Analog-to-Digital Conversion (ADC) Lab

BME554L - Fall 2025 - Palmeri

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Learning Objectives

- Implement single-sample and buffered ADC data acquisitions.

- Implement fixed-reference and differential ADC inputs.

- Implement synchronous and asynchronous ADC acquisitions.

Git Best Practices

- Use best practices for version control (branching, commit messages, etc.).
- Do all development on a dedicated branch that is merged into `main` once it is functional.
- Commits should be very specific to the changes/additions you are making to your code. This will help you and others understand what you did and why you did it.

- On a given development branch, try to implement one small piece of functionality at a time, commit it, and then move on to the next piece of functionality.

> **!** Important
>
> You do not want one, monolithic git commit right before you submit your project.

Firmware Expectations

- All firmware should be written using the **State Machine Framework**.

- Choose your states for each part as a firmware engineer would, using what you have learned so far this semester.

- Timers, work queues, callbacks, and interrupts should be used as appropriate.

- All good coding practices developed this semester should be followed.

- Use logging to display state information and other relevant information, warnings, and errors. Debugging log messages can remain in the code, but the logging level should be submitted at the `INF` level.

- Include a state diagram in your repository (`state_diagram.png`) using UML (`state_diagram.puml`) or some equivalent.

ADC Single Sampling

Firmware Functional Specifications

- Do all development and testing for Part I on a developnment branch called `adc_single_sample`.

- `LED` and `BUTTON` number references below are based on Devicetree labels (not the annotation on the DK board itself).

- There should be a heartbeat LED (`LED0`) that blinks at 1 Hz with a 25% duty cycle at all times when the firmware is running.

- When `BUTTON0` is pressed, make a measurement using the `AIN0` channel of the ADC.

  - Use the `ADC_REF_INTERNAL` reference voltage.

  - Linearly map 0-3.0 V measured on the `AIN0` input to an `LED1` blink rate of 1-5 Hz (e.g., 0 V -> 1 Hz; 3.0 V -> 5 Hz) with a duty cycle of 10%.

  - `LED1` should remaining blinking for 5 seconds after the button has been pressed.

Testing

For the following testing, you can use a power supply to provide known voltage input to `AIN0`.

- Quantify how linear the relationship is between the voltage applied to `AIN0` and the `LED1` blinking frequency by acquiring data to perform a linear regression of these variables and analyzing the resultant R^2, slope and intercept.

> 💡 Tip
>
> Remember that single data points for any single input voltage pair is not adequate; multiple measurements should be made and error bars presented on all plots.

> 💡 Tip
>
> The `bme554.py` library has a functions called `plot_with_fit()` and `calculate_confidence_intervals()` that can help.

- Quantify the accuracy of the `LED1` 10% duty cycle for each frequency that you measure.

- Quantify the accuracy of `LED1` 5 second ontime duration.

- Present all of these data, your analysis and your interpretation in a new Jupyter notebook named `testing/testing_adc.ipynb`.

Commit-n-Merge Single Sample Acquisition

- Update your state diagram.

- Merge your completed `adc_single_sample` branch into your `main` branch using a Merge Request on Gitlab.

- Create an annotated tag of your `main` branch with all part of this lab merged in called `v2.0.0`.

Buffered Differential ADC Sampling

Firmware Functional Specifications

In a new development branch called `diff_adc`, add the following functionality to your firmware:

- When you press `BUTTON1` , add an additional differential ADC measurement using `AIN1` and `AIN2`.

- Choose the reference voltage, gain, bit depth and acquisition time to adequately sample at least 20 cycles of a 10 Hz sinusoidal signal ($V_{pp} = 2$ V). 0 Implement the `extra_sampling` buffering of the ADC for this differential sinusoidal signal measurement so that all of the data are stored in an array in a single `adc_read()` call (i.e., you are not using a kernel call for every sample).

- Disable the `BUTTON1` while your device is reading `AIN1` and `AIN2` and performing calculations below. 0 Write a **library** called `calc_cycles` that calculates the number of sampled sinusoidal cycles in the buffered ADC samples.

    - This can be rounded to the nearest integer, depending on your algorithm.

    - Have this calculated number of cycles displayed using `LOG_INF()` in the console.

- Write log messages to your serial terminal that dsplay a HEX array of the buffered ADC samples.

- Update your state diagram for this new functionality.

> ⚠️ **Warning**
>
> Be careful for the log message memory consumption! You may need to adjust the stack size of the appoptiate thread if you are getting memory-related firmware faults.

> ℹ️ **Note**
>
> Remember that the data will be saved using two's complement.

Testing

- Input a 10 Hz sinusoidal signal with a 2 V V_{pp} into the differential `AIN1` and `AIN2` inputs.

- Create a plot of your input signal and the buffered ADC samples (using the HEX array output).

- Discuss any differences between the input signal and your sampled signal.

- Calculate the frequency of your sampled signal and compare it to your input frequency.

- Add this analysis to a new section called `Buffered Differential ADC Sampling` in `testing/testing_adc.ipynb`.

Commit-n-Merge Buffered Acquisition

- Merge your completed `diff_adc` branch into your `main` branch using a Merge Request on Gitlab.

- Create an annotated tag of your `main` branch with all part of this lab merged in called `v2.1.0`.

Asynchronous ADC Sampling

Firmware Functional Specifications

In a new development branch called `async_adc`, add the following functionality to your firmware:

- Refactor your blocking, synchronous buffered ADC sequence acquisition to an **asynchronous** acquisition that populates the same array that was populated with the synchronous approach.

- Utilize the 3 Zephyr macros presented in lecture to modulate the behaviour of the asynchronous callback function.

Testing

- Repeat the testing you performed in the syncronous section in a new section called `Asynchronous ADC Sampling` in `testing/testing_adc.ipynb`.

- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of the asyncronous ADC sequence sampling compared to the synchronous sampling.

Commit-n-Merge Asynchronous Sampling

- Merge your completed `async_adc` branch into your `main` branch using a Merge Request on Gitlab.

- Create an annotated tag of your `main` branch with all part of this lab merged in called `v2.2.0`.

Timer-Based Single Sampling to Array

Firmware Functional Specifications

In a new development branch called `timer_adc`, add the following functionality to your firmware:

- Refactor your firmware to use a kernel timer to do single ADC samples that are sequentially stored in the array that was associated with the ADC sequence in the previous two sections.

Testing

- Repeat the testing you performed in the asyncronous section in a new section called `Timer-Based Single Sampling to Array` in `testing/testing_adc.ipynb`.

- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of using a timer-based ADC sampling scheme compared to the previous approaches when trying to accurately sample a sinusoidal signal.

Commit-n-Merge Timer Sampling

- Merge your completed `timer_adc` branch into your `main` branch using a Merge Request on Gitlab.

- Create an annotated tag of your `main` branch with all part of this lab merged in called `v2.3.0`.

How to Ask for Help

1. If you have a general / non-coding question, you should ask your TAs / Dr. Palmeri on Ed to allow any of them to respond in a timely manner.
2. Push you code to your GitLab repository, ideally with your active development on a non-`main` branch.
3. Create an Issue in your repository.

   - Add as much detail as possible as to your problem, and add links to specific lines / section of code when possible.
   - Assign the label "Bug" or "Question", as appropriate.
   - Be sure to specify what branch you are working on.
   - Assign the Issue to one of the TAs.
   - If your TA cannot solve your Issue, they can escalate the Issue to Dr. Palmeri.

4. You will get a response to your Issue, and maybe a new branch of code will be pushed to help you with some example syntax that you can use `git diff` to visualize.