Communication Protocols

CSE 132

Today's Outline

- Review communicating between PC and Arduino
  - Java on PC (either Windows or Mac)
- Protocol Design
- Distance Measurement

Review of Communications

- Streams are sequences of bytes
- We need data at a higher level of abstraction
  - Integers
  - Floats, Doubles
  - Characters
  - Strings
  - More
- Protocols must be designed to enable this
  - Build bigger things out of streams of bytes

Individual Data Elements

- Byte – basic network element
  - writeByte(), readByte() in SerialComm class
  - Serial.read(), Serial.write() in Arduino C
- Character
  - Two bytes in Java
  - One byte in C
- Integer
  - Four bytes in Java
  - Two bytes in C

Sending from Arduino

- Byte – basic network element
  - Serial.write() – send one byte out serial port
  - Only sends least significant bits of argument!
    - Serial.write(0x1234) will be received at PC as 0x34
- Character – one byte
  - Serial.write(char c) works just fine
- Integer or Unsigned Integer – two bytes

```
byte highByte = (byte) (0x00ff & (intValue >> 8));
Serial.write(highByte);
byte lowByte = (byte) (0x00ff & intValue);
Serial.write(lowByte);
```

Sending from Java

- Byte – basic network element
  - s.writeByte() – send byte through SerialComm object s
  - Takes Java byte type as an argument
- Character – two bytes
  - Only send out least significant byte (= ASCII)
  - byte lowByte = (byte) (0x00ff & charValue);
  - s.writeByte(lowByte);

Sending from Java

- Integer – 4 bytes in Java

```
byte b1 = (byte) ((intValue >> 24) & 0xff);
s.writeByte(b1);
byte b2 = (byte) ((intValue >> 16) & 0xff);
s.writeByte(b2);
byte b3 = (byte) ((intValue >> 8) & 0xff);
s.writeByte(b1);
byte b4 = (byte) (intValue & 0xff);
s.writeByte(b2);
```

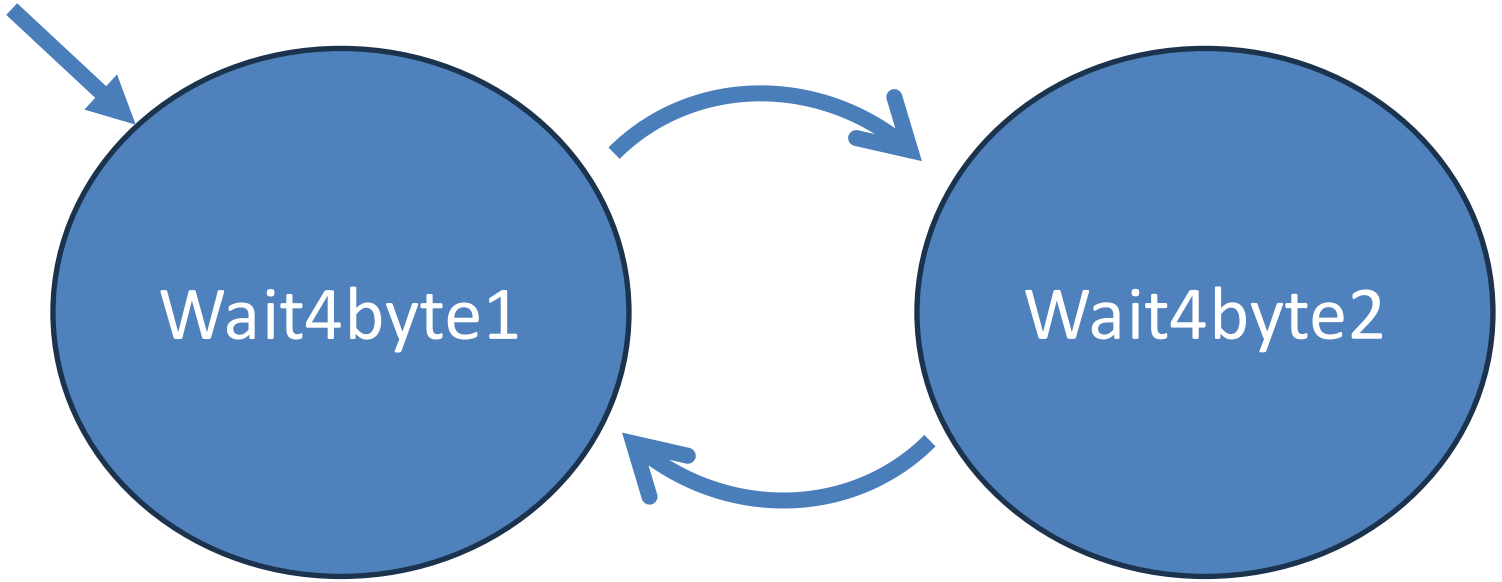
- But what if receiver is only expecting 2 bytes?

Receiving

- First check to see if byte has arrived
  - Arduino
    - Serial.available() returns integer count of available bytes
  - Java
    - s.available() returns Boolean if a byte is available
- Next read one (and only one) byte
  - Serial.read() on Arduino (returns an int)
    - Return value is -1 if nothing received, byte value otherwise
  - s.readByte() on Java (returns a byte)
- Check available() prior to *each* read!

FSM to Receive 2 Byte Integer

- Initial state: Wait4byte1



- State transition: receipt of a byte
  - available() followed by read()
  - Save incoming byte on transition

Receive 2 Byte Integer

- Use FSM to save b1 (first byte) and b2 (second)

- Compose int from 2 bytes:

```
int value = (b1 << 8) + b2;
```

- Watch out for sign extension in Java

```
int value = ((0xff & b1) << 8) + (0xff & b2);
```

  – Because bytes get promoted to int before math operations (silly Java rule)

Communications and Delta Time

```
while (true)
        now = millis()
        if (byte available) then
                read byte and save (i.e., FSM)
        endif
        if (delta time has expired)
                do time-based stuff
        endif
endwhile
```

Quiz Time

- Go to Canvas and answer the single question on Quiz 6A

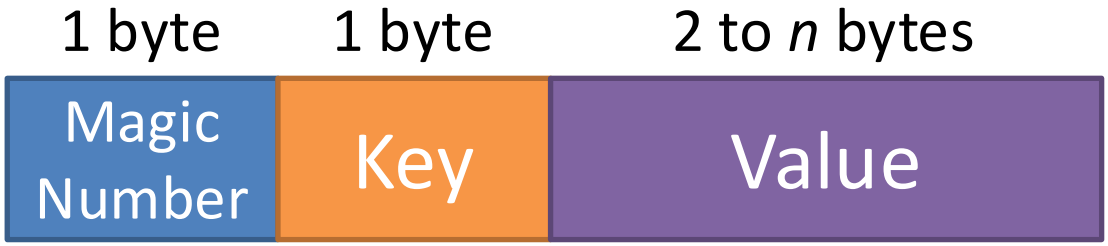
Serial.write() on the Arduino will write how many bytes to the serial stream when passed an int?

Protocol Design

- Communicating more than just a 2-byte int
- What do we want to communicate?
- How do we want to say it?

A Protocol for Us

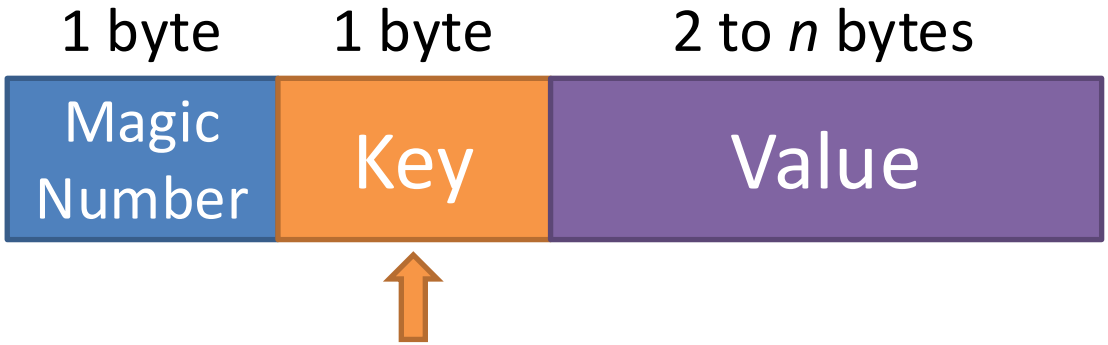
Message format:



- Magic number is anchor of message
- Always first byte
- Unlikely to be in rest of message
- Reader can ignore bytes until it sees magic number and then receive

A Protocol for Us

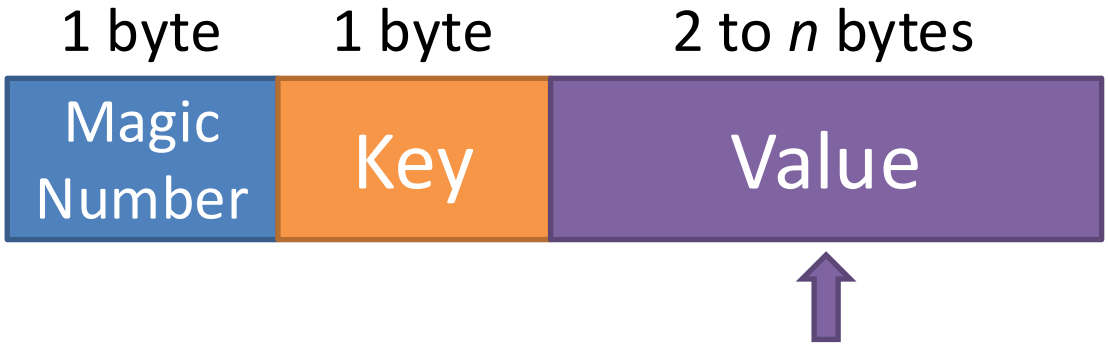
Message format:



- Key tells what type of message
- Indicates both size and interpretation
- E.g., 2-byte temperature value
- E.g., 4-byte timestamp
- E.g., UTF-8 encoded error string
- Table of legal keys must be maintained

A Protocol for Us

Message format:

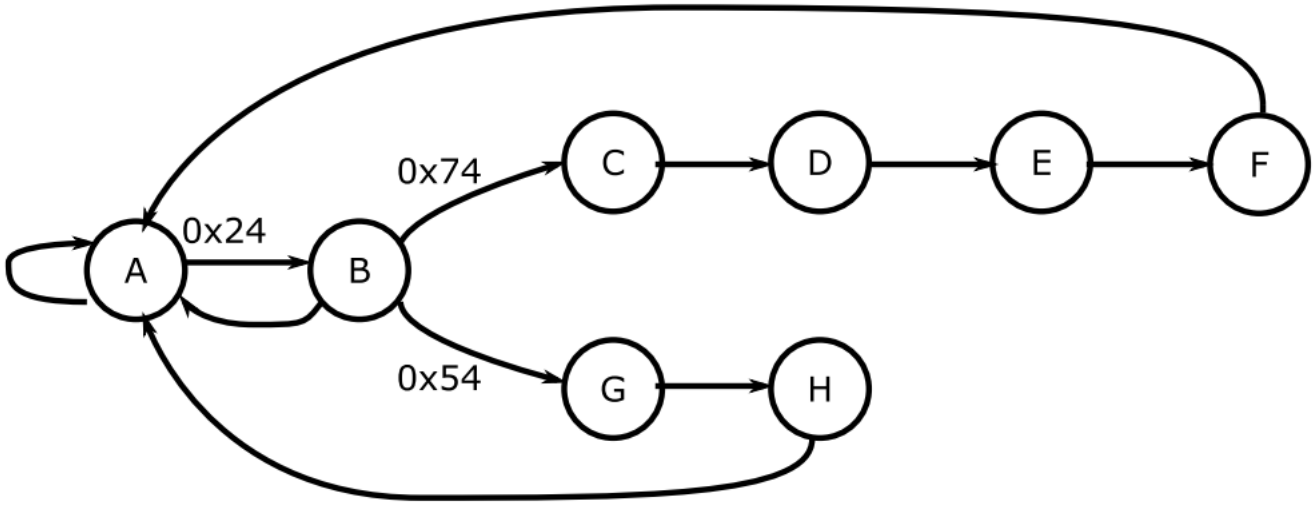


- Actual content of message
- Key tells how to interpret

UTF-8 Strings

- New string format – different than Java or C
- Used for communication between machines
- Composition
  - 2-byte length (msb followed by lsb)
  - “length” number of UTF-8 characters (each 1 byte)
  - Maximum length of 100 bytes (non-standard extension for our class)
- Design FSM to receive UTF-8 strings
- Actually, use FSM to receive msgs in protocol

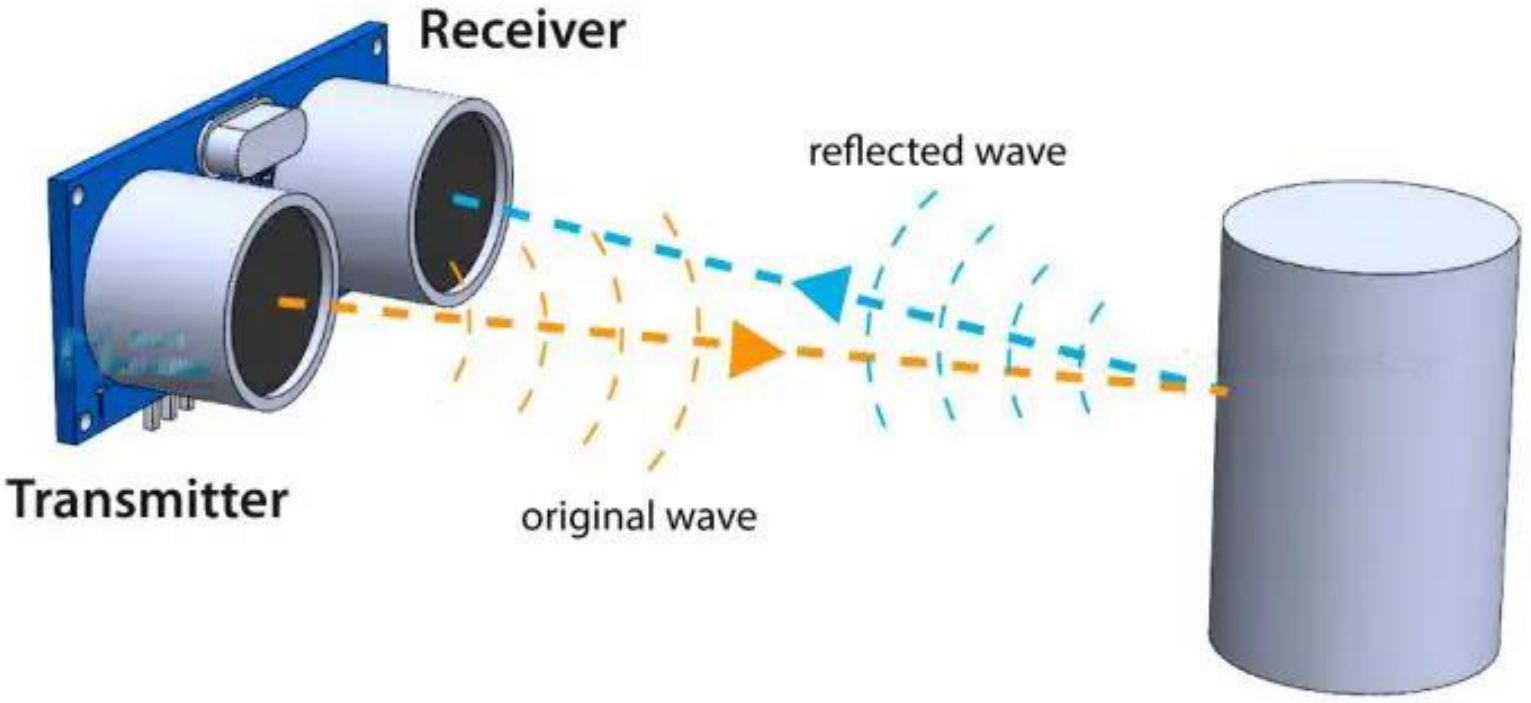
Example FSM of Our Protocol



State	Meaning
A	Waiting for magic number (initial state)
B	Waiting for key
C	Waiting for first byte of 0x74 msg value
D	Waiting for second byte of 0x74 msg value
E	Waiting for third byte of 0x74 msg value
F	Waiting for fourth byte of 0x74 msg value
G	Waiting for first byte of 0x54 msg value
H	Waiting for second byte of 0x54 msg value

Figure 12.1: Receiver finite-state machine.

Ultrasonic Ranging



- Measure time for ultrasonic pulse to travel to target and back
- Translate time to distance using speed of sound
- Divide by 2, because sound traveled distance to target twice