Digital to Analog and Back

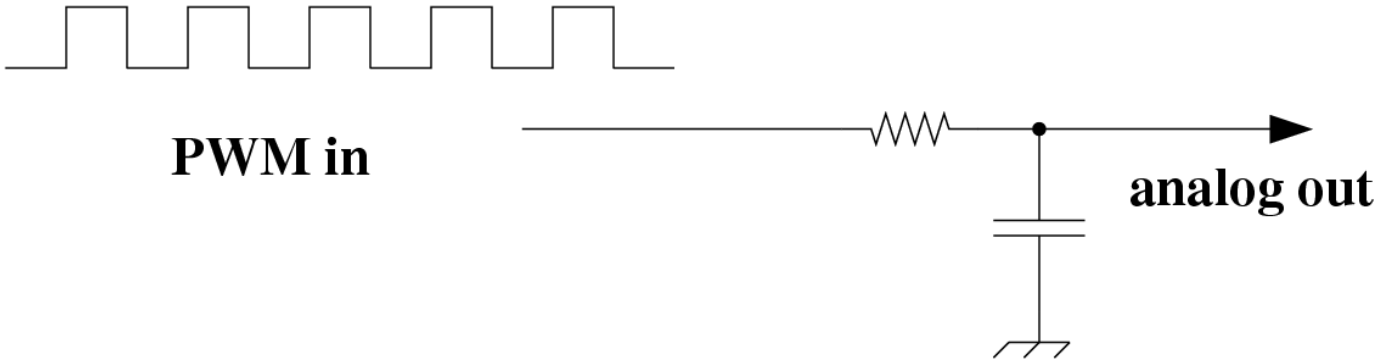
- Analog: encoding information using voltage
  - Many sensors use voltage as an output
  - Motors torque is determined by current passing through the motor
- Digital: encoding information with bits

How to move between these?

Digital to Analog Conversion

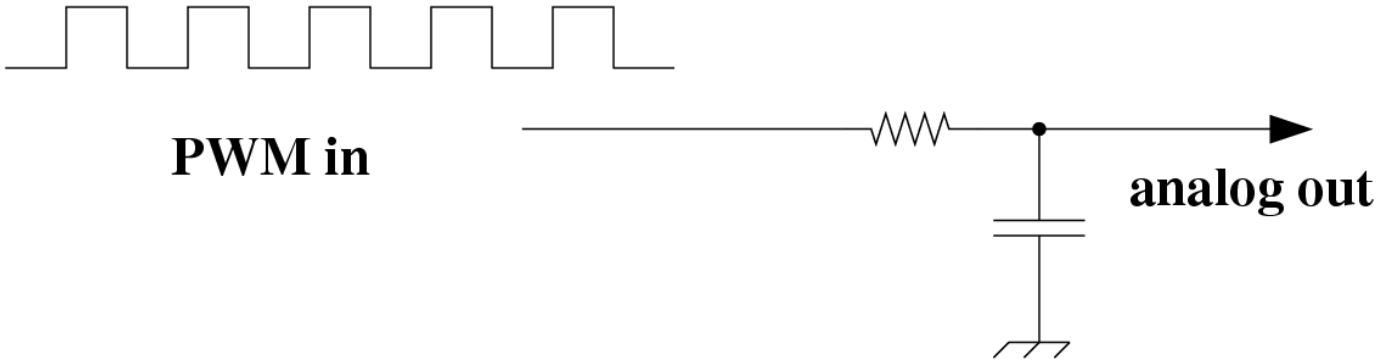
How could we do this with a single digital pin of our microprocessor?

Digital to Analog Conversion: Pulse Width Modulation



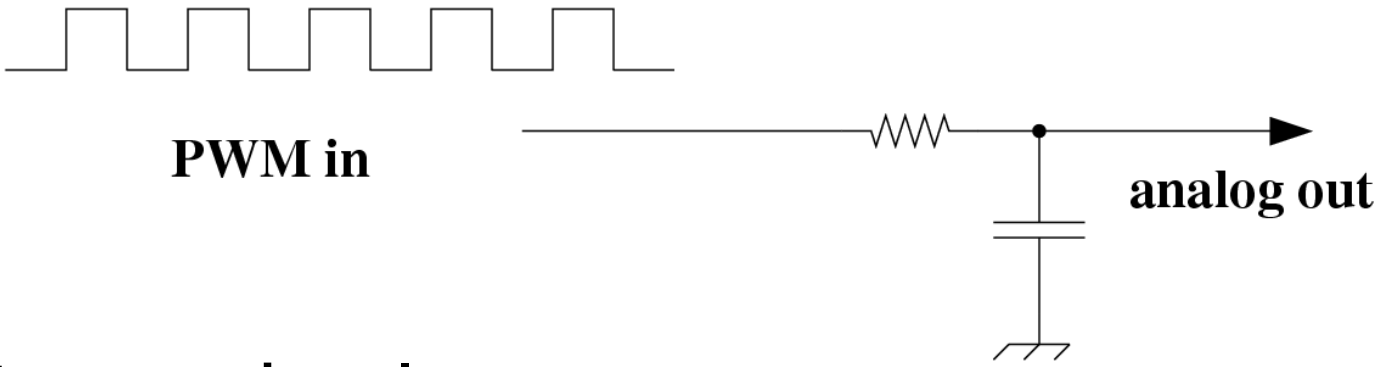
What does this circuit do?

Digital to Analog Conversion: Pulse Width Modulation



- Processor digital pin: generate PWM signal
- RC circuit “smooths” this PWM signal out
- Pulse width determines smoothed voltage

D2A: Pulse Width Modulation



- Easy to implement
- But:
  - Assumes “analog out” requires zero current
  - Smoothed signal may not be smoothed enough
  - Filter induces a delay

Digital to Analog Conversion: Resistive Network

Sometimes need faster response

- Solution: use multiple digital pins

- What would this circuit look like?

Digital to Analog Conversion

On the group quiz: 3-bit D2A converter

- Process specifies a digital output
- Within a short period of time (~ 1 ns), the voltage settles to the value that we computed

Digital to Analog Conversion

In class exercise…

Analog to Digital Conversion

For a given voltage, what is the digital representation of the voltage?

- How would we implement this?

Analog to Digital Conversion

Board exercise…

Analog to Digital Conversion

For a given voltage, what is the digital representation of the voltage?

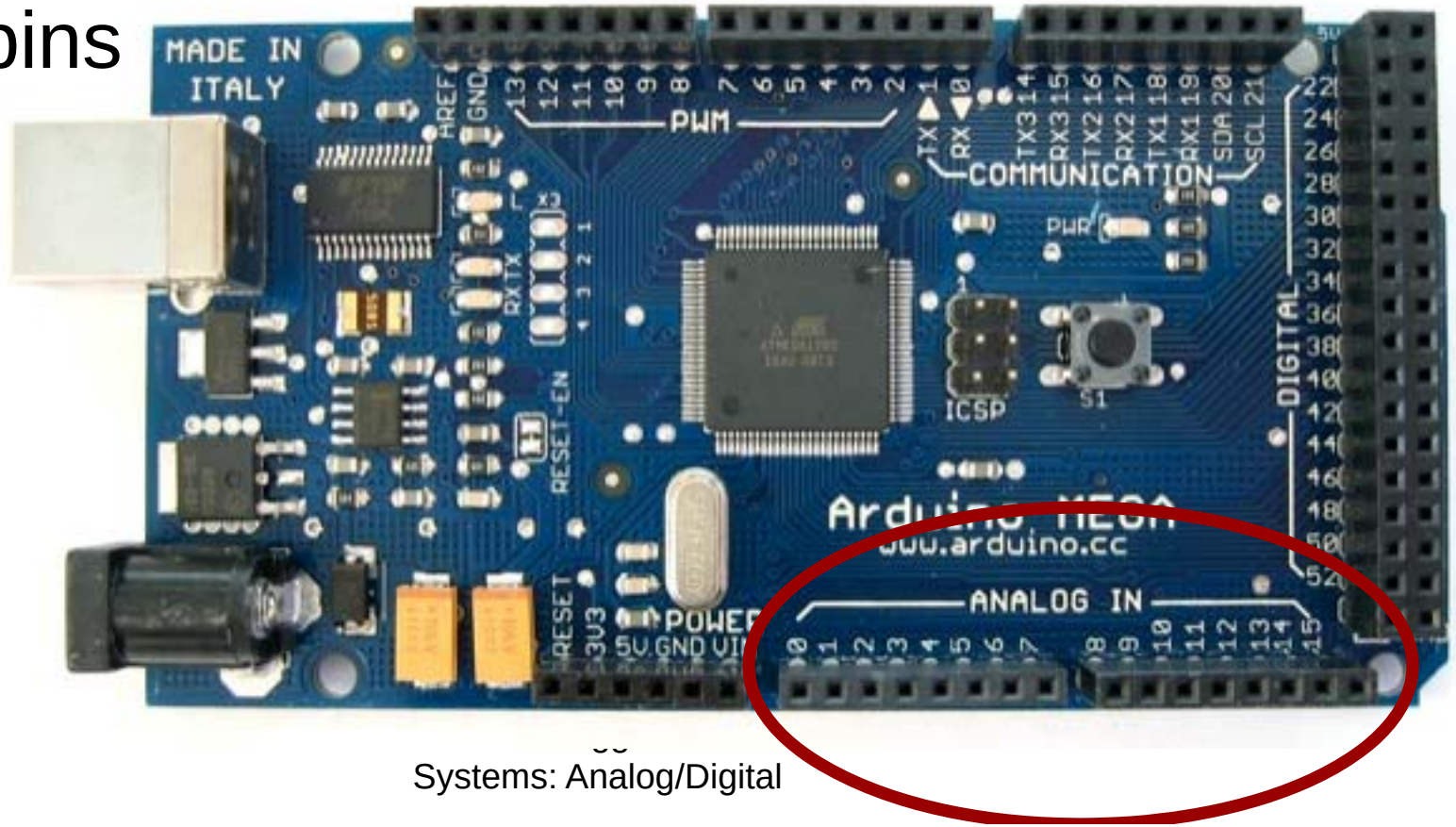
Analog to Digital Conversion

Common approach: successive approximation

1. Set V_low = 0; V_high 5
2. Use a D2A converter to produce a voltage guess V =(V_low + V_high)/2
3. Compare this with the input voltage Vin
4. If guess is too low, then set V_low = V
5. If guess is too high, then set V_high = V
6. Continue with #2 (until V_low == V_high)

A2D in the Mega2560

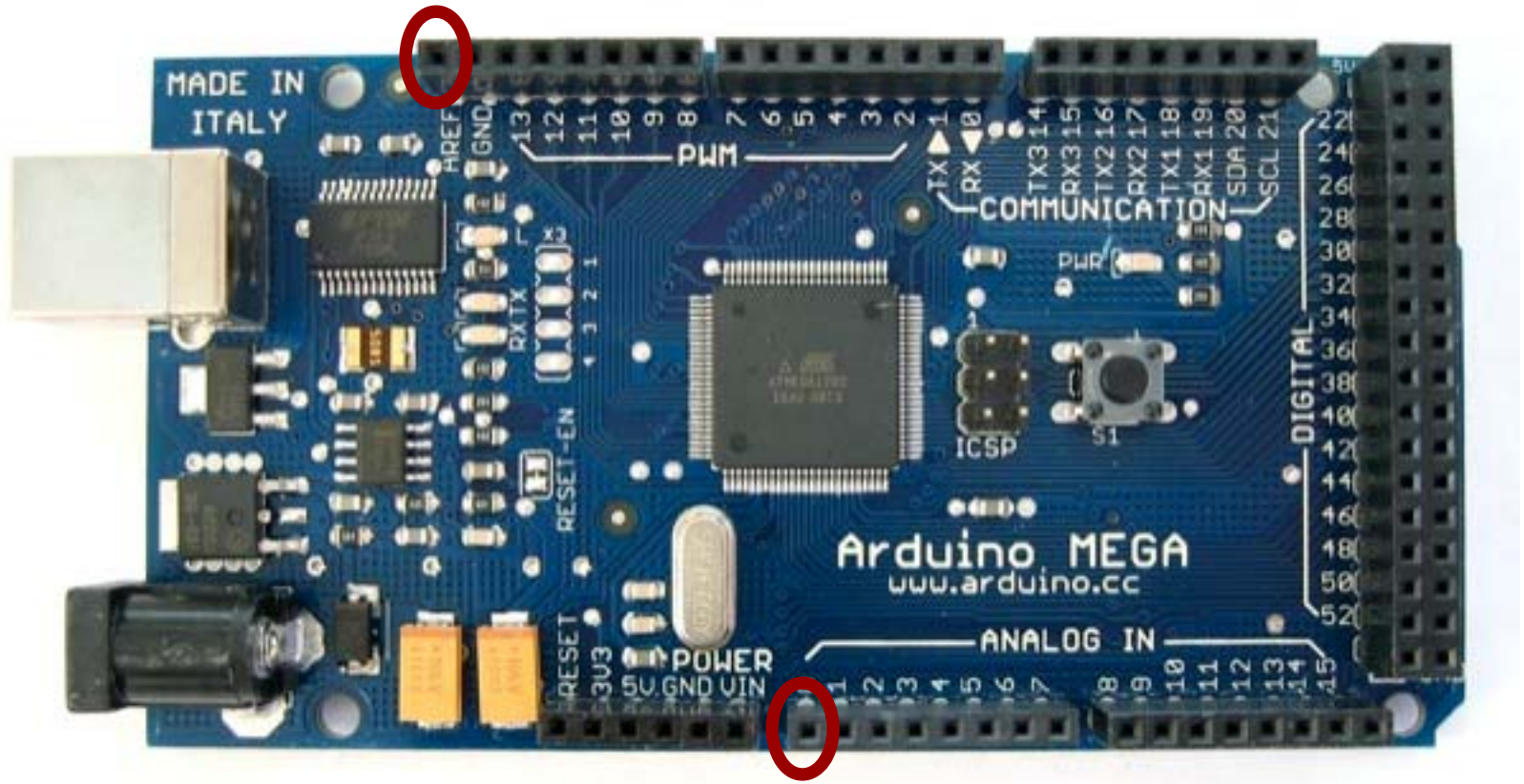
- The mega2560 contains hardware that implements successive approximation
- 16 mega2560 pins can be configured as analog input pins



Mega2560: The Connections

AREF: (for our purposes) connect to +5V

- ADC will measure voltages between 0 and AREF



Connect input analog signal to the appropriate ADC pin

A Code Example: Configuration

```
// Initialize adc
adc_set_reference(ADC_REF_AREF);       // Use the AREF reference pin
adc_set_adlar(0);                      // For our purposes, always use 0
adc_set_prescalar(ADC_PRESCALAR_128);  // Necessary with 16MHz clock
                                       //  and 10 bit resolution

// Turn on ADC Converter
adc_set_enable(ADC_ENABLE);
```

A Code Example: Use

```
uint16_t val;

// Can do the following an arbitrary number of times

adc_set_channel(ADC_CHANNEL_0);        // ADC0
// Actually start a conversion
adc_start_conversion();

<Could go off and do something else for a while>

val = adc_read();  // Read the analog value
```

Analog Conversion Notes

- All functions are provided in oulib
- See OUlib documentation for the definition of constants

- Can get to the example code from the Atmel HowTo

  www.cs.ou.edu/~fagg/classes/general/atmel

Analog Conversion Notes

- Setting the maximum voltage:

```
adc_set_reference(ADC_REF_AREF);       // Use the AREF reference pin
```

- Can also used a fixed voltage (+2.56V):

```
adc_set_reference(ADC_REF_2p56V);
```

Analog Conversion Notes

- Determining how fast the conversion requires:

```
adc_set_prescalar(ADC_PRESCALAR_128);  // Necessary with 16MHz clock
                                       //  and 10 bit resolution
```

- Conversion requires:

  128 * 15 / 16000000 seconds

  – Can convert faster, but may not get the full 10-bit resolution

Analog Conversion Notes

- Reading out the value:

```
val = adc_read();       // Read the analog value
```

- Blocks until conversion is complete
- Will return a value between 0 and 0x3FF (1023)

Analog Conversion Notes

- Can configure the mega2560 to interrupt on conversion completion

Other Devices

- External devices are available that will perform D2A and A2D
- Often interface to the microprocessor via I^2C or SPI
  - (these are high-speed serial protocols)
- Many options
  - Resolution
  - Conversion speed
  - Number of channels