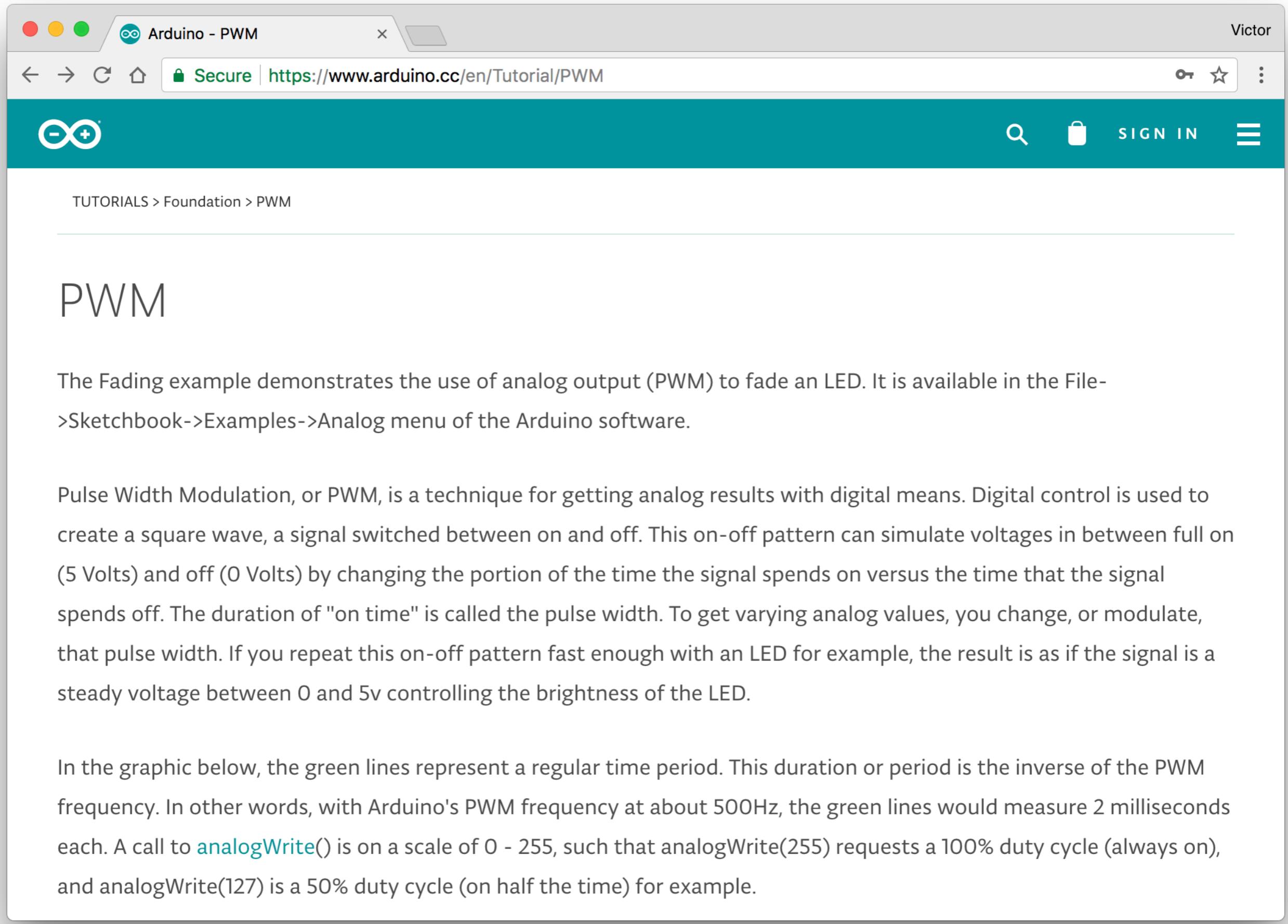
# Pulse Width Modulation

PWM!

Digital is only 0v or 5v,  
so how do we get  
values in between?

PWM to make the LED  
a different brightness



A screenshot of a web browser window titled "Arduino - PWM". The address bar shows a secure connection to "https://www.arduino.cc/en/Tutorial/PWM". The page header includes the Arduino logo, a search icon, a shopping bag icon, a "SIGN IN" button, and a menu icon. The breadcrumb navigation shows "TUTORIALS > Foundation > PWM". The main content title is "PWM". Below the title, a text block describes the Fading example and its location in the Arduino software. A detailed explanation follows, defining PWM as a technique for generating analog signals using digital means. It describes how the signal alternates between high (5 Volts) and low (0 Volts) states, with the duration of the high state being the pulse width. The text explains that by changing the pulse width, you can create varying analog values, such as controlling LED brightness. In the graphic below, green lines represent a regular time period, and a call to `analogWrite()` is mentioned on a scale from 0 to 255.

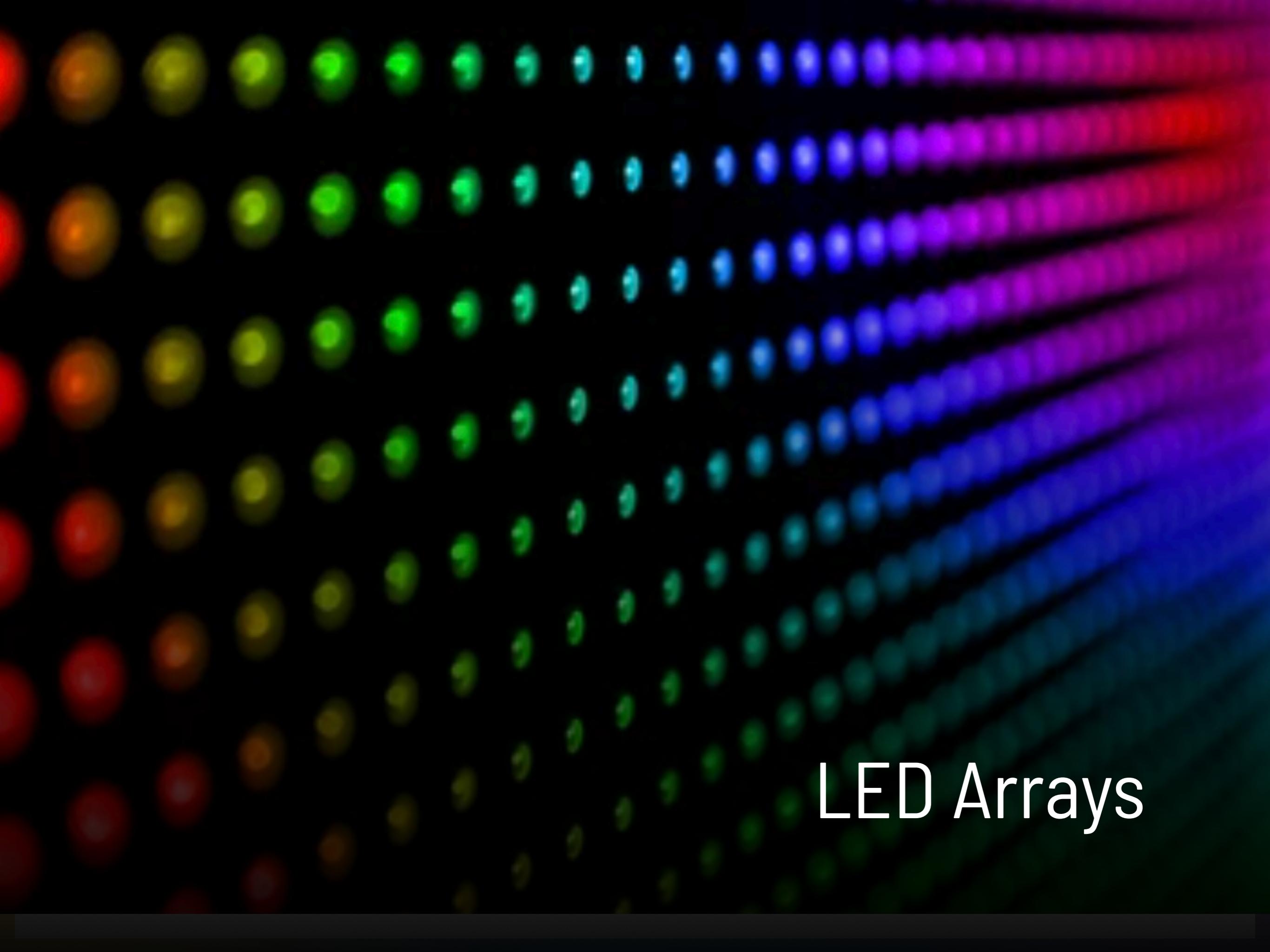
The Fading example demonstrates the use of analog output (PWM) to fade an LED. It is available in the File->Sketchbook->Examples->Analog menu of the Arduino software.

Pulse Width Modulation, or PWM, is a technique for getting analog results with digital means. Digital control is used to create a square wave, a signal switched between on and off. This on-off pattern can simulate voltages in between full on (5 Volts) and off (0 Volts) by changing the portion of the time the signal spends on versus the time that the signal spends off. The duration of "on time" is called the pulse width. To get varying analog values, you change, or modulate, that pulse width. If you repeat this on-off pattern fast enough with an LED for example, the result is as if the signal is a steady voltage between 0 and 5v controlling the brightness of the LED.

In the graphic below, the green lines represent a regular time period. This duration or period is the inverse of the PWM frequency. In other words, with Arduino's PWM frequency at about 500Hz, the green lines would measure 2 milliseconds each. A call to `analogWrite()` is on a scale of 0 - 255, such that `analogWrite(255)` requests a 100% duty cycle (always on), and `analogWrite(127)` is a 50% duty cycle (on half the time) for example.

# PWM

```
void loop() {
    digitalWrite(6, HIGH);
    delay(1000);
    analogWrite(6, 100);
    delay(1000);
}
```



LED Arrays

# More Pins?

Arduinos only have a limited number of output.

There are different methods we can “get more outputs”

Method 1: **Multiplexing**

Method 2: Specific **Communication Protocols**



# Now you're the Array!

Scan the code or go to

[bit.ly/ledarray](https://bit.ly/ledarray)

Enter your kerberos and  
fill the background color  
of one of the cells with a  
color



# More Pins?

Arduinos only have a limited number of output.

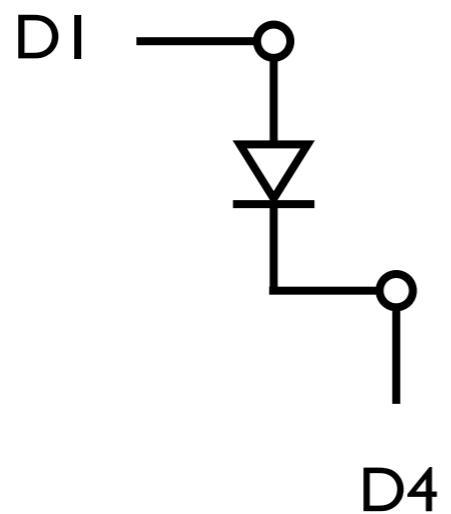
There are different methods we can “get more outputs”

Method 1: **Multiplexing**

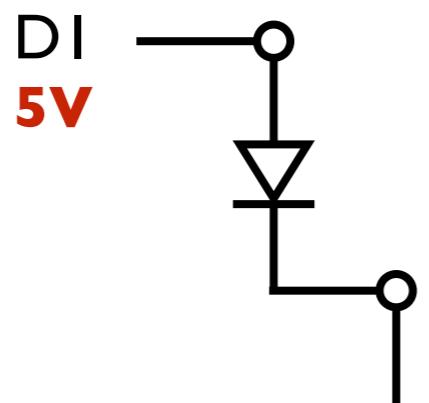
Method 2: Specific **Communication Protocols**



# Multiplexing

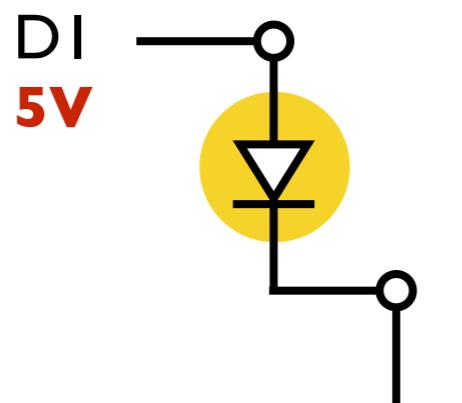


# Multiplexing



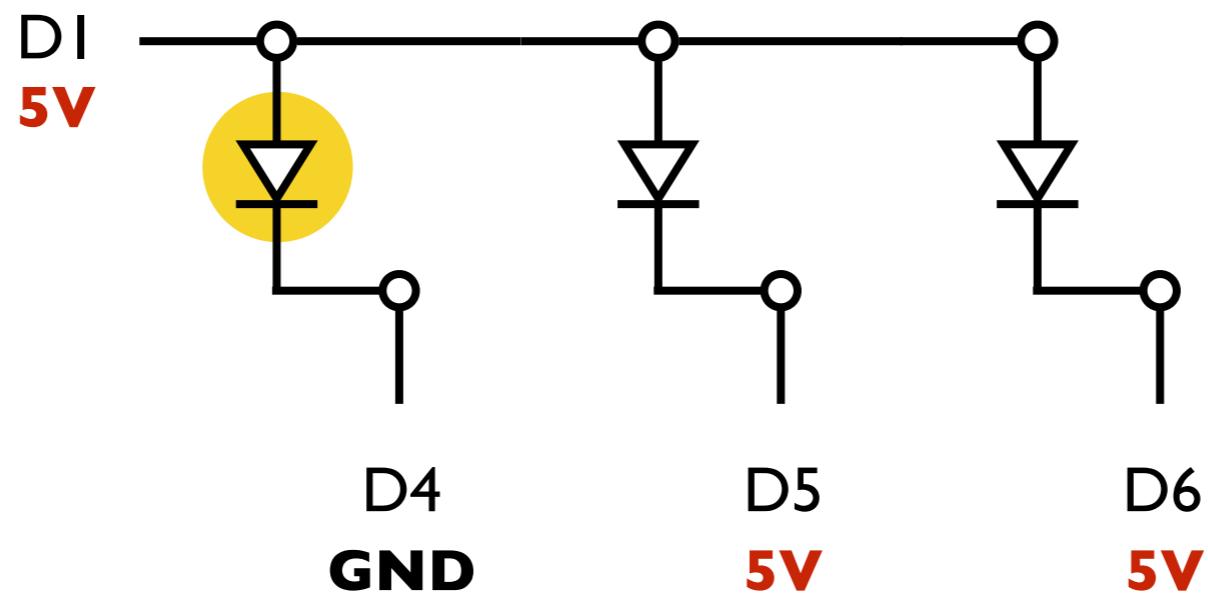
D4  
**5V**

# Multiplexing

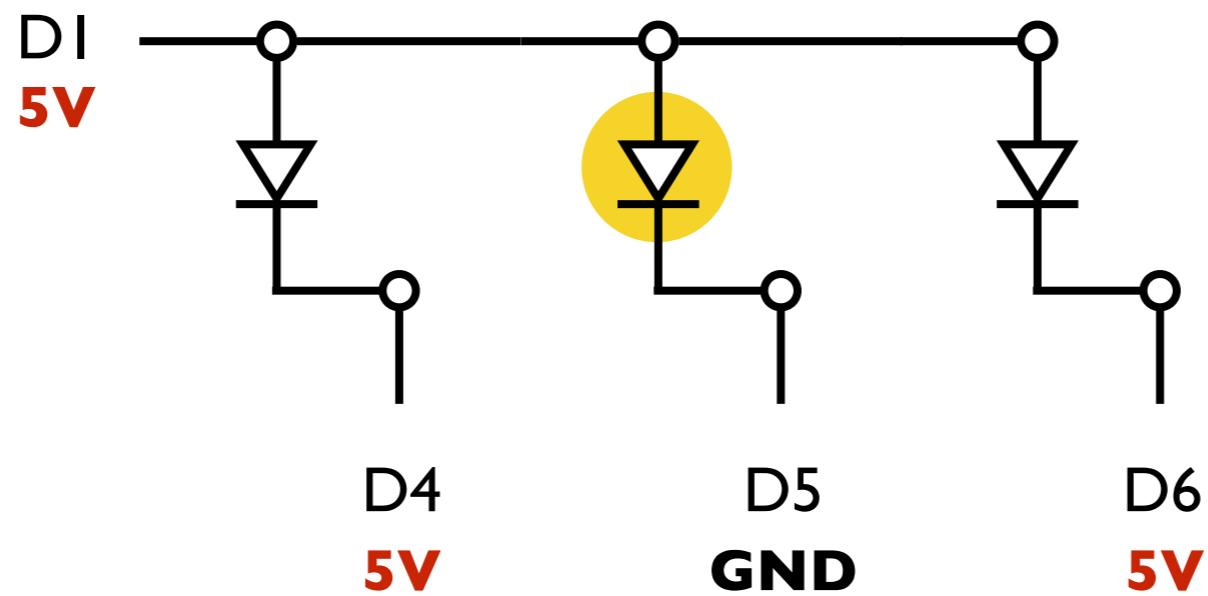


D4  
**GND**

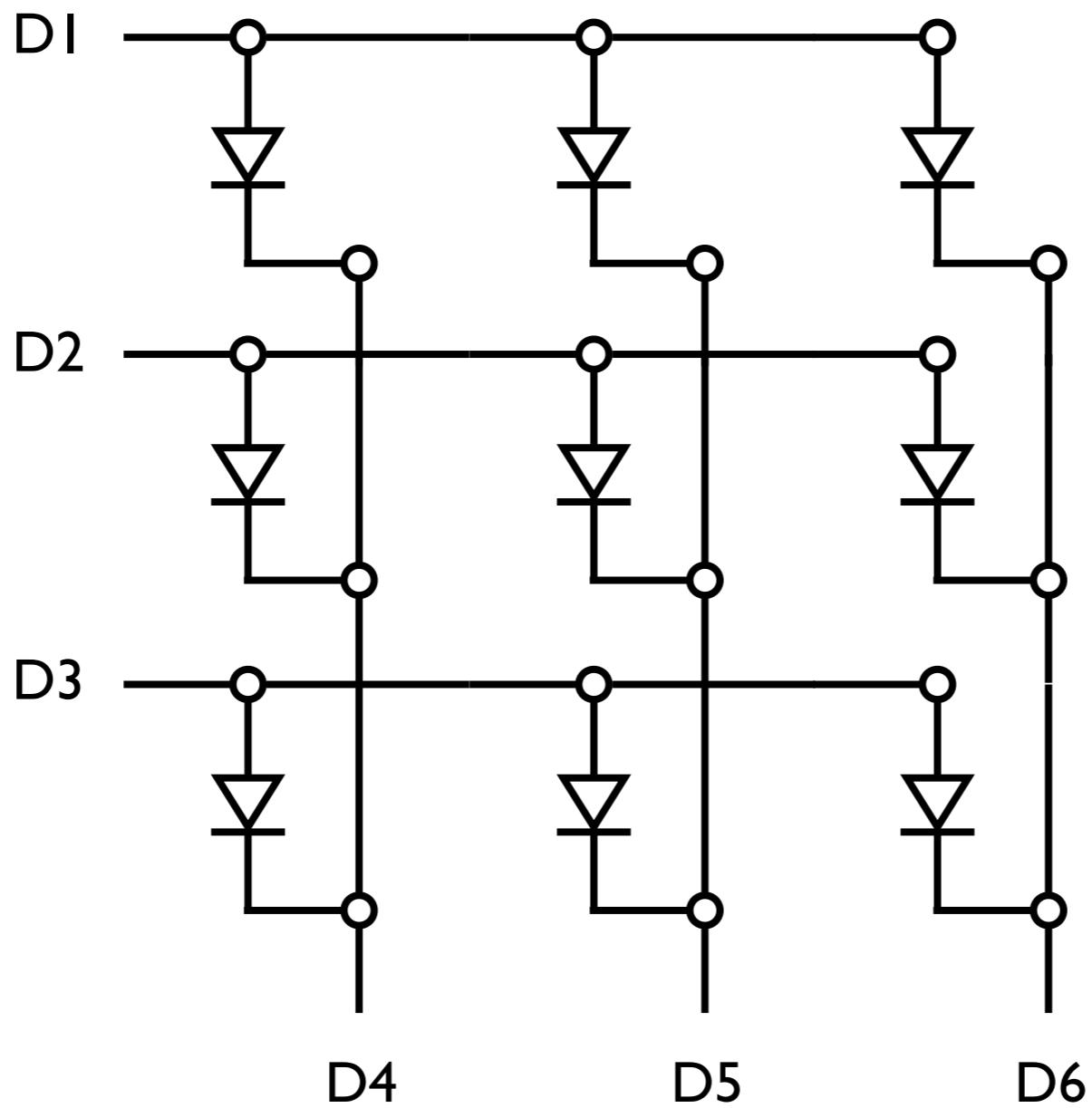
# Multiplexing



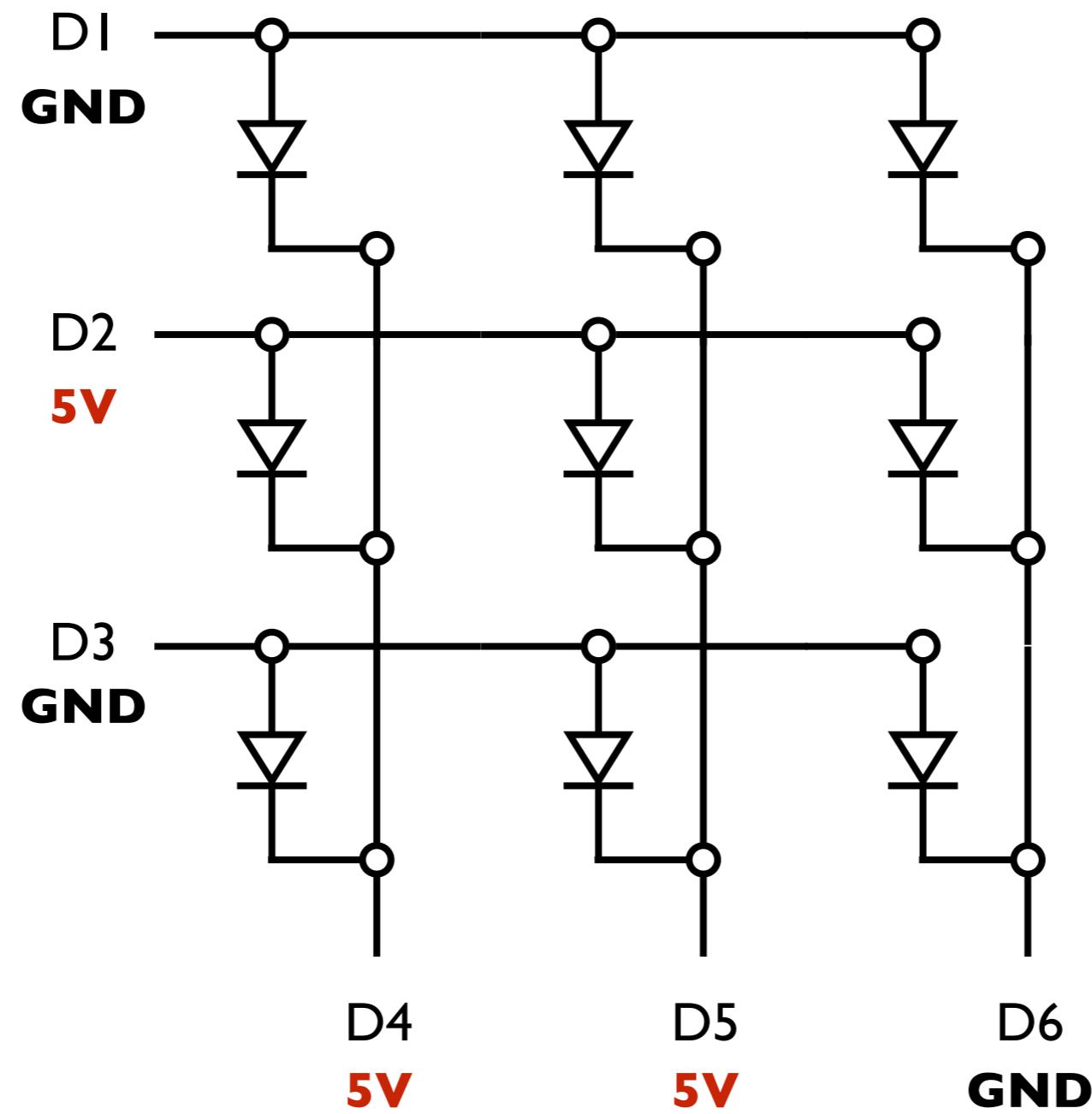
# Multiplexing



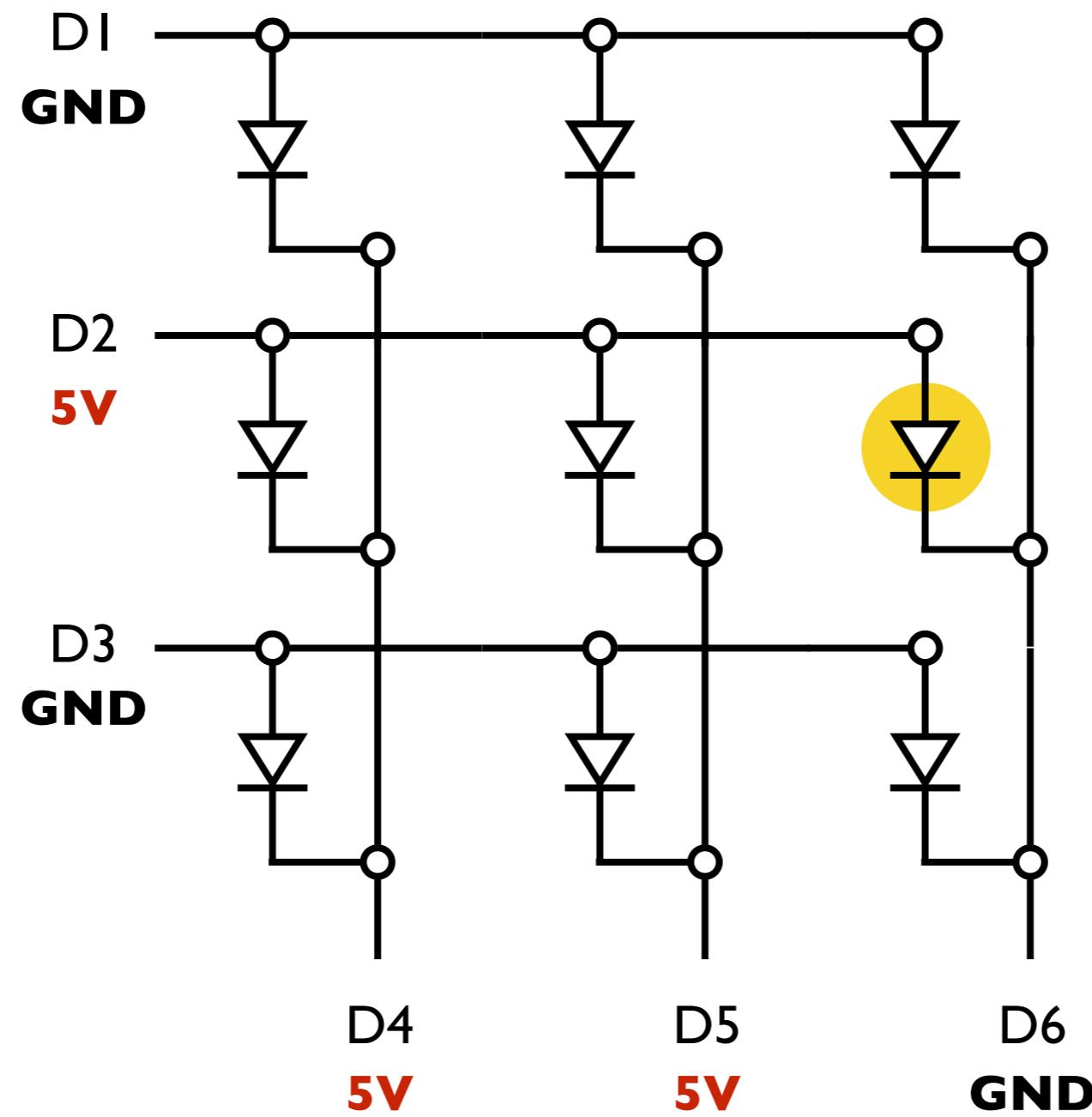
# Multiplexing



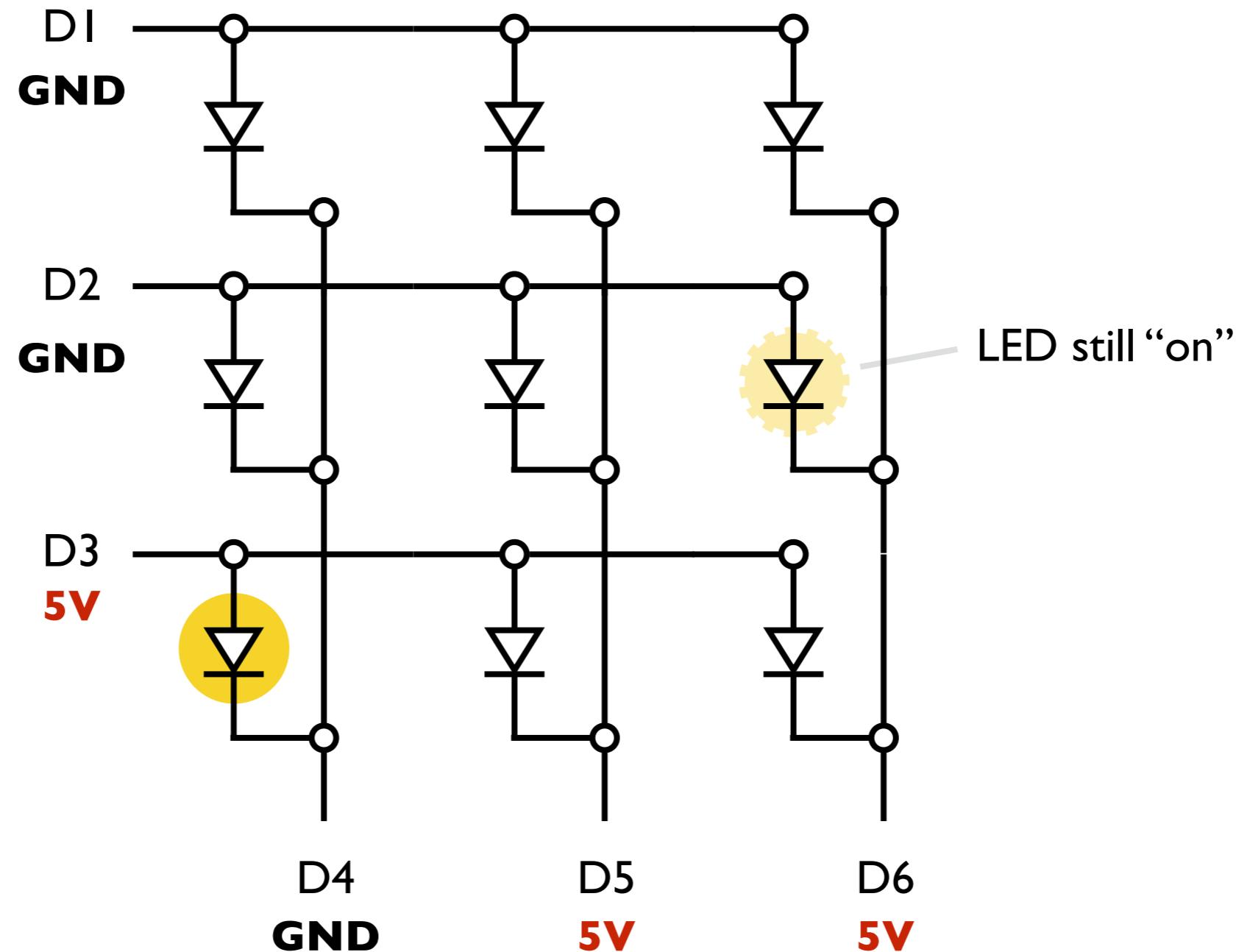
# Multiplexing



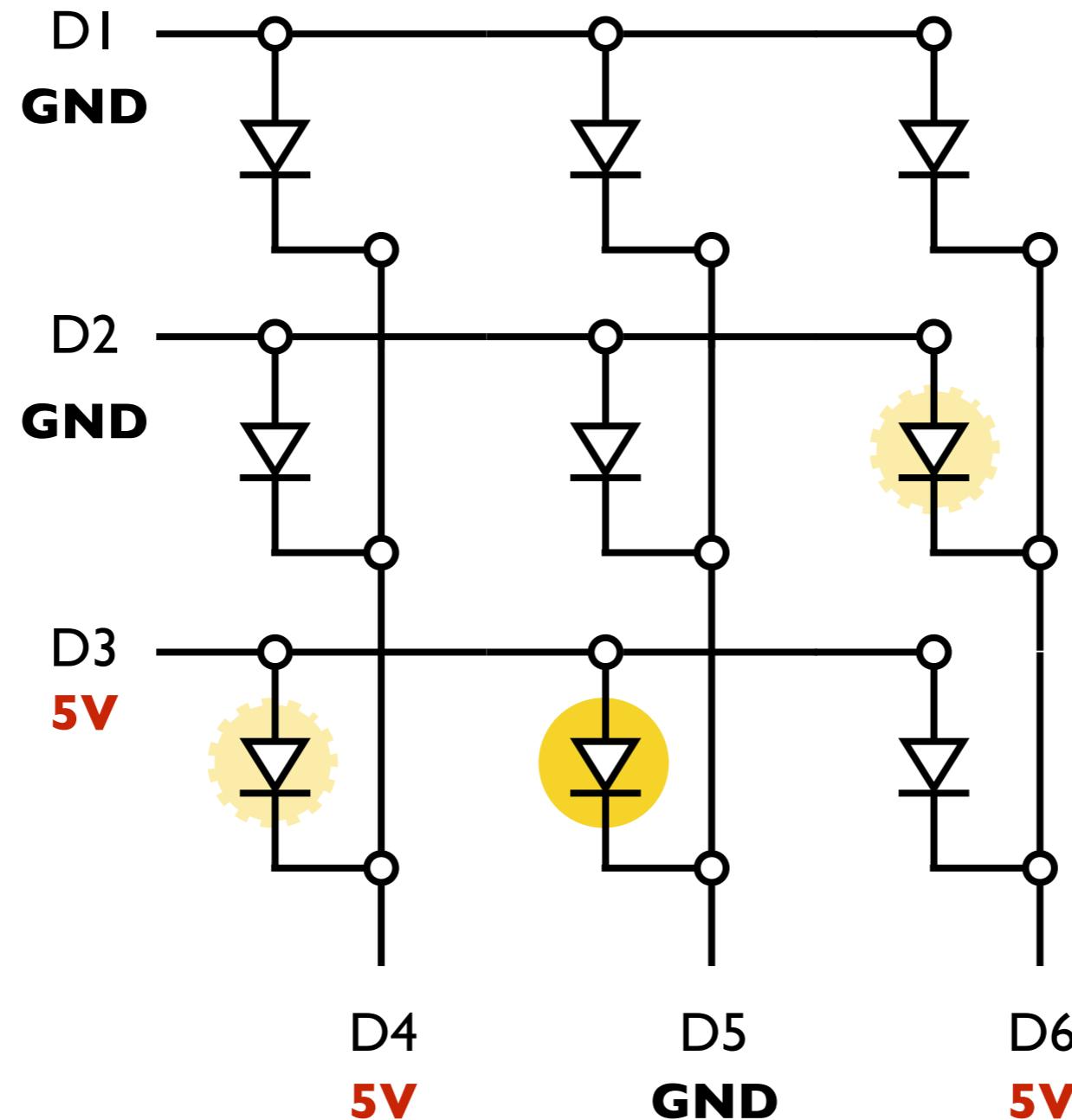
# Multiplexing



# Multiplexing



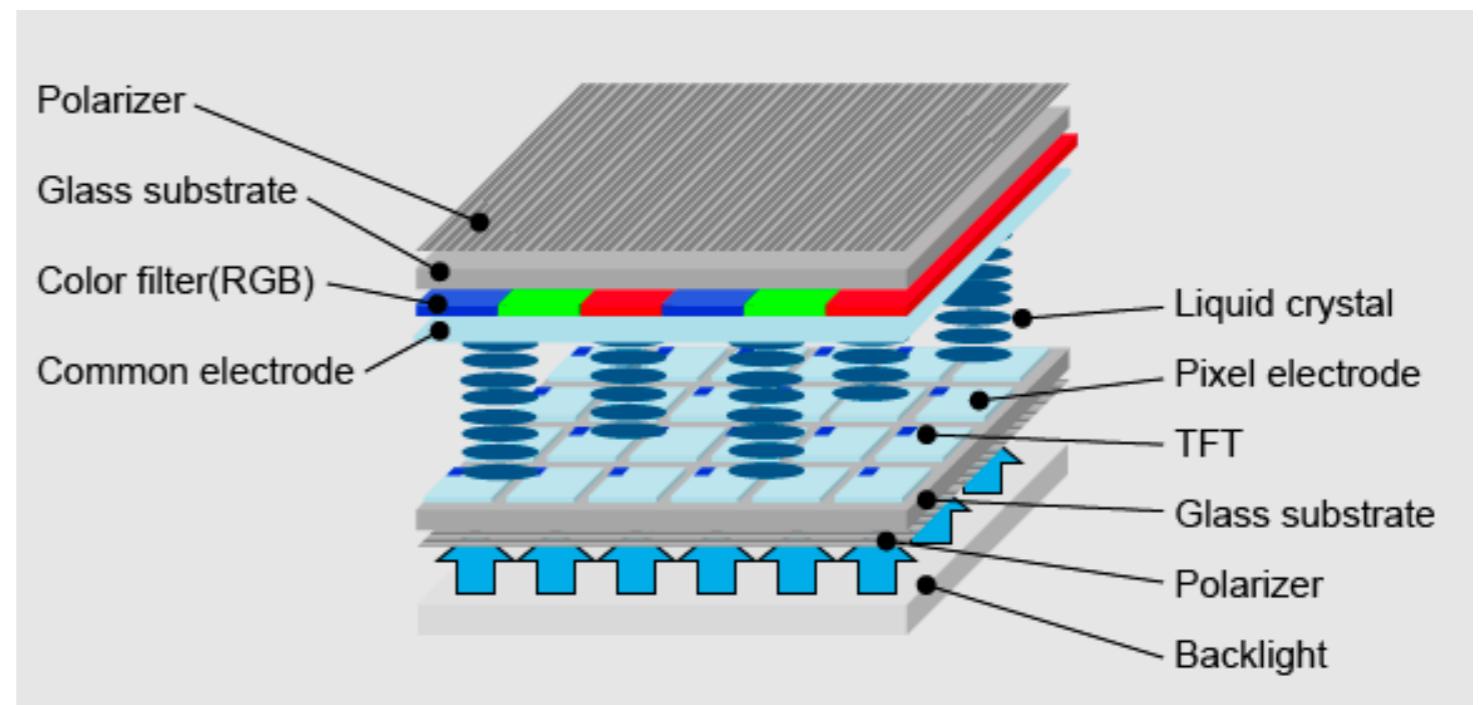
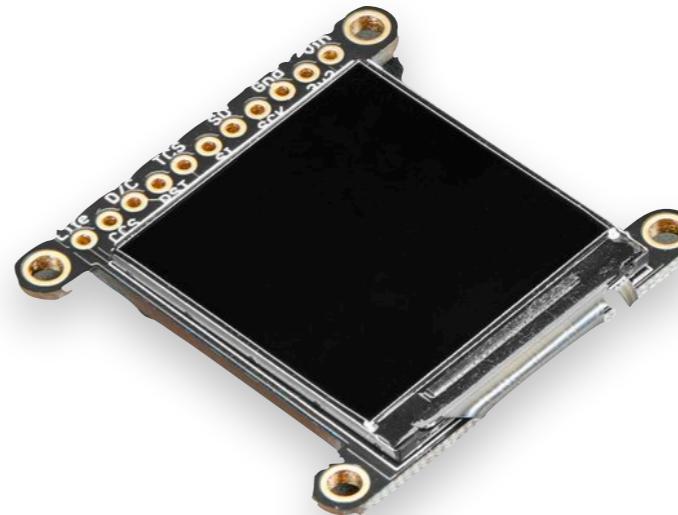
# Multiplexing



# TFT Display

**Thin Film Transistor  
Displays**

Breakout board/  
Arduino library  
handles a lot of the  
logic!



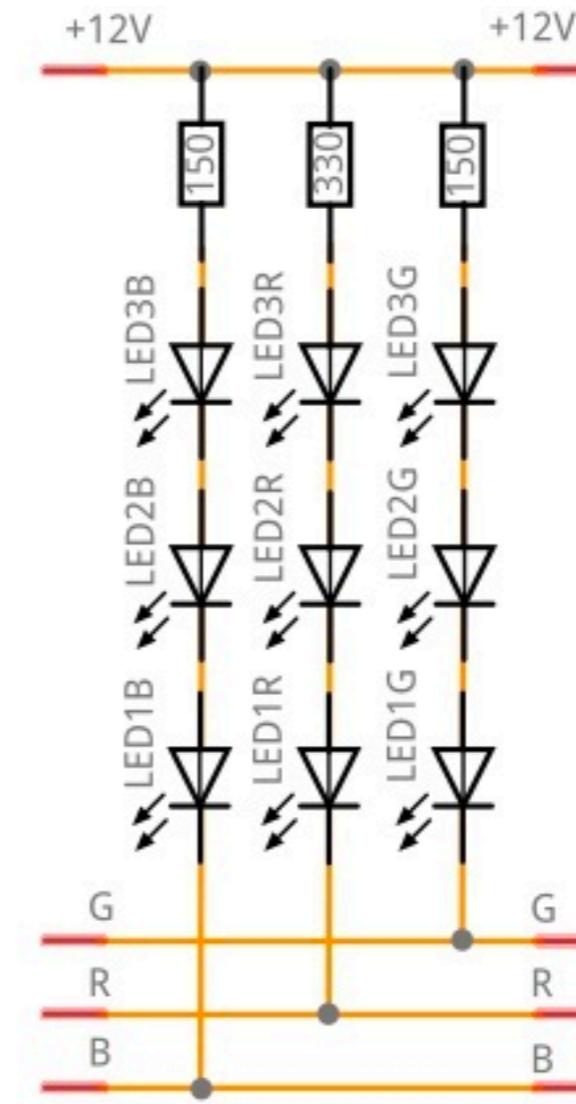
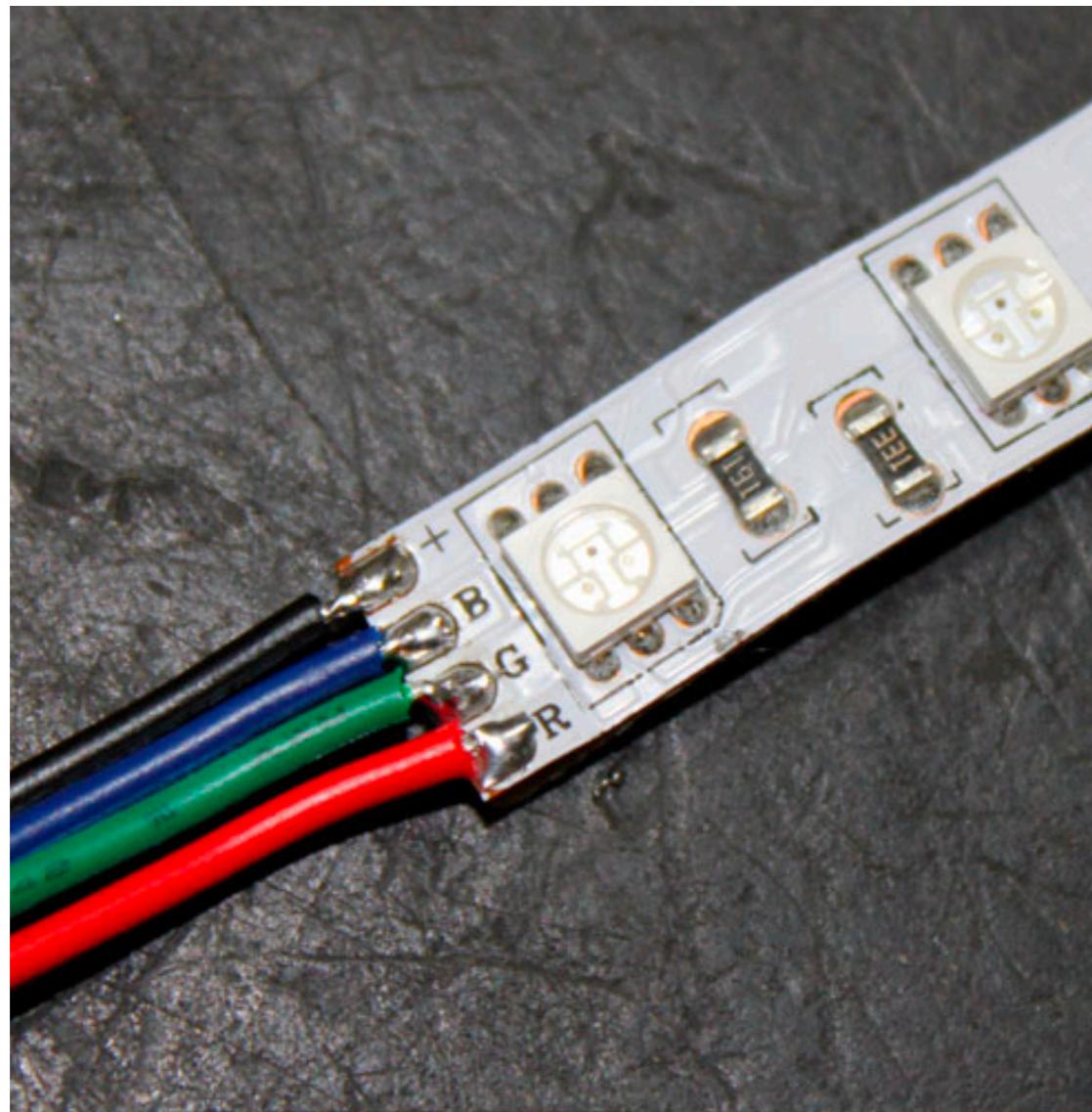
# Sensitive Electronics!

Static Shielding bags are bags that prevent a build up of static electricity inside or outside the bag



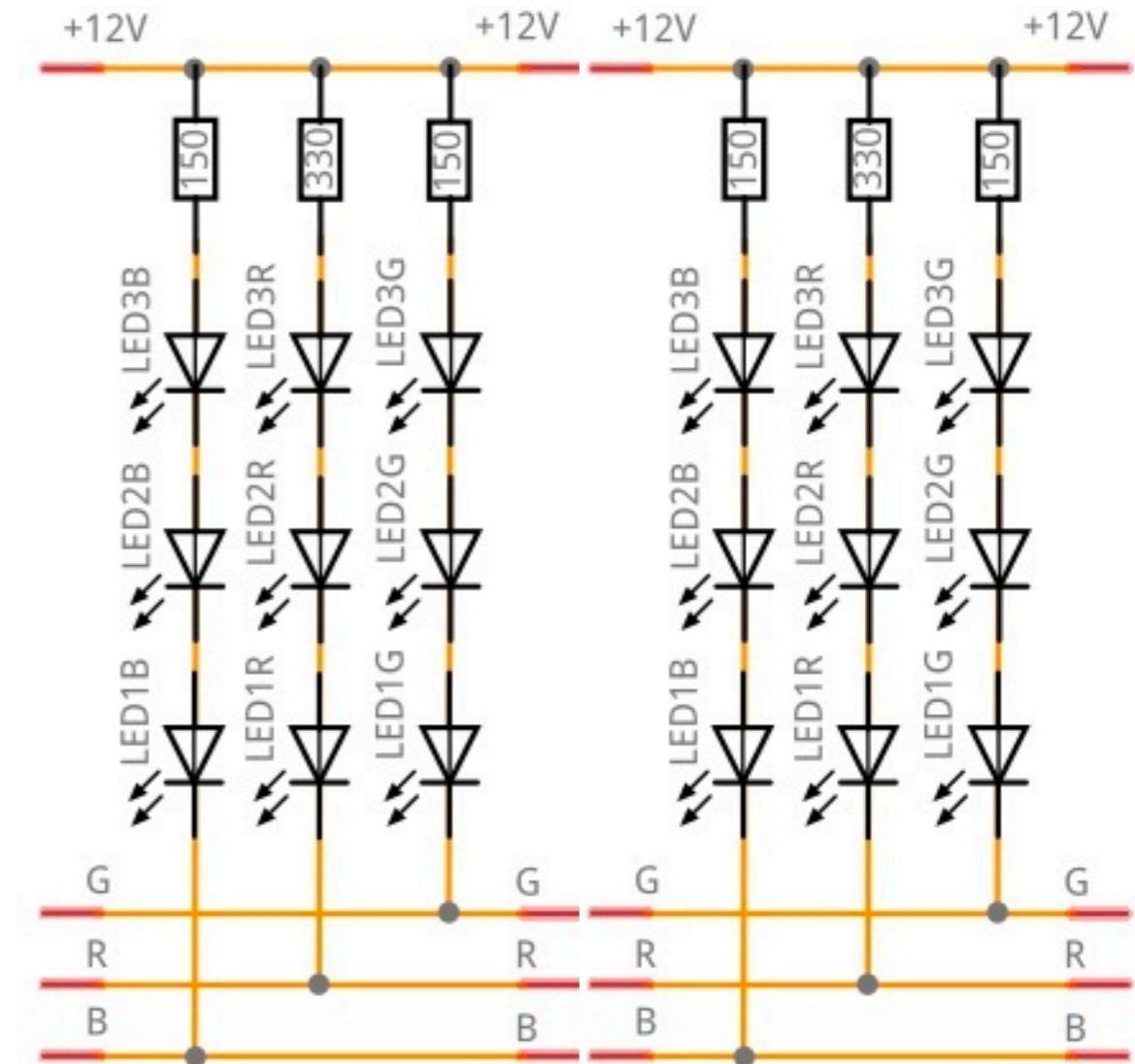
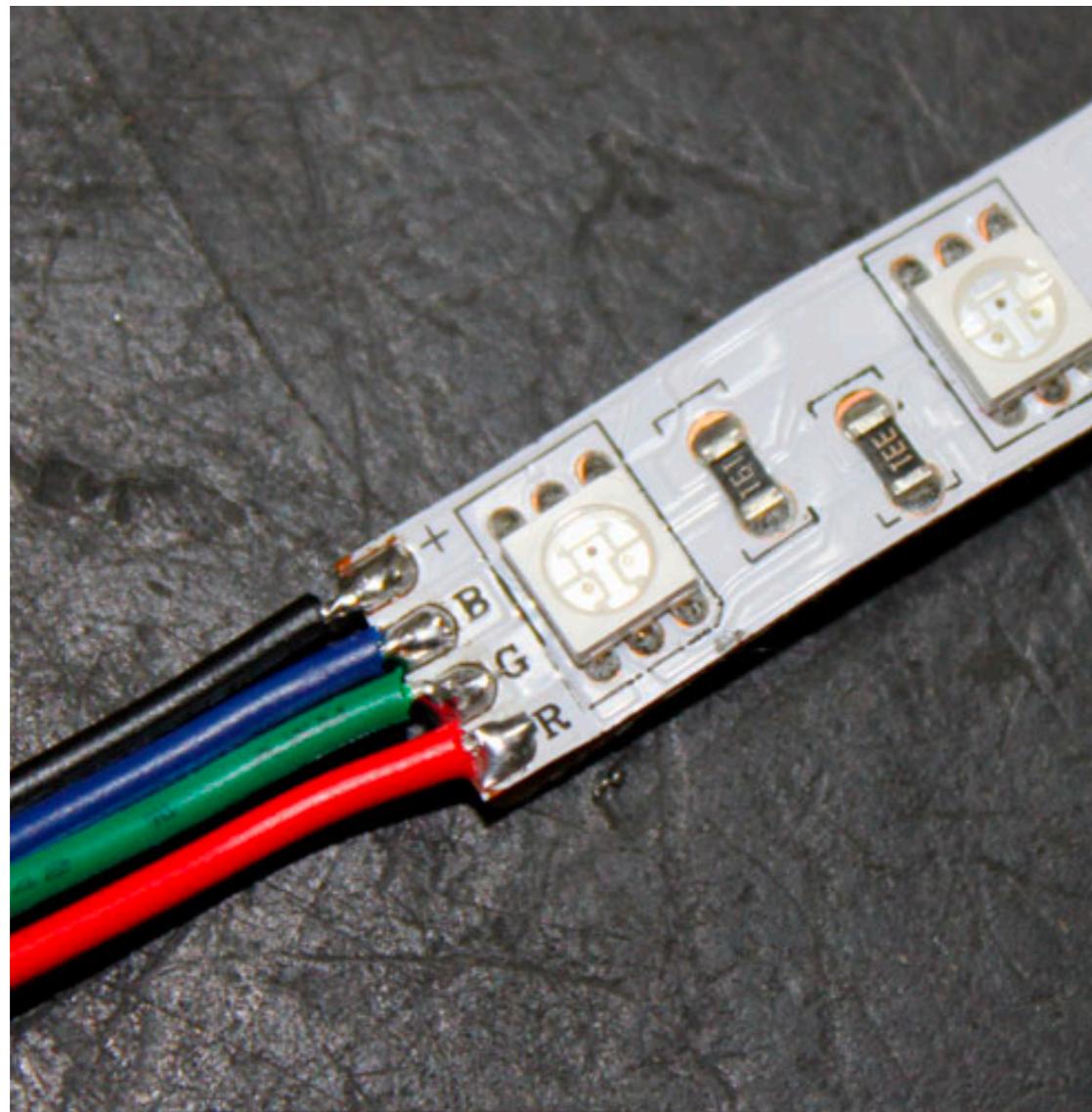
# LED strips

A strip of LEDs



# LED strips

A strip of LEDs



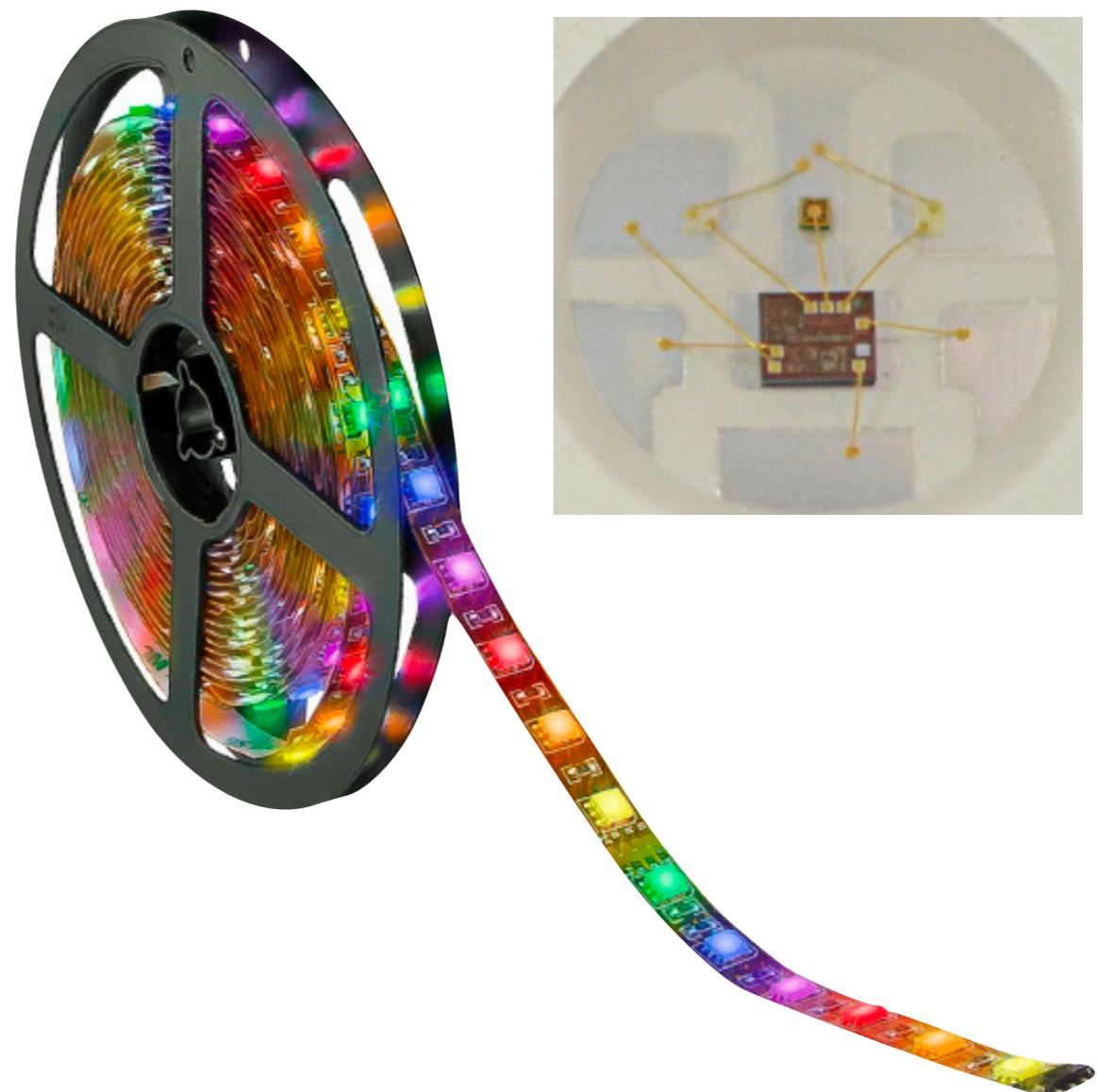
# Individually Addressable LED strips!

Objectively pretty neat!

Integrated Circuit

**ws2812b RGB LED**

How does this work?



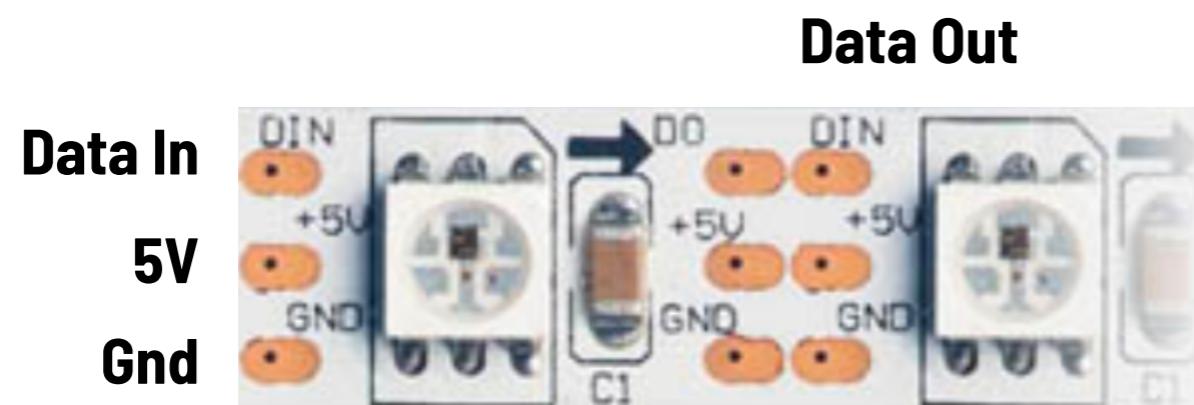
# Individually Addressable LED strips!

Objectively pretty neat!

Integrated Circuit

**ws2812b RGB LED**

How does this work?



Directional!

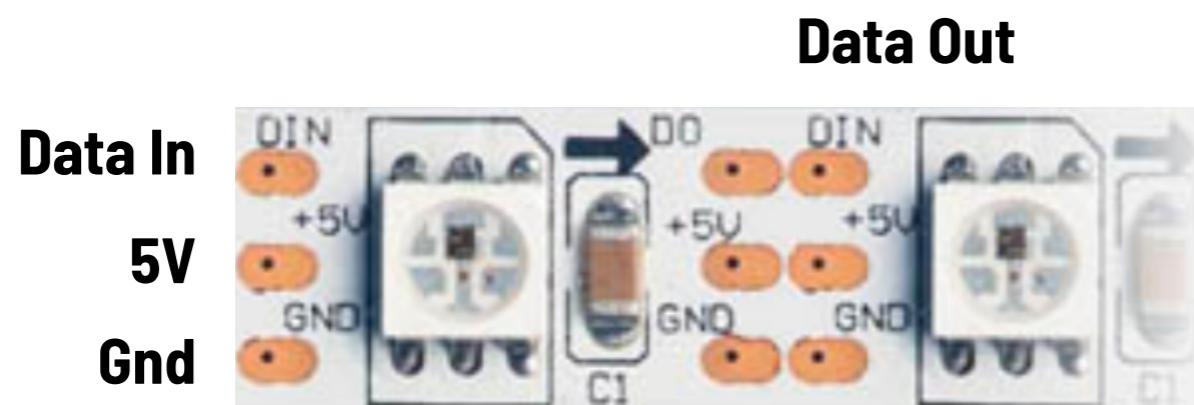
# Individually Addressable LED strips!

Objectively pretty neat!

Integrated Circuit

**ws2812b RGB LED**

How does this work?



## PROTOCOL

LED1:

Red at 100%

Green at 0%

Blue at 50%

LED 2:

Red at 0%

Green at 100%

Blue at 0%

Directional!

# Individually Addressable LED strips!

Objectively pretty neat!

Integrated Circuit

**ws2812b RGB LED**

How does this work?



Directional!

# Individually Addressable LED strips!

Run on 5v and can be  
controlled with an Arduino!

Watch out for current!  
Each color ~ 20mA, total  
60mA on 'white'.

Arduino max current  
~200mA - 1000mA

<https://cdn-shop.adafruit.com/datasheets/WS2812B.pdf>

```
#include <FastLED.h>

// How many leds in your strip?
#define NUM_LEDS 10
#define DATA_PIN 2

// Define the array of leds
CRGB leds[NUM_LEDS];

void setup() {
    FastLED.addLeds<WS2812B,DATA_PIN,RGB>(leds,NUM_LEDS);
    FastLED.setBrightness(60);
}

void loop() {
    for(int i = 0; i < NUM_LEDS; i++) {
        leds[i] = CRGB(255, 255, 255);
        // Show the leds
        FastLED.show();
        delay(100);
    }

    delay(2000);

    FastLED.clear();
    FastLED.show();
}
```

# See you next week!

Try to complete the non-bonus parts of the handout

Office Hours! On [learn.illuminations.mit.edu](https://learn.illuminations.mit.edu). Come ask questions, hang out, etc.

We'll be on Slack if you have any questions or need any help!