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Affected by object characteristicsAffected by environmental factors; lighting conditions With VL53L0X using time-of-flight technology for distance measurement, it's insensitive to external variables such as object characteristics. The program below will identify the protocol used by your remote. So in order to handle the repeat key pattern, I am storing the hex code in a global variable key_value every time a code is received: key_value = results.value; When you receive a repeat pattern, then the previously stored value is used as the current key press. The pin layout on most breakout boards looks like this: The pinout of most stand-alone diodes is like this: To connect a breakout board mounted IR receiver, hook it up to the Arduino like this: To connect a stand-alone receiver diode, wire it like this: Once you have the receiver connected, we can install the Arduino library and start programming. How IR Remotes and Receivers Work A typical infrared communication system requires an IR transmitter and an IR receiver. Note: For example, I download this library into D:\Software\Work\arduino-1.8.5\libraries, so only need to extract the zip file here. The IR receiver then demodulates the IR light signal and converts it back to binary before passing on the information to a microcontroller: The modulated IR signal is a series of IR light pulses switched on and off at a high frequency known as the carrier frequency. Here's why! Ease of pairing VL53L0X with Arduino through Seeed's very own Grove system Grove system is Seeed very own initiative, mainly aimed at helping users like yourself to easily use different modules, through our plug and play system! This means no more using messy and complicated jumper wires, soldering, breadboard, or debugging electronic circuits! Like how simple and less messy it is compared to other VL53L0X modules? The received code is stored in results.value. There are plenty of interesting Arduino projects that use IR communication too. Have fun playing with this and be sure to let us know in the comments if you have any questions or trouble setting this up! You can download a ZIP file of the library from here. IntroductionVL53L0X moduleVL53L0X Arduino Guide This blog will include VL53L0X datasheet and its API user manual under the Resources Section as well! VL53L0X Sensor: Overview Introducing the world's smallest time of flight ranging and gesture detection sensor: VL53L0X. If you're unsure on how to do so, please check How to upload codeStep 5: Open the Serial Monitor of Arduino IDE by clicking Tool-> Serial Monitor. Note that you will receive a 0xFFFFFFFF code when you press a key continuously. The NEC protocol is also the most common type in Arduino projects, so I'll use it as an example to show you how the receiver converts the modulated IR signal to a binary one. Key Code CH: 0xFFA25D CH+ 0xFF629D CH+ 0xFFE21D 0xFF02FD >|| 0xFFC23D 0xFFE01F + 0xFFA857 EQ 0xFF906F 100+ 0xFF9867 200+ 0xFFB04F 0 0xFF6897 1 0xFF30CF 2 0xFF18E7 3 0xFF7A85 4 0xFF10EF 5 0xFF38C7 6 0xFF5AA5 7 0xFF42BD 8 0xFF4AB5 9 0xFF52AD Find the Protocol Used by Your Remote Knowing which protocol your remote uses can be useful if you want to work on some more advanced projects. All in all, please make sure Grove-Ranging-sensor-VL53L0X-master folder is in your Arduino library folder, like the picture below. It can be anything from 200 ohms to about 2K ohms. This is the information that is modulated and sent over IR to the receiver. Before the switch block starts there is a conditional block: if (results.value == 0xFFFFFFFF) results.value = key_value; If we receive 0xFFFFFFFF from the remote, it means a repetition of the previous key. If you have a look at the front of a TV remote, you'll see the IR transmitter LED: The same type of LED is used in IR transmitter breakout boards for the Arduino. In order to decipher which key is pressed, the receiving microcontroller needs to know which code corresponds to each key on the remote. This electrical signal is sent to the transmitting LED. You can find other VL53L0X breakout boards, sensors, modules, etc. available, but what makes the Grove - Time of Flight Distance Sensor the one to go with? Then I'll show you how to set up an IR receiver and remote on an Arduino. It can't transmit through walls or other materials like WiFi or Bluetooth. Step 4: Upload the demo. Or you might just be curious. VL53L0X (Time-of-Flight technology) Other proximity sensors (IR technology) How distance is measured Directly measure distance to an object based on the time for emitted photons to be reflected Measure distance to an object based on amount of light bounced off Variables affected Not affected by object characteristics: Size, dimensions, materials used, etc. Different remotes send different codes for the keypresses, so you'll need to determine the code generated for each key on your particular remote. BONUS: I made a quick start guide for this tutorial that you can download and go back to later if you can't set this up right now. This is the Grove - Time of Flight Distance Sensor, based on the VL53L0X, and it does just that! Its specifications: Features Details Operating Voltage 3.3V / 5V Operating Temperature -20°C - 70°C Recommended measuring distance 30mm - 1100mm(3cm - 100cm) Resolution 1mm Infrared emitter 940 nm Bus rate Up to 400kHz (FAST mode) serial bus IIC Address 0x29 Apart from its specifications, the Grove - Flight of Time Distance contains exactly the same features, applicational possibilities, and more! Why pick this sensor as compared to other VL53L0X sensors? Using the IR Remote to Control Things Now I'll show you a simple demonstration of how you can use the IR remote to control the Arduino's output pins. Part of ST new generation of laser ranging modules, it provides accurate distance measurement, unlike other proximity sensors! Image credits: STMicroelectronics Despite its small form factor, it still contains a plethora of features, namely the following: Fully integrated miniature module940 nm laser VCSELVSCSEL driverRanging sensor with an advanced embedded microcontroller4.4 x 2.4 x 1.0mm (Yes, that small!) Fast, accurate distance rangingMeasures up to 2m (absolute range)Range reported is independent of the target reflectance Advanced embedded optical cross-talk compensation to simplify cover glass selectionSafe to use, with compliance with IECClass 1 laser device that's compliant with latest standard IEC 60825-1:2014 - 3rd editionEasy integration Single reflowable componentNo additional optics Only require a single power supply Device control and data transfer is done through the I2C interfaceXshutdown (reset) and interrupt GPIOProgrammable I2C address In awe of all these features? The most prominent examples in day to day life are TV/video remote controls, motion sensors, and infrared thermometers. The transmitter looks just like a standard LED, except it produces light in the IR spectrum instead of the visible spectrum. Next we start the IR receiver by calling the IRrecv member function enableIRIn() (line 10). Or press the CTRL+Shift+M key at the same time. IR receiver diodes typically look like this: IR light is emitted by the sun, light bulbs, and anything else that produces heat. Logical '1' starts with a 562.5 µs long HIGH pulse of 38 kHz IR followed by a 1.687.5 µs long LOW pulse. Using the program above, I derived a table of keys and their corresponding codes from the remote that came with my HX1838 IR receiver and remote set. That means there is a lot of IR light noise all around us. To prevent this noise from interfering with the IR signal, a signal modulation technique is used. The example circuit has the IR receiver connected to the Arduino, with a red LED connected to pin 10 and a green LED connected to pin 11: The code below will write digital pin 10 HIGH for 2 seconds when the "5" button is pressed, and write digital pin 11 HIGH for 2 seconds when the "2" button is pressed: #include const int RECV_PIN = 7; IRrecv irrecv(RECV_PIN); decode_results results; const int redPin = 10; const int greenPin = 11; void setup() { irrecv.enableIRIn(); irrecv.blink13(true); pinMode(redPin, OUTPUT); pinMode(greenPin, OUTPUT); } void loop() { if (irrecv.decode(&results)) { switch(results.value) { case 0xFF38C7: //Keypad button "5" digitalWrite(redPin, HIGH); delay(2000); digitalWrite(redPin, LOW); } switch(results.value) { case 0xFF18E7: //Keypad button "2" digitalWrite(greenPin, HIGH); delay(2000); digitalWrite(greenPin, LOW); } irrecv.resume(); } } So far we have covered the properties of infrared radiation and how communication happens between the transmitter and receiver. The next step is to create an object called results, from the decode_results class, which will be used by the irrecv object to share the decoded information with our application (line 5). The potentiometer sets the character contrast. Here's a guide to help you get started right away! Note: This module is compatible with the Raspberry Pi as well, but users have to write their own software library as it's not possible to provide software library/demo code for all platforms What you'll need: Seeeduino V4.2Grove Base ShieldGrove - Time of Flight Distance Sensor *Seeeduino is Seeed's very own Arduino, built with benefits over the regular Arduino boards. Hardware configurations: Step 1: Connect Grove - Time of Flight Sensor to port IIC of Grove-Base ShieldStep 2: Plug Grove - Base Shield into Seeeduino to PC via a USB cable It should now look something like this after pairing things up: Software configurations Step 1: Download the VL53L0X Library from GithubStep 2: Extract the Grove-Ranging-sensor-VL53L0X-master.zip file into the Arduino library folder. At the end of the void loop() section, we call irrecv.resume() to reset the receiver and prepare it to receive the next code. If everything goes well, you should now achieve the result as follow: time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:15 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:117 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:120 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:125 mm time of measurement: 204 Measured distance:130 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:138 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:143 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:144 mm time of measurement: 205 Measured distance:152 mm Resources Summary Overall, the VL53L0X not only offers performance advantages over other proximity sensors, but it also delivers it in such a small form factor. Then I used a switch to handle each IR code and print the corresponding key value. In the examples below, I'll show you how to find the codes sent by your remote, how to find the IR protocol used by your remote, how to print key presses to the serial monitor or an LCD, and finally, how to control the Arduino's output pins with a remote. I'll show you how to set that up in a minute, but first we need to connect the receiver to the Arduino... How to Connect an IR Receiver to the Arduino There are several different types of IR receivers, some are stand-alone, and some are mounted on a breakout board. I normally use a 10K ohm potentiometer for this one. If you can find the datasheet, the IR key codes should be listed. The transmitting LED converts the modulated electrical signal into a modulated IR light signal. Yes, Microsoft Kinect for XBOX 360! The Kinect controller technology is then miniaturized, improved, and simplified to create distance ranging sensors seen in your VL53L0X! VL53L0X Module: Grove - Flight of Time Distance Sensor Grove - Time of Flight Distance Sensor (VL53L0X) To get started with the VL53L0X sensor, you'll need a module that integrates it for easier microcontroller interfacing. You can see it at the front of this Keyes IR transmitter: The IR receiver is a photodiode and pre-amplifier that converts the IR light into an electrical signal. In this example, we will light up an LED when a particular button is pressed. Infrared radiation is a form of light similar to the light we see all around us. We learned how to display key presses on serial monitor and on an LCD screen. This makes it a far more precise option as compared to other proximity sensors like IR technology as seen! Now for a Fun Fact! Image credits: Digijkey Do you know before the VL53L0X, early adopters of the time of flight sensor technology is what you see above? The only difference between IR light and visible light is the frequency and wavelength. Infrared radiation lies outside the range of visible light, so humans can't see it. Because IR is a type of light, IR communication requires a direct line of sight from the receiver to the transmitter. The carrier frequency used by most transmitters is 38 kHz, because it is rare in nature and thus can be distinguished from ambient noise. How the Code Works For any IR communication using the IRremote library, first we need to create an object called irrecv and specify the pin number where the IR receiver is connected (line 3). It should even work on most of the remote controls around your house. Other protocols differ only in the duration of the individual HIGH and LOW pulses. In the void setup() block, first we configure the serial monitor baud rate. If you liked what you have seen in today's blog, I'll highly recommend the Grove - Flight of Time Distance Sensor to help you easily get started with your proximity sensing needs! Start building projects with the VL53L0X today! Infrared (IR) communication is a widely used and easy to implement wireless technology that has many useful applications. You can easily modify the code to do things like control servo motors, or activate relays with any button press from the remote. It covers all of the steps, diagrams, and code you need to get started. The receiver diode detects all frequencies of IR light, but it has a band-pass filter and only lets through IR at 38 kHz. It then amplifies the modulated signal with a pre-amplifier and converts it to a binary signal before sending it to a microcontroller. Find the Codes for Your Remote To find the key codes for your remote control, upload this code to your Arduino and open the serial monitor: #include const int RECV_PIN = 7; IRrecv irrecv(RECV_PIN); decode_results results; void setup() { Serial.begin(9600); irrecv.enableIRIn(); irrecv.blink13(true); } void loop() { if (irrecv.decode(&results)) { Serial.println(results.value, HEX); irrecv.resume(); } } Now press each key on your remote and record the hexadecimal code printed for each key press. We saw how to identify the IR key codes for a given remote control. To install the library from the ZIP file, open up the Arduino IDE, then go to Sketch-> Include Library-> Add ZIP Library, then select the IRremote ZIP file that you downloaded from the link above. Once everything is connected, upload this code to the Arduino: #include #include const int RECV_PIN = 7; LiquidCrystal lcd(12, 11, 5, 4, 3, 2); IRrecv irrecv(RECV_PIN); decode_results results; unsigned long key_value = 0; void setup() { Serial.begin(9600); irrecv.enableIRIn(); irrecv.blink13(true); lcd.begin(16, 2); } void loop() { if (irrecv.decode(&results)) { if (results.value == 0xFFFFFFFF) results.value = key_value; lcd.setCursor(0, 0); lcd.clear(); switch(results.value) { case 0xFFA25D: lcd.print("CH-"); break; case 0xFF629D: lcd.print("CH"); break; case 0xFFE21D: lcd.print("CH+"); break; case 0xFFC23D: lcd.print("|"); break; case 0xFFE01F: lcd.print(">"); break; case 0xFF906F: lcd.print("-"); break; case 0xFFA857: lcd.print("+"); break; case 0xFF906F: lcd.print("EQ"); break; case 0xFF6897: lcd.print("0"); break; case 0xFF9867: lcd.print("100+"); break; case 0xFFB04F: lcd.print("200+"); break; case 0xFF30CF: lcd.print("1"); break; case 0xFF18E7: lcd.print("2"); break; case 0xFF7A85: lcd.print("3"); break; case 0xFF10EF: lcd.print("4"); break; case 0xFF38C7: lcd.print("5"); break; case 0xFF5AA5: lcd.print("6"); break; case 0xFF42BD: lcd.print("7"); break; case 0xFF4AB5: lcd.print("8"); break; case 0xFF52AD: lcd.print("9"); break; } key_value = results.value; irrecv.resume(); } } Again, if the hex codes don't match the codes output by your remote, just replace them for each character where it says case 0xXXXXXXXX. Install the IRremote Library We'll be using the IRremote library for all of the code examples below. IR Codes Each time you press a button on the remote control, a unique hexadecimal code is generated. All you need is a Grove Base Shield alongside your Arduino and you're good to go! Switch to using grove today! VL53L0X Arduino Guide We've talked about the VL53L0X, and now it's time for the moment you're waiting for: How to pair VL53L0X with an Arduino? Then double click the xxx.ino file to open the Arduino IDE. In this tutorial I'll first explain what infrared is and how it works. In IR signal modulation, an encoder on the IR remote converts a binary signal into a modulated electrical signal. Finally I showed you how to control the Arduino's output with the remote. Lets get started with the hardware connections. This way the IR receiver will know that the 38 kHz signal was sent from the transmitter and not picked up from the surrounding environment. With a simple IR transmitter and receiver, you can make remote controlled robots, distance sensors, heart rate monitors, DSLR camera remote controls, TV remote controls, and lots more. This object will take care of the protocol and processing of the information from the receiver. If not though, there is a simple Arduino sketch that will read most of the popular remote controls and print the hexadecimal codes to the serial monitor when you press a key. Now let's get into the details... What is Infrared? There's more! The VL53L0X is widely applicable, catering to all your potential needs! The applications follow: User detection for personal computers/laptops/tablets and IoT (energy saving)Obstacle detection with Robots (Robotics)White goods (hand detection in automatic faucets, soap dispensers, etc.)ID gesture recognitionLaser-assisted autofocus. Logical '0' is transmitted with a 562.5 µs long HIGH pulse followed by a 562.5 µs long LOW pulse: This is how the NEC protocol encodes and decodes the binary data into a modulated signal. The irrecv.blink13(true) function on line 11 will blink the Arduino's on board LED every time the receiver gets a signal from the remote control, which is useful for debugging. There are many IR transmission protocols. However, all IR receivers will have three pins: signal, ground, and Vcc. In the void loop() block, the function irrecv.decode will return true if a code is received and the program will execute the code in the if statement. Print Keys to an LCD Instead of printing the key values to the serial monitor, you can also display the information on an LCD. Check the datasheet for your particular IR receiver since the pins might be arranged differently than the HX1838 IR receiver and remote set I am using here. IR Transmission Protocols The pattern in which the modulated IR signal is converted to binary is defined by a transmission protocol. Enhances and speeds up camera autofocus system performance, especially in difficult scenes (low light levels, low contrast) or fast-moving video mode Why is VL53L0X better than other proximity sensors? I'll also show you how to use virtually any IR remote (like the one for your TV) to control things connected to the Arduino. #include const int RECV_PIN = 7; IRrecv irrecv(RECV_PIN); decode_results results; void setup() { Serial.begin(9600); irrecv.enableIRIn(); irrecv.blink13(true); } void loop() { if (irrecv.decode(&results)) { Serial.println(results.value, HEX); switch (results.decode_type) { case NEC: Serial.println("NEC"); break; case SONY: Serial.println("SONY"); break; case RC5: Serial.println("RC5"); break; case RC6: Serial.println("RC6"); break; case DISH: Serial.println("DISH"); break; case SHARP: Serial.println("SHARP"); break; case JVC: Serial.println("JVC"); break; case SANYO: Serial.println("SANYO"); break; case MITSUBISHI: Serial.println("MITSUBISHI"); break; case SAMSUNG: Serial.println("SAMSUNG"); break; case LG: Serial.println("LG"); break; case WHYNTER: Serial.println("WHYNTER"); break; case AIWA_RC_T501: Serial.println("AIWA_RC_T501"); break; case PANASONIC: Serial.println("PANASONIC"); break; case DENON: Serial.println("DENON"); break; default: case UNKNOWN: Serial.println("UNKNOWN"); break; } irrecv.resume(); } } Print Keys to the Serial Monitor I extended the code above to print the key value instead of the hexadecimal code: #include const int RECV_PIN = 7; IRrecv irrecv(RECV_PIN); decode_results results; unsigned long key_value = 0; void setup() { Serial.begin(9600); irrecv.enableIRIn(); irrecv.blink13(true); } void loop() { if (irrecv.decode(&results)) { if (results.value == 0xFFFFFFFF) results.value = key_value; switch(results.value) { case 0xFFA25D: Serial.println("CH-"); break; case 0xFF629D: Serial.println("CH"); break; case 0xFFE21D: Serial.println("CH+"); break; case 0xFFC23D: Serial.println("|"); break; case 0xFFE01F: Serial.println(">"); break; case 0xFF906F: Serial.println("100+"); break; case 0xFFA857: Serial.println("200+"); break; case 0xFF906F: Serial.println("1"); break; case 0xFF6897: Serial.println("2"); break; case 0xFF9867: Serial.println("3"); break; case 0xFF30CF: Serial.println("4"); break; case 0xFF18E7: Serial.println("5"); break; case 0xFF7A85: Serial.println("6"); break; case 0xFF42BD: Serial.println("7"); break; case 0xFF4AB5: Serial.println("8"); break; case 0xFF52AD: Serial.println("9"); break; } key_value = results.value; irrecv.resume(); } } If your remote sends different codes than the ones in the table above, just replace the hex code in each line where it says: case 0xFFA25D: Serial.println("CH-"); In these lines, when the hex code 0xFFA25D is received, the Arduino prints "CH-". Sony, Matsushita, NEC, and RC5 are some of the more common protocols. Step 3: Open the Grove-Ranging-sensor-VL53L0X-master/examples folder you've just extracted, you will see five subfolders: In our tutorial, we are using the high accuracy ranging.ino However, you can choose a different example according to your own needs, you can choose different examples. Check out our article on setting up and programming an LCD on the Arduino for more information on programming the LCD, but the basic setup looks like this: The resistor sets the LCD's backlight brightness. VL53L0X, a Time-of-Flight distance sensor, measuring distance with Arduino like no other! The VL53L0X sensor houses ST Flightsense™ patented technology alongside leading-edge SPAD array in the smallest package of laser-ranging modules in the market! In today's blog, I'll be covering: What is the VL53L0X sensor?

