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Visual Studio/C# and DAQ

Exemplified using DAQ hardware and DAQmx from NI

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Introduction

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Introduction

- The purpose is to read and write data using a **DAQ** device where we use Visual Studio and C#.
- We will exemplify by using a DAQ device from NI (previously National Instruments).
- We will use a DAQ device called USB-6008 (which is part of the **USB-600x** low-cost series).
- DAQ devices from NI use the **NI-DAQmx driver**.
- Examples shown will work on all DAQ devices from NI that are using the DAQmx driver (which is many!).
- The principles used can can also be applied on other DAQ hardware from other vendors.

Data Acquisition (DAQ)

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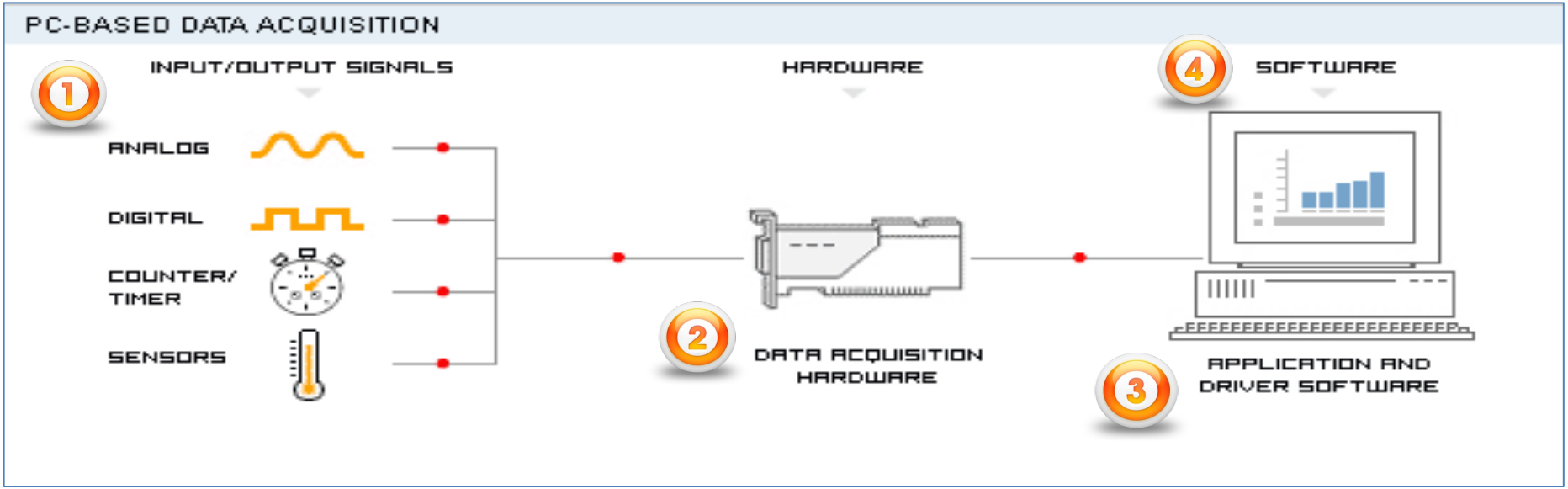
Data Acquisition (DAQ)



A DAQ System consists of 4 parts:

1. Physical input/output signals, sensors
2. DAQ device/hardware (we will use NI USB-6008)
3. Driver software (NI DAQmx in our case)
4. Your software application (Application software) – We will use Visual Studio/C#

DAQ Device

- A DAQ device can be used to read data from Sensors, e.g., a Temperature Sensor (Analog In)
- Or when we want to control something (Analog/Digital Out), e.g., a Heater, Pump, Valve, Light/Dimmer, etc.
- A DAQ device has typically Digital and Analog Channels
- 4 different types of Signals:
  - Analog Outputs (AO)
  - Analog Inputs (AI)
  - Digital Outputs (DO)
  - Digital Inputs (DI)

Analog Channels typically have values between 0-5V/0-10V
Digital Channels are either 0/False (~0V) or 1/True (~2-5V)

NI DAQ Devices

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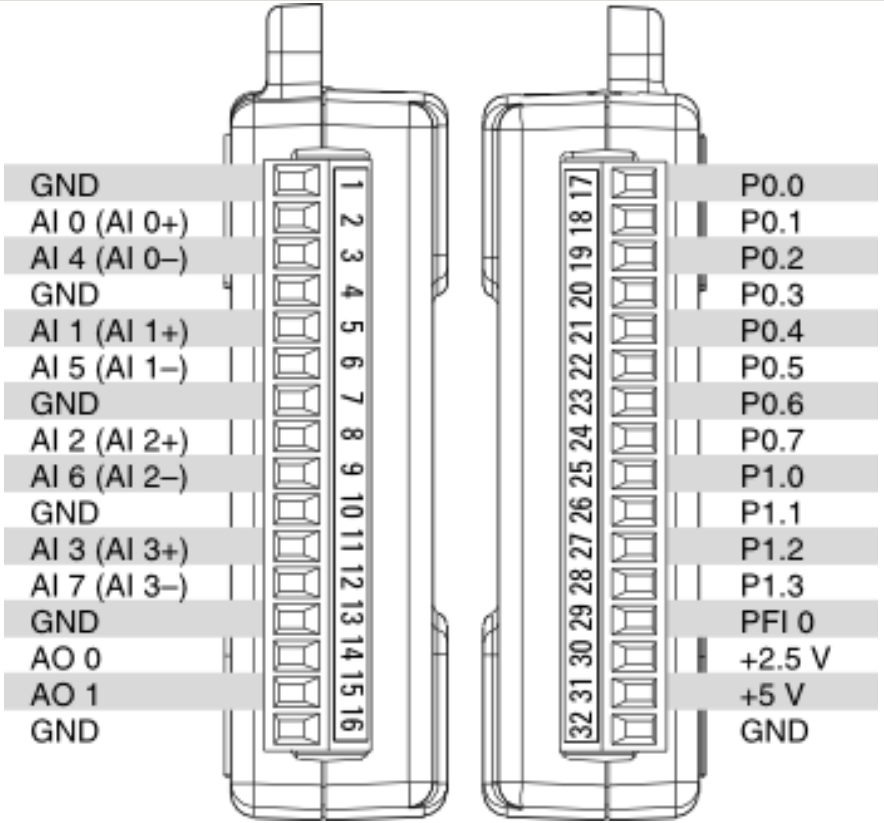
USB-6008



https://www.ni.com/docs/en-US/bundle/usb-6008-specs/page/specs.html

USB-600x DAQ series

Entry-Level, Plug-and-Play USB Data Acquisition

You depend on accurate measurements to make key decisions and discoveries, and NI's plug-and-play, USB multifunction I/O devices deliver quality measurements at an entry-level price.

USB-6008 has been replaced with newer versions like USB-6000, **USB-6001**, USB-6002 and USB-6003 which have similar functionality as USB-6008 and they all work in the same manner, and they all use the NI-DAQmx driver

Compare NI's Entry-Level, Stand-Alone Data Acquisition Devices

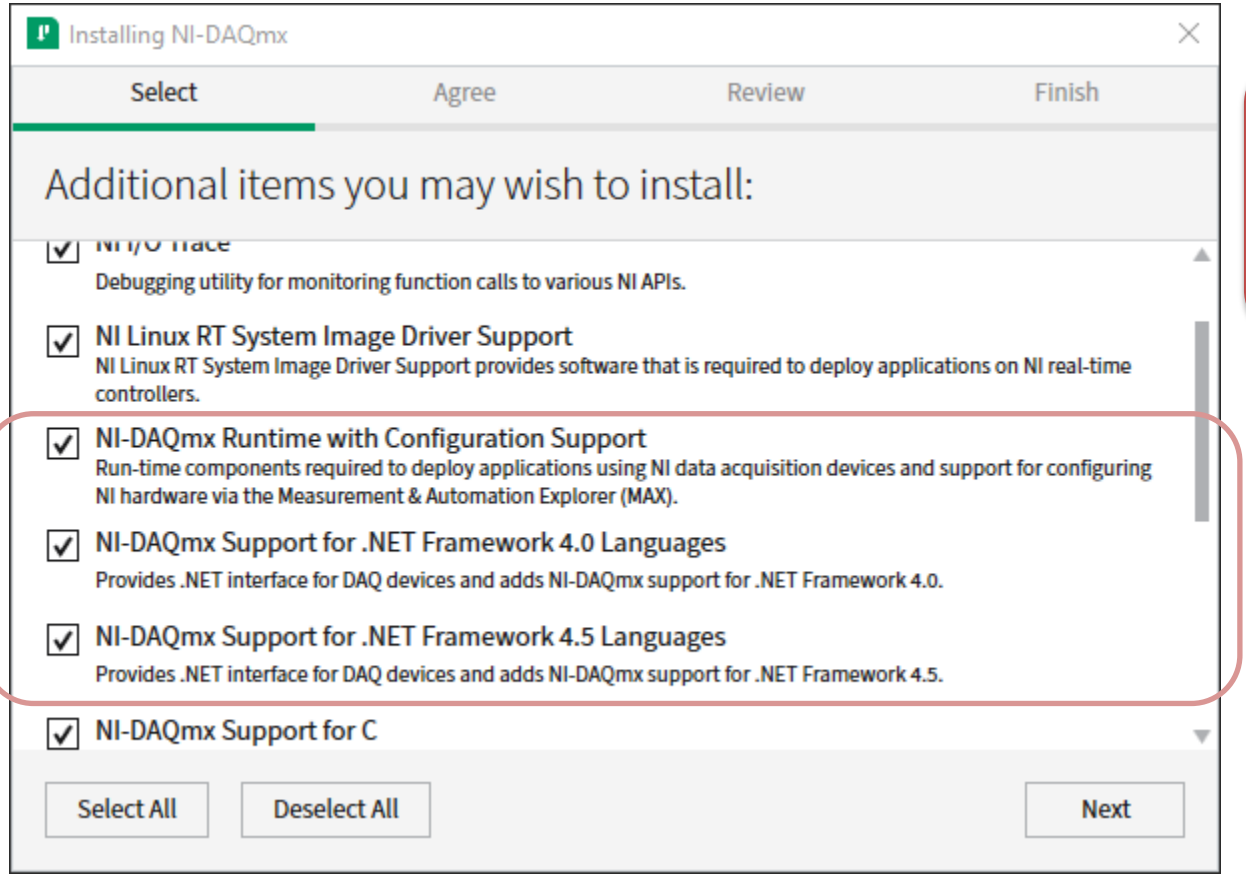
	USB-6003			USB-6002			USB-6001			USB-6000		
	View Specifications			View Specifications			View Specifications			View Specifications		
I/O Type	AI	AO	DIO	AI	AO	DIO	AI	AO	DIO	AI	AO	DIO
No. of Channels[1]	4/8	2	13	4/8	2	13	4/8	2	13	0/8	0	4
Sample Rate (kS/s and Timed)	100	5	SW	50	5	SW	20	5	SW	10	-	SW
Resolution	16 bits		-	16 bits		-	14 bits		-	12 bits		-
Programming Language Support	ANSI C, Python, Visual C# .NET, Visual Basic .NET, and LabVIEW											

https://www.ni.com/en-no/shop/data-acquisition/entry-level-usb-daq.html

NI-DAQmx

- NI-DAQmx is the driver software you use to communicate with and control your DAQ devices made by NI
- NI-DAQmx can be used with LabVIEW, Visual Studio/C#, Python, MATLAB, etc.
- NI-DAQmx can be downloaded for free (but you need of course to buy a NI-DAQmx compatible DAQ device if you don't have one already)
- www.ni.com/downloads

NI-DAQmx Installation

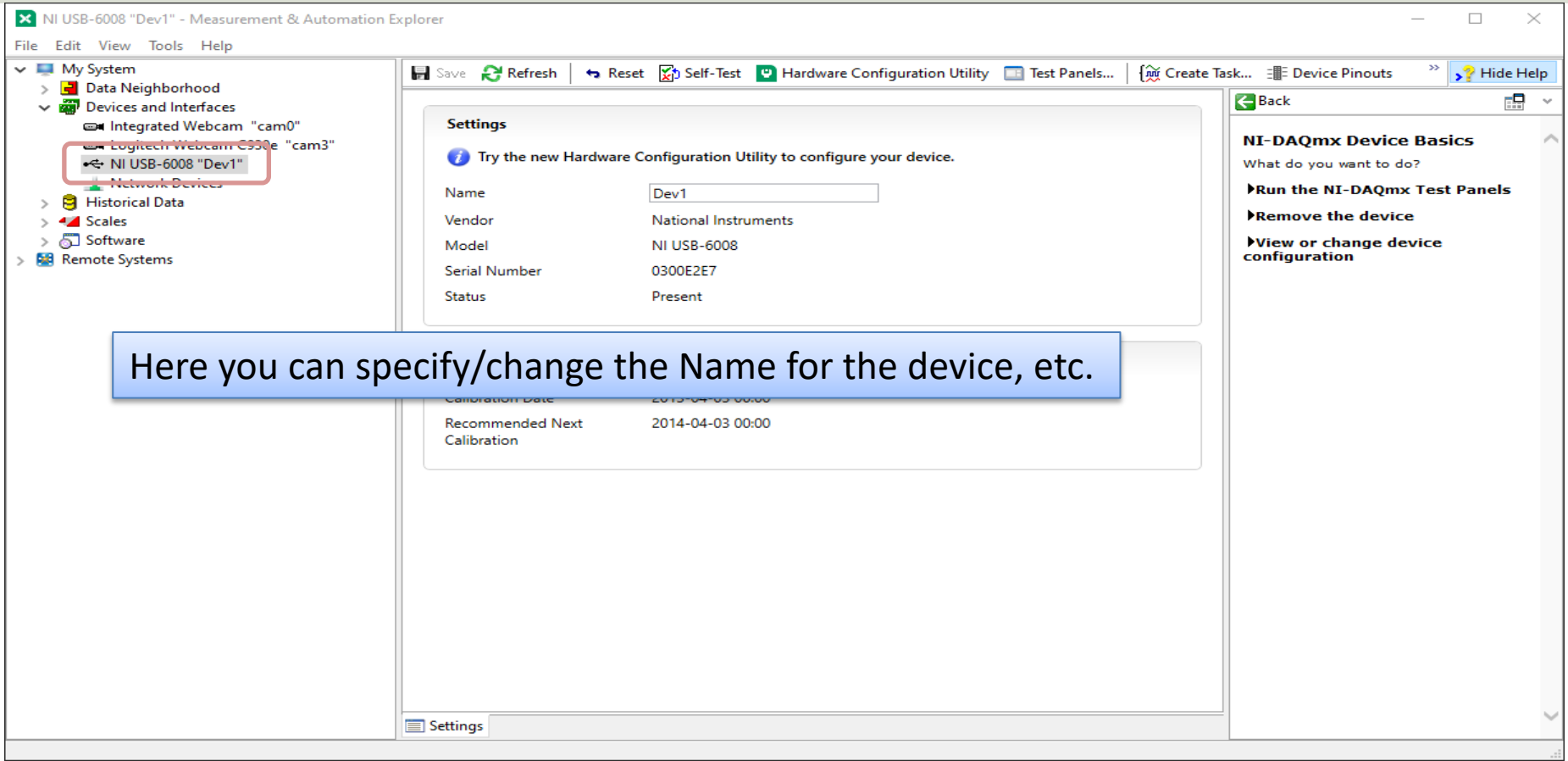


Make sure to add support for Visual Studio/.NET during installation of the NI-DAQmx software

Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX)

- MAX is an application that automatically installs with the NI-DAQmx driver.
- With MAX, you can configure your NI hardware.
- MAX informs other programs which devices you have in your system and how they are configured.

Measurement & Automation Explorer (MAX)

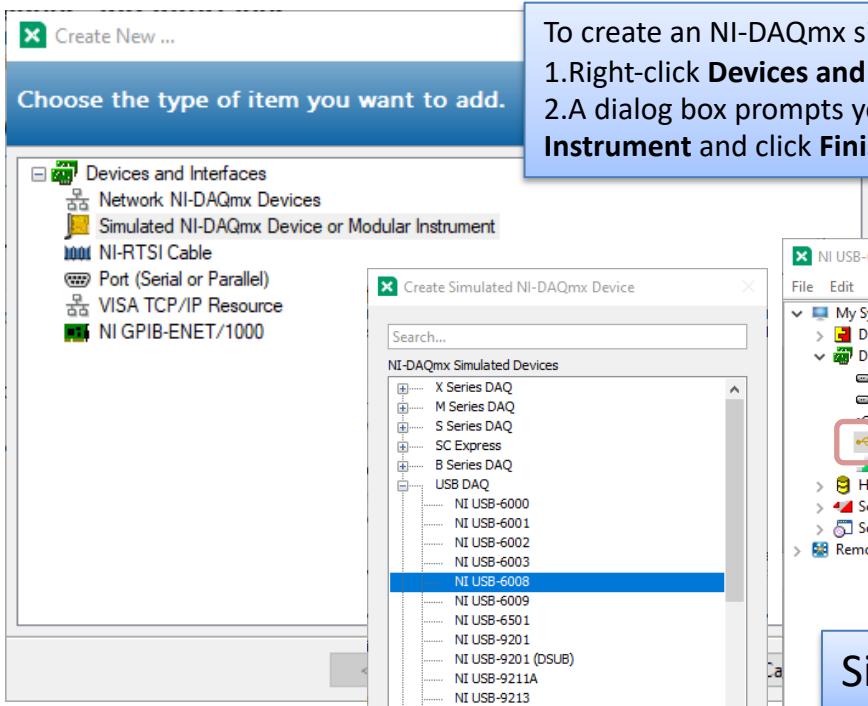


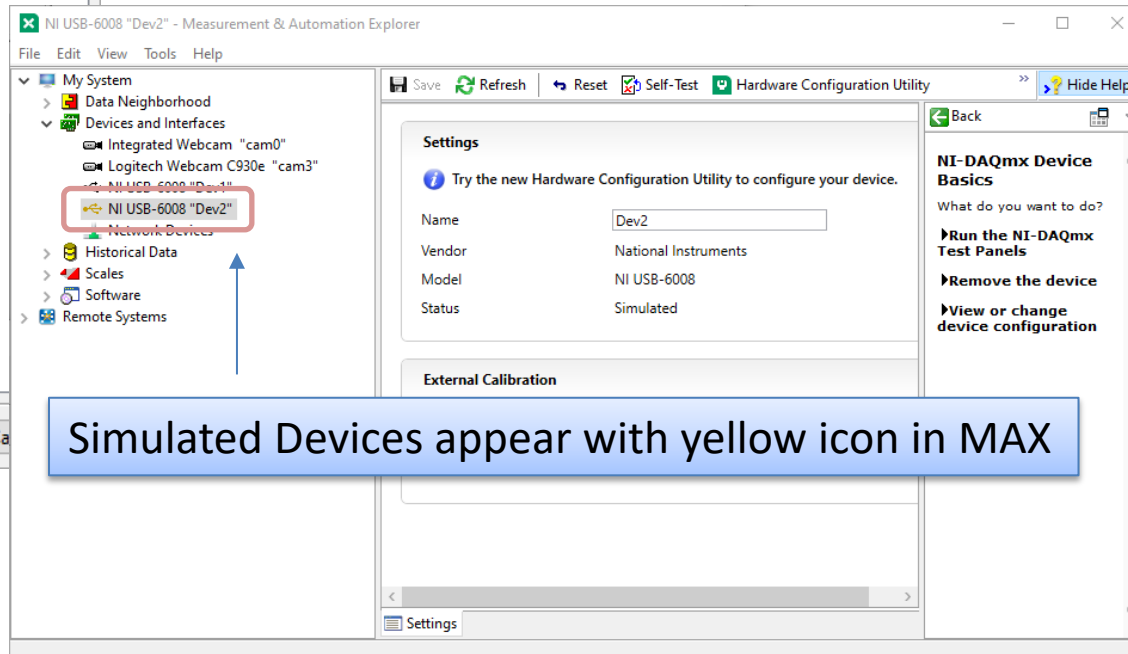
NI-DAQmx Simulated Devices

To create an NI-DAQmx simulated device using MAX, complete the following steps:

1.Right-click **Devices and Interfaces** and select **Create New**.

2.A dialog box prompts you to select a device to add. Select **Simulated NI-DAQmx Device or Modular Instrument** and click **Finish**.





Simulated Devices appear with yellow icon in MAX

If you don't have a real DAQ device, you can create a Simulated Device

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Visual Studio/C# Code Examples

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Analog In

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Analog In Example

Battery Indicator Example

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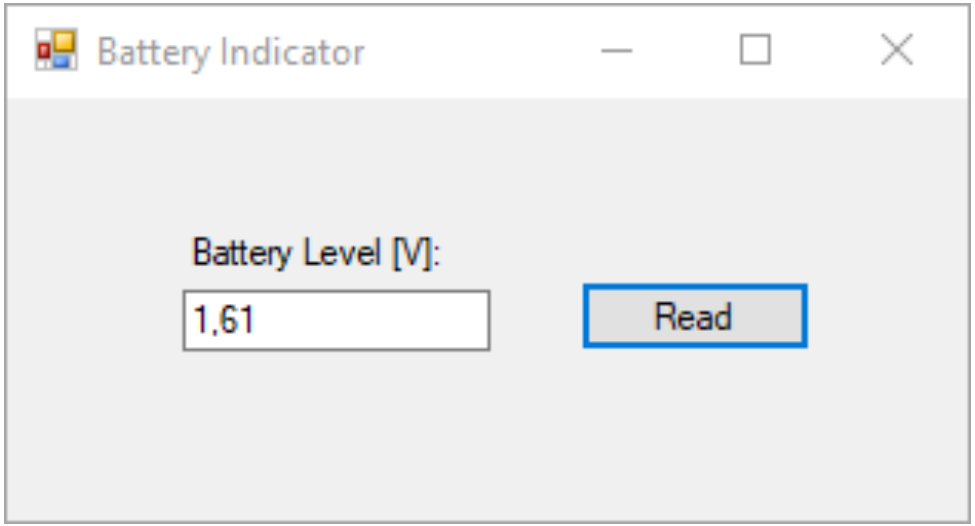
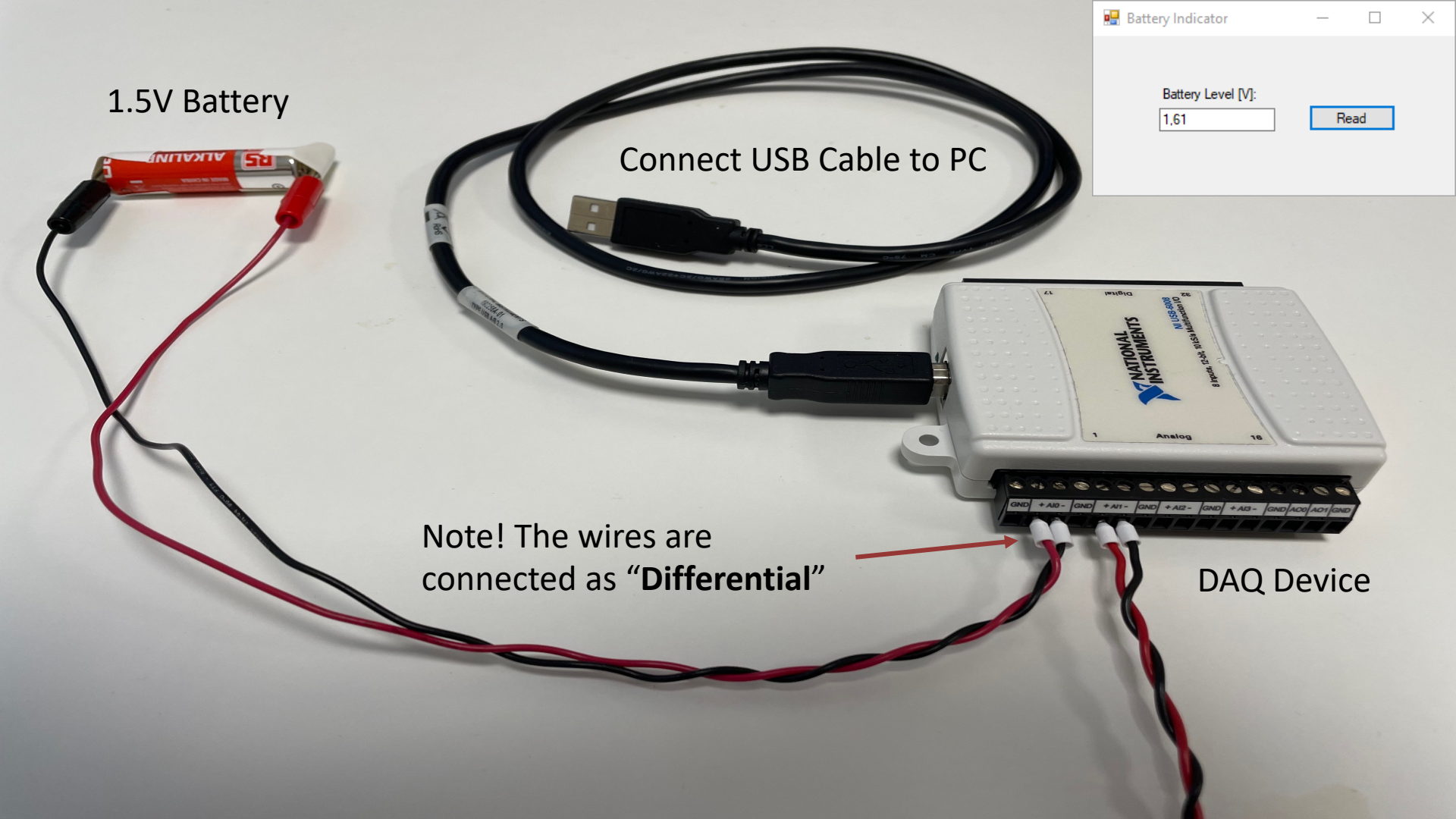
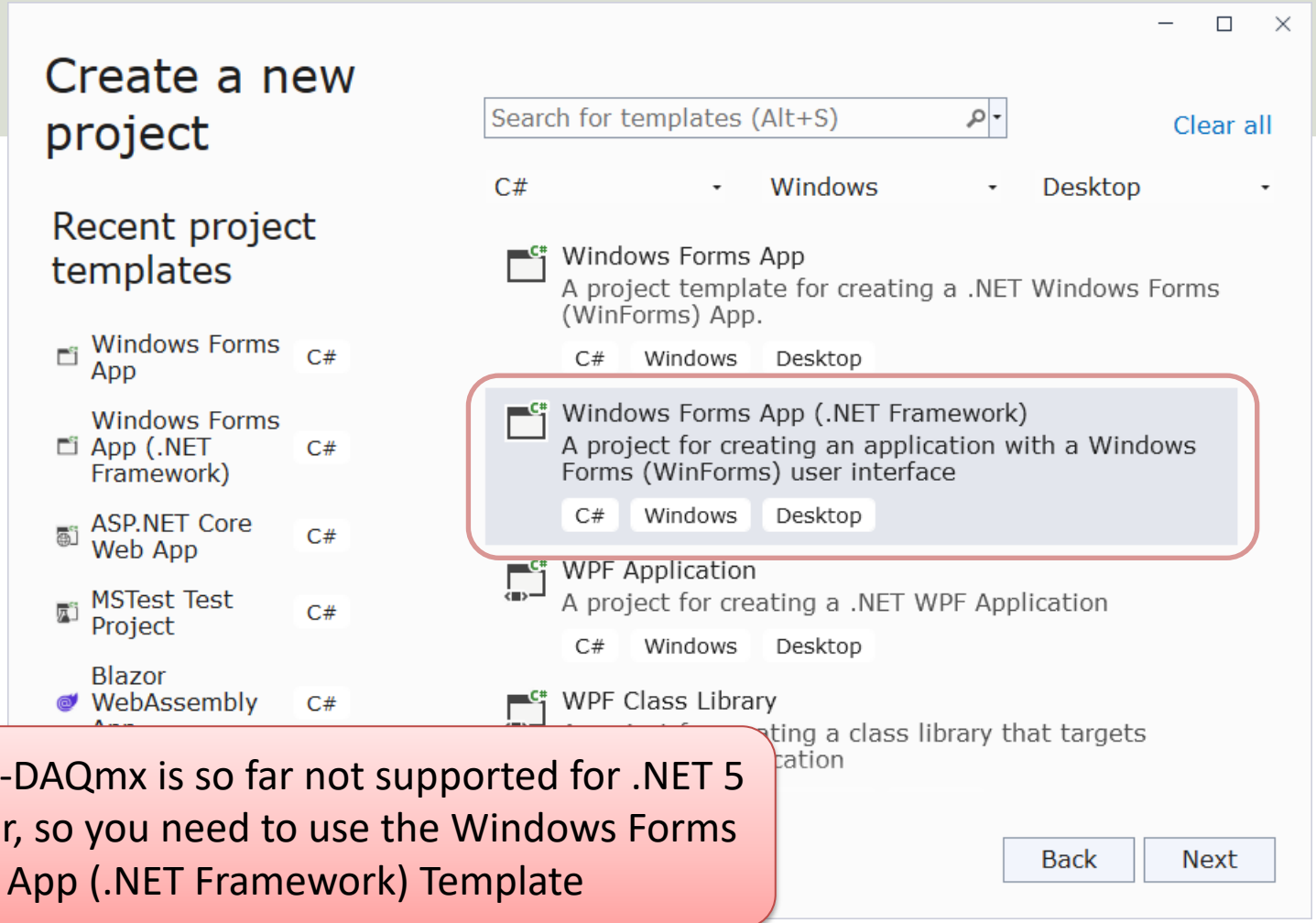
Battery Indicator Example

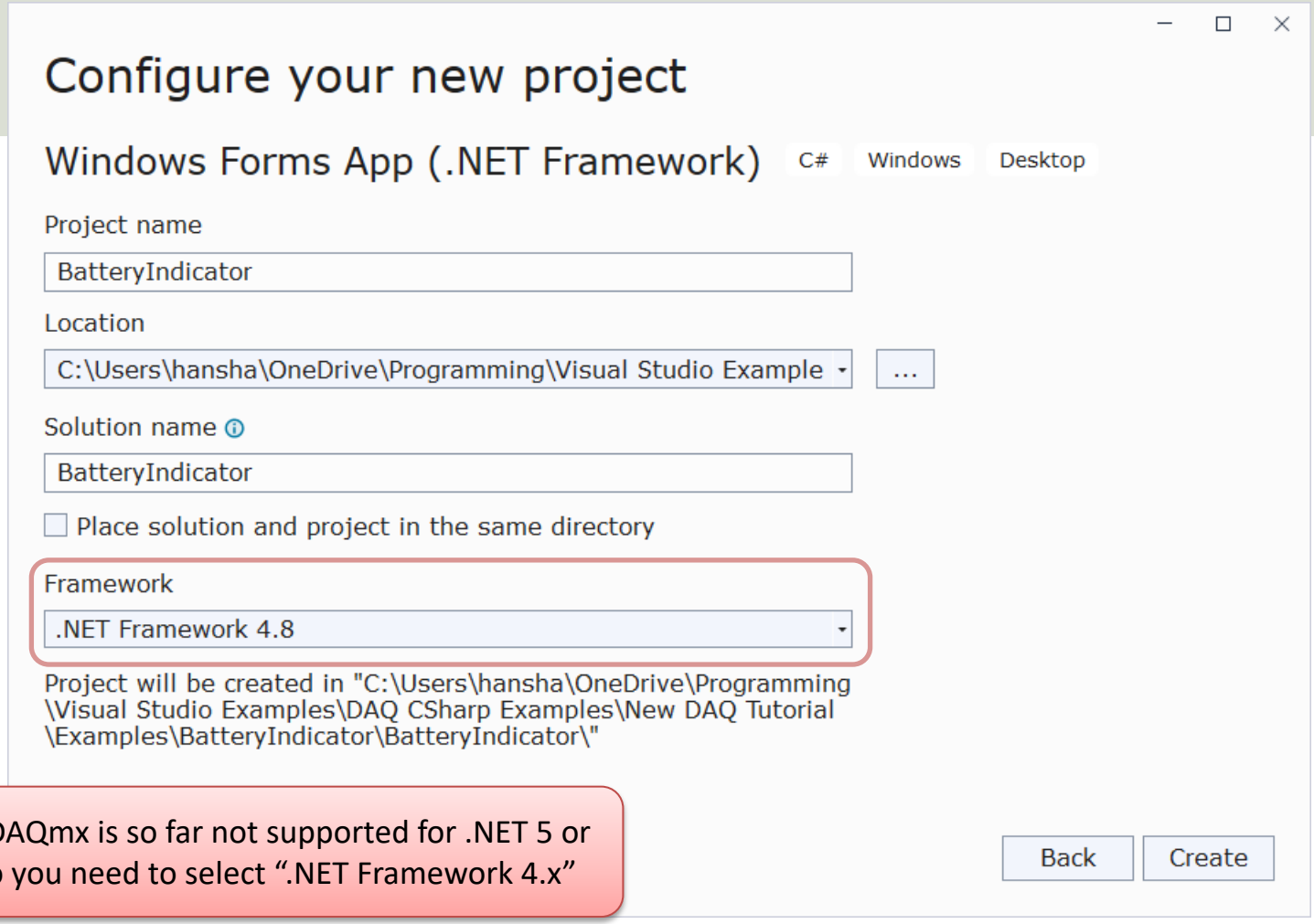


We start with a basic Example just reading the Voltage Value from a 1.5V battery that is connected to the DAQ device


Battery Indicator
Battery Level [V]:
1,61
Read
1.5V Battery
Connect USB Cable to PC
Note! The wires are
connected as “**Differential**”
DAQ Device



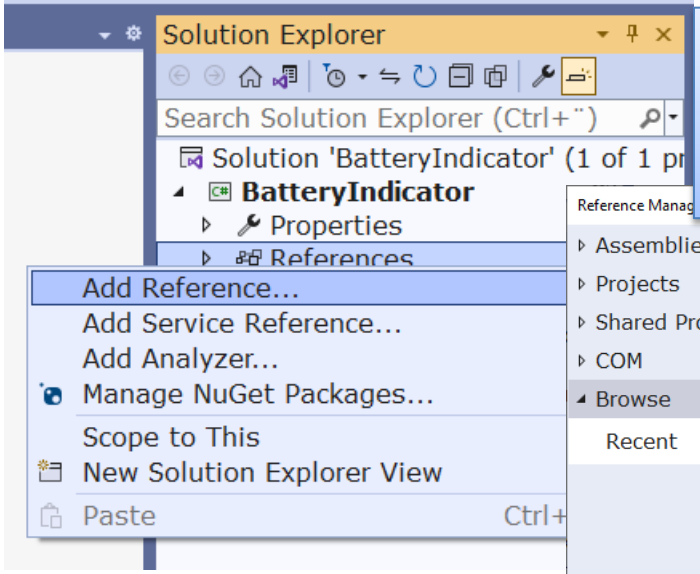
Note! NI-DAQmx is so far not supported for .NET 5 or higher, so you need to use the Windows Forms App (.NET Framework) Template

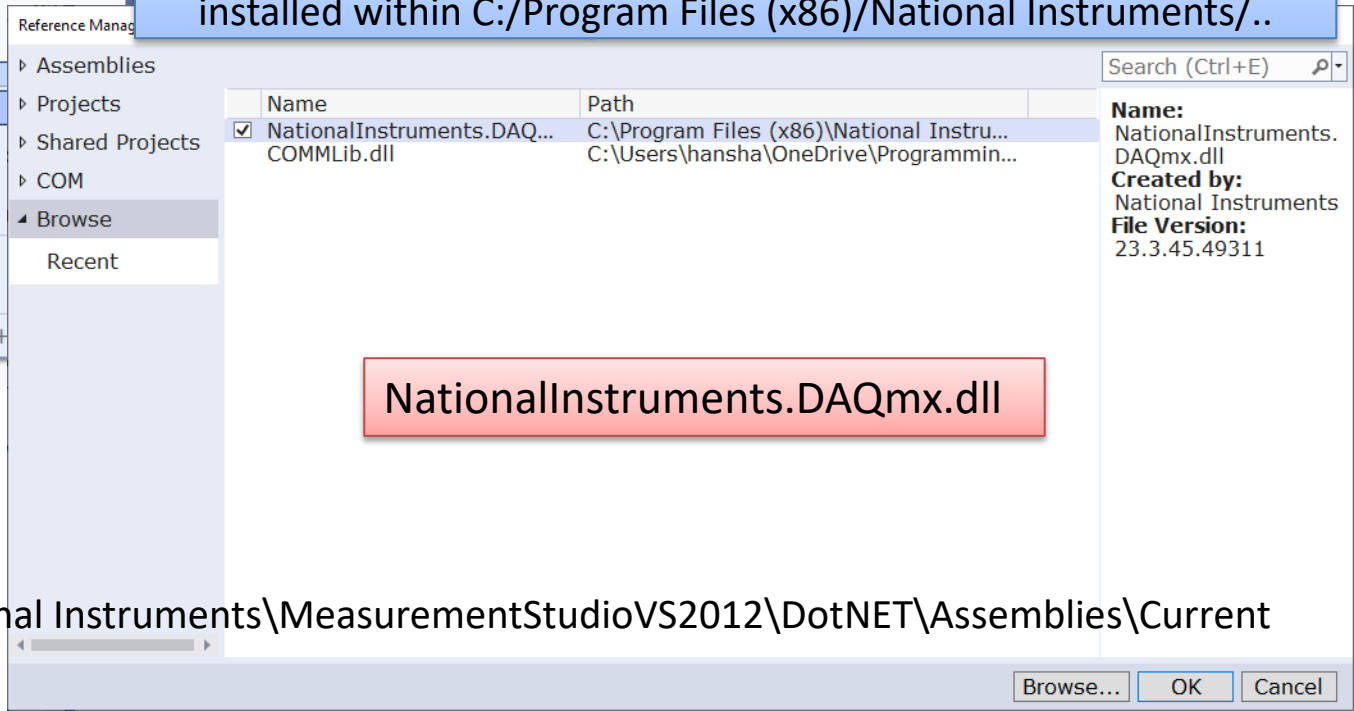


Note! NI-DAQmx is so far not supported for .NET 5 or higher, so you need to select ".NET Framework 4.x"

Add Reference

you need to add the reference **NationalInstruments.DAQmx.dll** by right-clicking in the Solution Explorer and select "Add Reference". This dll is installed by the NI-DAQmx driver and are typically installed within C:/Program Files (x86)/National Instruments/..

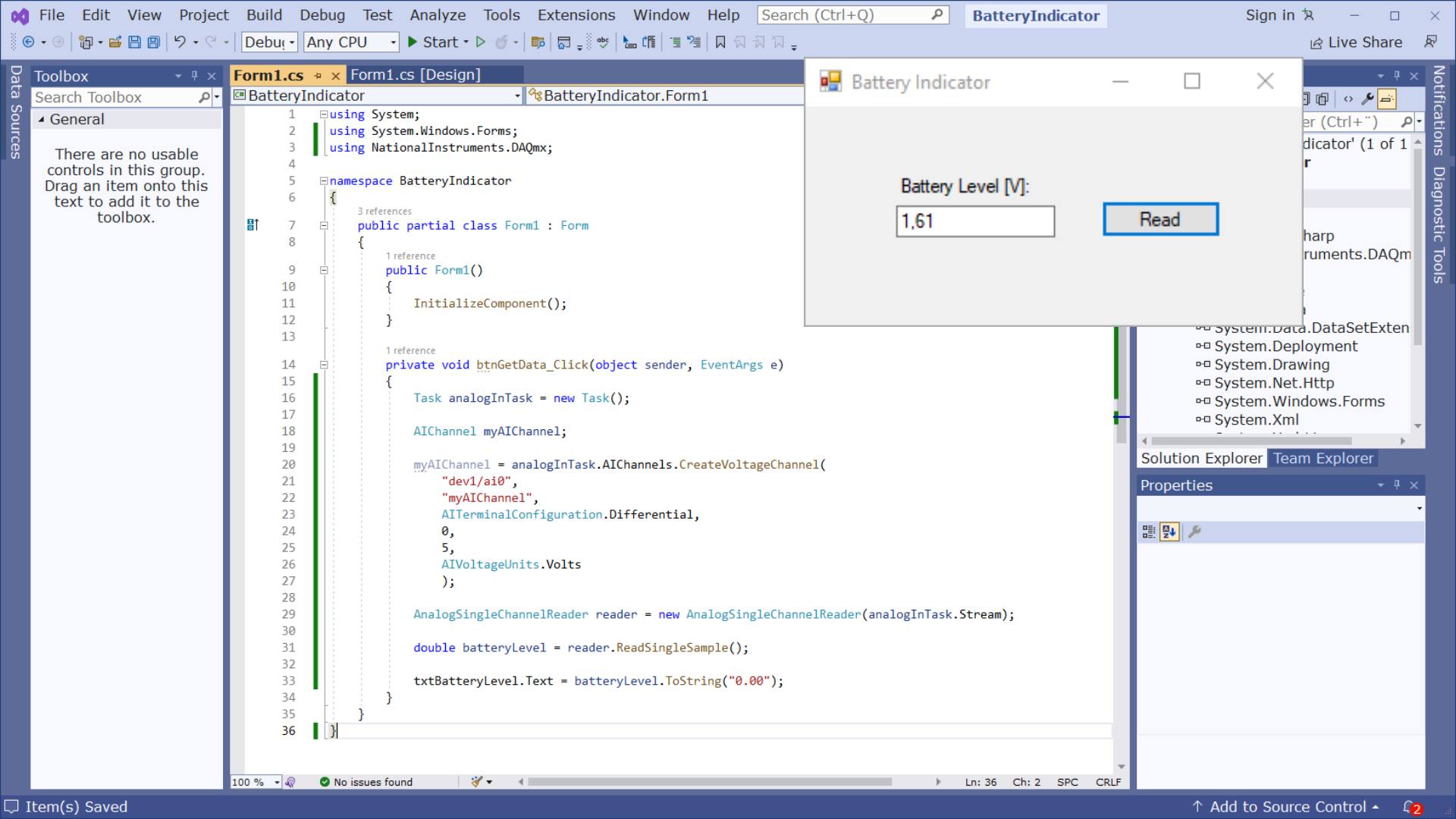




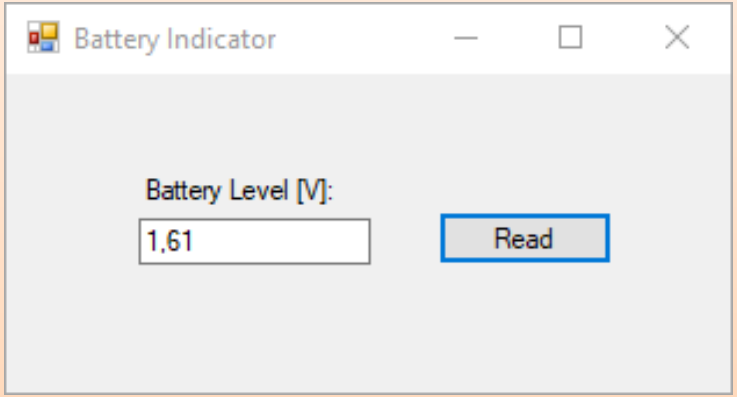
C:\Program Files (x86)\National Instruments\MeasurementStudioVS2012\DotNET\Assemblies\Current

```
..
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;
..
Task analogInTask = new Task();

AIChannel myAIChannel;

myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
    "dev1/ai0",
    "myAIChannel",
    AITerminalConfiguration.Differential,
    0,
    5,
    AIVoltageUnits.Volts
    );

AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);

double voltage = reader.ReadSingleSample();
..
```

We can choose between “RSE” and “Differential”. We have used **Differential** wiring in this example


File Edit View Project Build Debug Test Analyze Tools Extensions Window Help
Search (Ctrl+Q)
BatteryIndicator
Sign in
Live Share
Debug
Any CPU
Start
Toolbox
Search Toolbox
General
There are no usable controls in this group. Drag an item onto this text to add it to the toolbox.
Form1.cs
Form1.cs [Design]
BatteryIndicator
BatteryIndicator.Form1
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;
namespace BatteryIndicator
{
3 references
public partial class Form1 : Form
{
1 reference
public Form1()
{
InitializeComponent();
}
1 reference
private void btnGetData_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
Task analogInTask = new Task();
AIChannel myAIChannel;
myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
"dev1/ai0",
"myAIChannel",
AITerminalConfiguration.Differential,
0,
5,
AIVoltageUnits.Volts
);
AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);
double batteryLevel = reader.ReadSingleSample();
txtBatteryLevel.Text = batteryLevel.ToString("0.00");
}
}
}
Battery Indicator
Battery Level [V]:
1,61
Read
System.Data.DataSetExten
System.Deployment
System.Drawing
System.Net.Http
System.Windows.Forms
System.Xml
Solution Explorer
Team Explorer
Properties
100 %
No issues found
Ln: 36
Ch: 2
SPC
CRLF
Item(s) Saved
Add to Source Control
Data Sources
Notifications
Diagnostic Tools

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

namespace BatteryIndicator
{
  public partial class Form1 : Form
  {
    public Form1()
    {
      InitializeComponent();
    }

    private void btnGetData_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
      Task analogInTask = new Task();

      AIChannel myAIChannel;

      myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
        "dev1/ai0",
        "myAIChannel",
        AITerminalConfiguration.Differential,
        0,
        5,
        AIVoltageUnits.Volts
        );

      AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);

      double batteryLevel = reader.ReadSingleSample();

      txtBatteryLevel.Text = batteryLevel.ToString("0.00");
    }
  }
}
```



Analog In Example

TMP36 Temperature Sensor Example

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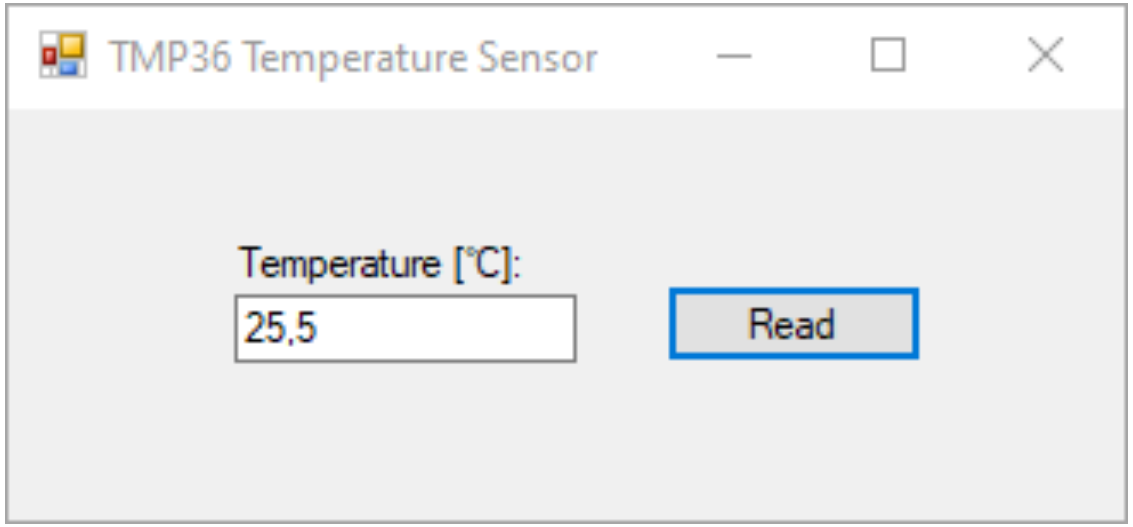
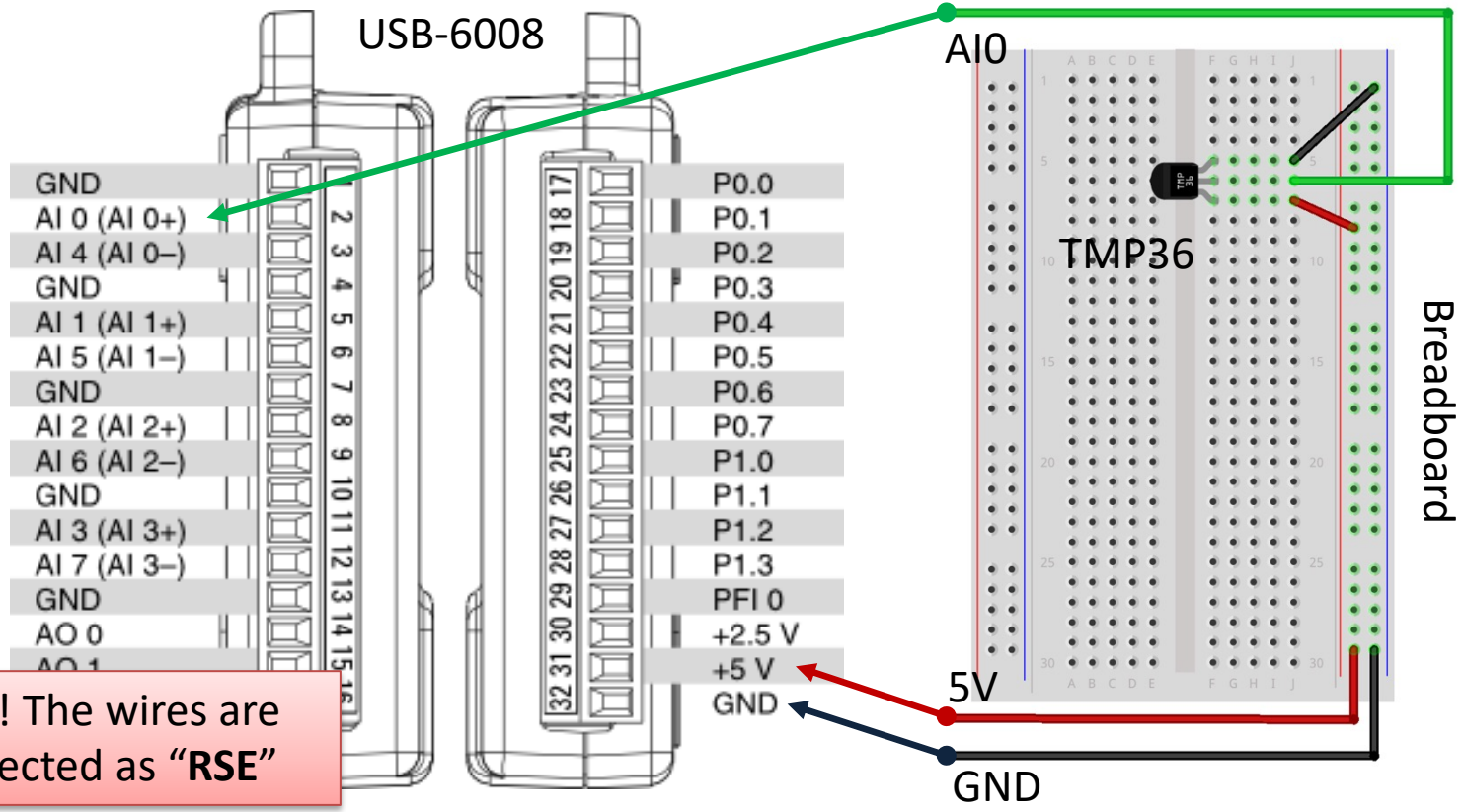
TMP36 Temperature Sensor Example

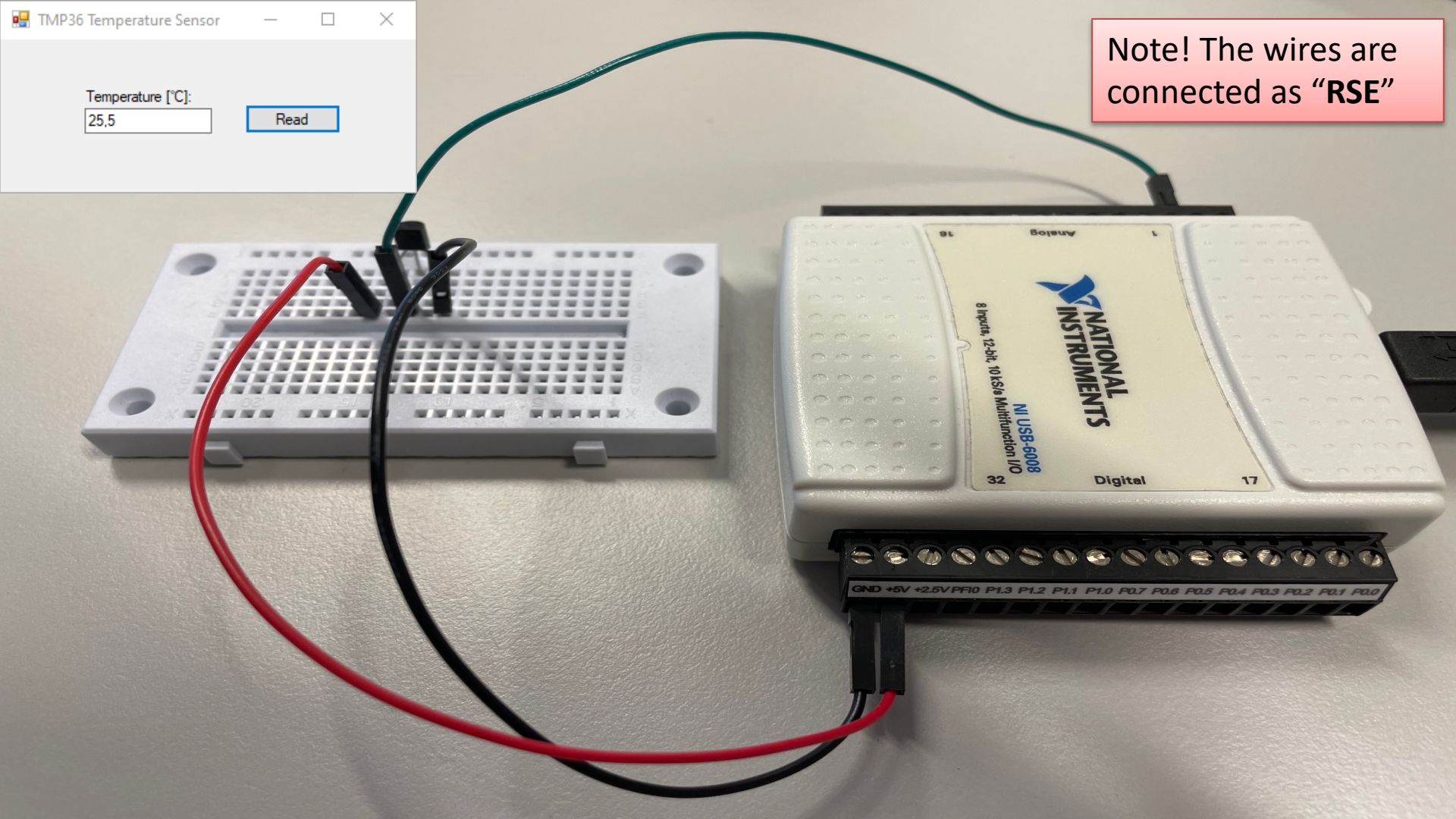


In this example we will use a TMP36 Temperature Sensor and read from the DAQ device and calculate the Temperature value in degrees Celsius.

TMP36 Wiring Example

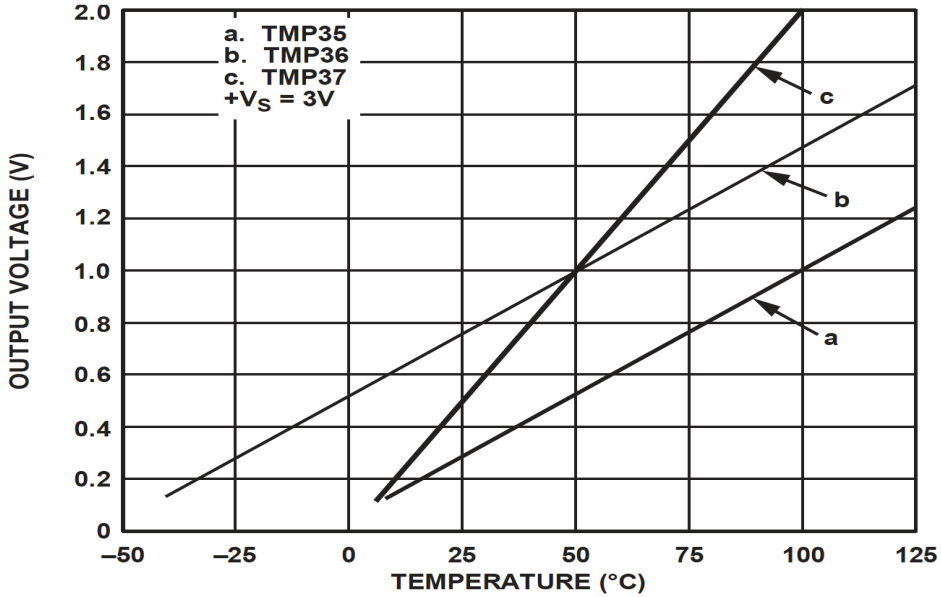


Note! The wires are connected as “**RSE**”


TMP36 Temperature Sensor
Temperature [°C]:
25,5
Read
Note! The wires are connected as “RSE”
NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
NI USB-6008
8 Inputs, 12-bit, 10 kS/s Multifunction I/O
Analog
Digital
32
17
GND +5V +2.5V PFI0 P1.3 P1.2 P1.1 P1.0 P0.7 P0.6 P0.5 P0.4 P0.3 P0.2 P0.1 P0.0

TMP36 Temperature Sensor

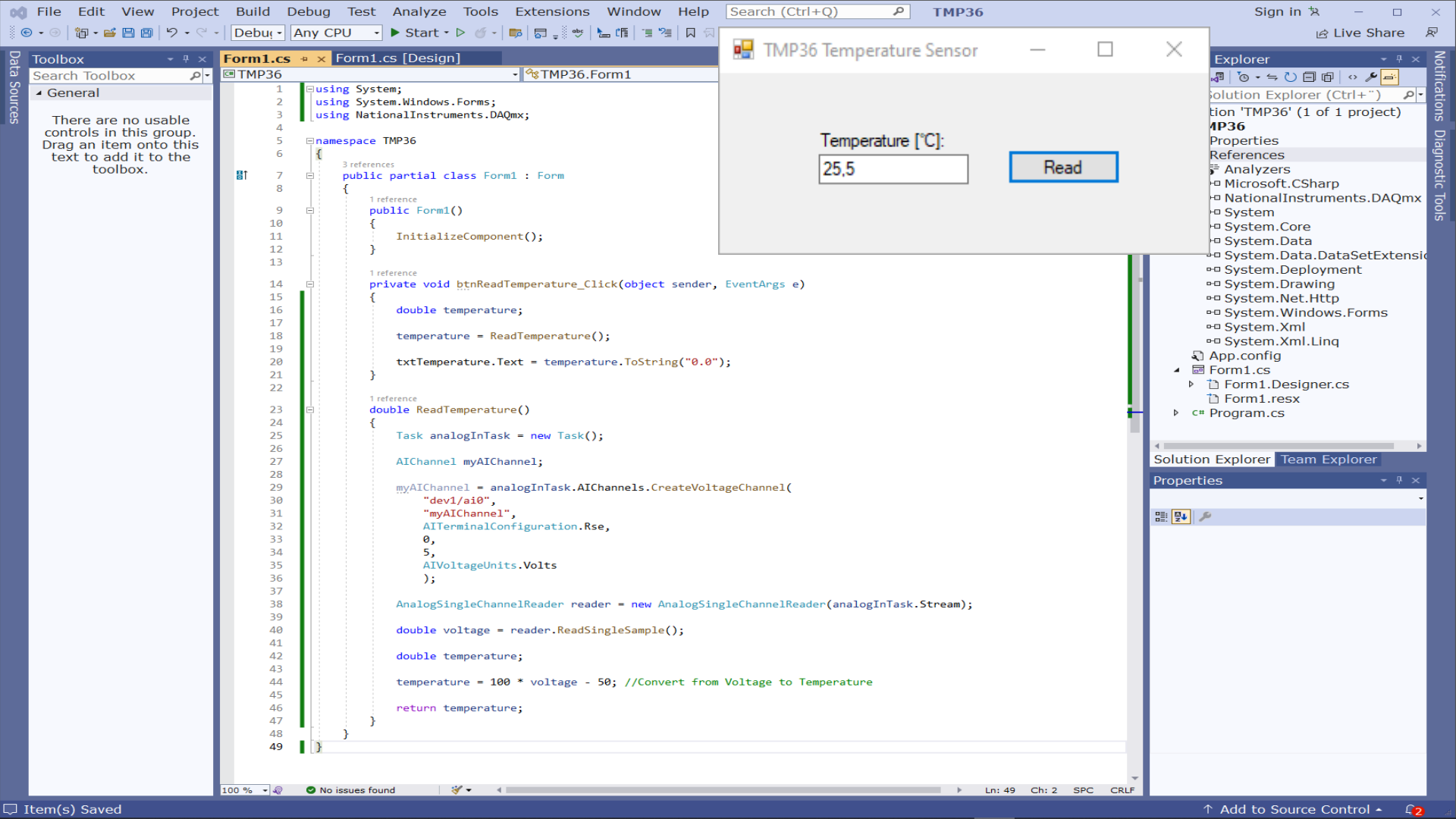
Figure from Datasheet:



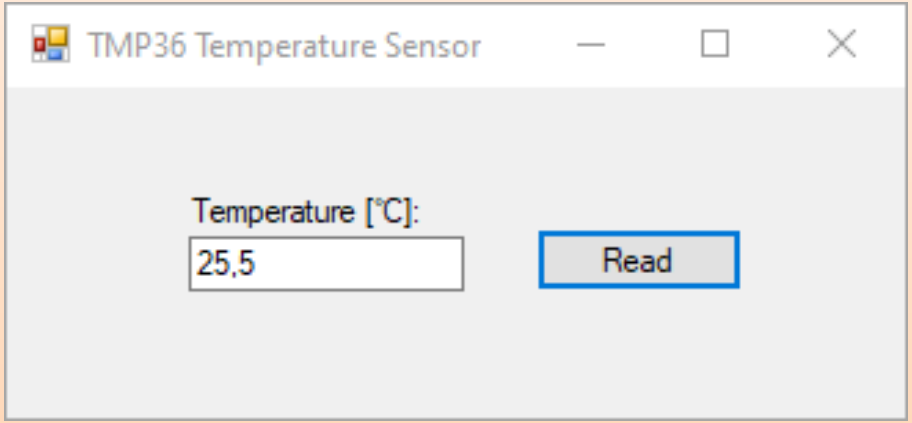
Formula for converting from Voltage to Temperature in Degrees Celsius:

$y = 100x - 50$ where x is the value read from the DAQ device in voltage

```
double ReadTemperature()
{
  Task analogInTask = new Task();

  AIChannel myAIChannel;

  myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
      "dev1/ai0",
      "myAIChannel",
      AITerminalConfiguration.Rse,
      0,
      5,
      AIVoltageUnits.Volts
      );

  AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);

  double voltage = reader.ReadSingleSample();

  double temperature;

  temperature = 100 * voltage - 50; //Convert from Voltage to Temperature

  return temperature;
}
```


File Edit View Project Build Debug Test Analyze Tools Extensions Window Help
Search (Ctrl+Q)
TMP36
Sign in
Live Share
Debug
Any CPU
Start
Toolbox
Search Toolbox
General
There are no usable controls in this group. Drag an item onto this text to add it to the toolbox.
Form1.cs
Form1.cs [Design]
TMP36
TMP36.Form1
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;
namespace TMP36
{
3 references
public partial class Form1 : Form
{
1 reference
public Form1()
{
InitializeComponent();
}
1 reference
private void btnReadTemperature_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
double temperature;
temperature = ReadTemperature();
txtTemperature.Text = temperature.ToString("0.0");
}
1 reference
double ReadTemperature()
{
Task analogInTask = new Task();
AIChannel myAIChannel;
myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
"dev1/ai0",
"myAIChannel",
AITerminalConfiguration.Rse,
0,
5,
AIVoltageUnits.Volts
);
AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);
double voltage = reader.ReadSingleSample();
double temperature;
temperature = 100 * voltage - 50; //Convert from Voltage to Temperature
return temperature;
}
}
}
100 %
No issues found
Ln: 49
Ch: 2
SPC
CRLF
TMP36 Temperature Sensor
Temperature [°C]:
25,5
Read
Explorer
Solution Explorer (Ctrl+;)
tion 'TMP36' (1 of 1 project)
MP36
Properties
References
Analyzers
Microsoft.CSharp
NationalInstruments.DAQmx
System
System.Core
System.Data
System.Data.DataSetExtensi
System.Deployment
System.Drawing
System.Net.Http
System.Windows.Forms
System.Xml
System.Xml.Linq
App.config
Form1.cs
Form1.Designer.cs
Form1.resx
Program.cs
Solution Explorer
Team Explorer
Properties
Data Sources
Notifications
Diagnostic Tools
Item(s) Saved
Add to Source Control

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

namespace TMP36
{
  public partial class Form1 : Form
  {
    public Form1()
    {
      InitializeComponent();
    }

    private void btnReadTemperature_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
      double temperature;

      temperature = ReadTemperature();

      txtTemperature.Text = temperature.ToString("0.0");
    }

    double ReadTemperature()
    {
      Task analogInTask = new Task();

      AIChannel myAIChannel;

      myAIChannel = analogInTask.AIChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
        "dev1/ai0",
        "myAIChannel",
        AITerminalConfiguration.Rse,
        0,
        5,
        AIVoltageUnits.Volts
        );

      AnalogSingleChannelReader reader = new AnalogSingleChannelReader(analogInTask.Stream);

      double voltage = reader.ReadSingleSample();

      double temperature;

      temperature = 100 * voltage - 50; //Convert from Voltage to Temperature

      return temperature;
    }
  }
}
```



Analog Out

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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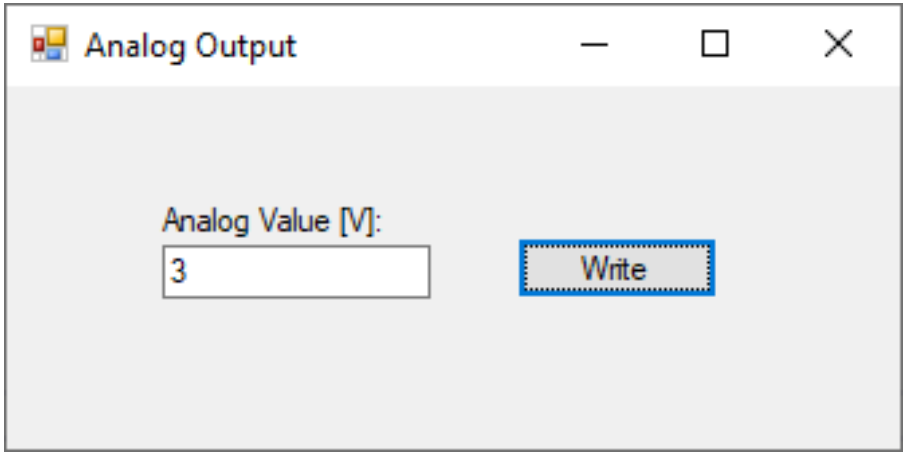
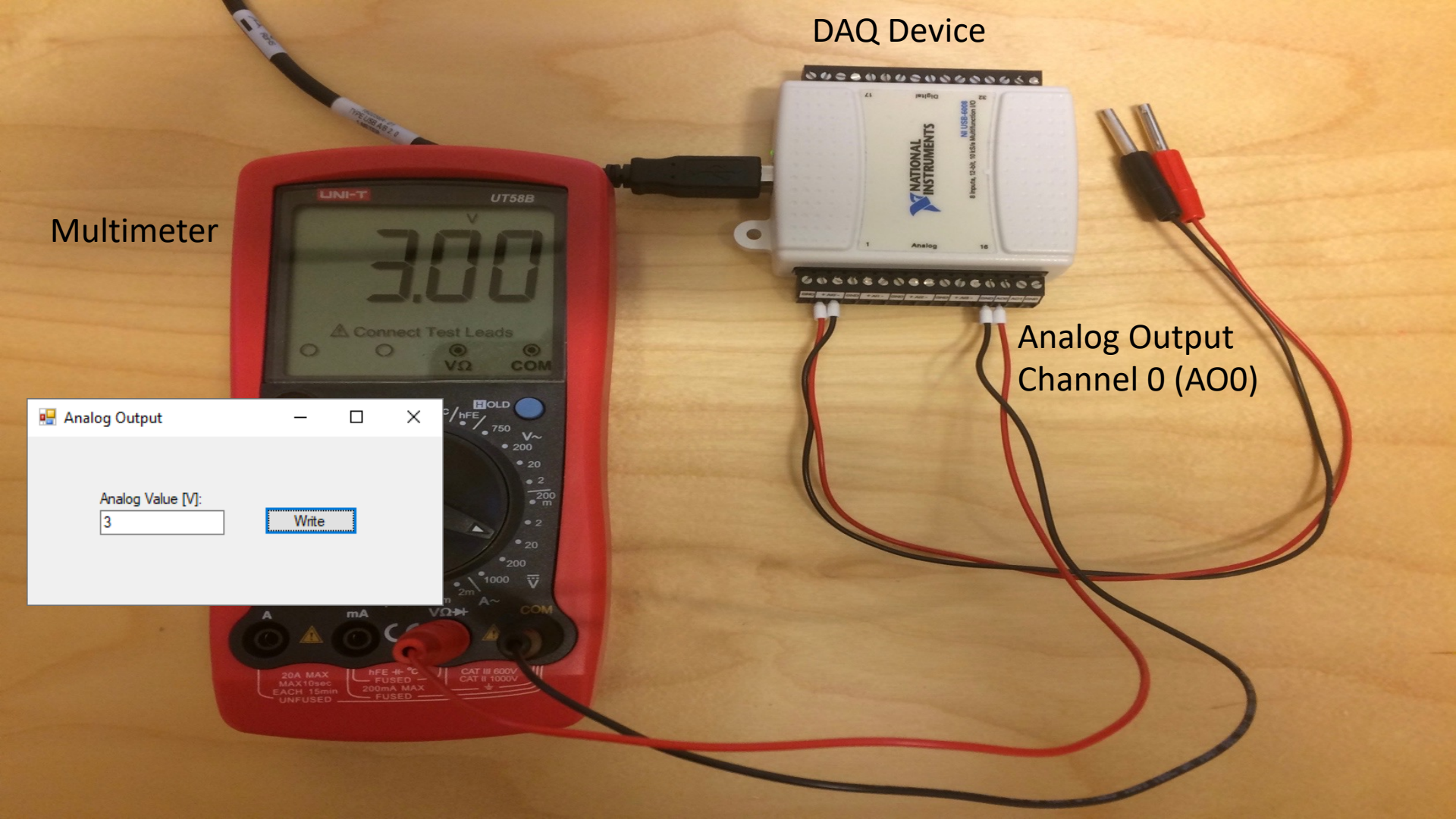
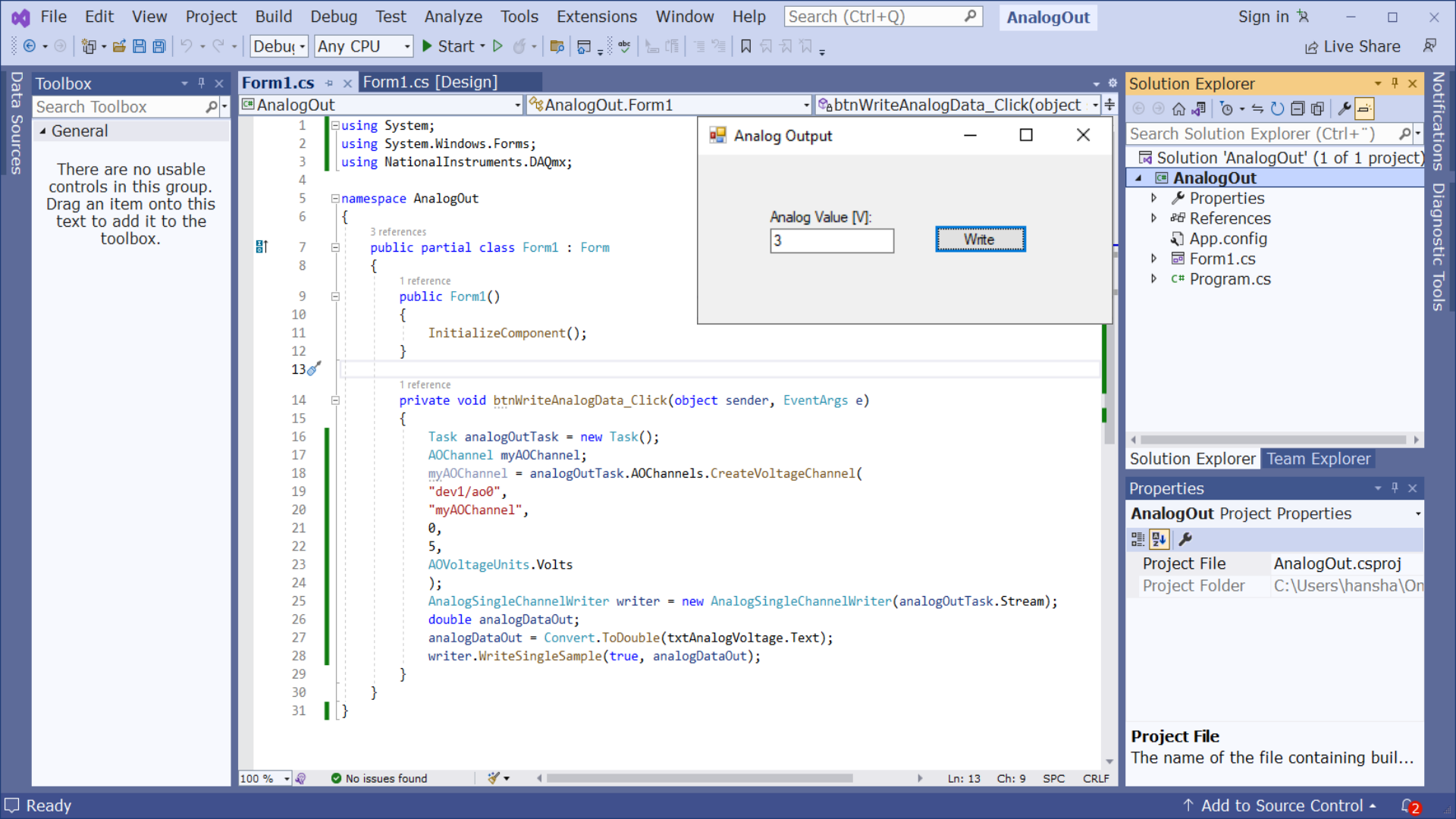
Basic Analog Out Example



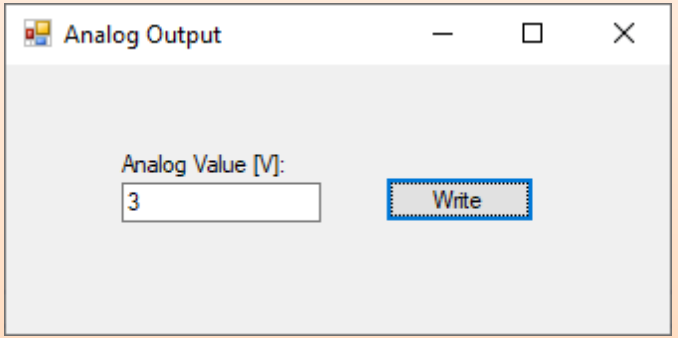
This Analog Out Example write a Value to the Analog Out 0 Channel (AO0) on the DAQ device. We can connect a Multimeter to see if the Application works as expected


DAQ Device
Multimeter
Analog Output
Channel 0 (AO0)
Analog Output
Analog Value [V]:
3
Write
UNI-T
UT58B
3.00
Connect Test Leads
NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS

```
..
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

..

Task analogOutTask = new Task();
AOChannel myAOChannel;
myAOChannel = analogOutTask.AOChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
  "dev1/ao0",
  "myAOChannel",
  0,
  5,
  AOVoltageUnits.Volts
  );

AnalogSingleChannelWriter writer = new AnalogSingleChannelWriter(analogOutTask.Stream);

double analogDataOut;
analogDataOut = Convert.ToDouble(txtAnalogVoltage.Text);

writer.WriteSingleSample(true, analogDataOut);

..
```


File Edit View Project Build Debug Test Analyze Tools Extensions Window Help
Search (Ctrl+Q)
AnalogOut
Sign in
Live Share
Debug
Any CPU
Start
Data Sources
Toolbox
Search Toolbox
General
There are no usable controls in this group. Drag an item onto this text to add it to the toolbox.
Form1.cs
Form1.cs [Design]
AnalogOut
AnalogOut.Form1
btnWriteAnalogData_Click(object
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;
namespace AnalogOut
{
3 references
public partial class Form1 : Form
{
1 reference
public Form1()
{
InitializeComponent();
}
1 reference
private void btnWriteAnalogData_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
Task analogOutTask = new Task();
AOChannel myAOChannel;
myAOChannel = analogOutTask.AOChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
"dev1/ao0",
"myAOChannel",
0,
5,
AOVoltageUnits.Volts
);
AnalogSingleChannelWriter writer = new AnalogSingleChannelWriter(analogOutTask.Stream);
double analogDataOut;
analogDataOut = Convert.ToDouble(txtAnalogVoltage.Text);
writer.WriteSingleSample(true, analogDataOut);
}
}
}
Analog Output
Analog Value [V]:
3
Write
100 %
No issues found
Ln: 13
Ch: 9
SPC
CRLF
Solution Explorer
Search Solution Explorer (Ctrl+;)
Solution 'AnalogOut' (1 of 1 project)
AnalogOut
Properties
References
App.config
Form1.cs
Program.cs
Solution Explorer
Team Explorer
Properties
AnalogOut Project Properties
Project File
AnalogOut.csproj
Project Folder
C:\Users\hansha\On
Project File
The name of the file containing buil...
Notifications
Diagnostic Tools
Ready
Add to Source Control

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

namespace AnalogOut
{
   public partial class Form1 : Form
   {
      public Form1()
      {
         InitializeComponent();
      }

      private void btnWriteAnalogData_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
      {
         Task analogOutTask = new Task();
         AOChannel myAOChannel;
         myAOChannel = analogOutTask.AOChannels.CreateVoltageChannel(
         "dev1/ao0",
         "myAOChannel",
         0,
         5,
         AOVoltageUnits.Volts
         );
         AnalogSingleChannelWriter writer = new AnalogSingleChannelWriter(analogOutTask.Stream);
         double analogDataOut;
         analogDataOut = Convert.ToDouble(txtAnalogVoltage.Text);
         writer.WriteSingleSample(true, analogDataOut);
      }
   }
}
```



Digital I/O

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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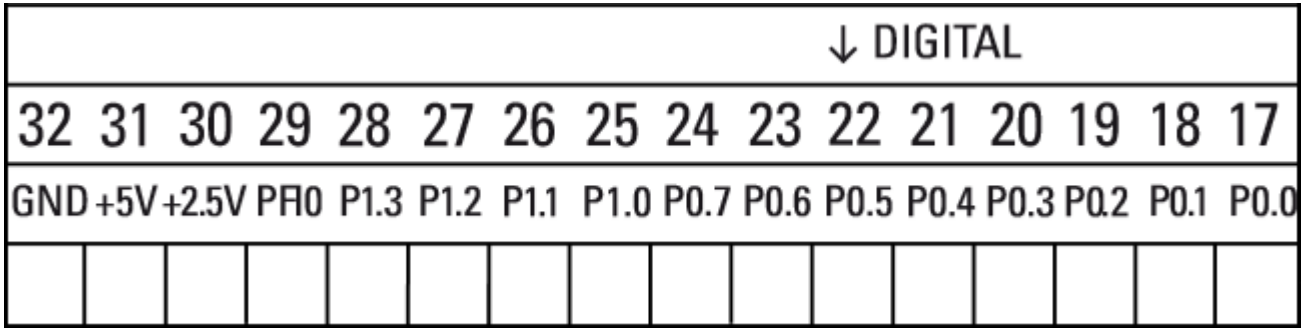
Digital Chanels



Dev1/Port0/line0:7

P0.<0..7> Port 0 Digital I/O Channels 0 to 7 — You can individually configure each signal as an input or output.

Dev1/Port1/line0:3

P1.<0..3> Port 1 Digital I/O Channels 0 to 3 — You can individually configure each signal as an input or output

Digital Out

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Digital Out Example

LED Example

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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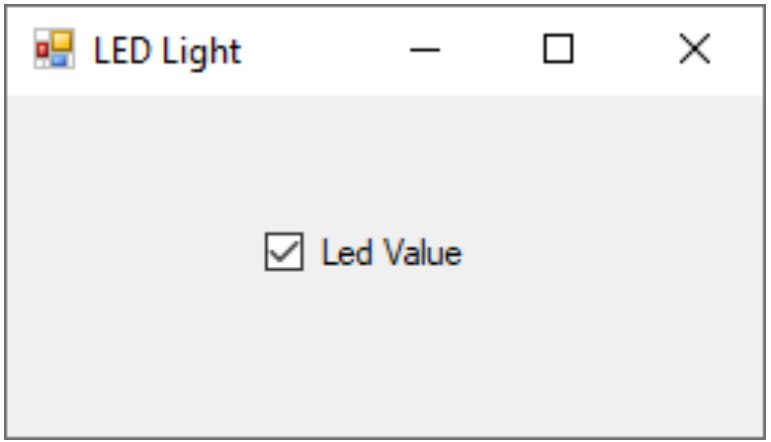
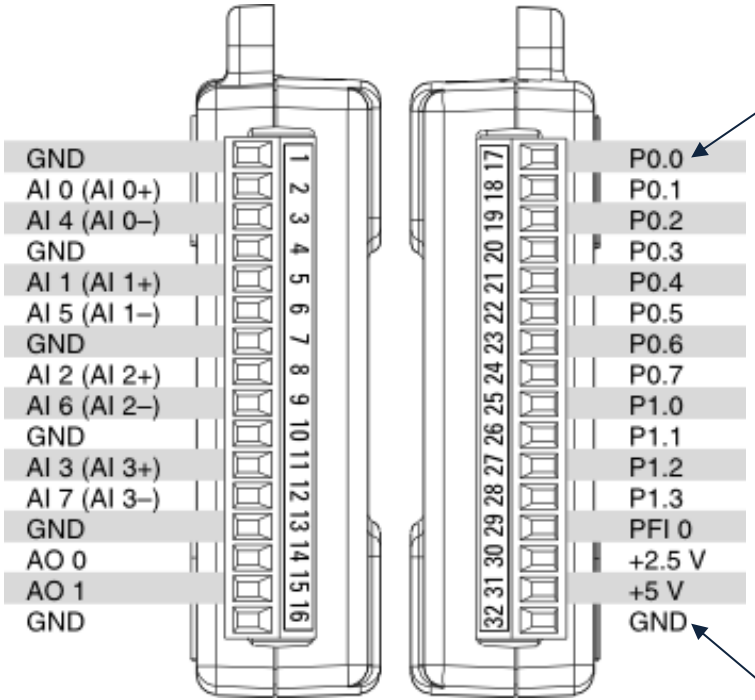
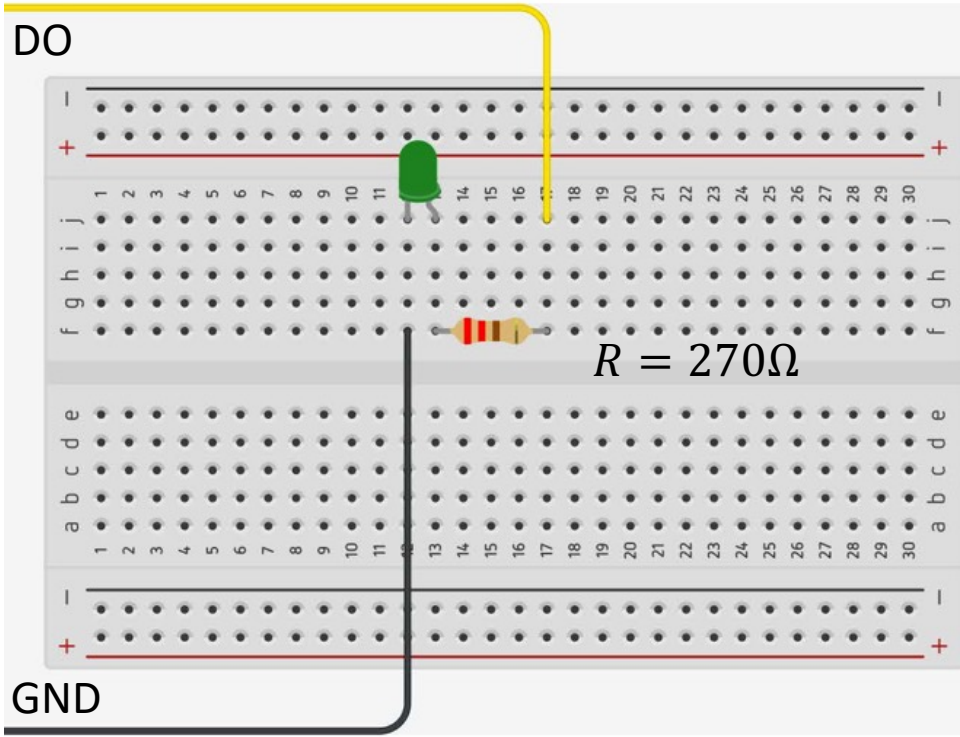
Basic Digital Out Example

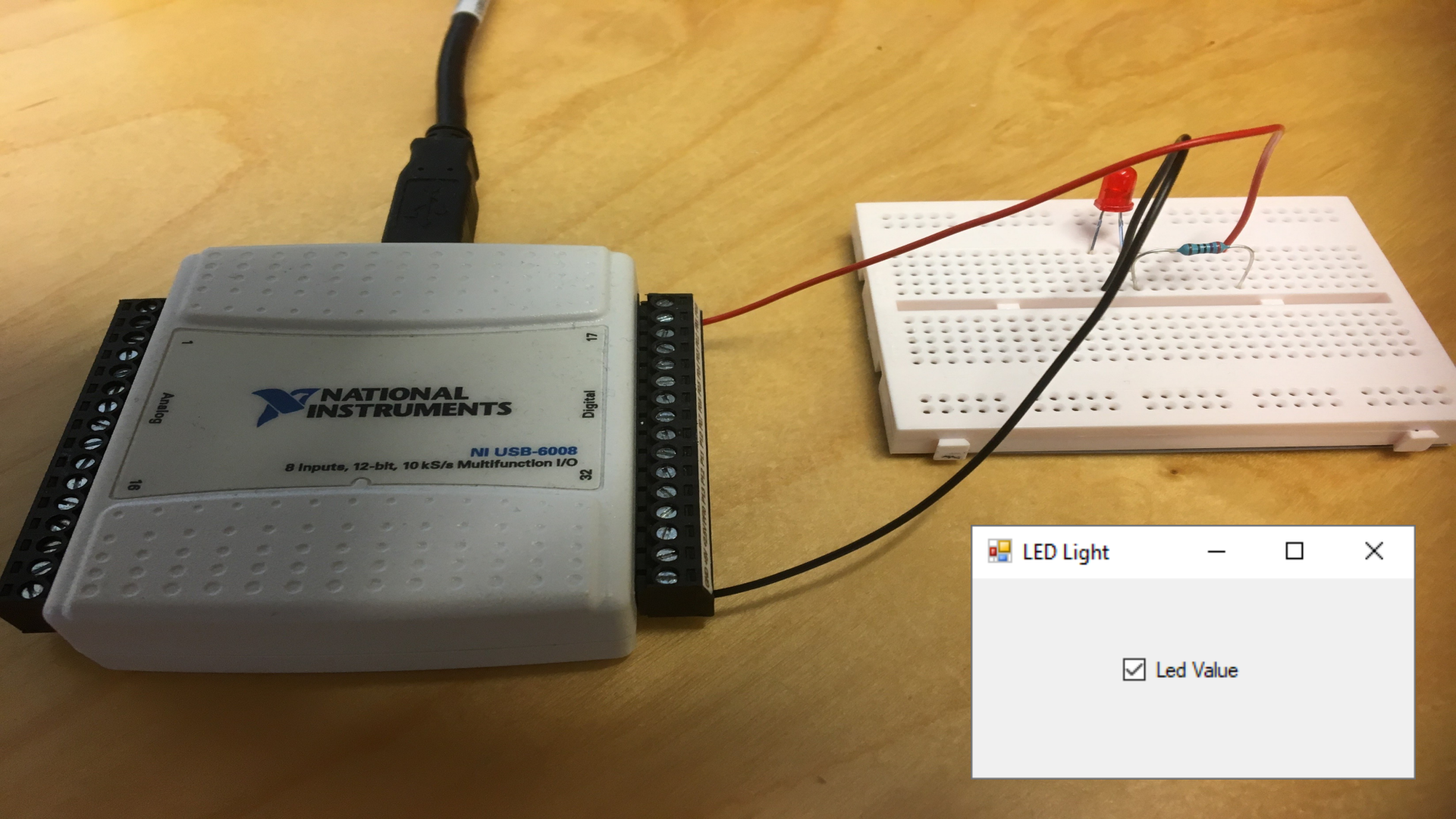


This Digital Out Example writes a Value to the Digital Out Port 0, Line 0 on the DAQ device. We can connect a Multimeter to see if the Application works as expected or we can connect a LED, etc.

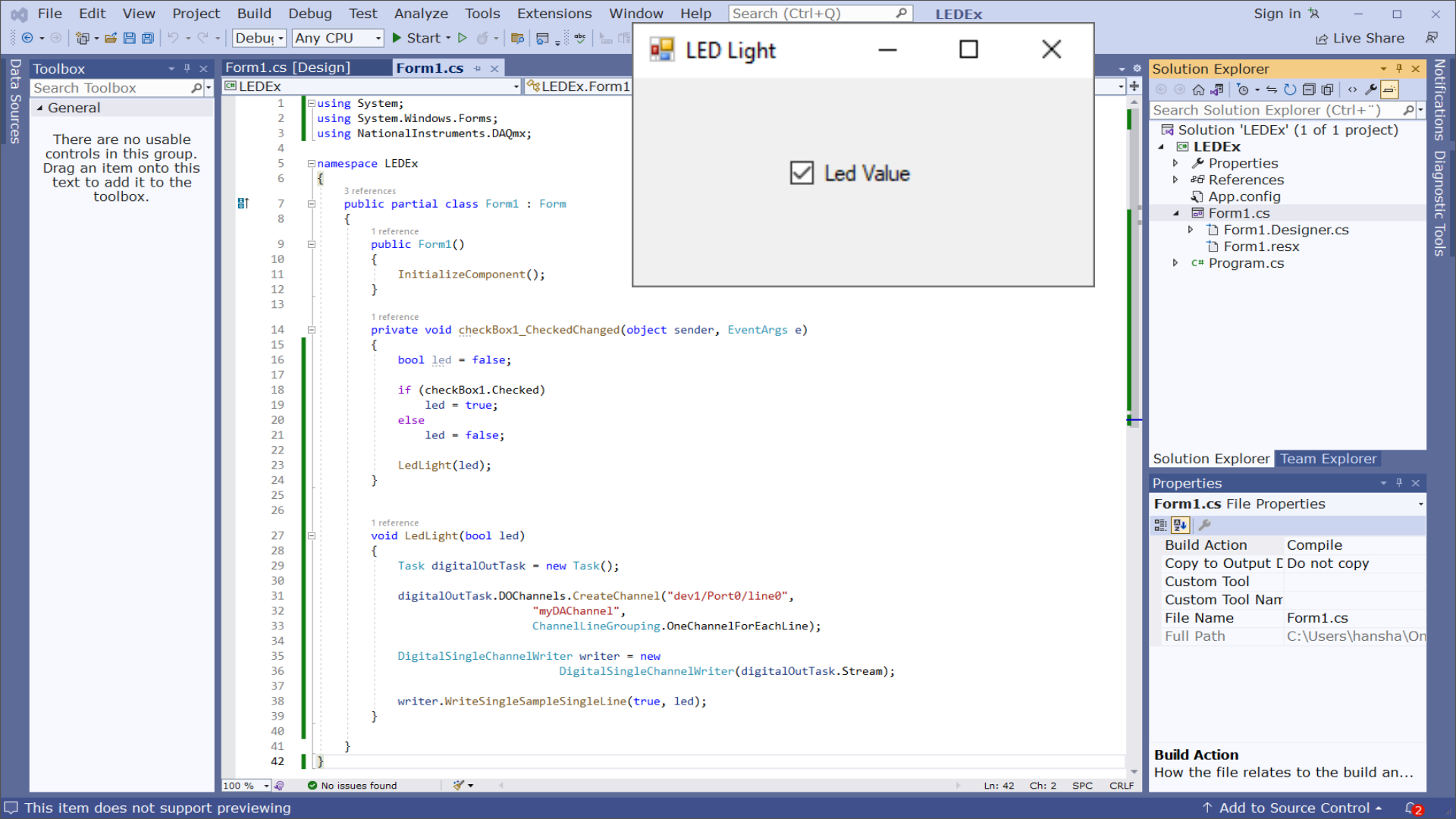
Wiring Example



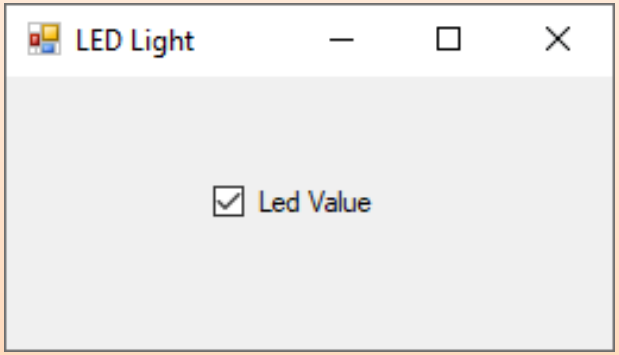



NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
NI USB-6008
8 Inputs, 12-bit, 10 kS/s Multifunction I/O
Analog
Digital
1
17
16
32
LED Light
Led Value

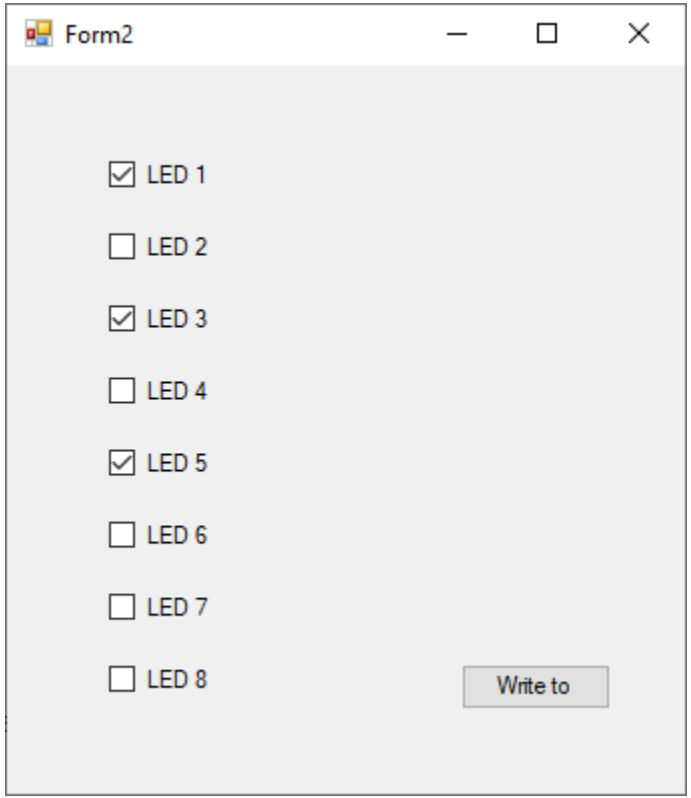
```
void LedLight(bool led)
{
    Task digitalOutTask = new Task();

    digitalOutTask.DOChannels.CreateChannel("dev1/Port0/line0",
            "myDAChannel",
            ChannelLineGrouping.OneChannelForEachLine);

    DigitalSingleChannelWriter writer = new
             DigitalSingleChannelWriter(digitalOutTask.Stream);

    writer.WriteSingleSampleSingleLine(true, led);
}
```


File Edit View Project Build Debug Test Analyze Tools Extensions Window Help
Search (Ctrl+Q)
LEDEx
Sign in
Live Share
Debug
Any CPU
Start
Toolbox
Search Toolbox
General
There are no usable controls in this group. Drag an item onto this text to add it to the toolbox.
Form1.cs [Design]
Form1.cs
LEDEx
LEDEx.Form1
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;
namespace LEDEx
{
3 references
public partial class Form1 : Form
{
1 reference
public Form1()
{
InitializeComponent();
}
1 reference
private void checkBox1_CheckedChanged(object sender, EventArgs e)
{
bool led = false;
if (checkBox1.Checked)
led = true;
else
led = false;
LedLight(led);
}
1 reference
void LedLight(bool led)
{
Task digitalOutTask = new Task();
digitalOutTask.DOChannels.CreateChannel("dev1/Port0/line0",
"myDAChannel",
ChannelLineGrouping.OneChannelForEachLine);
DigitalSingleChannelWriter writer = new
DigitalSingleChannelWriter(digitalOutTask.Stream);
writer.WriteSingleSampleSingleLine(true, led);
}
}
}
100 %
No issues found
Ln: 42
Ch: 2
SPC
CRLF
LED Light
Led Value
Solution Explorer
Search Solution Explorer (Ctrl+;)
Solution 'LEDEx' (1 of 1 project)
LEDEx
Properties
References
App.config
Form1.cs
Form1.Designer.cs
Form1.resx
Program.cs
Solution Explorer
Team Explorer
Properties
Form1.cs File Properties
Build Action
Compile
Copy to Output D
Do not copy
Custom Tool
Custom Tool Nam
File Name
Form1.cs
Full Path
C:\Users\hansha\On
Build Action
How the file relates to the build an...
This item does not support previewing
Add to Source Control
Data Sources
Notifications
Diagnostic Tools

```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

namespace LEDEx
{
  public partial class Form1 : Form
  {
    public Form1()
    {
      InitializeComponent();
    }

    private void checkBox1_CheckedChanged(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
      bool led = false;

      if (checkBox1.Checked)
        led = true;
      else
        led = false;

      LedLight(led);
    }


    void LedLight(bool led)
    {
      Task digitalOutTask = new Task();

      digitalOutTask.DOChannels.CreateChannel("dev1/Port0/line0",
                "myDAChannel",
                ChannelLineGrouping.OneChannelForEachLine);

      DigitalSingleChannelWriter writer = new DigitalSingleChannelWriter(digitalOutTask.Stream);

      writer.WriteSingleSampleSingleLine(true, led);
    }
  }
}
```



Multiple LEDs




```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DA

namespace LEDApp
{
   public partial class Form2 : Fo
   {
      public Form2()
      {
         InitializeComponent();
      }
      private void btnWriteDaq_Click(object sender, EventArgs e)
      {
         Task digitalOutTask = new Task();

         digitalOutTask.DOChannels.CreateChannel("dev1/Port0/line0:7",
                                 "myDAChannel", ChannelLineGrouping.OneChannelForAllLines);

         DigitalSingleChannelWriter writer = new DigitalSingleChannelWriter(digitalOutTask.Stream);

         bool[] dataArray = new bool[8];
         dataArray[0] = chkLed1.Checked;
         dataArray[1] = chkLed2.Checked;
         dataArray[2] = chkLed3.Checked;
         dataArray[3] = chkLed4.Checked;
         dataArray[4] = chkLed5.Checked;
         dataArray[5] = chkLed6.Checked;
         dataArray[6] = chkLed7.Checked;
         dataArray[7] = chkLed8.Checked;

         writer.WriteSingleSampleMultiLine(true, dataArray);
      }
   }
}
```

If you don't have 8 LEDs, use a Multimeter to check the voltage value on the Digital Output Channels on the DAQ Device

Digital In

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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Digital In Example

Push Button Example

Hans-Petter Halvorsen

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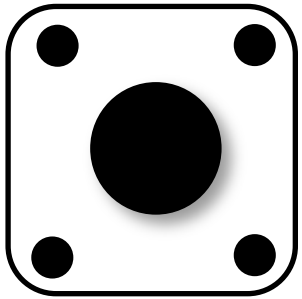
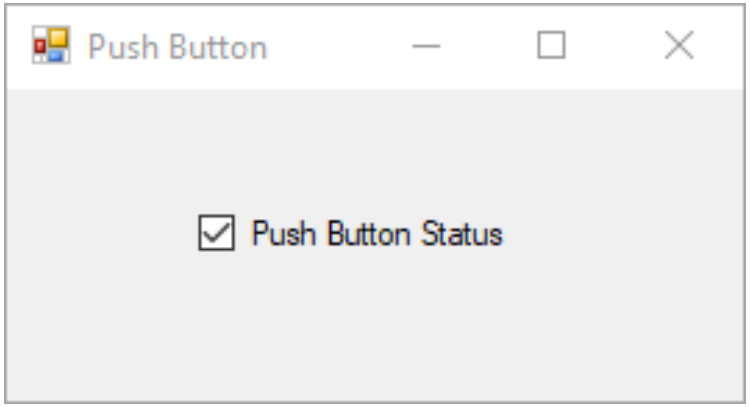
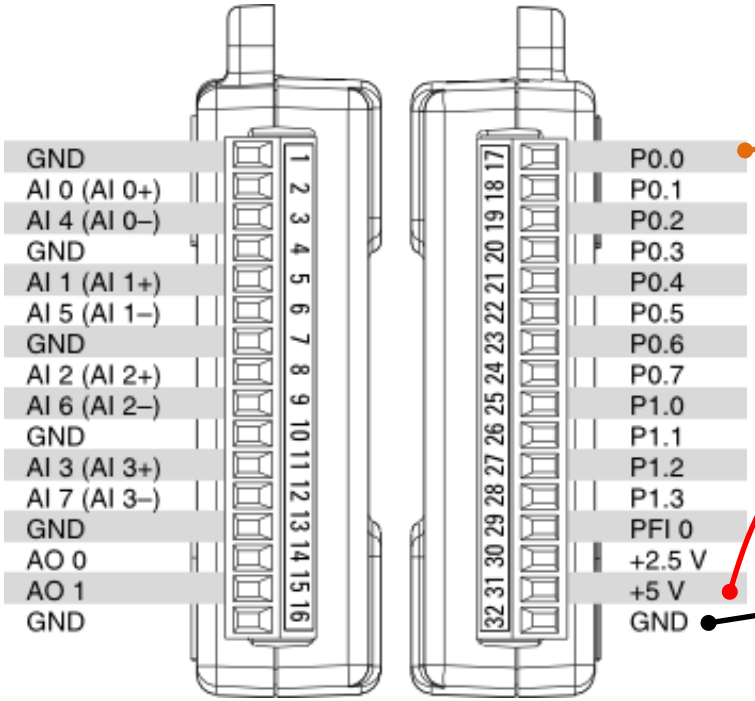
Push Button Example

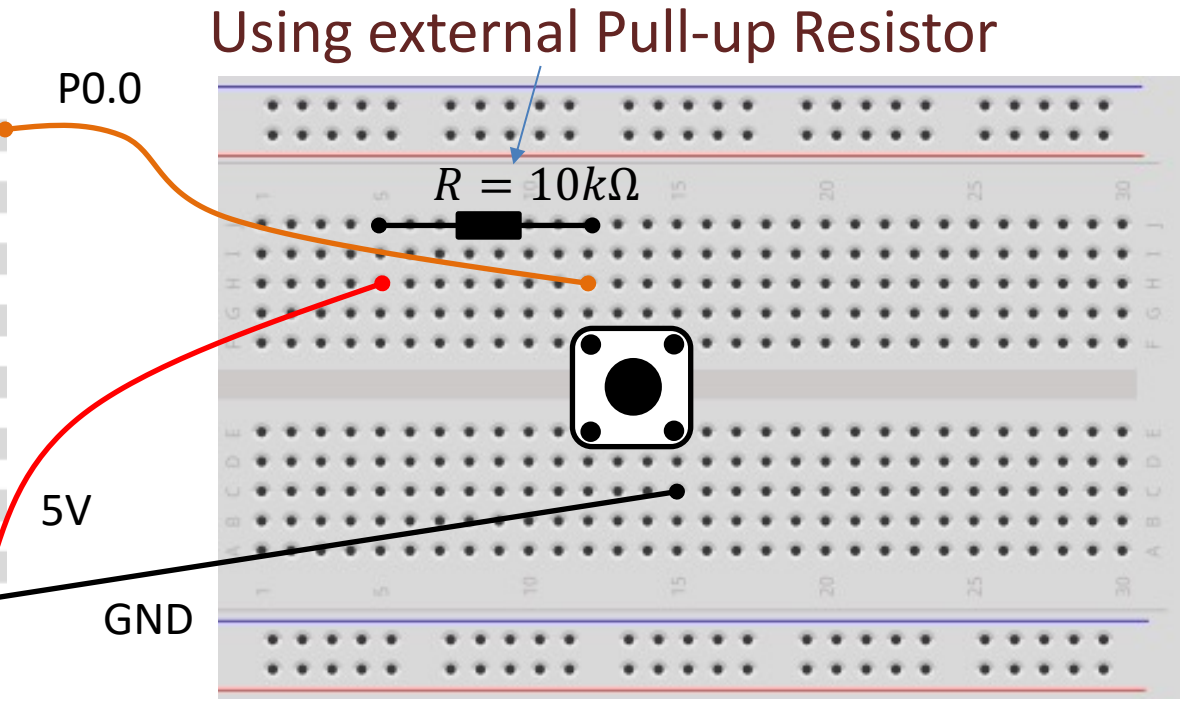


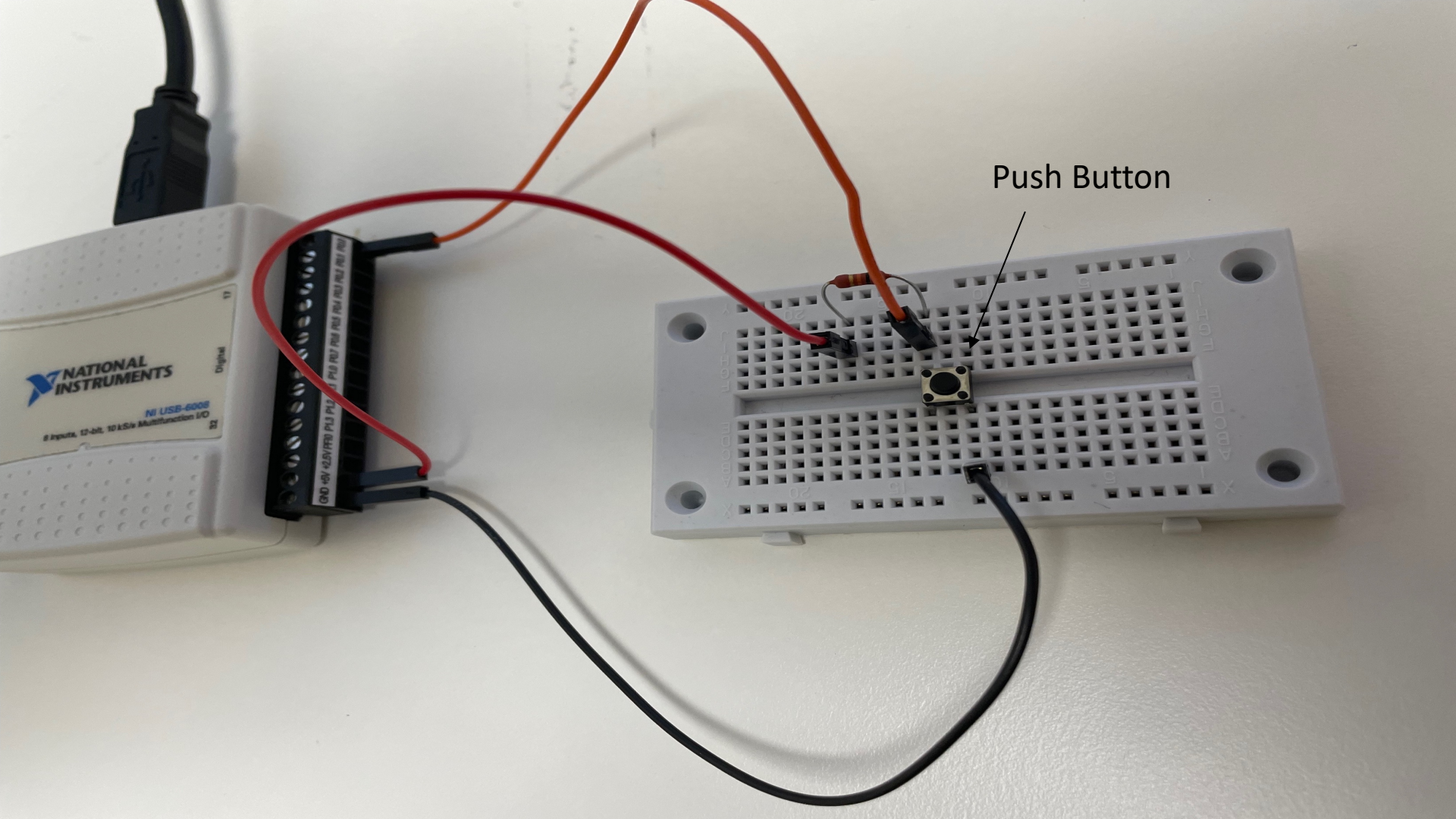


This Digital In Example shows how we can use a Push Button to set a Digital In to be False/Low (0V) or True/High (5V)

Wiring Example





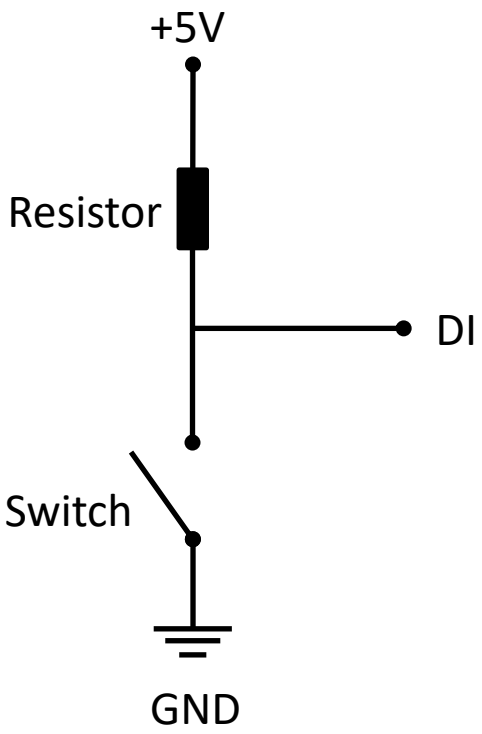

Push Button
NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS
NI USB-6008

Pull-down/Pull-up Resistor

Why do we need a pull-up or pull-down resistor in the circuit?

- If you disconnect the digital I/O pin from everything, it will behave in an irregular way.
- This is because the input is "floating" - that is, it will randomly return either HIGH or LOW.
- That's why you need a pull-up or pull-down resistor in the circuit.

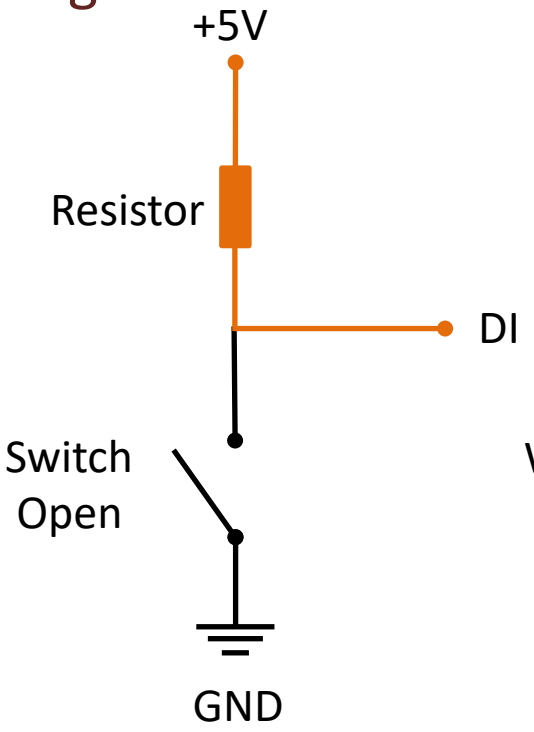
Pull-up Resistor



- When the pushbutton is open (unpressed) there is a connection between 5V and the DI pin.
- This means the default state is **True** (High).
- When the button is closed (pressed), the state goes to **False** (Low).

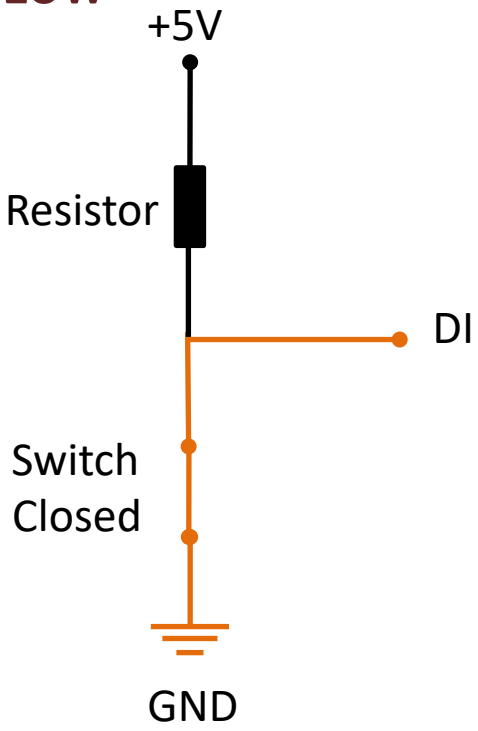
Pull-up Resistor

True/High

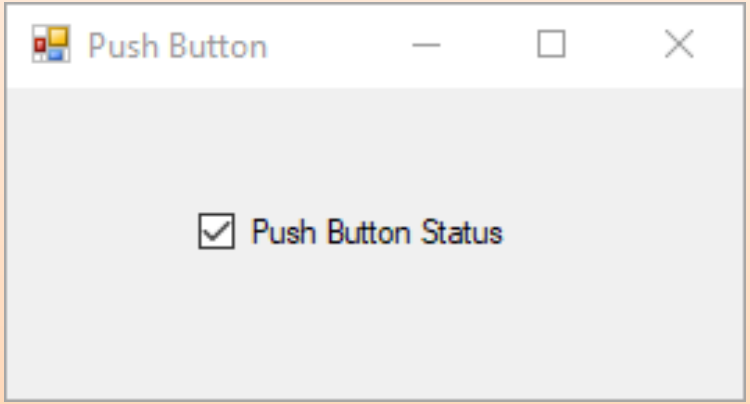


We Push the Button

False/Low



```
using System;
using System.Windows.Forms;
using NationalInstruments.DAQmx;

namespace PushButton
{
  public partial class Form1 : Form
  {
    public Form1()
    {
      InitializeComponent();
      timer1.Interval = 100;
      timer1.Start();
    }

    private void timer1_Tick(object sender, EventArgs e)
    {
      checkBox1.Checked = ReadPushButton();
    }

    bool ReadPushButton()
    {
      Task digitalInTask = new Task();

      digitalInTask.DIChannels.CreateChannel("dev1/Port0/line0",
                  "myDIChannel",
                  ChannelLineGrouping.OneChannelForEachLine);

      DigitalSingleChannelReader reader = new
                    DigitalSingleChannelReader(digitalInTask.Stream);

      bool pushButton = reader.ReadSingleSampleSingleLine();

      return !pushButton;
    }
  }
}
```



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