Industrial Embedded Systems
- Design for Harsh Environment -

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Architecture and Detailed Design - Overview -

- . We do have a requirements specification
- . Requirements are mapped to hardware and software
- Compile an "architecture design document" which is the technical specification of the system as realized
- The "embedded system researcher/developer" needs a sound understanding of hardware



Approach

- Identify standards (internal, best practice, etc.) which should be used (overlap with requirements analysis)
 - Company internal design practice: packages, traces, component size limits
 - Proven in use components (the latest stuff is not always the best)
 - Standards: architectural and design constraints imposed by certification
- Specify major hardware building blocks and do a rough footprint calculation
- Identify hardware design patterns if applicable (reusable principles, white papers, etc.)
- Specify interfaces between hardware building blocks A. Walsch, IN2244 WS 2012/13
- Schematic entry, layout and manufacturing

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Reliability Standards

- There are many possible sources for reliability metrics.
- They provide a model to obtain a failure rate for a large number of electronics components
- The models vary and should be understood as a guidline (e.g. putting specific stress on a component may increase its failure rate by 20%)



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Reliability Standards II (from wikipedia)

- All the models use basically the same process, with detailed variations.
 - Identify the components in the system
 - Such as R123, 10kOhm carbon film resistor
 - For each component, determine the component model to use from the standard
 - Such as "resistor, film, < 1 Megohm" or "Connector, multi-pin"
 - From the standard's component model, discover what, if any, complexity parameter is needed, and find the value of that parameter for this component (pin count, gate count e.g.)
 - From the standard's component model, discover what thermal stress curve applies, and find the value of the temperature in operation for this component_{2244 WS 2012/13}

Reliability Standards III (from wikipedia)

- From the standard's component model, discover what, if any, part stress parameter is needed, what part stress curve applies, and find the value of that part stress parameter for this component in this application (e.g. applied power relative to rated power)
- From the standard's component model, find the base failure rate for this component, and modify that according to the complexity parameter, the operating temperature and thermal stress curve, the part stress parameter and part stress curve, with arithmetic specified by the standard. This now is the expected failure rate for this component in this application
- Add up all the results for every component in the system to find the overall failure rate for all components in this system.

Graphical Representation



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- Block diagram widely used in HW design
 - Easy to understand and sufficient for architectures
- UML has no advantage since hardware needs to be described in CAD tool from scratch anyways
- Block diagram a signaloriented approach (also widely used in modeling control and signal processing systems)

Major System Hardware Components

- We will look into the following components and introduce design patterns and/or explain basic principles:
 - Processors uC, DSP, general purpose
 - Reconfigurable electronics CPLD, FPGA
 - Analog Input Op Amps, INAs, filters, ADCs
 - Analog Outputs DACs
 - Power supplies step down/up converters
 - Connectors, Communication
- Afterwards we will try to take the patterns and apply it to the PMU

- Processor (CPU) itself contains data path, control
- Embedded processors usually contain
 - Memory (SRAM, EEPROM, Flash)
 - . Communication (UART, I2C, SPI, CAN, etc.)
 - Internal watchdog
 - Peripherals (ADC, DAC, PWM, Timer, Capture-Compare, etc.)
 - Embedded processors are System-on-Chips and do not need any general hardware configuration (it is vendor specific). There are two add-ons that we want to highlight:
 - Reset circuitry (power on reset, brown out detection)
 - External watchdogs (program flow supervision)

CPU

- Often the CPU is not a free choice:
 - Prior usage
 - Tools already available
 - Long term availability or scalability (CPU roadmap)
 - Communication interfaces in package
 - Multiple suppliers (e.g. IP cores like ARM/MIPS)
 - Legacy code
- However, the CPU performance highly (only) depends on the function you want it to execute and on the machine code

Memory

- Parameter memory (non volatile)
 - EEPROM byte wise read and write holds e.g. configuration parameters, run-time parameters (hour meter, status)
- Program memory (non volatile)
 - Flash (NOR)– word wise read, write requires a block erase holds executable (XIP – execute in place)
- Data memory (volatile)
 - RAM (SRAM) word wise read and write addressable holds data and stack

Example: Microchip dsPIC



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Reset Circuits

- Reset: puts the system into a defined state
- A reset can be requested for many reasons:
 - Instruction
 - . External event or fault
 - Internal Fault
- Reset stops the processor Source: microchip.com immediately. After release the reset vector is executed.
- The cause of a reset is usually indicated by a flag ^{A: Walsch, IN2244 WS 2012/13} internal to the processor



Reset Circuits II - Power on Reset -



Source: Wilmshurst, Designing Embedded Systems with PIC Microcontrollers

- Example circuits for active low resets (processor is reset if voltage is low, operational if voltage is high)
 - a) simple power on reset circuit
 - b) reset pin current limitation, additional current path to allow quick power cycle with subsequent power on reset
 - c) reset button (only for lab tests not populated in products)

Reset Circuits III - Voltage Supervision -

- Commercial products require supervision of several board level voltages
- Voltage violations other than the processor voltage can cause erronous results
- Supervisory and reset circuits are available from all major IC companies (Maxim, Analog Devices, ...). There are programmable ones where limits can be set by software.



Source: Maxim AN540

Reset Circuits IV - Brown Out Detection -

- Brown out detection (BOR) important for battery operated systems
- Voltage glitch or gradually decreasing voltage
- Some data might to be stored in non-volatile memory (e.g. EEPROM)
- Routing of a delayed reset to an NMI triggers a data storage
 routine
 Source: Philips AN468



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Watchdog Circuits

- A watchdog timer is a supervisory component which must be triggered in regular intervals in order to avoid system reset
- Embedded processors usually come with internal watchdog circuits.
- A failure mode (drift) of the oscillator (account for in FMEA) makes a second external one with a separate clock source highly advisable for robust systems.
- Internal watchdogs can be disabled accidentally by software
- Set and reset the watchdog in different parts of the software to disallow stuck-at watchdog pulse loops

Watchdog Circuits II



Watchdog Circuits III - 1001D architecture -

- Embedded processor is supervised by an external watchdog and a separate independent output is provided
- A single channel can fail dangerously and safely: λ_d , λ_s
- Dangeros failures (different failure modes) can be detected and undetected: $\lambda_{dd},\,\lambda_{du}$
- Dangerous detected failures are "converted" into safe failures (the response is the safe state).
- An external watchdog detects deviations in software execution sequence and timeliness and thus detects possible dangerous failures.

Watchdog Circuits IV

- Standard watchdog .
- Windowed watchdog •



Note: See Table 36-2 for the Prescaler divider ratio (N1) and Table 36-3 for the Postscaler divider ratio (N2).



Source: Microchip, dsPIC30F

Reconfigurable Electronics

- FPGAs, CPLDs widely used. More exotic reconfigurable components out there e.g. analog FPAAs
- Functionality is specified by high-level languages (e.g. VHDL, Verilog) or schematic entry.
- Coprocessors for time-critical functions, I/O or signal processing.
 Connected via parallel or serial standard interface (digital) or configurable part of conditiong electronics.
- FPGAs mostly SRAM based (volatile) while CPLDs mostly Flash or EEPROM based (non-volatile).
- CPLDs are less complex and used for the realization of combinatorial and sequential electrical circuits with a deterministic pin-to-pin latency by design.
- FPGAs at the high end are very costly and hold complex circuitry. A. Walsch, IN2244 WS 2012/13 Slide21

Reconfigurable Electronics II

 FPGAs and CPLDs can be connected to embedded processors using either the system bus or a communication interface (SPI e.g.).



Source: Xilinx XAPP349

Analog Electronics

Non-inverting amplifier: $V_{out} = V_{in} \left(1 + \frac{R_F}{R_G}\right)$



Inverting amplifier:
$$V_{out} = -V_{in} \frac{R_F}{R_G}$$





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Analog Electronics II





Source: TI, Op Amps for Everyone



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Analog Electronics III



 What is that good for? - Adjust sensor output span to ADC input span (level shift + amplify):



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Mixed-signal Electronics - ADC -

- ADCs: analog to digital conversion (Internal to the embedded processor or external)
- Decision criteria (focus on low-bandwidth like monitoring)
 - Resolution: # of output bits (resolution of amplitude)
 - Sampling frequency (resolution in time)
 - . #channels: e.g. 8 (sampling of 8 channels simultaneously)
 - . Input dynamic range: ratio between the largest and the smallest input



Mixed-signal Electronics - DAC -

- DACs: digital to analog conversion (ICs available)
 - Can be realized by PWM peripheral
- PWM
 - Base frequency fixed, pulse width is variable
 - Pulse width proportional to the amplitude of the unmodulated signal (a digital value provided to the PWM logic)
 - Use external low pass filter (RC) to extract analog information



Mixed-signal Electronics

General signal chain:



Source: Smith, dspguide.com

- Analog filter: RC, Sallen Key
- ADC/DAC to processor interface: mostly standard serial for low bandwidth circuits (e.g. I2C, SPI) or integrated into embedded processor

Communication - UART -

- UART: Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter
 - Literally any embedded processor comes with built in UART (sometimes we need more and need to connect an additional one)
 - Full-duplex asynchronous protocol which translates data from serial to parallel and vice versa
 - Defines start (synchronization), data, stop, parity bit(s) per frame
 - . kbps to Mbps transmission rate, e.g. 9600baud
 - Physical link to other UARTs: TTL (native), RS232 (single-ended), RS422/485 (differential) for off-board data transmission



Communication - RS232 -

- Standard serial interface on older PCs. Now replaced by USB.
- Physical layer single-ended data transmission (usually point-topoint)
- Often used as debug interface in embedded systems, not used as regular data transmission line.
- e.g. MAX232 (Maxim), LTC2801 (LT)

| Parameter | Conditions | Min | Max | Units |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|------|-------|
| Driver Output Voltage, Open Circuit | | | 25 | V |
| Driver Output Voltage, Loaded | $3k\Omega < RL < 7k\Omega$ | ±5 | ±15 | V |
| Driver Output Resistance, Power Off | -2V < V < 2V | | 300 | |
| Slew Rate | | 4 | 30 | V/µs |
| Maximum Load Capacitance | | | 2500 | pF |
| Receiver Input Resistance | | 3 | 7 | kΩ |
| Receiver Input Threshold: | | | | |
| Output = Mark (Logic 1) | | -3 | | V |
| Output = Space (Logic 0) | | | 3 | V |



Source: Maxim, AN723

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Communication - RS422/485 -

- Physical layer differential data transmission (multi-drop)
- Often used as regular data transmission line since robust and inexpensive.
- RS422 and RS485 differ in increased common mode range and input impedance (RS485).





Source: Maxim, AN723

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Communication - I2C -

- I2C: Inter-IC Bus, inexpensive, only two lines (SDA, SCL), master usually in embedded processor
- . Each device is addressable by software
- Master/slave protocol, serial 8-bit oriented, multi-master bus, 100kbit/s in standard mode
- Protocols for additional low-speed peripheral connection



Communication - SPI -

- SPI: Serial Peripheral Interface, common peripheral in embedded processors
- . Used to move streams of data, bit rates in the MHz range
- . Synchronous, master-slave
- Protocol for high-speed devices (Ethernet, ADC/DAC, ...)
- . As data is clocked out, new data is clocked in (data exchange)
- Clock (SCLK), Slave Select (SS)
- Master-out-slave-in (MOSI)
- Master-in-slave-out (MISO)



Communication - Current Loop (long distance)-

- . 4-20 mA interface
- Robust interface for sensor data transmission
- A sensor converts its reading into a current (4 mA being the zero level and 20 mA the FS of the sensor e.g.)
- A receiver converts the current into a voltage for further usage
- Advantage: loop voltage drops (line resistance) can be compensated, less sensitive to noise



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Communication - CAN -

- CAN: Controller Area Network, ISO 11898 (PHY, DLL)
- Protocol controller available as peripheral of embedded processors, line driver external (creates differential signals, adds protection circuits)
- Serial protocol, up to 1 Mbit/s

Bus

Idle

- **Bit-wise arbitration**
- Error detection



Communication - error detection -

- We usually use standard protocols to transmit data.
 Correctness is guaranteed by by error detection mechanisms (e.g. parity, CRC)
- Sometimes error detection capability not sufficient
 - Hamming distance of n: n-1 bit errors can be detected.
 - Residual error: If we do know the Hamming distance and do know the bit error rate (bit flips are statistically independent) we can calculate a residual error.
 - CRC: an additional peace of data is added to the existing bit stream.
 The additional peace of data allows error detection





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