

Welcome to Programming a GPS enabled robot using the Arduino.

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Make it move, then make it perfect – David Tseng, CAVEDU Education

The robot hardware

The robot car is built from a standard radio control all-terrain vehicle. It is a four wheel drive, independent suspension vehicle allowing it to cope with rough terrain.

The chassis has two motors, a drive motor and a steer motor (on some chassis, there are two drive motors, for front and back wheels). These are connected to the microcontroller board through the 'servo motor interface' plugs. The drive motor also has its own separate switch (for safety-we don't want it zooming off the table!) on the PCB close to the power plug.

 Locate the motor interfaces, ensure they are plugged in correctly. Locate the drive motor switch and ensure it is switched off!

There are a variety of sensors on the PCB, these are all connected to the microcontroller.

• Identify the items below on your vehicle. Discuss how you think the information from the sensors is passed to the microcontroller.

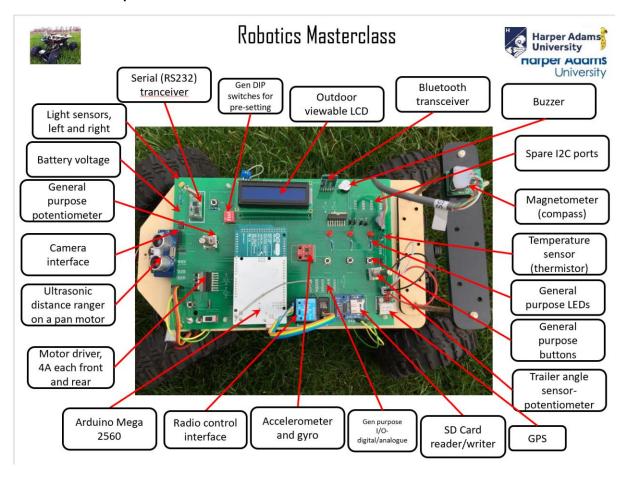
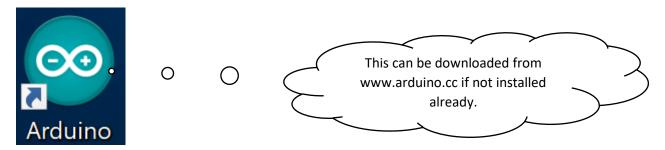


Figure 1 The Robot Hardware

Installing and setting up the IDE

IDE stands for 'Integrated Development Environment', and this is the place where you write programs and download to the Arduino microcontroller from the PC.



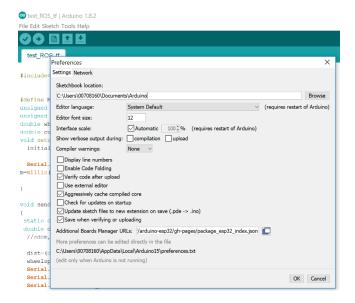
Install the Arduino IDE: https://www.arduino.cc/en/software



Downloads

The Atlas library

The library is to be installed in the Libraries folder of the Arduino IDE. To find this location, Open the Arduino IDE, select: File → Preferences. Copy the files into the Sketchbook location / libraries folder. E.G. in the example below this would be: C:\Users\00708160\Documents\Arduino\libraries



Install the library from the Git Hub location:

https://github.com/swane/share/blob/main/libraries.zip

Ensure the folder under preferences points to the Libraries location as below:



Connecting the robot to the computer

Connect the microcontroller in the robot to the PC using a suitable USB cable.

Now we will set the IDE to the correct COM port and board.

IDE 1.9 and below

- 1. Under the menu **Tools→Board**, select 'Arduino / Genuino Mega or Mega 2560' (figure 2)
- 2. Under the menu **Tools→Port**, select the COM port with the 'Arduino / Genuino Mega', (this will be a port number higher than COM1), figure 3.

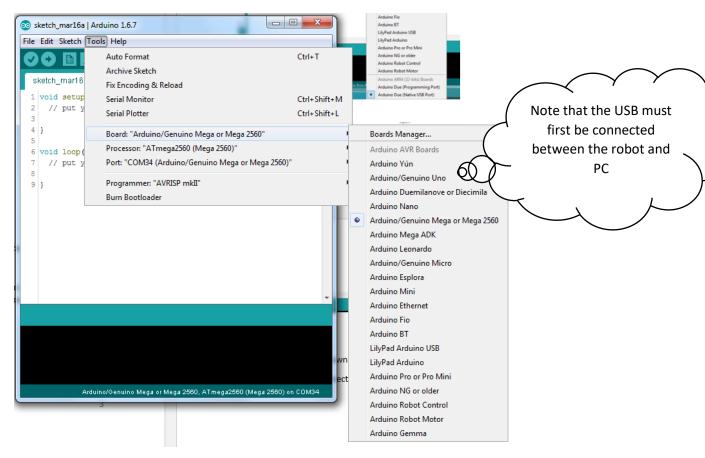


Figure 2 Selecting the Arduino type

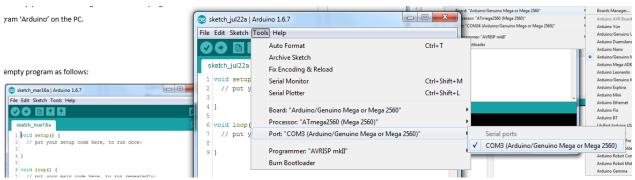
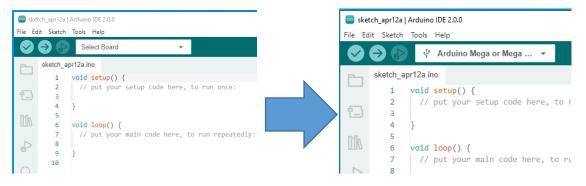


Figure 3 Selecting the Com port

IDE 2.0 and above

1. Drop down the box that says 'Select Board' and select the 'Arduino Mega' as shown below:



First program

Select File→New.

An empty program with 'void setup()' and 'void loop()' will be shown as in fig 3. This is where you will write your program.

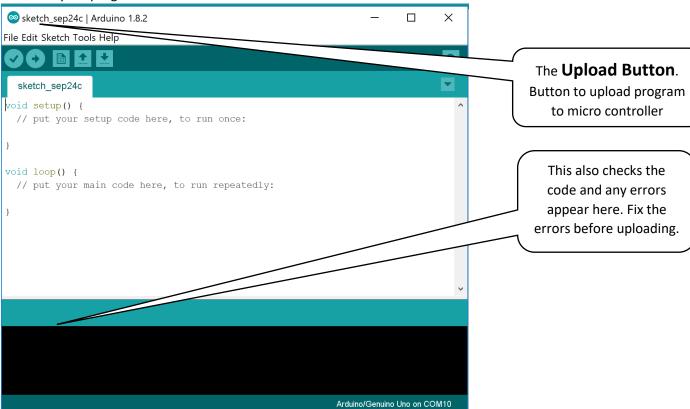


Figure 4 Empty program and how to upload

You can now write your program in here. Press the right-arrow icon to upload and run once you have entered your program.

The 'setup()' section is used to initialise the hardware of the robot (it runs once and sets things up).

The 'loop()' runs continuously and is where your program runs in a loop.

Now, time to put in your first program, so let's start by using the Example Programs...

Example programs

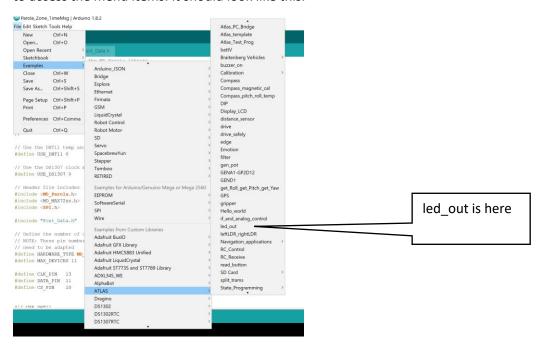
Example programs are available under: Files → Examples → ATLAS →

See below:



First program-Flashing LEDs

Select 'File→Examples→Atlas→led_out'. You may need to hover your cursor over the down arrow to access the menu items. It should look like this:



Your program should look like this:

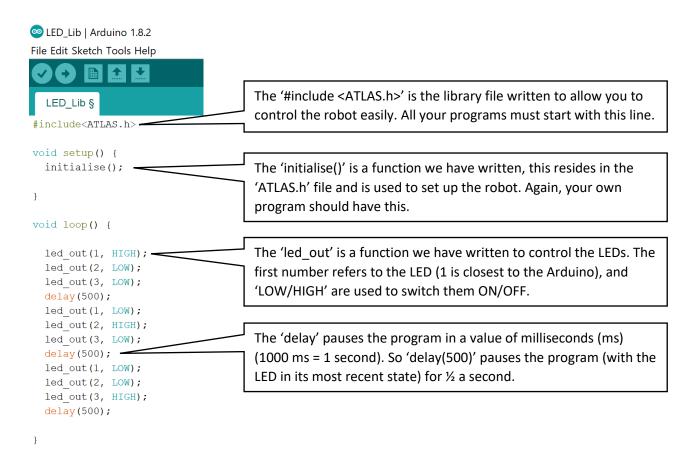


Figure 5 Flash LEDs Program

You will find a list of the functions in the Appendix.

Now, upload the program to the Arduino by using the 'Upload' button as shown below:



The robot should flash the LEDs as in the program.

In order to understand the program, let's make some changes, but first, save it under a new name:

- Now, use 'save as' to save the program under 'Documents' and give it the name 'my first'.
- Try changing the program, for example, you can change the delay time, or delete which LEDs are accessed.

Note that the end of each line has to have a semi-colon (;), this is a C programming standard.

More basic programs

Try 'File→Examples→Atlas→Display_LCD'. Again, upload the program and watch the robot.

Try a few more, e.g. 'File → Examples → Atlas → distance_sensor'

Distance sensor and graphing

The ultrasonic distance sensor is accessed through:

read_distance();

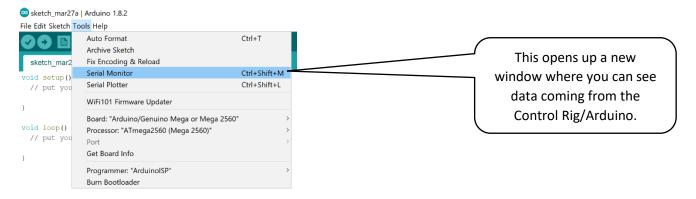
and returns the distance to the robot in cm.

This can be shown on the LCD screen and the example shows this.

This can also be shown on the PC if it is still connected via the USB, and the following demonstrates how:

Upload the 'distance' program on the Arduino.

Open up the Serial Monitor:



You should see the values on the PC.

You can close the Serial Monitor and open Serial Plotter if you'd like a graphical display.

There are many commands which are defined in the Atlas library, a full list is in the Appendix. This section is here to introduce and to whet your appetite for what the robot can do.

Steer

The robot can steer to an angle, this is called with:

```
steer(angle);
```

where *angle* is a value between -40° to 40° . Positive angles are turning to the right, 0° is straight ahead.

Try this program, either from the 'Examples→Atlas→Steering→steer', or you can type it in:

```
steer
#include <ATLAS.h>

void setup() {
  initialise();
}

void loop() {
  steer(30);
  delay(500);
  steer(-30);
  delay(500);
  steer(0);
  delay(500);
}
```

Upload the program as before. The motors (drive and steer) will only operate if the external battery is connected and the main robot power is ON. Check this. You can also now unplug the robot from the computer and it will still continue to run the program.

Drive

The robot will drive the motors:

drive(speed);

where *speed* is in m/s and is approximate. Positive values drive forwards, negative values are backwards, zero is stop. The maximum value is 1. There is a minimum value that is needed to get the robot moving due to friction, and this is approximately 0.5.

The example below is under 'Examples → Atlas → Drive':

```
#include <ATLAS.h>
void setup() {
  initialise();
void loop() {
 drive(1);
  delay(2000);
 drive(0.7);
  delay(1000);
  drive(0);
  delay(1000);
 drive(-0.7);
 delay(1000);
 drive(-1);
 delay(1000);
 drive(0);
 delay(1000);
```

List of example programs



- ATLAS keywords-A list of keywords used in the libraries
- Atlas_PC_bridge-Interfacing with a controlling PC
- Atlas_template-A basic Atlas program
- Atlas_Test_Prog-Tests all the I/O of the Atlas
- battV-reads the battery level
- Braitenberg Vehicles→Dark_Power-drives faster in no light
- Braitenberg Vehicles→Light_Power-drives faster in bright light
- Braitenberg Vehicles→Fear_light-steers away from bright light
- Braitenberg Vehicles→Love_light-steers towards bright light
- buzzer on-tests the buzzer
- Calibration → Calibration functions
- Compass-shows compass values
- DIP-shows DIP switches working
- Display_LCD-gives LCD display examples
- distance_sensor-The ultrasonic distance sensor
- drive-Make the drive motors operate
- drive_safely-drive forwards but poll the distance sensor to stop the drive at obstavcle
- edge-demonstrates edge detection on the button
- Emotion-demonstrates how anger can build up and dissipate with inputs and time
- Filter-the digital filter operating on a sensor
- gen pot-reading the potentiometer
- GENA1-GP2D12-using the GP2D12 distance sensor via the general A1 input
- GEND1-using the general digital input
- Get_Roll_get_Pitch_get_Yaw-reading the accelerometer
- GPS-reading the latitude and longitude
- gripper-using the external servo port for a gripper
- Hello_world-basic program test

- If_and_analog_control-demonstrates discrete and analogue control
- led_out-controlling the LEDs
- left_LDR_right_LDR-read values of the light sensors
- Navigation_applications→Motorways
- Navigation_applications→NavigateArrayAB
- Navigation_applications→NavigateArrayGPS
- Navigation_applications

 NavigateGPS
- Navigation_applications→Rcv_lat_lon_rescue_HC11
- Navigation_applications → Rcv_lat_lon_rescue_PC
- Navigation_applications→Send_lat_lon_chars
- Navigation_applications→split_trams
- Navigation_applications→X_track_AB
- Navigation_applications → X_track_AB_application
- RC_Ccontrol
- RC Receive
- Read_button
- Read_distance
- Read wheel
- SD_Card

Lessons

	Complexity→				
Lesson number	a	b	С	d	
1	Robot Chassis				
2	Buttons and Logic	Continuous Control			
3	Variables, functions counting and loops	Edge counting, Encoders and interrupts	States for latching	Speed and PID	
4	Display	Timers and multitasking			
5	Reading and filtering sensors	Filter types and sampling, Kalman etc			
6	GPS & compass	Bearing to point	Bearing calibration	Vehicle kinematics	
7	Navigation to point	X track error			
8	Advanced navigation	Some crop row tracking algorithms	Straight line fitting		
9	States	Behaviours			
10	Comms				
11	Vision				
12	PC integration	ROS			

Functions

General

initialise();

Input: Nothing Returns: Nothing

Function: Sets up the robot, called in the setup function. This must be called prior to using any other

functions.

approx(a,b,c)

returns true if a is within the range of b with a threshold of c

get_timer(int timer_no);

Input: timer number 0-9

Returns: long milliseconds since the timer was reset

Function:

set_timer(int timer_no, unsigned long timerincrement);

Input: timer number 0-9, value to count down in ms

Returns: nothing

Function: Sets up a countdown time.r Starts a timer counting in ms. There are ten timers which can

be accessed. The timer elapsed is checked with timer_elapsed(timer number 0-9)

e.g.

set timer(0,500);

if (timer_elapsed(0)) Serial3.print("Timer 0 triggered after 0.5 seconds");

timer_elapsed(int timer_no);

Input: timer number 0-9

Returns: true if the timer has passed

Function: Returns a logical TRUE when the timer as set in 'set_timer' is triggered. This does not automatically reset the timer howerver. A 'set_timer' command must be called to set this again.

delay(millisecs);

Pauses the program for the time stated in 'millisecs' e.g. delay (500);

if (statement) action; else other action;

Is used to perform an action is the statement is true.

Use a double equals sign (==) to test equality, or a greater than (>) or less than (<) to test if a value is bigger or smaller.

Filter

```
double filter(double input, double f)
```

Returns the low pass first-order filtered signal, f is the cut-off frequency in Hz, input is the signal. The sample rate is automatically calculated.

mov_avg_filter

```
double mov_avg_filter(double input)
```

Returns the average of the last five calls to the function (data is shifted one time step on each call)

void set_veh_length(double v) and void set_veh_width(double v);

Sets the vehicle length and width (in metres), the distance between the axles.

Output PID

double Output_PID(double Kp, double Ki, double Kd, double error, double maxerror)

outputs the PID corrected value within the limits of maxerror. It stops integral windup if outside these boundaries.

error=Output_PID(0.9, 0, 0.2, error, 45);

read offset bearing()

Returns the offset bearing as stored in EEPROM

write_offset_bearing(double ob)

Sets the offset bearing, stored in EEPROM

double velocity input(double a);

Inputs (sensors)

battery()

Returns a value representing the battery voltage

trailer_angle();

Input: Nothing Returns: double

Function: Returns the angle of the trailer attached to the potentiometer.

set_trailer_centre();

Input: Nothing Returns: double

Function: Calibrates the trailer potentiometer to centre.

RC_steer();

Input: nothing

Returns: The steer angle command from the Radio transmitter in the range of +-1. + is right, - is left

```
Navigation
getE();
        Returns a double
        Returns Easting as a type double.
getN();
        Returns a double
        Returns Nothing as a type double.
        e.g.
           E=getE();
           N=getN();
getLat();
        Returns a double
        Returns latitude as a type double.
getLon();
        Returns a double
        Returns longitude as a type double.
        e.g.
           lt=getLat();
           In=getLon();
float getAlt();
Returns the altitude in m.
bearing to point deg(current latitude, current longitude, goal latitude, goal longitude);
Returns the bearing to a point, in degrees.
double distance to point deg(current latitude, current longitude, goal latitude, goal longitude);
Returns the distance to a point in degrees.
closest_bearing_difference(current_bearing,goal_bearing);
Returns the difference between the current and goal bearing. Solves the problem of the 360 to 0
rollover.
e.g.
steer_angle=closest_bearing_difference(bearing,0);
```

calc_x_track(double* AimN, double* AimE, double S_N,double S_E,double E_N, double E_E,double CN,double CE,double Aimdist);

Returns the NE point to aim for from the ideal A-B line which is defined by the Northing and Easting points S (start) and E (end), current position (CE, CN) and aim distance 'Aimdist'.

double calc_x_track_bear(double S_lat,double S_lon,double E_lat, double E_lon,double C_lat,double C_lon,double Aimdist);

Returns the angle to aim for from the ideal A-B line which is defined by the Northing and Easting points S (start) and E (end), current position (CE, CN) and aim distance 'Aimdist'.

```
Orientation
get Pitch(); or read compass pitch();
        Returns int
        Reads the pitch of the robot (tilt which occurs when climbing a hill).
        e.g.
        int pitch; //declare variables to hold the pitch value
        pitch = get Pitch(); //assign values by using the provided functions
get Roll(); or read compass roll();
        Returns int
        Reads the roll of the robot (side to side movement)
        e.g.
        int roll;
        roll = get Roll();
float get_Yaw();
        Returns the yaw of the vehicle.
Light sensors
double rightLDR()
        Returns the brightness at the right LDR in percentage (0-dark, 100-brightest)
double leftLDR()
        Returns the brightness at the left LDR in percentage (0-dark, 100-brightest)
Ultrasonic distance sensor
read distance();
        Input: nothing
        Returns: double: the distance sensed by the ultrasonic ranger in cm
        Function: Reads distance.
Wireless
Serial2.read
        Reads data from the wireless transceiver
        e.g.
        int i;
        while (Serial2.available()){
               i=Serial2.read();
               Serial.print(char(i));
        }
Compass
read_compass();
        Input: nothing
        Returns: Double of degrees
        Function: Returns the bearing as measured by the magnetometer (compass) in the range 0-
        360.
        For calibration:
```

```
store compass cal();
       del compass cal();
       read compass cal();
Temperature
float temp(); or read_compass_temp();
       Input: nothing
       Returns: temperature in degrees C
       Function: Reads the temperature from the temperature sensor.
Input buttons
int read_button(int button);
       Returns a '1' if the button 1,2,3 is pressed.
       e.g. if (read button(1)==1) Serial.print("button on"); else Serial.print("Button off");
edge_rising(1..3)
       returns HIGH if a button has just been pressed,
       e.g.
       void loop() {
        if (edge_rising(2))
         n++;
         clear_LCD();
        Serial3.print(n);
        }
Wheel distance/speed sensors
void set_hall_ppr(double v);
void set_wheel_circ(double v);
unsigned long read wheel();
       Reads the Hall sensor
void zero_wheel();
       Resets the Hall wheel count
unsigned long read_wheel_time();
unsigned long read_wheel();
unsigned long read_wheel_time();
double veh_speed();
Radio control input
       double RC speed()
       For speed on channel 2, +1=fastest, 0=stop, -1=reverse
```

It has a 50 ms timeout, so if communication is lost, it will not halt the program. A 2.0 is returned if communication is lost.

```
double RC steer()
```

For steer on channel 1, +1=full right, 0=straight, -1=full left

It has a 50 ms timeout, so if communication is lost, it will not halt the program. A 2.0 is returned if communication is lost.

These routines are coded by hand to use the micros() timer, as the 'pulseIn' function is unstable due to interrupts used elsewhere in the code.

Outputs (actuators)

steer_radius(double inv_R);

Input: double, inverse radius

Returns: nothing

Function: sets the front steer angle to steer to a radius where a positive value will steer LEFT.

All servos were found to suffer interference when not being addressed, this was cured by only attaching them when needed and then detached after a short delay as in:

```
frservo.attach(frontservo);
frservo.write(steer_angle);
delay(50);
frservo.detach();
```

steer(double steer_angle);

Input: double steer angle

Returns: nothing

Function: sets the front steer angle in degrees with 0 – centre, and positive is steer right

rear steer(double steer angle);

Input: double steer angle

Returns: nothing

Function: sets the steer angle in degrees with 0 – centre, and positive is steer right

steerslow(double steer_angle);

Input: double steer angle

Returns: nothing

Function: sets the front steer angle moving slowly, in degrees with 0 – centre, and positive is steer

right

rear_steerslow(double steer_angle);

Input: double steer angle

Returns: nothing

Function: sets the rear steer angle moving slowly, in degrees with 0 – centre, and positive is steer

right

drive(float drive speed);

Drives the motors. If speed = 0 then it stops, a positive value makes it go forwards, and a negative value backwards. The value is calibrated in metres per second.

The minimum and maximum values for 'speed' are $-1 \rightarrow +1$ m/s.

e.g. drive(0.5); //Drive the vehicle at 0.5 m/s

drive(float drive_speed, byte accel);

If used, acceleration can be in the range +1 to +255. In practice the useful range is around 5 to 10. Usage example

drive(0.7,5); will gently accelerate to 0.7 Metres/Sec. A subsequent instruction drive(0,5); will decelerate to a halt. The program continues to run during the acceleration/deceleration phase. drive(0.7); and drive(0); will start and stop abruptly as before.

turret(angle);

int angle

Moves the ultrasonic servo turret by 'angle'. Angle is from -80 to +80, with 0 pointing forwards and negative values are to its right.

turret() now has two extra optional parameters: speed, and whether to block program execution until the move is complete. This is very useful when sweeping the ultrasonic sensor in a series of steps, in a for loop for example.

Usage example

turret(30,25,1); will move to angle 30 at constant speed 25. The program will be blocked until it arrives. The third parameter is a Boolean. It can be entered as 1/0 or true/false (or omitted). turret(30,25); will move to angle 30 at speed 25. The program continues to execute during the move. Speed can be set in the range +1 to +255, but the useful range is around 30 - 60. turret(30); moves at maximum speed as before.

lcd.clear();

Input: nothing
Returns: nothing

Function: clears the LCD

lcd.print("Text");

Input: Text
Returns: nothing

Function: Sends text to the LCD display.

lcd.print(var, 6);

Input: variable value Returns: nothing

Function: Sends a number held in 'var' to the LCD display. The number after the comma is how many

decimal places to show.

lcd.setCursor(column, row);

Sets the cursor position to the values. These start at 0. So, 0,0 is the top left of the screen.

E.G to send the next text to the bottom row, first column, use lcd.setCursor(0, 1);

display(text) display(top line text, bottom line text)

Clears and displays text on the LCD. If an item is included after the comma, it is displayed on the bottom line. E.g.

display("Harper Adams Uni", "Atlas tests");

Variables must first be converted into text using 'String(variable)' as in:

```
display("Bearing", String(bearing));
Serial.print
Sends data to the PC monitor to display or graph.
e.g.
Serial.print("Hello");
sends 'Hello' to the serial monitor.
Serial.println("Hello");
sends 'Hello' to the serial monitor and goes on to the next line down.
int a=20;
Serial.println(a);
Sends '20' to the serial monitor, or it can form part of a graph on the serial plotter.
Serial2.print
Sends data to the wireless transmitter.
e.g.
Serial2.print("Harper Adams Uni");
led_out(led,state);
int led
int state
Switches the LEDs on or off.
led can be 1, 2, or 3 (1 is closest to the Arduino).
state can be HIGH or LOW.
e.g. led(1,HIGH);
void buzzer_on();
void buzzer_off();
drive(speed metres per second);
double speed metres per second
byte readDIP();
Returns the DIP switch state as a 4 bit byte.
Switches are ON when raised, OFF when pressed in.
Lowest bit is at the top of the PCB.
double gen_pot();
Returns the double value from the PCB mounted potentiometer.
1023.00=fully left, 0.00=fully clockwise
Defined values
```

I/O pins

Definition	Pin or	meaning
Analogue	e input	pins
GENA1	A11	

GENA2	A12
GENA3	A13
GENA4	A14
GENA5	A15
Digita	l I/O pins
GEND1	30
GEND2	33
GEND3	32
GEND4	23
GEND5	3
G	eneral
ON	HIGH
OFF	LOW

All commands in the library

```
General
```

```
void initialise();
unsigned long get timer(int timer no);
void set timer(int timer no, unsigned long timerincrement);
bool timer elapsed(int timer no);
double Output PID (double Kp, double Ki, double Kd, double error,
double maxerror);
double Output PID(double Kp, double Ki, double Kd, double error);
double filter(double input, double f);
bool approx(double a, double b, double t);
Inputs
double trailer_angle();
void set trailer centre();
float rightLDR();
float leftLDR();
int read button(int button);
double gen pot();
double rev pot();
double battery();
void imu init();
float get Yaw();
float get Pitch();
float get Roll();
float temp();
void initSD();
void openSD();
double read offset bearing();
void write offset bearing(double ob);
byte readDIP();
unsigned long read wheel();
void zero wheel();
double read distance();
Navigation
double read compass(void);
float getLat();
float getLon();
float getAlt();
float getN();
float getE();
double closest bearing difference (double current bearing, double
goal bearing);
double bearing to point UTM(double current northing, double
current easting, double goal northing, double goal easting);
double distance_to_point_UTM(double current northing, double
current easting, double goal northing, double goal easting);
```

```
double bearing to point deg(double current lat, double current lon,
double goal lat, double goal lon);
double distance to point deg (double current lat, double current lon,
double goal lat, double goal lon);
double drive target (double goal northing, double goal easting,
double offset);
double follow wall (double des dist, double gain);
bool edge rising(int port);
bool scan(int stand out, int* distr, int* bearr); //Returns 999,999
if not found
void calc x track(double* AimN, double* AimE, double S N, double
S E, double E N, double E E, double CN, double CE, double Aimdist)
double calc x track bear(double S lat, double S lon, double E lat,
double E lon, double C lat, double C lon, double Aimdist)
deg2utm(C lat, C lon, &CN, &CE);
Outputs
Display
void display(String topLine);
void display(String topLine, String bottomLine );
void clear LCD();
void nextline LCD();
void buzzer on();
void buzzer off();
void led out(int led,bool value);
Steering
void steer(double steer angle);
void steerc(double steer angle);
double read steer (double steer angle);
void set_front_calibrate(int c);
void set rear calibrate(int c);
int read front calibrate();
int read rear calibrate();
void rear steer(double steer angle);
void steerslow(double steer angle);
void rear steerslow(double steer angle);
double steer radius (double inv R);
void set veh length(double v);
void set veh width(double v);
void set_max_steerf(double s);
void set min steerf(double s);
Drive
void front RC(float drive speed);
```

```
void rear_RC(float drive_speed);
void drive(float drive_speed, byte accel);
void front_drive(float drive_speed);
void rear_drive(float drive_speed);
double RC_speed();
double RC_steer();

void turret(int angle);
void turret(int steer_angle, byte speed);
void turret(int steer_angle, byte speed, bool block);
void sweep(int *scanarray); //returns array of scans 10 deg apart
```

Pins Mapped to the Arduino Mega 2560

J19.CONNECTION	FUNCTION	PIN	J19.CONNECTION	FUNCTION	PIN
Battery monitor	Analogue	AO	L298 Front IN2		11
Trailer pot		A1	Compass RX		12
Right LDR		A2	LCD RS PIN		13
Left LDR		A3	Gen Dig4	DIGITAL	22
		A4	LCD E PIN		23
		A5	LCD DB4		24
			LCD DB5		25
			Ultrasonic echo		26
			LCD DB6		27
Temp sensor		A6	Ultrasonic trigger		28
			Sounder		29
		A7	LCD DB7		30
General POT		A8	General Dig 1		31
		A9	General Dig 2		32
		A10	General Dig 3		33
Gen Analogue		A11	REAR STEER SERVO		34
Gen Analogue		A12	Compass TX		35
Gen Analogue		A13	RC Rec Ch2		36
Gen Analogue		A14	RC Rec Ch1		37
Gen Analogue		A15	Led1		38
	S/Comm's		DIP1		39
Bluetooth Rx	Serial3	14(TX)	Led2		40
Bluetooth Tx		15(RX)	DIP2		41
Wireless HC-11 RX	Serial2	16(TX)	Led3		42
Wireless HC-11 TX		17(RX)	DIP3		43
spare TX,9600	Serial1	18(TX) N/C	Button1		45
GPS		19(RX)9600	DIP4		45
IMU	I2C	20 SDA	Button2		47
IMU	I2C	21 SCL	Turret servo pin		46
	PWM		Button3		49
Hall sensor		2	Gen servo 1		49
Spare interrupt on Dig5		3	Serial SD card D0		50
Drive servo pin		4	Serial SD card D1		51
Gripper Servo		5	Serial SD card CLK		52
Steer servo pin		6	Serial SD card CS		53
General RC Servo2		7			
L298 Rear IN1		8			
L298 Rear IN2		9			
L298 Front IN1		10			