



ΕΛΛΗΝΙΚΗ ΔΗΜΟΚΡΑΤΙΑ
ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΚΡΗΤΗΣ

Δίκτυα Καθοριζόμενα από Λογισμικό

Exercise Session 4:
Introduction to GNU Radio

Τμήμα Επιστήμης Υπολογιστών

Introduction into GNU Radio

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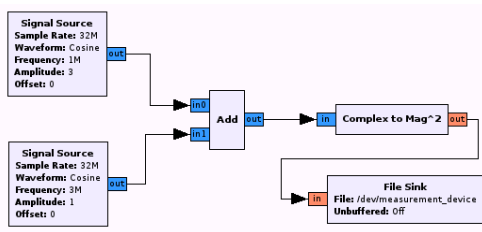
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- GNU Radio is the most widely used SDR software
- Open source, active development community
- The platform provides basic signal and other processing units
- Easy to expand and develop custom modules-plugins
- Critical operations → C/C++
- Components bindings → Python
- Python wrappers for C/C++ functions/methods using SWIG





- **Block:** processing unit performing a specific task
 - arbitrary number of I/O ports
 - each port: specific data type (float, integer, ...)
 - One thread per block
- **Flowgraph:** program scenario with the connected blocks



The GNU Radio Companion

- GNU Radio ships together with a set of commonly used Signal Processing blocks
- It provides a GUI IDE called GNU Radio Companion (GRC)
- GRC offers:
 - Drag and drop functionality for inserting blocks
 - Point and click block connections
 - On the fly, data type and size validation for the connected blocks
 - Block parameters can easily configured via a pop-up window
- GRC greatly reduces time and code lines required to build up an SDR application



Block Types

- Blocks are classified depending their input - output ratio
- Synchronous blocks (1:1)
 - Equal number of input and output items are consumed and produced respectively
- Decimation Blocks (N:1)
 - Fixed ratio of input-output items
 - Input items are a fixed multiple of output items
- Interpolation Blocks (1:N) is the exact opposite of decimation blocks
- Block
 - Most generic block type
 - Arbitrary number of input and output items
 - Developers should inherit this block type only if the above are not suitable



IO Signatures

- Each block may have an arbitrary number of input and output ports
- Each port has a size and data type
- Only blocks with ports of equal size and data type can be connected
- Blocks with only output ports are called *sources*
- *Sinks* are blocks with input ports only



- Each block may have an arbitrary number of input and output ports
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Note!

Internally, input and output ports are implemented as buffers, where items are read and stored respectively



- Input and output ports are declared at the block constructor using the *gr::io_signature* API

Prototypes

```
gr::io_signature::make(min, max, size)
gr::io_signature::make2(min, max, size1, size2)
gr::io_signature::make3(min, max, size1, size2, size3)
```

- *min* specifies the minimum number of ports
- *max* specifies the maximum number of ports
- *size* is the size of the port



Creating a GNU Radio block

- Lets create our first GNU Radio block

```
hello_world_block::hello_world_block(const size_t param1,
                                     const double param2,
                                     int *other_params)

/* Block type and name */
:sync_block("hello_world",
/* Input: exactly one input of complex numbers */
           io_signature::make(1,1,sizeof(gr_complex)),
/* Outputs: exactly 2 output ports of float numbers */
           io_signature::make(2,2,sizeof(float))),
/* Normal C++ constructor initialization */
d_param1(param1),
d_param2(param2 + param1),
d_other_params(other_params)
{
    //Other C++ stuff
}
```



Implement software processing

- After creating and initializing the block, the actual data processing should be implemented
- Depending the block type, the appropriate inherited method should be implemented
 - *work()* for synchronous, decimation and interpolation blocks
 - *general_work()* for basic blocks



Implement software processing

- *work()* and *general_work()* are automatically called by the GNU Radio scheduler when enough input and output items are available
- Developers should perform the appropriate processing with the available input items and produce the corresponding output
- If the method state should be saved for a future invocation, the class (private) members should be used



The work() method

Prototype

```
int  
work(int noutput_items,  
      gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,  
      gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- *noutput_items* indicates the number of items that are available at the output port(s).
- Due to the fixed relation between the available input and output ports of synchronous (1:1), decimation (N:1) and interpolation (1:N) blocks, the available input items are derived from the *noutput_items* parameter



The work() method

Prototype

```
int
work(int noutput_items,
     gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,
     gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- *input_items* is a vector of pointers to buffers that contain the data of each input port
- The minimum and maximum size of the vector is specified by the *min*, *max* value of the I/O input signature of the constructor
- The actual size depends on the number of connected input ports



The work() method

Prototype

```
int  
work(int noutput_items,  
      gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,  
      gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- *output_items* is a vector of pointers to buffers where the output items can be stored
- The minimum and maximum size of the vector is specified by the *min*, *max* value of the I/O output signature of the constructor
- The actual size depends on the number of connected output ports



The work() method

Prototype

```
int  
work(int noutput_items,  
     gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,  
     gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- As 'item' the entity with the specified size at the I/O signature is considered
- The return value of this method, informs the scheduler about the items produced and consequently, consumed during the method invocation



The `general_work()` method

Prototype

```
int
general_work(int noutput_items, gr_vector_int &ninput_items,
             gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,
             gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- *general_work()* method should be implemented when a basic block type is used
- The *noutput_items*, *input_items* and *output_items* parameters have the same purpose with those of *work()* method



The `general_work()` method

Prototype

```
int
general_work(int noutput_items, gr_vector_int &ninput_items,
             gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,
             gr_vector_void_star &output_items);
```

- *ninput_items* is a vector of integers, with each element to contain the number of the available input items of the corresponding input port
- Produced items are reported to the scheduler with the return value
- Consumed input items are reported using the *consume()* or *consume_each()* methods



The `general_work()` method

Prototype

```
int
general_work(int noutput_items, gr_vector_int &ninput_items,
             gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,
             gr_vector_void_star &output_items);

/**
 * @how_many_items items consumed from input port
 * @which_input
 */
void
consume(int which_input, int how_many_items);

/**
 * @how_many_items items consumed from all the input
 * ports of the current block
 */
void
consume(int how_many_items);
```



Retrieve input and output buffers

- Input and output buffers of the corresponding input and output ports are retrieved from *input_items* and *noutput_items* respectively
- Both *input_items* and *noutput_items* have *void ** data type
- They can be cast to the data type used at the constructor of the block
- For our example:

```
int
work(int noutput_items,
      gr_vector_const_void_star &input_items,
      gr_vector_void_star &output_items)
{
  const gr_complex *in = (const gr_complex *)input_items[0];
  float *out0 = (float *)output_items[0];
  float *out1 = (float *)output_items[1];

  /* Rest of the code */
}
```



Compile GNU Radio from source

- Before trying to compile the GNU Radio several packets should be installed
- cmake
- cppoint
- boost and dev files
- fftw3 and dev files
- python
- swig
- numpy
- Doxygen
- Cheetah and python-Cheetah
- gsl and dev files
- qt4
- qwt and dev files
- pyqt
- pyqwt
- wxpython
- python-lxml
- WxWidgets
- audio-oss and dev files
- portaudio and dev files



Compile GNU Radio from source

- Grab the source code from <https://www.gnuradio.org>
- For the purpose of this course, a custom GNU Radio version will be provided with a set of examples
- Before compiling, the appropriate Makefiles should be produced using the *CMake* tool

```
cd gnuradio_dir
mkdir build
cd build
cmake -DCMAKE_BUILD_TYPE=Debug ..
```



Compile GNU Radio from source

Gnuradio enabled components

```
#####
```

```
* python-support
* testing-support
* volk
* doxygen
* sphinx
* gnuradio-runtime
* gr-ctrlport
* gr-blocks
* gnuradio-companion
* gr-fec
* gr-fft
* gr-filter
* gr-analog
* gr-digital
* gr-dtv
* gr-atsc
* gr-channels
* gr-noaa
* gr-pager
* gr-qtgui
* gr-trellis
* gr-utils
* gr-video-sdl
* gr-vocoder
* gr-fcd
* gr-wavelet
* gr-wxgui
```

- After cmake, in order to get a fully functional GNU Radio instance, components of the left column should be enabled
- To compile and install GNU Radio execute inside the *build/* directory:

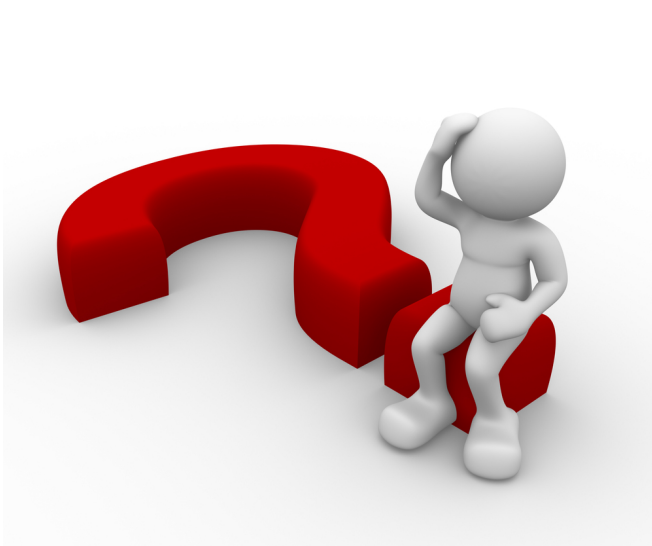
```
make
make install
```



- Check the sample code of the gr-hy436 GNU Radio module
- <http://www.gnuradio.org>
- <http://gnuradio.org/doc/doxygen/index.html>



Questions



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