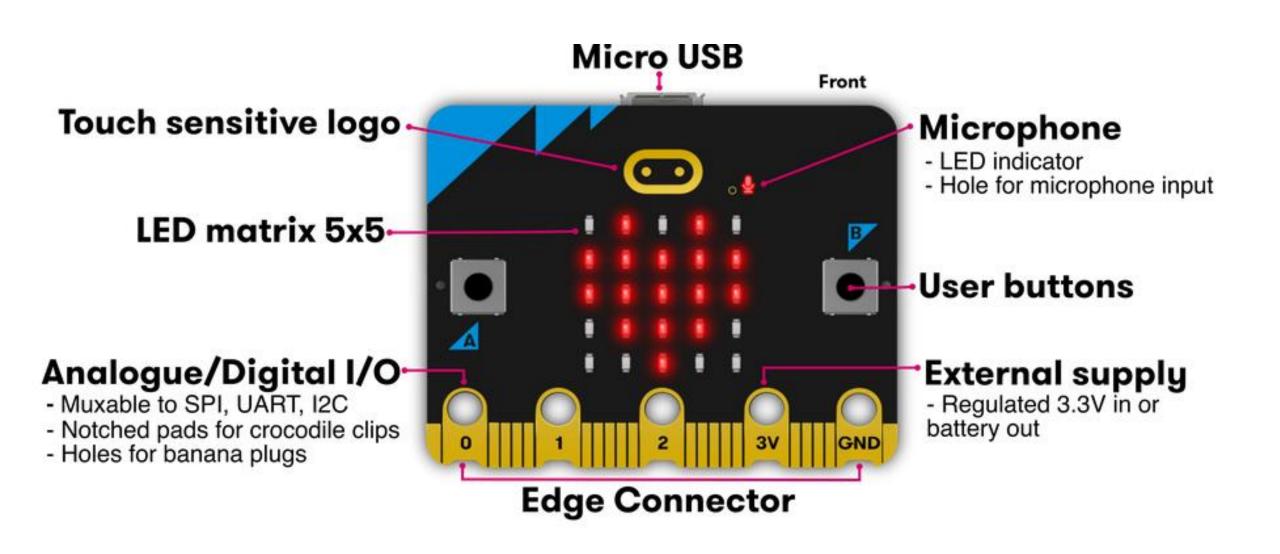
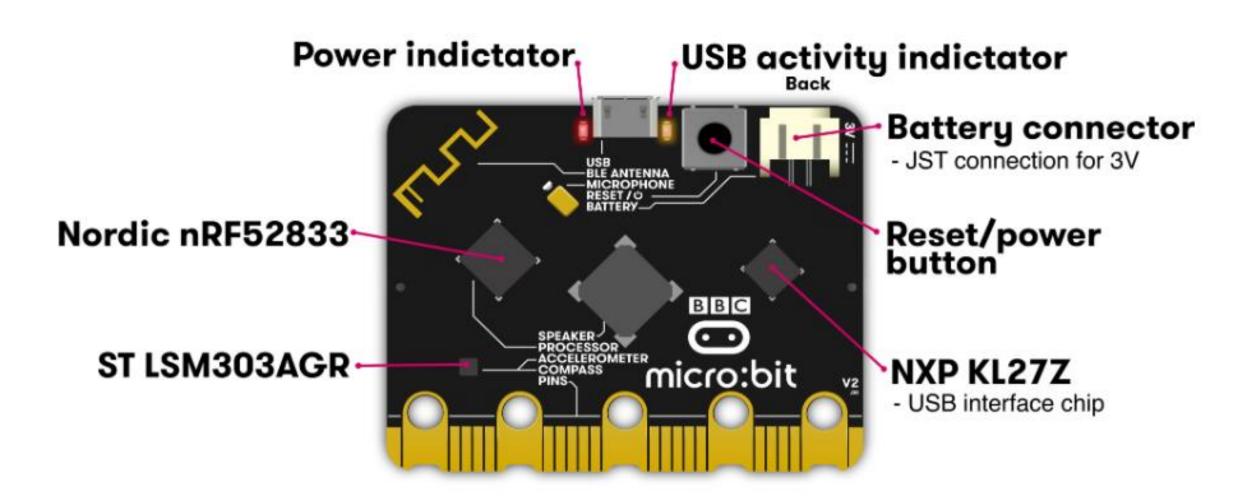
# BBC Micro: Bit

Introduction

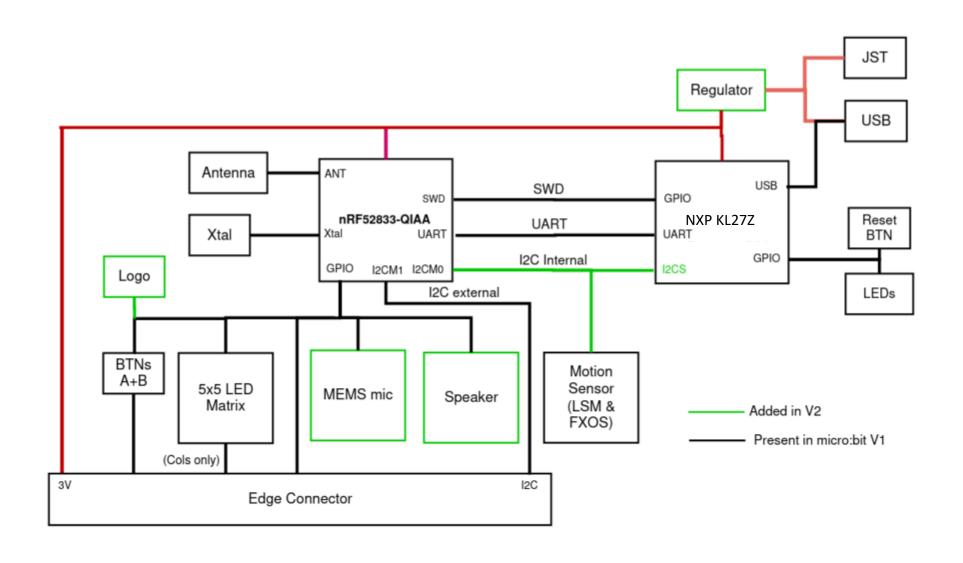
#### Hardware



#### Hardware



#### Hardware



#### **MCUs**

There are 2 MCUs (microcontroller units) on board.

- Nordic nRF52833 -> main MCU, where all the user instructions run.
- NXP KL27Z -> interface MCU, which basically helps in flashing the code in the RAM and controls all interactions with USB, including the debugger

#### Nordic nRF52

The nRF52833 application processor is where user programs run.

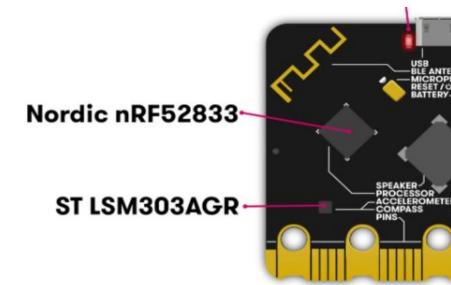
Flash ROM: 512KB

**RAM**: 128KB

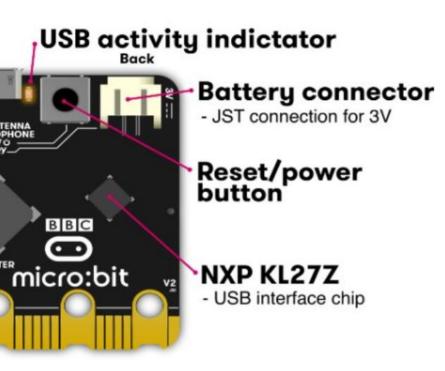
Speed: 64MHz

ISA: ARM-Cortex-V7 instructions

A link to all important instructions : <u>ARMv7-cheat-sheet.pdf</u>

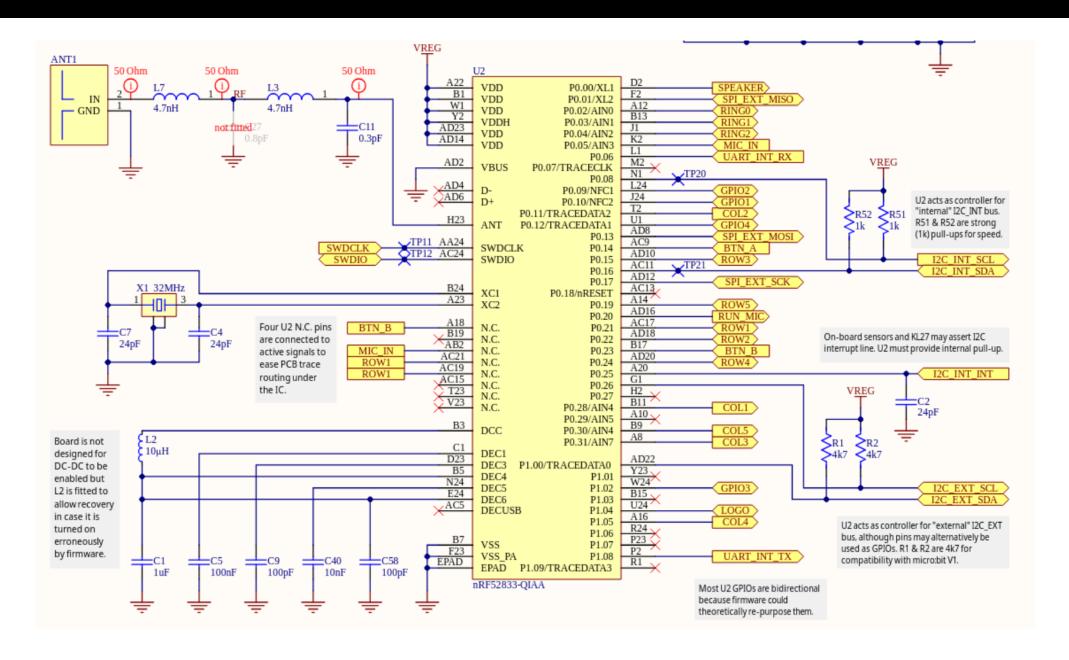


#### NXP KL27Z

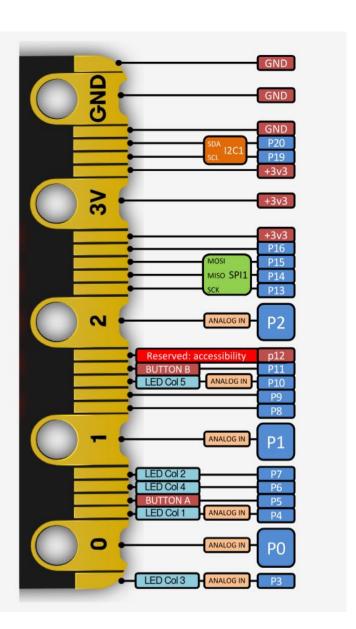


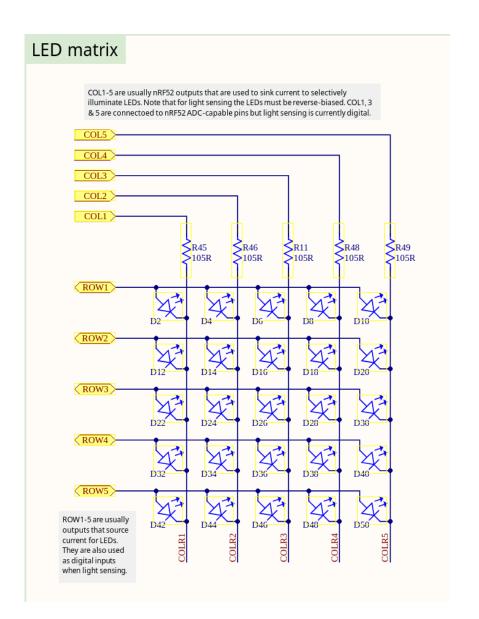
- The interface chip handles the USB connection
- And is used for flashing new code
- Sending and receiving serial data back and forth to your main computer.
- Helps in Real-Time Debugging

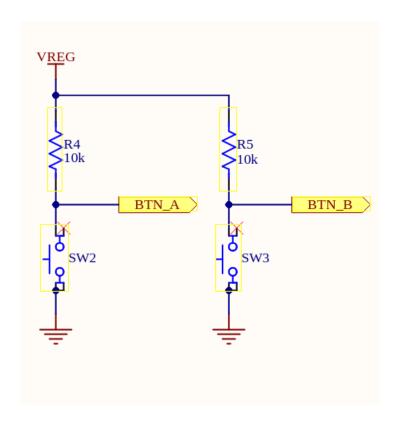
### Pin configuration of our Micro:Bit



### Pin configuration of our Micro:Bit







NOTE: The buttons are **active low** and **passive high** 

## Pin configuration of our Micro:Bit

GPIO on nRF52833	Allocation	Interface (KL27 / nRF52)	Edge Connector name	P1.04	FACE_TOUCH	N	
P0.00	SPEAKER	KL27_DAC / IF_SPEAKER		P0.16	I2C_INT_SDA	PTC2 / P0.28	
P1.05	COL4	N	P6	P0.17	SCK_EXTERNAL	N	P13
P0.02	RING0	N	P0	P0.01	MISO_EXTERNAL	N	P14
P0.03	RING1	N	P1	P0.13	MOSI_EXTERNAL	N	P15
P0.04	RING2	N	P2	P0.20	RUN_MIC	N	
P0.05	MIC_IN	N		P0.21	ROW1	N	
P0.06	UART_INT_RX	PTA18 / P0.03		P0.22	ROW2	N	
P1.08	UART_INT_TX	PTA19 / P0.02		P0.15	ROW3	N	
P0.08	I2C_INT_SCL	PTC1 / P0.29		P0.24	ROW4	N	
P0.10	GPIO1	N	P8	P0.25	COMBINED_SENSOR_INT	PTA1 / P0.09	
P0.09	GPIO2	N	P9	P0.26	I2C_EXT_SCL	N	P19
P0.11	COL2	N	P7	P1.00	I2C_EXT_SDA	N	P20
P1.02	GPIO3	N	P16	P0.12	GPIO4	N	P12
P0.19	ROW5	N		P0.28	COL1	N	P4
P0.14	BTN_A	N	P5	P0.31	COL3	N	P3
P0.23	BTN_B	N	P11	P0.30	COL5	N	P10

#### Memory Map

- The nRF52833 contains 512 kB of flash memory and 128 kB of RAM that can be used for code and data storage.
- The CPU and peripherals with EasyDMA can access memory
- EasyDMA is a module implemented by some peripherals to gain direct access to Data RAM.
- EasyDMA is not able to access flash
- A peripheral can implement multiple EasyDMA instances to provide dedicated channels. For example, for reading and writing of data between the peripheral and RAM.

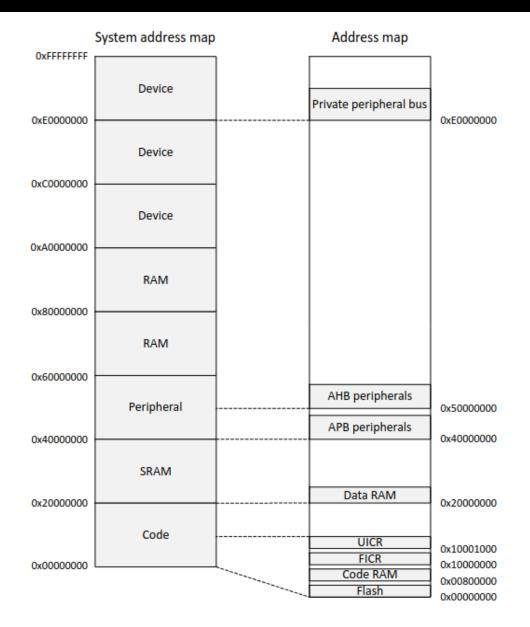
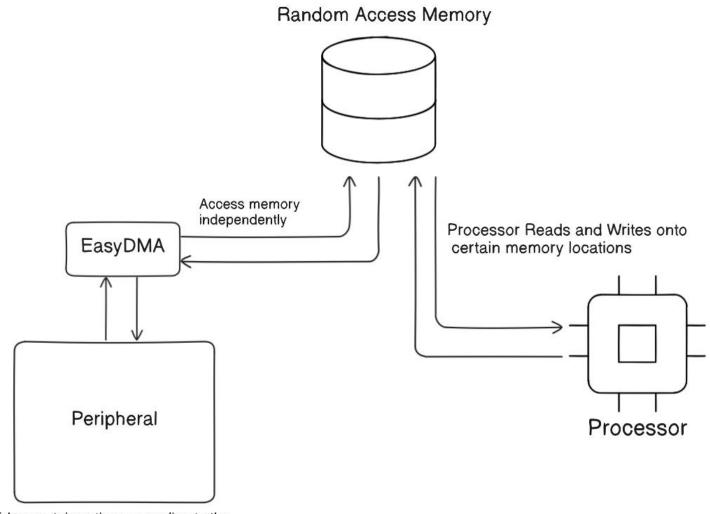


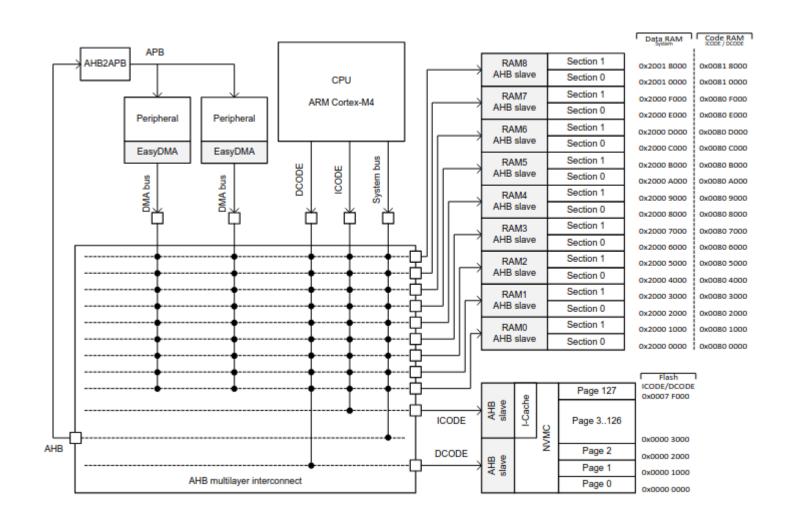
Figure 3: Memory map

### EasyDMA



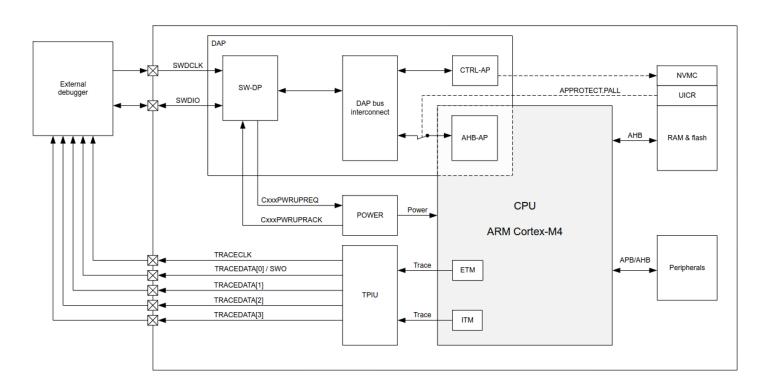
Takes certain actions according to the data in specific registers (memory locations)

### Some Extra Details (optional)



#### Real-time debug

- The nRF52833 supports real-time debugging.
- Real-time debugging allows interrupts to execute to completion in real time when breakpoints are set in thread mode or lower priority interrupts.
- We will use this feature through our VS code extension



### Peripherals

The nRF52833 is loaded with peripherals like:

- Comparators
- GPIOs (general purpose input output pins)
- GPIOTEs (GPIO tasks and events)
- PWM (pulse width modulation)
- Radio (2.4 GHz)
- RNG (Random Number Generator)
- RTC (Real Time Counter)
- SPI (Serial Peripheral Interface )
- Timers
- I2C communication module
- EasyDMA

<sup>\*</sup>The peripherals in bold are important ones and relatively easy to work with

#### Peripheral interface

- Peripherals are controlled by the CPU by writing to configuration registers and task registers.
- Peripheral events are indicated to the CPU by event registers and interrupts if they are configured for a given event.
- Every peripheral is assigned a fixed block of 0x1000 bytes of address space, which is equal to 1024 x 32 bit registers.
- Most peripherals feature an ENABLE register.
- The peripheral must be enabled before tasks and events can be used.
- Peripherals access the memory using EasyDMA (easy direct memory access)

ID	Base address	Peripheral	Instance	Description
0	0x40000000	CLOCK	CLOCK	Clock control
0	0x4000000	POWER	POWER	Power control
0	0x50000000	GPIO	GPIO	General purpose input and output
0	0x50000000	GPIO	PO	General purpose input and output, port 0
0	0x50000300	GPIO	P1	General purpose input and output, port 1
1	0x40001000	RADIO	RADIO	2.4 GHz radio
2	0x40002000	UART	UART0	Universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter
2	0x40002000	UARTE	UARTEO	Universal asynchronous receiver/transmitter with EasyDMA,
				unit 0
3	0x40003000	SPI	SPI0	SPI master 0
3	0x40003000	SPIM	SPIM0	SPI master 0
3	0x40003000	SPIS	SPIS0	SPI slave 0
3	0x40003000	TWI	TWIO	Two-wire interface master 0
3	0x40003000	TWIM	TWIMO	Two-wire interface master 0
6	0x40006000	GPIOTE	GPIOTE	GPIO tasks and events
7	0x40007000	SAADC	SAADC	Analog to digital converter
8	0x40008000	TIMER	TIMERO	Timer 0
9	0x40009000	TIMER	TIMER1	Timer 1
10	0x4000A000	TIMER	TIMER2	Timer 2
11	0x4000B000	RTC	RTCO	Real-time counter 0
		TEMP	TEMP	Temperature sensor
12	0x4000C000			
12 13	0x4000C000 0x4000D000	RNG	RNG	Random number generator
			RNG ECB	Random number generator  AES electronic code book (ECB) mode block encryption

#### Tasks and Events

- Tasks are used to trigger actions in a peripheral.
- A peripheral can implement multiple tasks with each task having a separate register in that peripheral's task register group.
- A task is triggered when firmware writes 1 to the task register, or when the peripheral itself or another peripheral toggles the corresponding task signal.

- Events are used to notify peripherals and the CPU about events that have happened
- For example, a state change in a peripheral.
- A peripheral may generate multiple events with each event having a separate register in that peripheral's event register group.
- An event register is only cleared when firmware writes
   0 to it.

#### Example: Dummy Peripheral

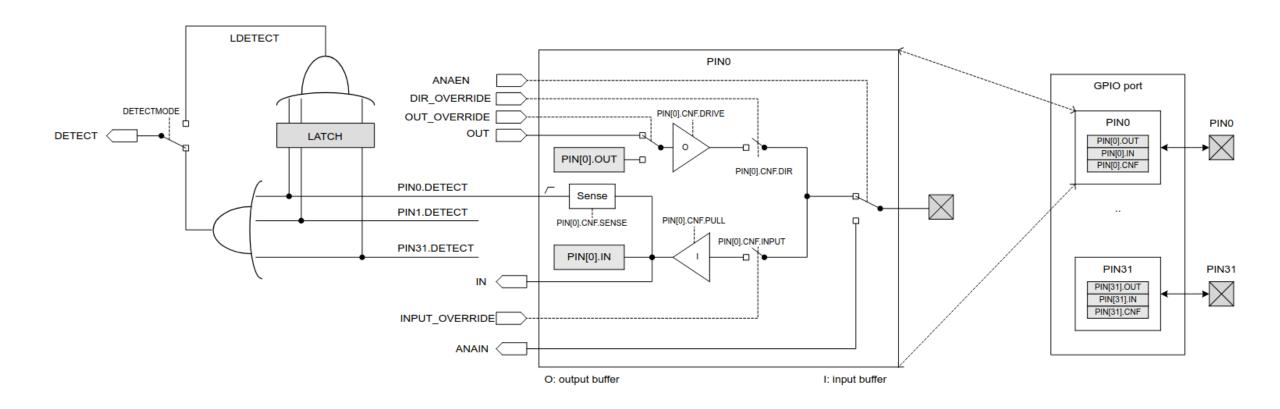
Lets, say our dummy peripheral has the base address of 0x30004000 and there are several registers that control this peripheral. One of them is shown below:

Register	Offset	Description		Real address of this re	egister in memory will be: Base +
DUMMY	0x514	Example of a register conf	trolling a dummy feature	Offset = 0x30004514	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
Bit number		31 30 29 28 27 26 25 2	24 23 22 21 20 19 18 17 16 15 14 13 12 D C C C	11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0 B A A	As you can see there are som
Reset 0x00050002	Value ID		0 0 0 0 0 0 1 0 1 0 0 0 0  Description		special bits that hold some important meaning.
A RW FIELD_A	Disabled	0	Example of a read-write field with se values  The example feature is disabled	everal enumerated	We can configure our peripherals using such registe
	NormalMode ExtendedMode	1 2	The example feature is enabled in no The example feature is enabled along functionality		The peripheral will continuou
B RW FIELD_B	Disabled	0	Example of a deprecated read-write The override feature is disabled The override feature is enabled	field Deprecated	easyDMA and make the
C RW FIELD_C	Enabled ValidRange	[27]	Example of a read-write field with a Example of allowed values for this fie	_	the CPU makes changes in the
D RW FIELD_D			Example of a read-write field with no values	restriction on the	content of the register

We can configure our peripherals using such registers.

The peripheral will continuously access this register using easyDMA and make the necessary changes as soon as the CPU makes changes in the content of the register

- The general purpose input/output pins (GPIOs) are grouped 2 Ports with each port having up to 32 GPIOs
- The GPIO port peripheral implements up to 32 pins, PINO through PIN31. Each of these pins can be individually configured in the PIN\_CNF[n] registers (n=0..31)



- The general purpose input/output pins (GPIOs) are grouped 2 Ports with each port having up to 32 GPIOs
- The GPIO port peripheral implements up to 32 pins, PINO through PIN31. Each of these pins can be individually configured in the PIN\_CNF[n] registers (n=0..31)

#### 6.8.2 Registers

Base address	Peripheral	Instance	Description Configuration	
0x50000000	GPIO	GPIO	General purpose input and output	Deprecated
0x50000000	GPIO	PO	General purpose input and output, port P0.00 to P0.31 implemented 0	
0x50000300	GPIO	P1	General purpose input and output, port P1.00 to P1.09 implemented	

• To start using GPIO pins, we have to first configure them using the CNF Registers.

Address offset:  $0x700 + (n \times 0x4)$ 

Configuration of GPIO pins

Bit nu	ımbe	r		31	1 30	29	28	3 27	7 26	25	24	23 2	2 2	21 2	0 1	9 18	17	16	15	14	13 1	2 1	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1 0
ID																	Ε	Ε					D	D	D					С	C I	ВА
Rese	t 0x0	0000002		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0 (	) (	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 :	1 0
ID	Acc	e Field	Value ID	Va	alue							Des	crip	otio	n																	
Α	RW	DIR										Pin	dire	ecti	on.	San	ne p	hys	ical	re	gist	er as	s DIF	≀ re	gist	er						
			Input	0								Con	figu	ure	pin	as a	n ir	pu	t pi	n												
			Output	1								Con	figu	ure	pin	as a	an o	utp	ut p	oin												
В	RW	INPUT										Con	nec	ct o	r di	scor	nne	t ir	npu	t bu	ıffe	r										
			Connect	0								Con	nec	ct ir	pu	t bu	ffer															

• To start using GPIO pins, we have to first configure them using the CNF Registers.

#### 6.8.2.10 PIN\_CNF[n] (n=0..31)

Disabled

Pulldown

Pullup

Address offset:  $0x700 + (n \times 0x4)$ 

Configuration of GPIO pins

Bit	numbe	er		31	1 30 2	29	28 2	27 2	26 2	5 2	24 2	23 2	2 2	1 2	0 1	19 18	3 17	16	15	14	13 :	12 1	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1 0
ID																	Е	Ε					D	D	D					С	С	ВА
Res	et 0x0	0000002		0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0	0 (	0 (	0 (	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 0
ID		e Field	Value ID										crip	tio																		
Α	RW	DIR										Pin (	dire	ecti	on	. Sar	ne į	ohy	sica	re	gist	er a	s DI	R re	gis	ter						
			Input	0							(	Con	figu	ıre	pir	n as	an i	npı	ıt pi	n												
			Output	1							(	Con	figu	ıre	pir	n as	an d	outp	out	oin												
В	RW	INPUT									(	Con	nec	t o	r d	isco	nne	ct i	npu	t b	ıffe	r										
			Connect	0							(	Con	nec	t ir	ηpι	ıt bu	ıffeı	•														
С	RW	PULL										Pu	ll co	onf	igu	ırati	on															

0

No pull

Pull down on pin

Pull up on pin

We can configure PIN 13 of port P0 to be an output pin with pulldown register by writing:
0b0101 to the register at address

= Base + offset

= 0x50000000 + 0x700 + (0x4)\*13

С	RW PULL			Pull configuration
		Disabled	0	No pull
		Pulldown	1	Pull down on pin
		Pullup	3	Pull up on pin
D	RW DRIVE			Drive configuration
		S0S1	0	Standard '0', standard '1'
		H0S1	1	High drive '0', standard '1'
		S0H1	2	Standard '0', high drive '1'
		H0H1	3	High drive '0', high 'drive '1"
		DOS1	4	Disconnect '0' standard '1' (normally used for wired-or
				connections)
		D0H1	5	Disconnect '0', high drive '1' (normally used for wired-or
				connections)
		SOD1	6	Standard '0'. disconnect '1' (normally used for wired-and
				connections)
		H0D1	7	High drive '0', disconnect '1' (normally used for wired-and
				connections)
E	RW SENSE			Pin sensing mechanism
		Disabled	0	Disabled
		High	2	Sense for high level
		Low	3	Sense for low level

 For our purpose option B , D and E are not much useful

We have now successfully configured PIN: P0.13 As an output pin with pulldown register.

As soon as we write this data onto the memory location , the peripheral will access this location using EasyDMA and set the pin HIGH

#### 6.8.2.2 OUTSET

Address offset: 0x508

Set individual bits in GPIO port

Read: reads value of OUT register.

Bit n	umber		31	1 30	29	28	27	26	25	24 2	23 2	22 21	20	19	18	17 1	16 1	.5 1	4 1	3 1	2 11	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2 1	0
ID			f	е	d	С	b	а	Z	Υ	X۱	W V	U	Т	S	R	Q I	P (	1 C	N N	1 L	. K	J	1	Н	G	F	Е	D	СВ	Α
Rese	t 0x00000000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	) (	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0	0
ID	Acce Field											cript	ion																		
A-f	RW PIN[i] (i=031)									F	Pin	i																			
		Low	0							F	Rea	d: pi	n d	rive	r is	low	,														
		High	1							F	Rea	d: pi	n d	rive	r is	higl	h														
		1							١	۷ri	te: w	/riti	ng a	'1'	set	s th	ne p	in l	high	ı; w	ritii	ng a	'0'	ha	s no	)					
										effe																					

We have now successfully configured PIN: P0.13 As an output pin with pulldown register.

As soon as we write this data onto the memory location , the peripheral will access this location using EasyDMA and set the pin **LOW** 

#### 6.8.2.3 OUTCLR

Address offset: 0x50C

Clear individual bits in GPIO port

Read: reads value of OUT register.

Bit n	umber		31	1 30	29	28	27	7 26	25	24	23	22	21 2	20 1	9 1	8 17	16	15	14	13 1	2 1	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3 2	2 1	0
ID			f	е	d	С	b	а	Z	Υ	Χ	W	٧	U -	Γ 5	S R	Q	Р	0	N N	И L	. K	J	1	Н	G	F	Е	D (	В	Α
Rese	t 0x00000000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0
ID	Acce Field Value ID Value										De	scri	ptic																		
A-f											Pir	n i																			
		Low	0								Re	ad:	pin	driv	/er	is lov	V														
		High	1								Re	ad:	pin	driv	/er	is hig	gh														
	Clear 1										W	rite:	wr	iting	g a '	1' se	ts t	he	pin	low	; w	ritin	g a	'0' l	has	no					
											eff	fect																			

We have now successfully configured PIN: P0.13 As an output pin with pulldown register.

As soon as we write this data onto the memory location , the peripheral will access this location using EasyDMA and set the pin **LOW** 

#### 6.8.2.3 OUTCLR

Address offset: 0x50C

Clear individual bits in GPIO port

Read: reads value of OUT register.

Bit n	umber		31	1 30	29	28	27	7 26	25	24	23	22	21 2	20 1	9 1	8 17	16	15	14	13 1	2 1	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3 2	2 1	0
ID			f	е	d	С	b	а	Z	Υ	Χ	W	٧	U -	Γ 5	S R	Q	Р	0	N N	И L	. K	J	1	Н	G	F	Е	D (	В	Α
Rese	t 0x00000000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0 0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0
ID	Acce Field Value ID Value										De	scri	ptic																		
A-f											Pir	n i																			
		Low	0								Re	ad:	pin	driv	/er	is lov	V														
		High	1								Re	ad:	pin	driv	/er	is hig	gh														
	Clear 1										W	rite:	wr	iting	g a '	1' se	ts t	he	pin	low	; w	ritin	g a	'0' l	has	no					
											eff	fect																			

- So far, we have only seen how to control the pins as output.
- To take input (maybe from the onboard buttons) we need to configure those pins (as specified in pinout)
  as output pins.
- After that we can simply look at the memory location of = Base addr of port + 0x510
- Each of the 32 bits will indicate the logic level at those pins at that moment.
- For example, if Bit-9 == 1 then it means pin9 of that port is high.

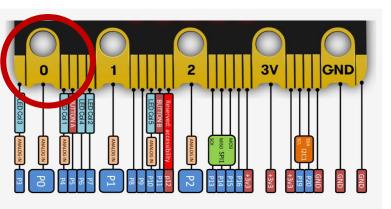
#### 6.8.2.4 IN

Address offset: 0x510

Read GPIO port

Bit nu	ımbeı	r		33	1 30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21 2	20	19	18	17	16 1	l5 1	.4 1	.3 1	2 1:	1 10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1 0
ID				f	е	d	С	b	а	Z	Υ	Χ	W	٧	U	Т	S	R	Q	Р (	ו כ	N N	ΛL	. K	J	1	Н	G	F	Ε	D	С	ВА
Reset	0x00	0000000		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 (	0	0 (	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 0
ID	Ассє	Field	Value ID	Võ	alue							De	scri	ptic	on																		
A-f	R	PIN[i] (i=031)										Pir	ı i																				
			Low	0								Pir	n inp	out	is l	ow																	
			High	1								Pir	n inp	out	is ł	nigh	ı																

#### Code for a simple Blink LED program

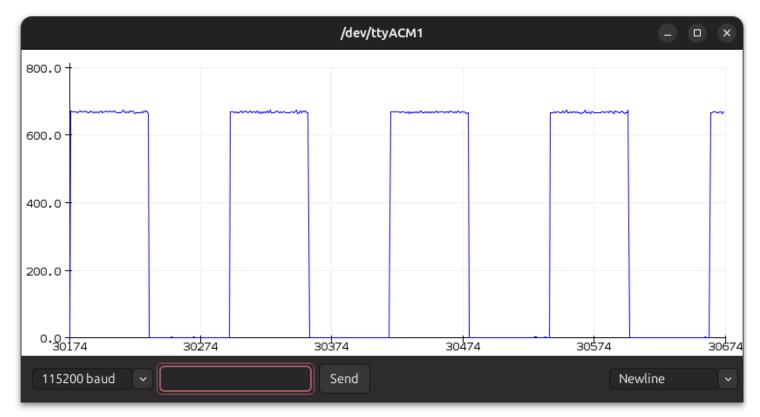


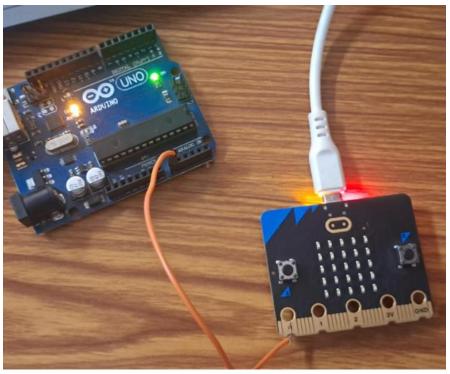
GPIO P0.02 is connected to RING-0 of the microbit

```
loop:
    @ Turn ON (Set P0.02 HIGH)
    LDR R2, =0x508
    STR R1, [R0, R2]
    @ Simple delay loop
    LDR R5, =5000000
    delay on:
        SUB R5, R5, #1
        CMP R5, #0
        BGT delay on
    @ Turn OFF (Set P0.02 LOW)
    LDR R2, =0x50C
    STR R1, [R0, R2]
    @ Simple delay loop
    LDR R5, =5000000
    delay off:
        SUB R5, R5, #1
        CMP R5, #0
        BGT delay off
B loop
```

### Code for a simple Blink LED program

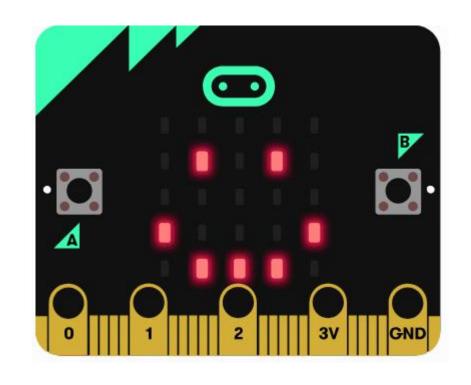
I plotted the pin output using another microcontroller (Arduino), and here is the result.

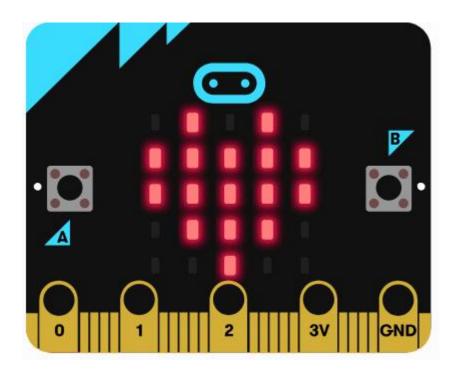




<sup>\*</sup>I only connected the Pin and I was able to measure the voltage because the GND was internally connected through my laptop

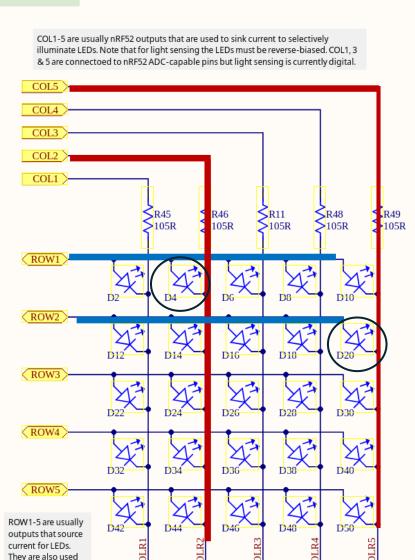
The display is a 5x5 array of LEDs.





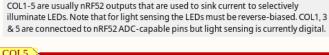
#### LED matrix

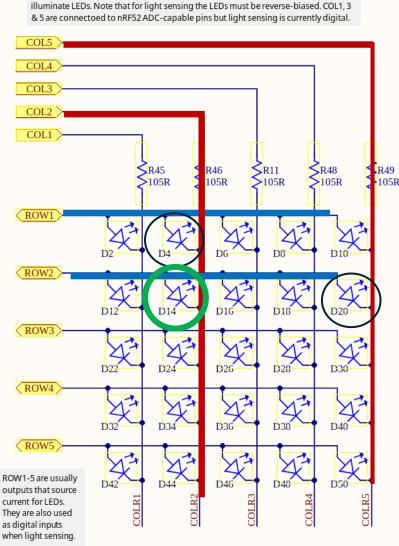
as digital inputs when light sensing.



- The 25 LEDs are wired in a row-column configuration to reduce the number of required control pins.
- To turn on D4 led , Row1 GPIO must be HIGH and Col2 GPIO should be set to LOW
- Now if I want to simultaneously turn on D20, I will set Row2 to be LOW and COL5 to be HIGH
- Can you find the problem with this ???

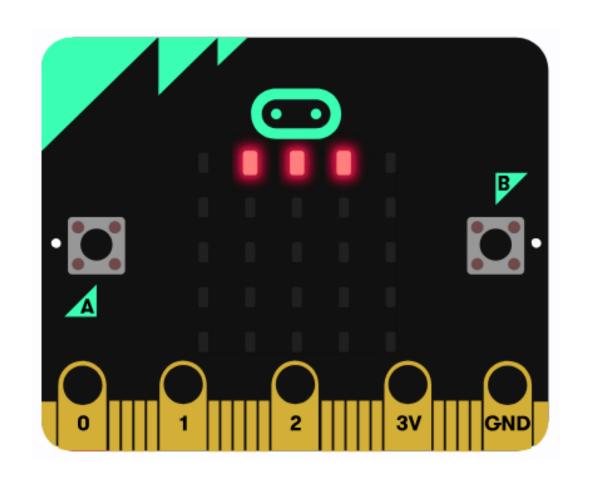
#### LED matrix

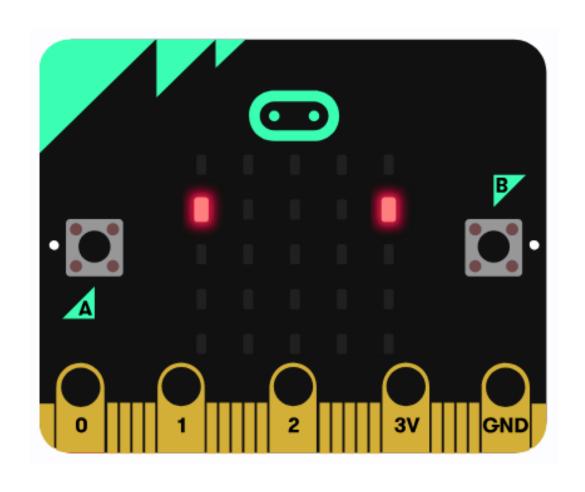


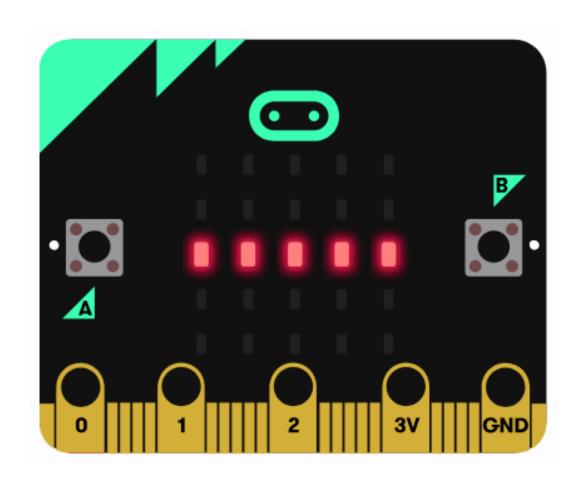


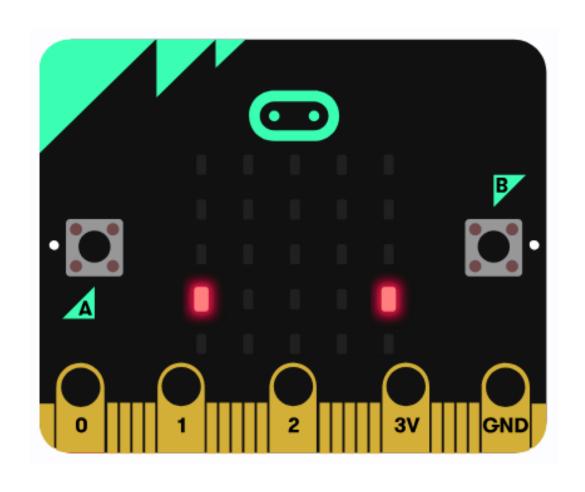
- The 25 LEDs are wired in a row-column configuration to reduce the number of required control pins.
- To turn on D4 led , Row1 GPIO must be HIGH and Col2 GPIO should be set to LOW
- Now if I want to simultaneously turn on D20, I will set Row2 to be LOW and COL5 to be HIGH
- Can you find the problem with this ???
- D14 will also get turned on!

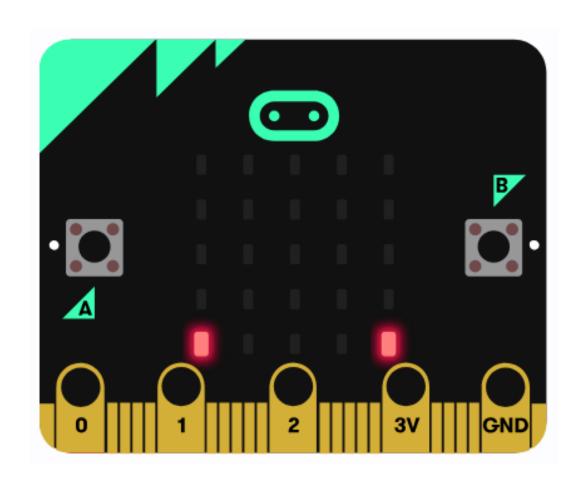
- You cannot turn on two LEDs in different rows and columns at the same time because they will create an unintended path due to shared rows and columns. This is called **ghosting** or **cross-activation**.
- To display multiple LEDs in different rows and columns, we will use a technique called multiplexing or frame refreshing.
- A full LED pattern is divided into separate row-wise frames.
- Each frame represents one active row at a time.
- After a very short delay, we will deactivate the row and activate the next one.
- Now if we do it fast enough, our human eyes will perceive it as if multiple LEDs across
  different rows and columns are ON simultaneously.
- Example of displaying "A" in the subsequent slides.

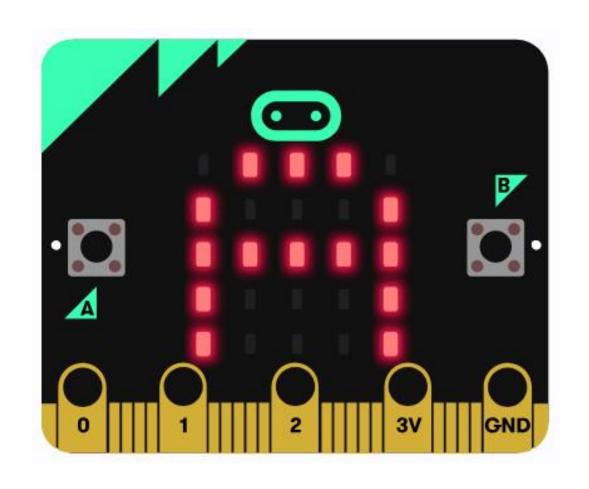












#### Library to do the same.

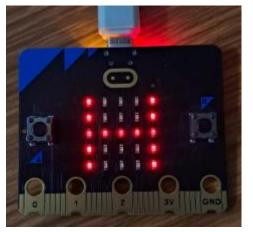
- There's a library called Led.S, made by ANU-COMP2300 students, that lets you control specific LEDs in a 5x5 matrix.
- You can find it in workfolder/lib.
- Using that, I made another library called text.S to make things easier.
- Just load the ASCII value (capital letters or numbers) into RO and call the function—it'll handle the multiplexing for one cycle.
- If you want the character to stay on the screen, just keep calling it in a loop.

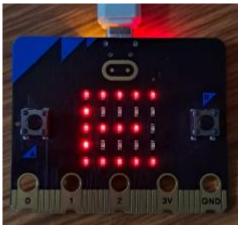
```
src > *** main.S

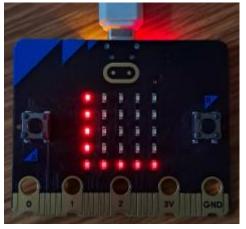
1    .syntax unified
2    .section .text
3    .global main
4
5    main:
6
7    bl init_text
8    loop:
9    ldr r0 , =65
10    bl display_char
11    b loop
12
```

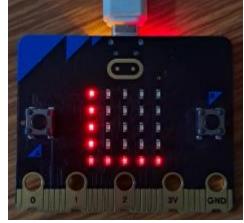
- bl init\_text Initializes the Row 1-5 and Col 1-5 Pins
- bl display\_char takes the value in R0 and displays the character.

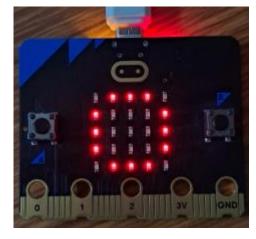
## Library to do the same.



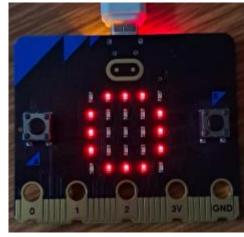


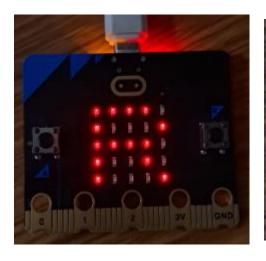




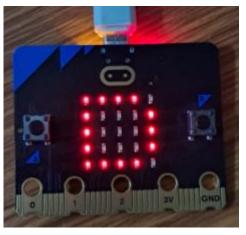






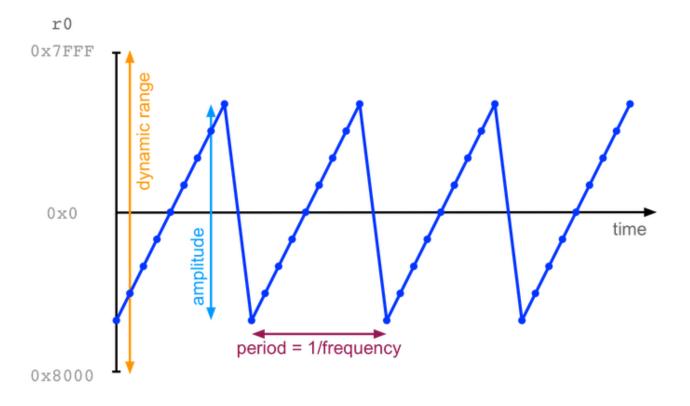






#### Controlling Speakers.

There is a cool library by Benjamin Gray ANU which lets you playout a certain sequence of audio sample.



In the image, the little points each indicate a sample, that is *a number* stored in r0.

The x-axis is time, and the y-axis is the number in r0.

- audio\_init: this function sets up sound on the microbit which basically means setting the speaker (GPIO P0.00) to output, enabling PWM (pulse width modulation) on this pin, and setting up some buffers and timers to ensure smooth audio.
- audio\_play\_sample: this function takes r0 as an argument. It takes the lowest 8 bits of r0 and treats them as the next audio sample to play.

### Controlling Speakers.

Using this library, I make another library through which you can play specific notes.

```
.type play c4, %function
.global play c4
play c4:
    push {lr}
    ldr r0, =548288
    bl play note
    pop {pc}
.type play d4, %function
.global play d4
play d4:
    push {lr}
    ldr r0, =615424
    bl play note
    pop {pc}
```

```
bl play e4
bl play stop
bl play c4
bl play c4
bl play stop
bl play c4
bl play c4
bl play d4
bl play c4
bl play c4
hl nlav c4
```

Then we can literally play any song / tune that we want.

There are more functions for all major notes.

#### Other Cool Stuff

This was just a glimpse of what can be done.

I did more complex things like:

- Using I2C protocol to talk to different sensors and retrieving data from them.
- Like Magnetometer and Accelerometer
- Using in-chip temperature sensor to get the current temperature (Although it might be slightly higher than real surrounding temperatures because of the heat produced by the MCU itself)
- Handling Interrupts using GPIOTE module.

Currently I am trying to use the onboard Radio/Bluetooth module, but it's very complex and requires a deep understanding of complex Bluetooth protocol.

If I can do it successfully, I will surely give an update

Thank you so much for this amazing opportunity! I had a great time experimenting and learning new things, especially diving deep into how microcontrollers actually work. I've worked with microcontrollers before, like **Arduino** and **ESP8266**, but always programmed them in **C/Python**. Writing in **assembly** gave me a whole new appreciation for the beauty of the architecture and how everything truly functions at a lower level.

#### References

- ARMv7-cheat-sheet.pdf (All important ISA instructions)
- ARMv7-M-architecture-reference-manual.pdf (Detailed ARM architecture optional)
- <u>Ism303agr\_magetometerAndAccelerometer.pdf</u> (On board Magnetometer and Accelerometer Datasheet)
- <u>MicroBit schematic.PDF</u> (Micro:Bit official schematic)
- nRF52833.pdf (Main MCU Datasheet)
- <a href="https://tech.microbit.org/">https://tech.microbit.org/</a> (Official Website for technical details regarding Micro:Bit)

# Thank You!