

Arduino program flow should be as follows:

- Prepare for measurement: PC_CONFIGURATION, PC_CALIBRATION, PC_SET_UP_ADCS, PC_SET_VOLTAGE (first voltage to measure, but do not care about data that may come back, after dacSettlingTime has elapsed), wait for PC_OK reply (dacSettlingTime is over), then PC_AUTOGAIN
- Measure IV curve: PC_SET_VOLTAGE (again the same), wait for PC_OK reply, trigger camera and wait for data to come back; then PC_SET_VOLTAGE (next voltage step), ...
- Measure without changing Voltage: PC_MEASURE_ONLY, wait for PC_OK reply and wait for data to come back, repeat

1 Communication with PC

Communication protocol

Each communication message between PC and Arduino is composed of MSG_START + 1 byte for length of message that follows, before encoding + **message** + MSG_END. Each byte in **message** is encoded as follows: if the ASCII representation of the byte would be larger or equal than a MSG_SPECIAL_BYTE, the byte is transformed into 2 bytes, the first one is MSG_SPECIAL_BYTE, the second is **byte** – MSG_SPECIAL_BYTE.

From PC to Arduino

The Arduino will in some cases expect a second message, including data relative to the original message sent. Here a list of the data expected in the second message, as well as the replies expected for successful completion. Neither ‘Data bytes’ nor ‘Reply bytes’ take into account encoding, so the messages may be twice as long. The byte with the message length is also not counted (so 1 more byte).

Original message	Data bytes	Meaning of data bytes	Reply	Reply bytes
PC_CONFIGURATION	—	—	version + hardware	4
PC_CALIBRATION	3	adcRate, adc0Ch., adc1Ch.	(done) PC_OK	1
PC_SET_UP_ADCS	4	no. meas. MSB, no. meas. LSB, adc0Ch., adc1Ch.	(data OK) PC_OK	1
PC_AUTOGAIN	—	—	(done) PC_OK	1
PC_SET_VOLTAGE	n×4	dacValue MBS, dacValue LSB, dacSettlingTime MSB, dacSettlingTime LSB, times the number of steps	(done waiting) PC_OK; (meas. ready) 3×data	1 3×4
PC_MEASURE_ONLY	—	—	(starting) PC_OK (meas. ready) 3×data	1 3×4
PC_CHANGE_MEAS_MODE	1	set meas. mode	(done) PC_OK	1
PC_RESET	—	—	(starting) PC_OK	1

From Arduino to PC

The PC can expect to receive:

- 4 bytes containing the information on the current firmware version (first 2 bytes) and hardware settings (last 2), as a reply to PC_CONFIGURATION. The firmware version comes as (MAJOR, MINOR), i.e., the maximum is v255.255. The bits in the hardware information have the following meaning:

Bit	Mask	Meaning
0 (0x01)	ADC_0_PRESENT	(set) ADC#0 is available
1 (0x02)	ADC_1_PRESENT	(set) ADC#1 is available
2 (0x04)	LM35_PRESENT	(set) an LM35 temperature sensor is available
3 (0x08)	RELAY_PRESENT	(set) a relay is available, which allows switching the range of the I_0 measured from the LEED electronics between (0–2.5 V) and (0–10 V)
4 (0x10)	JP_I0_CLOSED	(set) I_0 input range is 0–2.5 V; (reset) I_0 input range is 0–10 V
5 (0x20)	JP_AUX_CLOSED	(set) AUX input range is 0–2.5 V; (reset) AUX input range is 0–10 V

Notes: (1) from the point of view of the PC, it probably makes sense to only look at the four least-significant bits, as measurement results are already reported back in physical units (volts, microamperes, degrees centigrades). (2) When measuring I_0 at the LEED electronics, the return value is in volts. Thus the PC needs to know the $V \leftrightarrow \mu A$ conversion for the specific setup. (3) While there is an option to use a relay to electronically switch the input range for I_0 , this is currently not implemented. Refer to Issue #13 on the viperleed/viperleed Github.

- PC_OK in response to PC_CALIBRATION once the calibration is over (takes ≈ 3 s to complete).
- PC_OK in response to PC_SET_UP_ADCS, after the data received by the Arduino (i.e., the message following PC_SET_UP_ADCS) has been deemed acceptable and processed. Processing should be relatively fast, as it basically just loads calibration registers into the ADCs, and triggers the conversion of their inputs.
- PC_OK in response to PC_AUTOGAIN, after the whole gain-finding procedure is over (roughly after 70 ms).
- PC_OK in response to PC_MEASURE_ONLY, before triggering.
- PC_OK in response to PC_RESET.
- Three consecutive messages (i.e., each with MSG_START and MSG_END characters), each with the 4-byte representation of a 32-bit floating-point number. This is the second message after PC_SET_VOLTAGE.
- Error messages from several possible states. Each error causes two messages to be sent: The first one is PC_ERROR (1 byte), the second one is a 2-byte data message, where the first byte corresponds to the state in which the error occurred, while the second one is one of the error codes in the following table.

Error code	Value	Reason
ERROR_SERIAL_OVERFLOW	1	Arduino serial buffer is full (64 unprocessed characters). The PC sent too many requests that could not be processed in time. The current contents of the serial buffer will be discarded. Wait a few milliseconds before sending a new message to make sure the buffer is fully empty.
ERROR_MSG_TOO_LONG	2	The PC sent a message that contained too many characters to be processed. Either the message was corrupted, or the firmware version is incompatible.
ERROR_MSG_INCONSISTENT	3	The message received is inconsistent. Typically when the number of bytes effectively read does not match the one expected from the info in the message itself. Typically means that the message got corrupted.
ERROR_MSG_UNKNOWN	4	The PC sent an unknown command, i.e., it is neither one of those in paragraph <i>From PC to Arduino</i> at the beginning of this Section (for 1-byte long messages), or it is a data message (> 1 byte) but we were not waiting for any data to arrive.
ERROR_MSG_DATA_INVALID	5	The message was understood, but some of the data passed is inappropriate, or there is too much/little data.
ERROR_NEVER_CALIBRATED	6	The ADCs need to be calibrated at least once with PC_CALIBRATION after the boot up of the Arduino or after a PC_RESET. This has not been done for the channels in use.
ERROR_TIMEOUT	7	It was not possible to complete an operation in time. It may mean that (i) the Arduino was waiting for data from the PC that never arrived, or (ii) the internal communication with the ADCs was interrupted, likely because the power supply was disconnected while running.
ERROR_ADC_SATURATED	8	The input of one of the ADCs reached solid saturation, and it is not possible to decrease the gain further. May signal an internal malfunction, or that an input cable is incorrectly connected.
ERROR_TOO_HOT	9	The temperature measured by the LM35 is very high. There may be some internal malfunction (either the sensor or the board).
ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN	10	The PC has not asked for the hardware configuration yet. This error is always thrown if any command except PC_RESET or PC_CONFIGURATION is sent before the configuration is known.
ERROR_RUNTIME	255	The firmware is corrupt or there is a bug. Some function has been called with inappropriate values or while the Arduino is in the wrong state.

2 State machine

Here all the states of Arduino, including which event triggers entering this state, which function contains the code that is relevant for the state, and whether the state leads to a new state after it is successfully completed.

State	Initiated by	Handler	Goes to state
STATE_GET_CONFIGURATION	PC_CONFIGURATION	getConfiguration()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_CALIBRATE_ADCS	PC_CALIBRATION	calibrateADCsAtAllGains()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_SET_UP_ADCS	PC_SET_UP_ADCS	prepareADCsForMeasurement()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_SET_VOLTAGE	PC_SET_VOLTAGE	setVoltageWaitAndTrigger()	STATE_MEASURE_ADCS
STATE_AUTOGAIN_ADCS	PC_AUTOGAIN	findOptimalADCGains()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_MEASURE_ADCS	STATE_TRIGGER_ADCS	measureADCs()	STATE_ADC_VALUES_READY
STATE_ADC_VALUES_READY	STATE_MEASURE_ADCS	sendMeasuredValues()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_ERROR	Fault	handleErrors()	STATE_IDLE
STATE_CHANGE_MEASUREMENT_MODE	PC_CHANGE_MEAS_MODE	changeMeasurementMode()	STATE_IDLE

Follows a description of each of the states in the Arduino finite-state machine:

- **STATE_GET_CONFIGURATION**: Returns to the PC the current firmware and hardware information. See Section *From Arduino to PC* above for details. Notice that many of the functions require access to the results computed in this state, that should be up to date. Thus, it is advisable to call a `PC_CONFIGURATION` before each measurement run, or at least after initial boot-up of the Arduino.

- **STATE_CALIBRATE_ADCS**: In this state the ADCs are self-calibrated in parallel for all the possible gain values. The state expects a data message following `PC_CALIBRATION` containing 3 bytes: the conversion rate to be used, and the channels of the ADCs to be calibrated. This state takes long to complete (120 ms per calibration point, 3 points per gain to compute medians, 8 gain values. In total ≈ 3 s). Once the calibration is over, it sends back a `PC_OK` and goes to `STATE_IDLE`. Many of the states depend on the calibration data gathered in this state. Hence one always needs to make sure that `PC_CALIBRATION` is issued from the PC. Calibrations expire: drift over time and temperature fluctuations. The PC will need to take care of these things (especially on long-term measurements). All standard IV measurements should include a calibration.

Possible errors:

`ERROR_TIMEOUT` (waiting for data from PC, or no response from ADCs);

`ERROR_MSG_DATA_INVALID` (invalid channels or update rate, or less than 3 bytes in the message).

`ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN` (configuration has not been asked for yet)

- **STATE_SET_UP_ADCS**: This state picks the requested channels and fetches pre-stored calibration data. Requires the PC to communicate the number of measurement points that needs to be averaged (2 bytes) as well as which channels are to be measured for the ‘external’ ADCs (2 bytes). Calls `setAllADCGainsAndCalibration()`, sends a `PC_OK`, and returns to `STATE_IDLE`.

Possible errors:

`ERROR_TIMEOUT` (waiting for data from PC);

`ERROR_MSG_DATA_INVALID` (channels are invalid or less than 4 bytes in the message).

`ERROR_NEVER_CALIBRATED` (one of the ADC channels is uncalibrated)

`ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN` (configuration has not been asked for yet)

- **STATE_SET_VOLTAGE**: Requires the PC to communicate the DAC value/s that need/s to be set, as well as how long one should wait for the DAC value/s to be considered stable. It sets the required voltage, and waits `dacSettlingTime` (milliseconds). If multiple steps have been sent, this process gets repeated until all of the steps have been executed. After triggering it decreases the ADC gains, should any of the ADCs require this, and goes straight to `STATE_MEASURE_ADCS`. The state change is done in the `triggerMeasurements()` function.

Possible errors:

`ERROR_TIMEOUT` (waiting for data from PC).

ERROR_MSG_DATA_INVALID (not exactly 4 bytes in the message).
ERROR_NEVER_CALIBRATED (one of the ADC channels is uncalibrated).
ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN (configuration has not been asked for yet)

- **STATE_AUTOGAIN_ADCS**: Finds the optimal gain for the available ADCs, measuring 25 values with both ADCs at gain=0 and at 500 Hz. This triggers first a self-calibration for the two ADCs (in parallel), that takes ≈ 13 ms. Then takes one measurement per state-machine loop, while keeping track of the smallest and largest among the values measured. Finally, chooses the gain such that the worst-case scenario measurement (peak-to-peak, plus the largest among max and min) is above $1/4$ of the values that can be measured with that gain. The peak-to-peak measured here is also stored.

Possible errors:

ERROR_TIMEOUT (no response from ADC in 5 s)
ERROR_NEVER_CALIBRATED (one of the ADC channels is uncalibrated).
ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN (configuration has not been asked for yet)

- **STATE_MEASURE_ADCS**: Measures the number of values given in **STATE_SET_UP_ADCS** from all the available ADCs, and averages them (one value per state-loop), then goes to **STATE_ADC_VALUES_READY**. During measurement, the values are checked against the saturation thresholds, possibly triggering a gain switch: an immediate gain switch occurs when the value is solidly saturating, if it is possible to reduce the gain; a gain switch is scheduled if the value is not in the central $\approx 50\%$ of the current range. In this case, the actual gain decrease is done the next time **STATE_SET_VOLTAGE** executes.

NOTES: (1) we are currently throwing away the whole set of measurements if we reach solid saturation. Perhaps we could just »1 the relevant `summedMeasurements`, and skip the data point for all three ADCs. (2) It may be a good place to check whether the LM35 is reading a temperature that is too high (to discuss what this threshold should be. Probably the `LM35_MAX_ADU` of 80degC is too much).

Possible errors:

ERROR_TIMEOUT (takes longer than 5 s to measure all the values)
ERROR_ADC_SATURATED (one of the values measured by the external ADCs reached solid saturation, and its gain cannot be decreased further).
ERROR_NEVER_CALIBRATED (one of the ADC channels is uncalibrated).
ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN (configuration has not been asked for yet)

- **STATE_ADC_VALUES_READY**: This state cannot be reached directly from a PC command. It is the state that automatically follows successful completion of **STATE_MEASURE_ADCS**. Currently it sends back all the data as three separate messages, even if some of the ADCs are not available.
- **STATE_CHANGE_MEASUREMENT_MODE**: Sets the boolean `continuousMeasurement` either to true or false. False will result in a single measurement cycle being done when requested by the user. True will make the arduino repeat measuring and returning data. It also sets `measurementsToDo` to 1.

Possible errors:

ERROR_HARDWARE_UNKNOWN (configuration has not been asked for yet)