# Fundamentals of Applied Microcontrollers Manual

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# Introduction

This book is the accompanying text to a class introducing microcontrollers to upper division, non-electrical engineering undergraduate students who have taken some C programming.

# Number Systems

This chapter introduces the concepts of different numbering systems that are relevant to microcontrollers.

#### 2.1 Decimal Numbers

The standard number system used by humans is based on 10. This logically flows the usual numbers of fingers or toes humans have. When counting in the base 10 (decimal) we start at 0, count up to 9, then run out of numbers to use. When runs out of numbers, we put a number to the left of the column we were counting in, and then start over at zero again which gives us the number 10. A more clear way to count would be to count from 00 to 09, then increment the left digit and start the right digit back at 0. This can be continued until 99 is reached. But now we have a model to follow. If a column gets to 9, we increment a column to the left and start the current column over at 0. This leads to the number 100. This concept can be continued forever.

When given a particular number, 3254, in decimal the value is calculated as

$$3254 = 3 \cdot 1000 + 2 \cdot 100 + 5 \cdot 10 + 4 \tag{2.1}$$

It could also be represented as

$$3254 = 3 \cdot 10^3 + 2 \cdot 10^2 + 5 \cdot 10^1 + 4 \cdot 10^0 \tag{2.2}$$

This is the basis for a positional number system.

# 2.2 Binary Numbers

Computers run a base 2 system, also known as binary. This means that we only have two options at each position, 1 or 0, instead of the 10 available in the decimal system. However, counting is done in the same way, when you run out of symbols, increment the position to the left and then start over at zero in the current position.

Binary numbers are also positional so a number like 1011 is

$$1011 = 1 \cdot 2^3 + 0 \cdot 2^2 + 1 \cdot 2^1 + 1 \cdot 2^0 = 11_{10}$$
 (2.3)

where  $11_{10}$  indicates that the number 11 is base 10.

The maximum value a binary number can have is determined by the number of bits it has. The formula is:

$$V_{max} = 2^n - 1 \tag{2.4}$$

where n is the number of bits. For example, an 8 bit number has a maximum value of  $2^8 - 1 = 255$ .

### 2.3 Hexadecimal Numbers

A comparison of the different numbering system representations of 0 through  $15_{10}$  are shown in Table 2.1.

Decimal	Binary	Hexadecimal
00	0000	0
01	0001	1
02	0010	2
03	0011	3
04	0100	4
05	0101	5
06	0110	6
07	0111	7
08	1000	8
09	1001	9
10	1010	A
11	1011	В
12	1100	$\mathbf{C}$
13	1101	D
14	1110	${ m E}$
15	1111	F

Table 2.1: Decimal, binary, and hexadecimal numbers align as shown in this table.

## 2.4 Binary Background

The reasons for this stem from early computers using switches (relays) as their basic computing elements and the fact that telling the difference between a "high" voltage and a "low" voltage is easier to do than to differentiate 10 different voltages. It also allows for a gap between high and low that creates some immunity to noise. (TODO: insert figure or reference figure from logic chapter)

### 2.5 Converting Between Bases

#### 2.5.1 Binary to Decimal

Converting to decimal is straightforward since we can simply sum each digit multiplied by the power of 2 it represents.

$$V_{10} = \sum_{i=0}^{p} d_i \cdot 2^i \tag{2.5}$$

In Equation 2.5 the p digits,  $d_i$ , of the binary number are summed from right to left while being multiplied by the power of 2 they represent. As an example, convert 1011 0111 to decimal.

$$V_{10} = 1 \cdot 2^{0} + 1 \cdot 2^{1} + 1 \cdot 2^{2} + 0 \cdot 2^{3} + 1 \cdot 2^{4} + 1 \cdot 2^{5} + 0 \cdot 2^{6} + 1 \cdot 2^{7}$$

$$= 1 + 2 + 4 + 0 + 16 + 32 + 0 + 128$$

$$= 183$$
(2.6)

I usually find it easiest to just remember the powers of two for each place and add them up.

### 2.5.2 Decimal to Binary

Converting decimal numbers to binary involves dividing by 2 until the remainder is 0 or 1. The process goes as follows:

- 1. Divide the number by 2. If the remainder is 1 then the least significant bit is 1 otherwise if the remainder is 0 (it was an even number) then the least significant bit is 0.
- 2. Take the quotient from the previous step and divide by 2. The remainder is the next more significant bit in the binary representation.
- 3. Repeat Step 2 until the quotient is 0.

As an example, let's convert  $11_{10}$  to binary.

$$11 \div 2 = 5R1 \rightarrow 1 \text{ (LSB)}$$

$$5 \div 2 = 2R1 \rightarrow 1$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1R0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0R1 \rightarrow 1 \text{ (MSB)}$$

$$(2.8)$$

That means that  $11_{10}$  is  $1011_2$ . As another example let us convert  $20_{10}$  to binary.

$$20 \div 2 = 10R0 \rightarrow 0 \text{ (LSB)}$$

$$10 \div 2 = 5R0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$5 \div 2 = 2R1 \rightarrow 1$$

$$2 \div 2 = 1R0 \rightarrow 0$$

$$1 \div 2 = 0R1 \rightarrow 1 \text{ (MSB)}$$

This shows that  $20_{10}$  is  $10100_2$ .

### 2.5.3 Binary and Hexadecimal

For conversions between binary and hexadecimal I tend to use the table lookup method. After using it enough times you begin to memorize the conversions. In my head I'm usually converting from binary to decimal on each nibble and then converting decimal into hexadecimal. So if I see 0101 I remember it is 5 in decimal which is the same in hex. If I see 1010 I remember that it is 8+2=10 which is one more than 9 so it is A in hex.

### 2.6 Colors

Colors for display on computers are represented as binary numbers. Colors are 24 bit which is broken down into 3 8 bit numbers representing red, green, and blue (RGB). Eight bits give values over the range of 0 to 255 so colors are represented by 3 numbers such as (255, 0, 255) which gives a color like this. It is good to note that (255, 255, 255) is white, (0, 0, 0) is black, and (X, X, X) where all three numbers are the same is gray.

Sometimes colors are represented as a 6 digit binary number in hexadecimal form prefixed by 0x such as 0xFF00FF for the color we looked at previously.

### 2.7 ASCII

Since computers operate using binary numbers, how do we get them to represent human languages? The method caught it is called American Standard Code for Information Interchange (ASCII). Basically, 7 bit numbers were

mapped to letters, numbers, punctuation, symbols, and control characters. Some examples are A is 65, Z is 90, a is 97, z is 122, 0 is 48, 9 is 57. The most used control characters are carriage return (13 or  $\r$ ) and line feed (10 or  $\n$ ). Unix based operating systems (Linux, OS X) use line feed to indicate a new line. Windows uses both ( $\r$ ).

Look up an ASCII table online when you need to know the values.

### 2.8 Adding and Subtracting Binary Numbers

#### 2.8.1 Default method

#### 2.8.1.1 Addition

Calculate the binary sum  $0001\ 0011\ 1101 + 0000\ 1011\ 0111$ .

#### 2.8.1.2 Subtraction

Calculate the binary difference  $0001\ 0011\ 1101 - 0000\ 1011\ 0111$ .

### 2.8.2 Twos Complement method

### 2.9 Gray Codes

When counting in binary, often times more than one bit changes as the number increments. This works fine in the ideal world, but in the real world, the logic controlling each bit might be slightly different. This will cause

Decimal	Two's Complement	
7	0111	
6	0110	
5	0101	
4	0100	
3	0011	
2	0010	
1	0001	
0	0000	
-1	1111	
-2	1110	
-3	1101	
-4	1100	
-5	1011	
-6	1010	
-7	1001	
8	1000	

Table 2.2: This table shows the decimal and two's complement numbers for 4-bits.

one bit to change at a slightly different time than another bit. That causes glitches in the counting that can be disruptive to the overall system.

Take as an example a robot that represents the cardinal directions as binary integers as illustrated in Figure 2.1.



Figure 2.1: This figure shows using regular binary counting to represent the cardinal directions.

Using regular binary counting means that as the direction changes from East to South, two bits have to change. If the bits are driven by real switches or differing logic they may not change simultaneously leading to possible outputs of E - W - S or E - N - S. If the data is being used in a sequential manner it could lead to erroneous actions by the device (robot, car, etc.). Instead of using regular binary counting, we could use an encoding that only changes one bit at a time as the directions change as shown in Figure 2.2.



Figure 2.2: This figure shows using Gray codes to represent the cardinal directions.

Counting systems like this are called Gray code after Frank Gray or reflected binary code. A 4-bit example is shown in Table 2.3.

### 2.10 Binary Background

Originally, computers were just a bunch of switches, therefore, they only had two positions: on and off. This also has the benefit that there is a large amount of noise immunity. A repeater (buffer) can eliminate by recreating the original signal without noise. These are all great benefits of the binary system.

### 2.11 Assignment

There is a numbers quiz on Canvas as the assignment for this lab.

Gray Code
0000
0001
0011
0010
0110
0111
0101
0100
1100
1101
1111
1110
1010
1011
1001
1000

Table 2.3: This table shows 4-bit Gray codes with horizontal lines showing the break for 2- and 3-bit Gray codes.

# Boolean Logic

### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces some basic Boolean logic including gates and Boolean algebra.

When can you drive through an intersection? When the light is NOT red. This is the first and simplest logic operator—the NOT element. It simply changes any TRUE to FALSE or FALSE to TRUE (you can substitute 1 for TRUE and 0 for FALSE, or on/off).

How do you start a car? In most of the cars I have driven I have to press on the brake at the same time as I turn the key. To say it another way, the car starts when I press the break AND turn the key.

$$pressBreak \text{ AND } turnKey = startedCar$$
 (3.1)

Again on a car, a particular blinker light will turn on if you turn on the turn signal or if you turn on the 4-way blinker.

$$turn Signal \text{ OR } 4way Blinker = blinking$$
 (3.2)

The AND and OR in the equation are Boolean operators.

## 3.2 Methods of Representing Logic

It is important to differentiate between different forms of representation because  $\overline{\rm EN}$  means active low enable. It does not mean NOT(E AND N). The

understanding of which method is being used is usually derived from context. Using the dot  $(\cdot)$  everywhere can become burdensome, so when context makes it obvious (usually examples involving A, B, and C or X and Y) we may drop the dots and just use adjacency to represent the AND function.

#### 3.3 Boolean Algebra

#### 3.3.1 Theorems of Boolean Algebra

Ways to show NOT:

$$NOT(X) = \overline{X} = X' \tag{3.3a}$$

$$\overline{(\overline{X})} = (X')' = X \tag{3.3b}$$

Rules of AND and OR:

$$0 \cdot 0 = 0 \qquad 1 + 1 = 1 \tag{3.4a}$$

$$1 \cdot 1 = 1 \qquad 0 + 0 = 0 \tag{3.4b}$$

$$0 \cdot 1 = 1 \cdot 0 = 0$$
  $1 + 0 = 0 + 1 = 1$  (3.4c)

$$X \cdot 1 = X \qquad X + 0 = X \tag{3.5a}$$

$$X \cdot 0 = 0 \qquad X + 1 = 1 \tag{3.5b}$$

$$X \cdot X = X \qquad X + X = X \tag{3.5c}$$

$$X \cdot \overline{X} = 0 \qquad X + \overline{X} = 1 \tag{3.5d}$$

For two and three variables you have the following useful equations:

$$X \cdot Y = Y \cdot X \qquad X + Y = Y + X$$
 (3.6a)  
$$(X \cdot Y) \cdot Z = X \cdot (Y \cdot Z) \qquad (X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z)$$
 (3.6b)

$$(X \cdot Y) \cdot Z = X \cdot (Y \cdot Z) \qquad (X + Y) + Z = X + (Y + Z) \quad (3.6b)$$

$$(X+Y)\cdot (X+Z) = X+Y\cdot Z$$
  $X\cdot Y+X\cdot Z = X\cdot (Y+Z)$  (3.6c)

$$X \cdot (X + Y) = X \qquad X + X \cdot Y = X \tag{3.6d}$$

$$X \cdot (X+Y) = X \qquad X+X \cdot Y = X$$

$$(X+Y) \cdot (X+\overline{Y}) = X \qquad X \cdot Y + X \cdot \overline{Y} = X$$

$$(3.6d)$$

$$(3.6e)$$

$$X \cdot (\overline{X} + Y) = X \cdot Y \qquad X + \overline{X} \cdot Y = X + Y$$
 (3.6f)

$$X \cdot Y + \overline{X} \cdot Z + Y \cdot Z = X \cdot Y + \overline{X} \cdot Z \tag{3.6g}$$

$$(X+Y)\cdot(\overline{X}+Z)\cdot(Y+Z) = (X+Y)\cdot(\overline{X}+Z) \tag{3.6h}$$

A very important pair of equations are DeMorgan's theorems which allow us to switch between sums of products and products of sums.

$$\overline{(X_1 \cdot X_2 \cdot \dots \cdot X_n)} = \overline{X_1} + \overline{X_2} + \dots + \overline{X_n}$$
 (3.7a)

$$\overline{(X_1 + X_2 + \dots + X_n)} = \overline{X_1} \cdot \overline{X_2} \cdot \dots \cdot \overline{X_n}$$
 (3.7b)

The following are very important to remember:

$$\overline{A} \cdot \overline{B} \neq \overline{AB}$$
 (3.8a)

$$\overline{A} + \overline{B} \neq \overline{A + B}$$
 (3.8b)

## 3.4 Logic Gates and Truth Tables

It is important to be able to transform between equation, diagrams/circuits, and truth tables.

$$X \longrightarrow \overline{X}$$

Figure 3.1: The NOT gate, also called an inverter, outputs NOT(A).

Table 3.1: This is the truth table for a NOT gate.

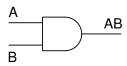


Figure 3.2: The AND gate outputs A AND B.

A	В	X
0	0	0
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	1

Table 3.2: This is the truth table for an AND gate.

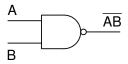


Figure 3.3: The NAND gate outputs NOT(A AND B).

A	В	X
0	0	1
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	0

Table 3.3: This is the truth table for an NAND gate.

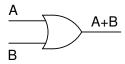


Figure 3.4: The OR gate outputs A OR B.

Α	В	X
0	0	0
0	1	1
1	0	1
1	1	1

Table 3.4: This is the truth table for an OR gate.

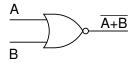


Figure 3.5: The NOR gate outputs NOT(A OR B).

Α	В	X
0	0	1
0	1	0
1	0	0
1	1	0

Table 3.5: This is the truth table for an NOR gate.

# Arduino Startup

### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter gives the students an introduction to the hardware we are using and gets them started with the Arduino IDE.

### 4.2 Datasheets

#### 4.2.1 Arduino Nano Connect RP2040

The data sheet for the Arduino Nano Connect RP2040 is located at https://docs.arduino.cc/resources/datasheets/ABX00053-datasheet.pdf.

The main website for it is at

https://docs.arduino.cc/hardware/nano-rp2040-connect

The pinout is at

https://content.arduino.cc/assets/Pinout\_NanoRP2040\_latest.png.

#### 4.2.2 RP2040 Microcontroller

The RP2040 microcontroller datasheet (all 654 pages) is at https://datasheets.raspberrypi.com/rp2040/rp2040-datasheet.pdf.

If you are ever interested in putting the microcontroller onto a circuit board yourself, there is a reference design at

https://datasheets.raspberrypi.com/rp2040/hardware-design-with-rp2040.pdf.

#### 4.2.3 IMU - ST LSM6DSOXTR

The IMU datasheet is at https://www.st.com/resource/en/datasheet/lsm6dsox.pdf

#### 4.2.4 Mic - ST MP34DT06JTR

The microphone datasheet is at

https://www.st.com/resource/en/datasheet/mp34dt06j.pdf

The overview page shows that the microphone is still actively being produced.

### 4.2.5 WiFi and Bluetooth - U-blox® Nina W102

The main page for the wireless unit is at

https://www.u-blox.com/en/product/nina-w10-series-open-cpu.

The datasheet is at

https://www.u-blox.com/sites/default/files/NINA-W10\_DataSheet\_UBX-17065507.pdf.

### 4.2.6 Cryptographic IC - Microchip® ATECC608A

Note that Microchip doesn't suggest using this chip in new designs so expect that some future versions of the Nano RP2040 Connect to use the successor (ATTECC608B).

The datasheet for the A is here:

https://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/DeviceDoc/ATECC608A-CryptoAuthentication-Device-Summary-Data-Sheet-DS40001977B.pdf.

Note that it says it is a summary datasheet. You have to sign an NDA with Microchip to see the full datasheet.

### 4.3 Installing the IDE

These directions assume that you are using the lab computers and One Drive.

- 1. Go to software download page: https://www.arduino.cc/en/software
- 2. Download the Windows ZIP file (not the first link or the app)

- 3. Open the zip file and copy the folder inside (arduino-1.8.19 as of this writing) into your One Drive folder. This may take a while. If you are on your own computer, you can use any of the programs.
- 4. Once that transfer finishes, go into the folder and run arduino.exe. Windows will try to save you, but if you click More Info you can click Run Anyway.
- 5. Windows Defender Firewall will also complain. Uncheck the box that is checked and/or click Cancel.
- 6. It should load up with a window that looks like Figure 4.1.
- 7. In order to get it to connect correctly to your board, you need to install the Arduino Nano Connect RP2040 board.
  - (a) Navigate to Tools→Board: "Arduino Uno" (or similar)→Boards Manager
  - (b) It should load as shown in Figure 4.2.
  - (c) In the search bar, type "arduino nano connect" (without the quotes)
  - (d) The first item should be Arduino Mbed OS Nano Boards and should list the Arduino Nano RP2040 Connect.
  - (e) Move your cursor over it and it should show an Install button. Click it to install the board library.
  - (f) Wait for it to finish.
  - (g) While you are waiting, plug your Nano Connect into your computer and let it install it.
  - (h) As it finished, I received a User Account Control warning asking if I wanted to let dpinst-amd64.exe make changes to my device. I said yes.
  - (i) Next it asked me if I wanted to install Arduino Universal Serial Bus devices. Again, click to Install.
  - (j) It popped up again and I clicked Install again. Now it should say that the Arduino Mbed OS Nano Boards has been installed.
  - (k) Close the Boards Manager.

- 8. Now go to Files $\rightarrow$ Examples $\rightarrow$ 01.Basics $\rightarrow$ Blink.
- 9. This will open another window with the Blink program.
- 10. Go to Tools→Board→Arduino Mbed OS Nano Boards and select the Arduino Nano RP2040 Connect
- 11. Go to Tools→Port and select the COM that isn't COM1 (mine showed up as COM5)
- 12. Click the right arrow under the word edit in the menu to Uplaod the sketch to the Arduino board.
- 13. It should say "Compiling sketch..." in the lower left and show a progress bar on the lower right.
- 14. Then it should switch to Uploading... and finally Done Uploading.
- 15. An orange light near the USB port on your board should be blinking.
- 16. Congratulations! You have programmed your board!
- 17. Now look in the program for the two delay statements. Try changing the values inside the parentheses and re-uploading it. Does the blinking change?
- 18. In order to save files and have it portable, you need to change the directory where the Arduino IDE stores it's sketchbooks
  - (a) Go to File→Preferences
  - (b) Change the Sketchbook location to your OneDrive and a folder named arduino (lowercase is good)
  - (c) My OneDrive was in C:\Users\mcneils2\OneDrive Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University\arduino
- 19. Now try saving the blink sketch with your changed values.
- 20. Demonstrate your working blink and it's storage location to your instructor/TA
- 21. Here are some other Examples to test:

- (a) Basics  $\to$  fade: change the variable led to be LED\_BUILTIN, watch the red/orange LED pulse
- (b) Basics → AnalogInOutSerial: change analogInPin to A1 and analogOutPin to LED\_BUILTIN. Turn the potentiometer (R6) with a screwdriver and watch the LED change accordingly. If you press the magnifying glass button in the top right the actual values will scroll by. You may need to set the baud rate to 9600.
- (c) Digital → DigitalInputPullup: Change the first pinMode call to use 9 instead of 2. The same for the digitalRead command (2→9). Press the left button and see the LED blink. The right button is pin 10. Note that this program isn't written as well as the others since you have to change a number in two places. Could you rewrite it better?



Figure 4.1: This is what the Arduino IDE should load up to.

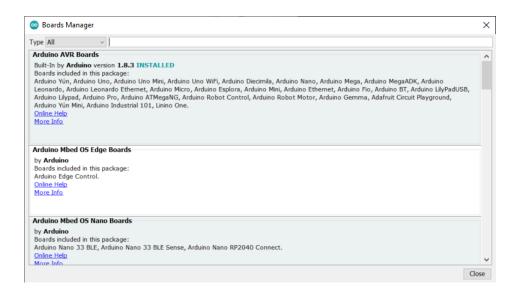


Figure 4.2: This what the Boards Manager loads up to.

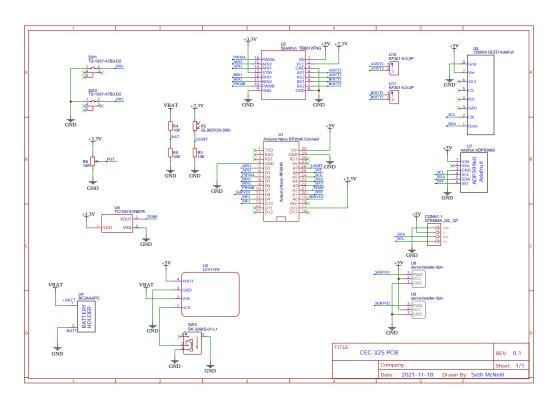


Figure 4.3: This is the schematic of the first version of the board for the class.

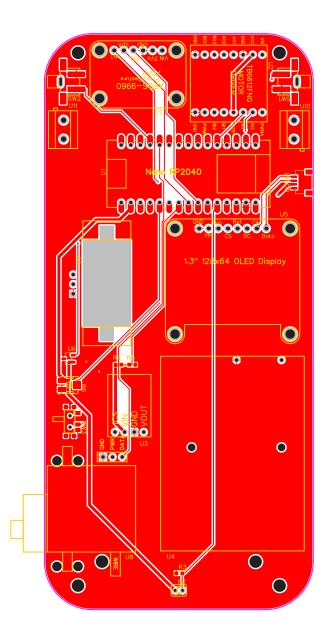


Figure 4.4: This shows the top of the first version of the board for this class to help locate components.

# Buttons and Serial Communications

### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter introduces students to using buttons and serial communications.

### 5.2 I2C

I2C addresses for modules that are on the board or may be used with the board can be seen in Table 5.1.

Address (HEX)	Module
0x44 or 0x45	SHT31-DIS Temperature/Humidity
0x3D	1.3" 128x64 OLED Display
0x39	APDS-9960 Light, Color, Proximity, Gesture
0x77	BME688 Temperature, Humidity, Gas
0x2D, 0x53, and 0x57	ST25DV16 Dynamic NFC/RFID Tag IC
0x30 or other	NeoKey 1x4 QT breakout board
0x10	STEMMA MiniGPS

Table 5.1: I2C addresses for relevant modules.