# Physical Computing DC Motor, Servo Motor & Communication with Computer

Kening Zhu (Ken)
Assistant Professor
School of Creative Media
City University of Hong Kong
Email: keninzhu@cityu.edu.hk



### **DC** Motor



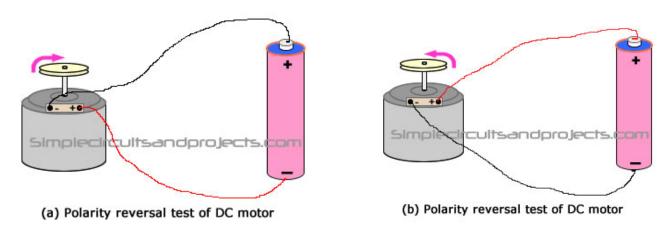






# How to control a DC motor (Direction & Speed)

 "DC" means Direct Current (Single Direction), which can be generated by a normal battery.



 The higher the current output by the battery, the faster the motor will be.

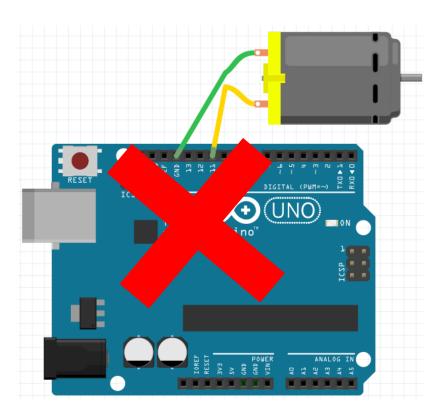


Then can we use the analog output from Arduino to control the motor?

#### Yes! But...

 Can we connect a motor directly to Arduino just like a LED?

#### **No!!!**

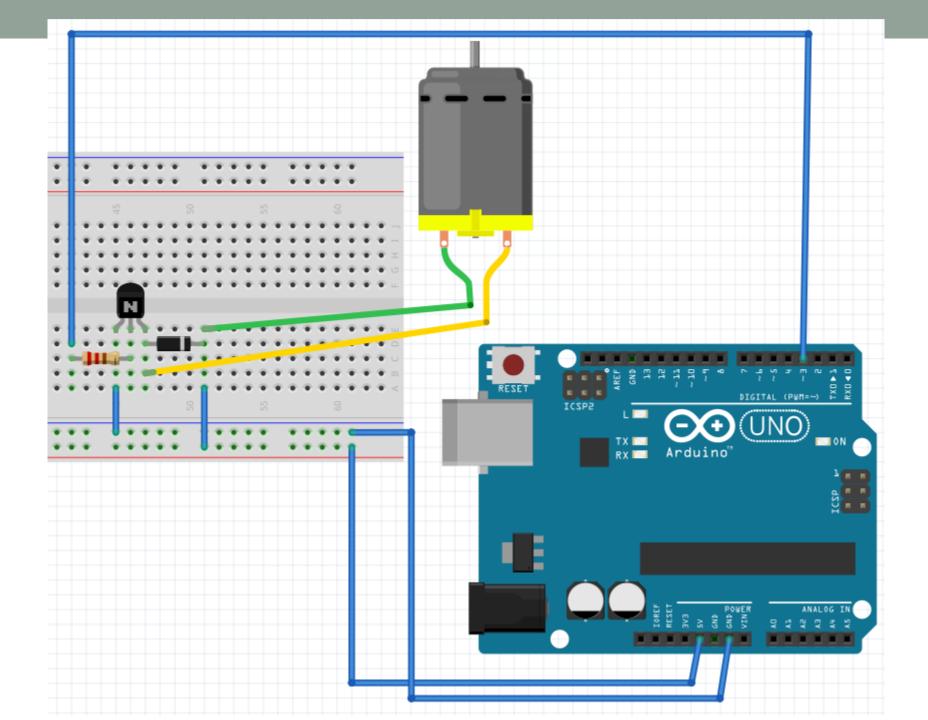


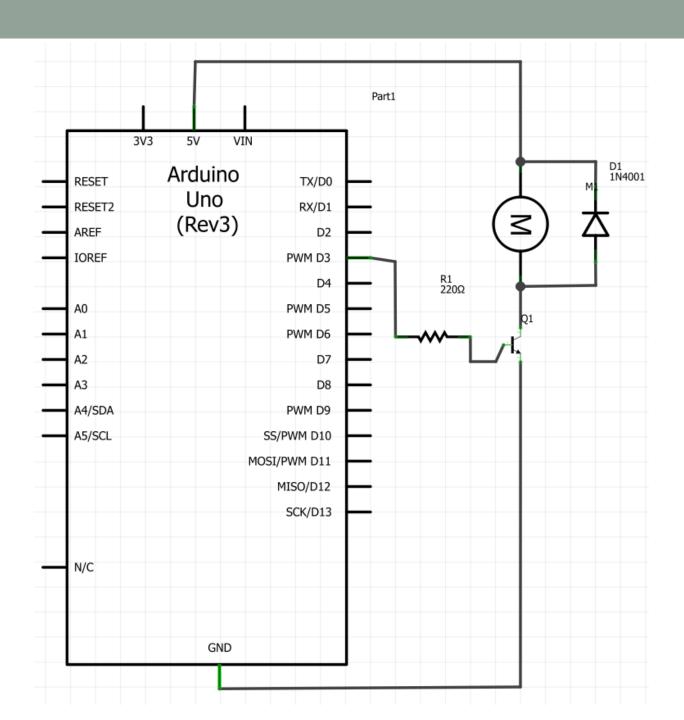
- The small DC motor, is likely to use more power than an Arduino output can handle directly.
- If we tried to connect the motor straight to an Arduino pin, it may damage the Arduino.

#### How to connect a DC Motor to Arduino

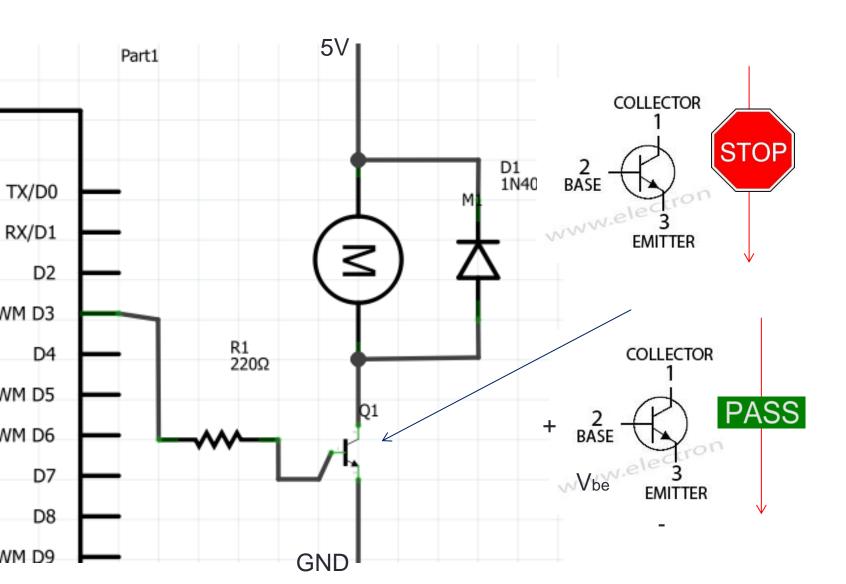
- We use a transistor as a switch (Week 2) to driver the DC motor.
- A diode (Week 2) to protect the Arduino



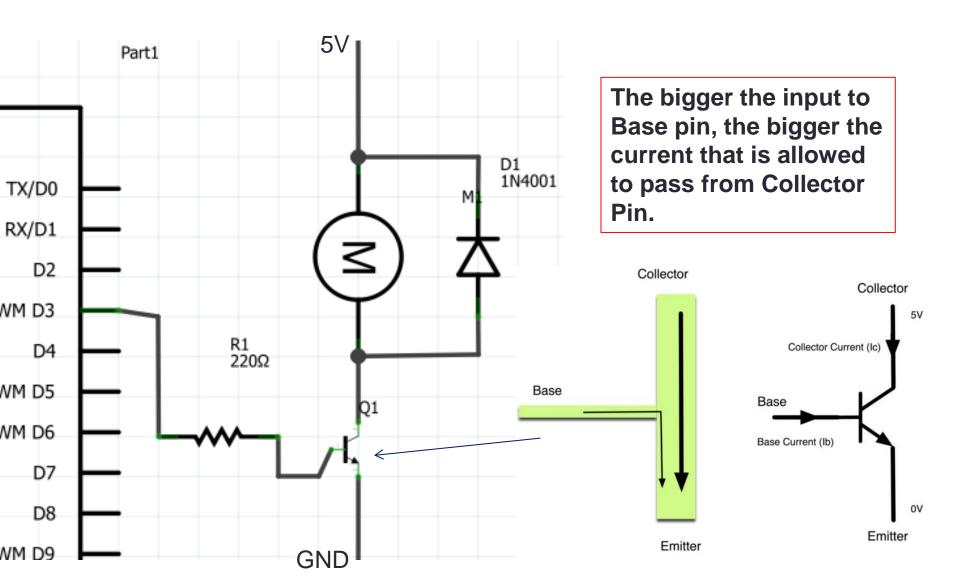




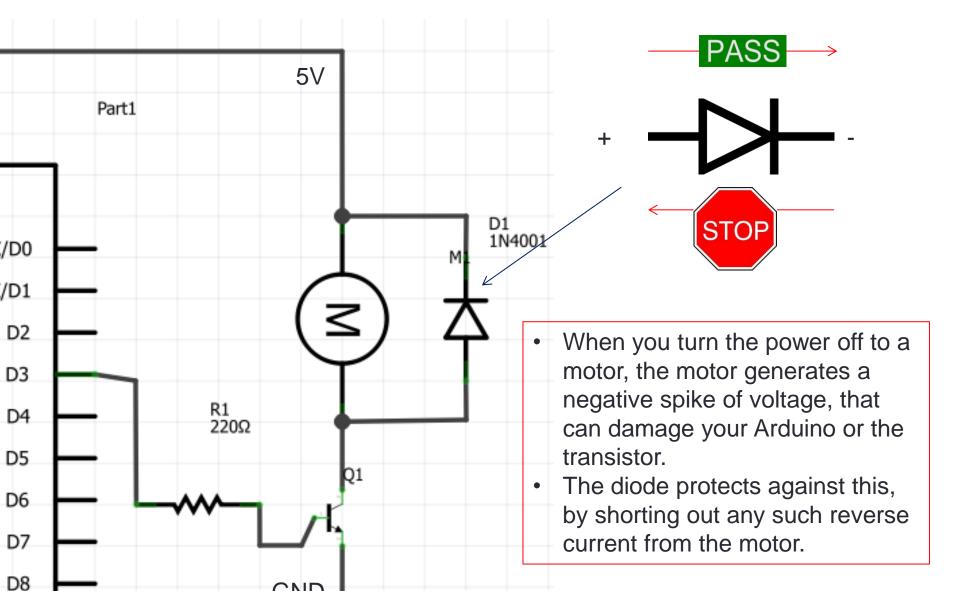
### The transistor in the circuit



#### Control the transistor to control the motor



### The Diode in the circuit



### Now the code

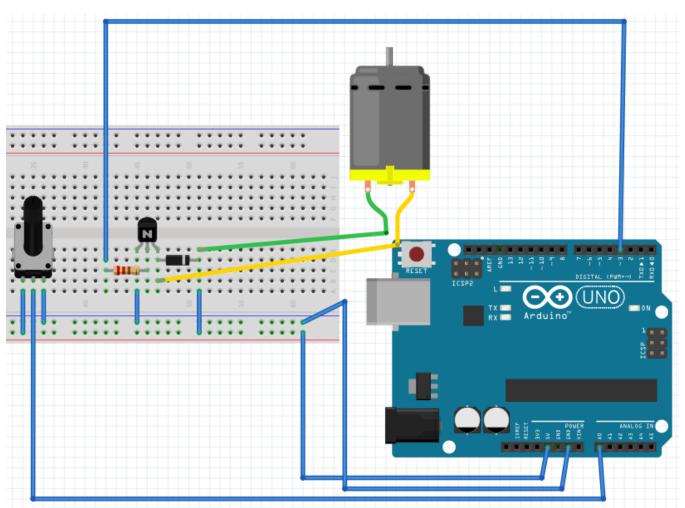
```
int motorPin= 9; //output pin number
void setup()
void loop()
 //analogWrite(pin, value) is the funtion of generating
 //analog signal
 // fade in from min to max in increments of 5 points:
 for(int fadeValue = 0; fadeValue <= 255; fadeValue +=5) {
  // sets the value (range from 0 to 255):
  analogWrite(motorPin, fadeValue);
  // wait for 30 milliseconds to see the dimming effect
  delay(3000);
 // fade out from max to min in increments of 5 points:
 for(int fadeValue = 255; fadeValue >= 0; fadeValue -=5) {
  // sets the value (range from 0 to 255):
  analogWrite(motorPin, fadeValue);
  // wait for 30 milliseconds to see the dimming effect
  delay(3000);
```

- It is actually the same as the code for Analog output to fade an LED/speaker
- Now you can see a motor spinning fast and slow continously

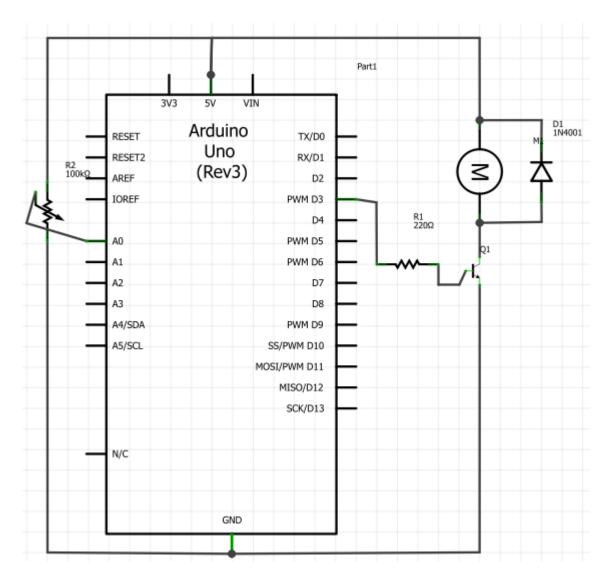
# You can also control the DC motor with sensors

Combine what we have learnt last week with DC motor

circuit



#### Then we need to write the new code as well



### Try to connect others sensors



Potentiometer (Changeable Resistor)



**Orientation Sensor** 



Infrared Motion Sensor



Light Dependent Sensor (Resistance changed by light)



Ultrasound Distance Sensor



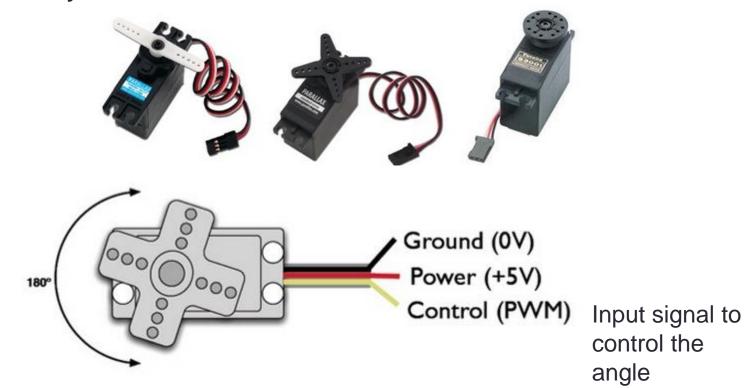
Flexible Vibration Sensor



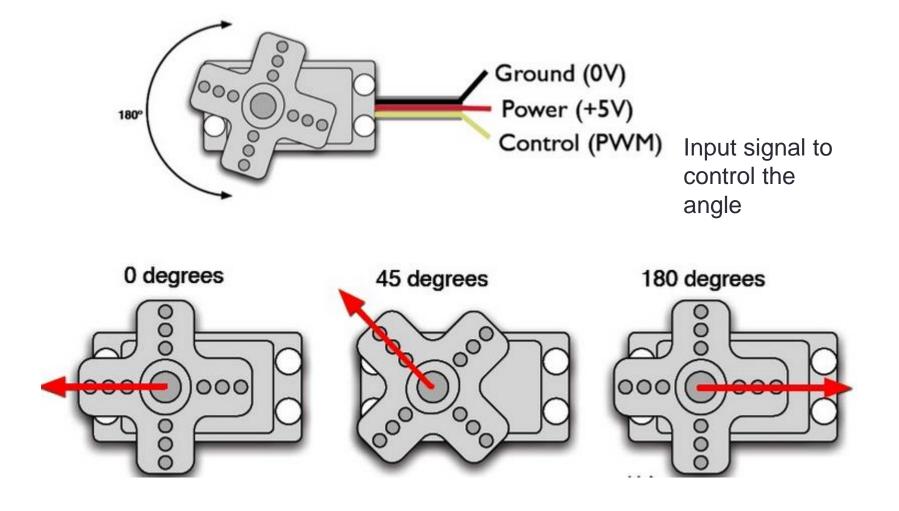


#### Servo Motor

- It is hard to control the angle and the direction of a DC motor
- But we can control the angle and the direction of a Servo motor easily.

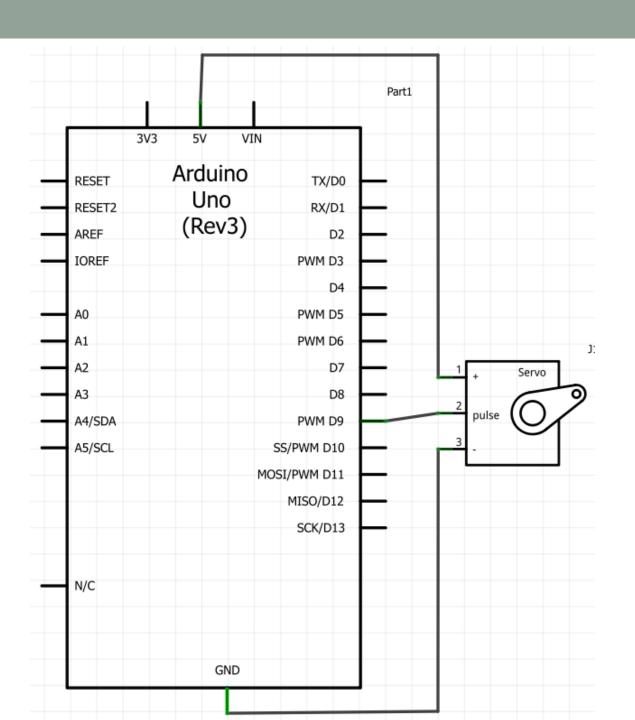


### We can control the angle from the code



### Connect the servo motor to Arduino

Connect to the pin with "~", to receive analog output



#### Connection is easy, but coding is a bit tricky

#include <Servo.h>

```
int servoPin = 9;
Servo servo:
int angle = 0; // servo position in degrees
void setup()
servo.attach(servoPin);
void loop()
// scan from 0 to 180 degrees
for(angle = 0; angle < 180; angle++)
servo.write(angle);
delay(15);
// now scan back from 180 to 0 degrees
for(angle = 180; angle > 0; angle--)
servo.write(angle);
delay(15);
```

- We need to use the Servo library, so we can use the functions to control the motor #include <Servo.h>
- Create Servo Motor ObjectServo servo;
- Connect the motor to a particular pin on the board servo.attach(pin);
- Set the angle of the motor servo.write(angle)

# You can connect the sensors to control as well!!



Potentiometer (Changeable Resistor)



**Orientation Sensor** 



Infrared Motion Sensor



Light Dependent Sensor (Resistance changed by light)



Ultrasound Distance Sensor



Flexible Vibration Sensor





# Now we have seen how Arduino can help us to...

- Control LEDs, Speakers, and Motors
- Sense the input with...
  - Buttons
  - Potentiometers
  - Light sensors
  - Vibration sensors
  - Distance sensors
  - Infrared Motion sensors
  - Tilt sensors

### How about using Arduino to control our computer?

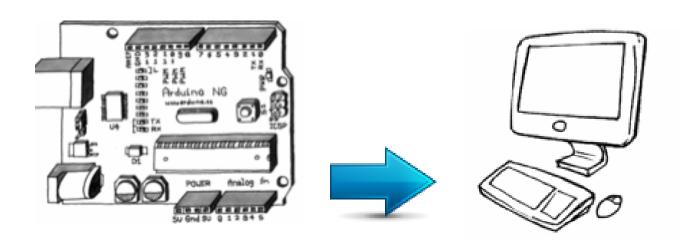
- Color
- Games
- Animations
- Music

Following a demonstration of the Arduino controller and the Processing program:



http://www.varesano.net/blog/fabio/serialcommunication-arduino-and-processingsimple-examples-and-arduino-basedgamepad-int

# We send the signal to computer through USB serial connection



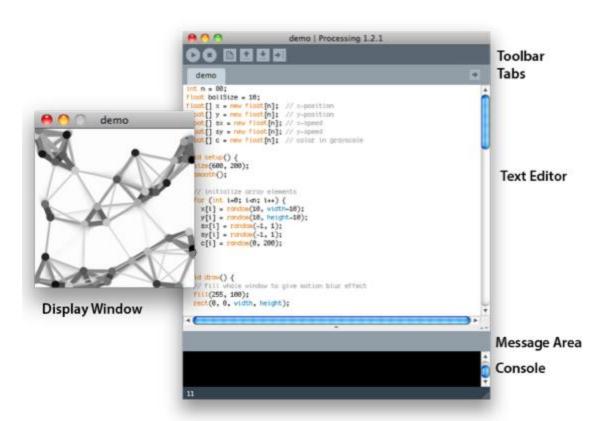
# Before talking about the communication, we need to know...

- Processing
  - Processing is a programming language, development environment, and online community that since 2001 has promoted software literacy within the visual arts.
  - You will mainly learn it in the second half of the semester.

 Here I will only talk about some basic concept, and how it connects the Arduino and the computer

### **Basic Processing Programming**

Processing Development Environment (PDE)

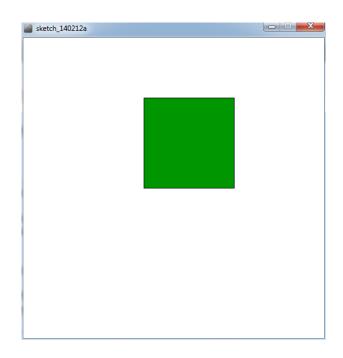


### **Basic Processing Programming**

A first simple Processing drawing

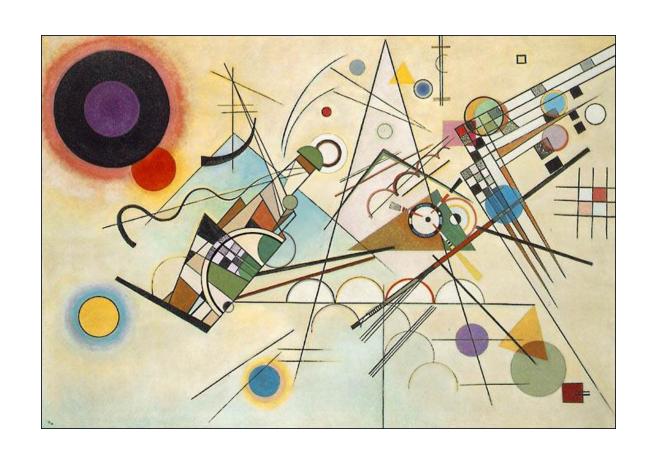
```
void setup()
{
  background(255,255,255);
  size(500,500);
}

void draw()
{
  fill(0,150,0);
  rect(200,100,150,150);
}
```



### **Basic Processing Programming**

- Basic drawing
  - Coordinates
  - Size
  - Shapes
    - Line
    - Circle
    - Box
    - Curve
    - etc.
  - Color

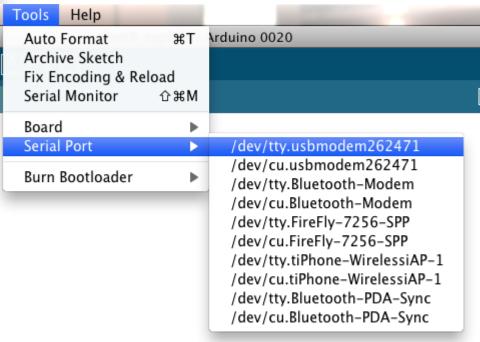


### Processing communicates with Arduino

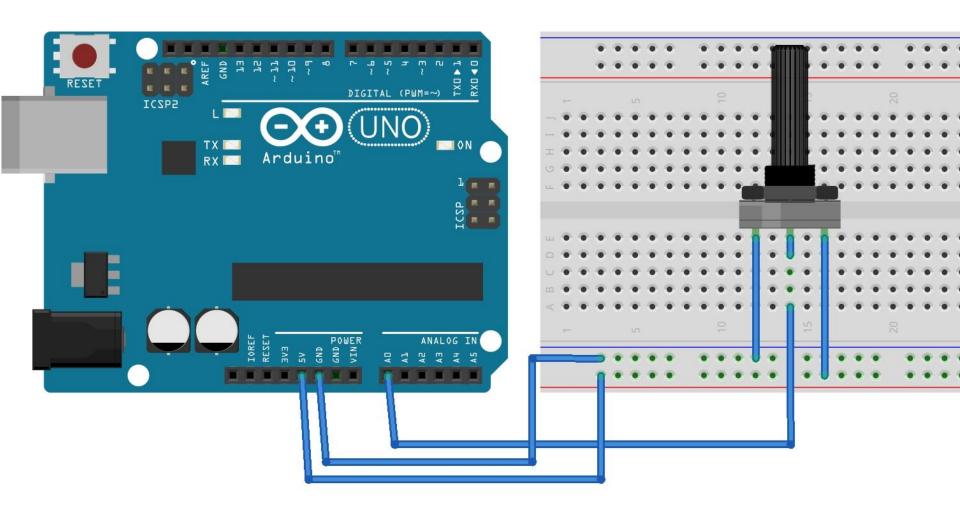
- We use Processing Serial Library
- The Processing serial library allows for easily reading and writing data to and from external machines.
- It allows two devices to send and receive data and gives you the flexibility to communicate with custom microcontroller devices,
- using them as the input or output to Processing programs. (http://processing.org/reference/libraries/serial/index.html)

### Connect the Arduino using USB (Week 3)





### Make the circuit (Here is an example)



# Setup the serial communication in Arduino code

```
void setup()
 Serial.begin(9600); //set up the serial connection
void loop()
 //get value from sensors/buttons
 int value = analogRead(0);
 value = map(value, 0, 1023, 0, 255); //re-map the value to a different range
 //print the value to serial connection, send to the computer
 Serial.write(value);
                                     New Functions
 delay(100);
                                     serial.write(byte)
                                     - write a byte (numerical value in binary format) to serial port.
```

Upload Arduino code to board (remember NOT to open the Serial Monitor of Arduino IDE)

# Configuration to use Serial Library on Mac

```
SimpleRead | Processing 2.0.3
 SimpleRead
 * Read data from the serial port and change the color of a rectangle
 * when a switch connected to a Wiring or Arduino board is pressed and
 * This example works with the Wiring / Arduino program that follows b
import processing.serial.*;
Serial myPort; // Create object from Serial class
          // Data received from the serial port
int val:
void setup()
  size(200, 200);
  // I know that the first port in the serial list on my mac
  // is always my FTDI adaptor, so I open Serial.list()[0].
  // On Windows machines, this generally opens COM1.
  // Open whatever port is the one you're using.
  String portName = Serial.list()[0];
 myPort = new Serial(this, portName, 9600);
Please use Tools → Fix the Serial Library.
Stable Library
ative lib Version = RXTX-2.1-7
Java lib Version = RXTX-2.1-7
 use the serial library, first oper
   .cations -> Utilities -> Termi
```

- To use serial library on Mac machine, you may need to create a folder for storing lock file:
  - 1. Open Application => Utilities => Terminal
  - 2. Enter the following commands (you may need to enter admin's password): sudo mkdir -p /var/lock sudo chmod 777 /var/lock

```
Last login: Wed Oct 2 22:30:57 on ttys000

Oscar-MacBook-Pro:~ kincau$ sudo mkdir -p /var/lock
Password:
Sorry, try again.
Password:
Oscar-MacBook-Pro:~ kincau$ sudo chmod 777 /var/lock
Oscar-MacBook-Pro:~ kincau$
```

 Remove old lock files: Sometime you will see a warming like "RXTX Warning: Removing stale lock file. /var/lock/LK.017.033.006", in this case you need to remove the lock file by using the comment below to remove the lock files.

#### rm -f /var/lock/\*

```
kincau — bash — 80×12

Last login: Wed Oct 2 22:45:08 on ttys000

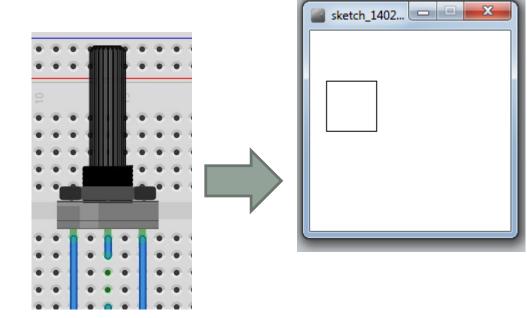
Oscar-MacBook-Pro:~ kincau$ rm -f /var/lock/*

Oscar-MacBook-Pro:~ kincau$
```

## Setup the serial communication in Processing code in the computer side

import processing.serial.\*;

```
Serial myPort;
char val;
void setup()
 size(200, 200);
 // the name of port connecting the arduino
 println(Serial.list());
 myPort = new Serial(this, Serial.list()[0], 9600);
void draw()
 // read data if available
 if (myPort.available() > 0) {
  val = myPort.readChar();
 // Set background to white
 background(255);
 //draw a box using the value from Arduino
 rect(val, 50, 50, 50);
```



Run processing code

So...



## Finally...we are done with Physical Computing!

- Please do come to talk to me if you have any question
  - It is hard to cover all the details in less than 6 weeks

#### Tutorial for this week

- Making of the mini project
  - Spend time of brainstorming and making your mini project
  - I will be here to help if you have any problem/difficulty.