

The Final Project for a Bachelor's Degree: Solar Tracker (Sunflower)

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What is Arduino?

- Easy-to-use open-source hardware and software
- Based on Wiring programming framework
- Cross-platform (and/or cloud-based) IDE
- Embedded on-board programmer
- USB as power supply
- Relatively cheap





Arduino Uno Specifications:

Microcontroller ATmega328P

Operating Voltage

Input Voltage (recommended) 7-12V

Input Voltage (limit) 6-20V

Digital I/O Pins
 14 (of which 6 provide PWM output)

• PWM Digital I/O Pins 6

Analog Input Pins
 6

• DC Current per I/O Pin 20 mA

• DC Current for 3.3V Pin 50 mA

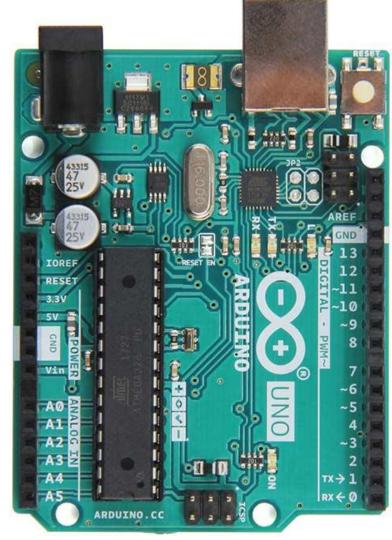
• Flash Memory 32 KB (ATmega328P) 0.5 KB used by bootloader

SRAM
 2 KB (ATmega328P)

• EEPROM 1 KB (ATmega328P)

• Clock Speed 16 MHz

• Weight 25 g





Arduino Software IDE

- Free, updated and opensource
- Verifies the code and uploads directly to the board
- Supports Windows, macOS, Linux and Cloud
- Pre-installed libraries to work with multiple modules

```
Blink | Arduino 1.8.5
File Edit Sketch Tools Help
 1 void setup() {
     // initialize digital pin LED BUILTIN as an output.
     pinMode (LED BUILTIN, OUTPUT);
 4 }
 6 // the loop function runs over and over again forever
     digitalWrite(LED BUILTIN, HIGH); // turn the LED on (HIGH is the voltage level)
     delay(1000);
                                          // wait for a second
     digitalWrite(LED BUILTIN, LOW);
                                         // turn the LED off by making the voltage LOW
11
     delav(1000);
                                          // wait for a second
12 3
                                                                    Arduino/Genuino Uno on COM5
```



Coding with Arduino

 setup(): in order to setup tasks like setting pin modes or initializing libraries, this function is called once.

loop(): looping consecutively, this function allows the program to

change and respond.

A basic example:

```
void setup() {
  pinMode(LED_BUILTIN, OUTPUT);
}

void loop() {
  digitalWrite(LED_BUILTIN, HIGH);
  delay(1000);
  digitalWrite(LED_BUILTIN, LOW);
  delay(1000);
}
```



Arduino vs. AVR



- Code independent of hardware
- Easy to learn
- Suitable for quick projects
- Expensive in comparison with AVR
- Active community with a number of examples and libraries



- Requires a working knowledge of microcontrollers, pins and programmers
- Suitable for large-scale production
- Highly customizable for advanced projects



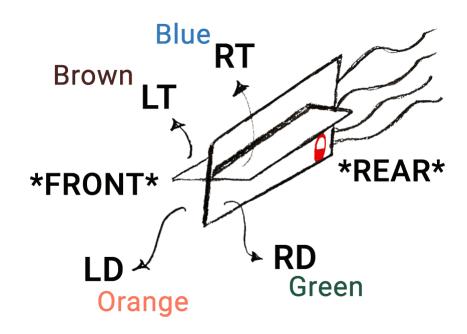
Solar Tracker Project

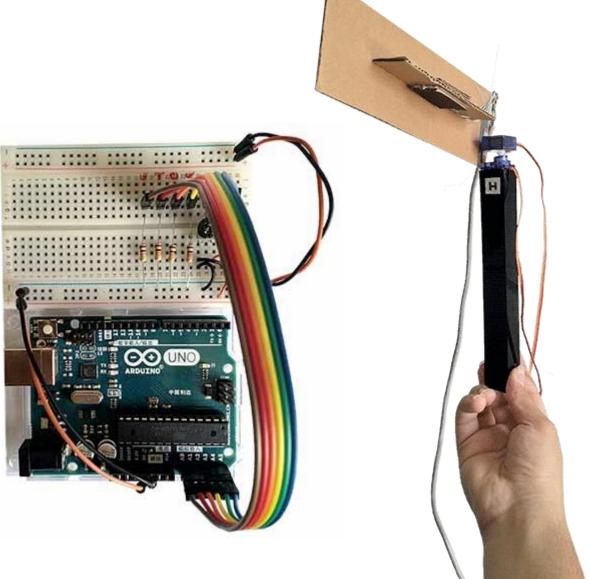
- Arduino Uno (x1)
- 10 kΩ Resistor (x4)
- 10 k Ω Potentiometer (x2)
- Light-dependent resistor (LDR) (x4)
- Servomotor (x2)
- Breadboard (x1)
- Stand (x1)
- Pre-crimped wire
- Cardboard





Solar Tracker Project







How Sunflower functions

- LDRs function as photodetector
- Voltage division happens, which is the result of distributing the input voltage between the resistors and LDRs. Four separate voltages are sent to analog inputs
- Potentiometers act as fine-tune volumes for speed control
- Average of up/down/left/right is calculated
- Distance from "up/down" average and "left/right" average is calculated
- Error range is processed and decision is made
- Command is sent to the servomotors
- Interruption



Resources

- http://www.instructables.com
- http://arduino.ir
- http://arduino.cc
- http://www.the-diy-life.com

