Hardware-Software Interfaces

CSEE W4840

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Basic Processor Architecture

Typical Processor System

Simple Bus Timing

Strobe vs. Handshake

1982: The IBM PC

The ISA Bus: Memory Read

The ISA Bus: Memory Write

The PC/104 Form Factor: ISA Lives

Embedded System Legos. Stack ‘em and go.
Memory-Mapped I/O

To a processor, everything is memory.
- Peripherals appear as magical memory locations.
- Status registers: when read, report state of peripheral
- Control registers: when written, change state of peripheral

Typical Peripheral: PC Parallel Port

A Parallel Port Driver

```
#define DATA 0x378
#define STATUS 0x379
#define CONTROL 0x37A

#define NBSY 0x80
#define NACK 0x40
#define OUT 0x20
#define SEL 0x10
#define STROBE 0x01
#define INVERT (NBSY | NACK | SEL | NERR)
#define MASK (NBSY | NACK | OUT | SEL | NERR)

#define NOT_READY(x) ((inb(x)^INVERT)&MASK)

void write_single_character(char c) {
    while (NOT_READY(STATUS)) ;
    outb(DATA, c);
    outb(CONTROL, control | STROBE); /* Assert STROBE */
    outb(CONTROL, control ); /* Clear STROBE */
}
```

Interrupts and Polling

Two ways to get data from a peripheral:
- Polling: "Are we there yet?"
- Interrupts: Ringing Telephone

Basic idea:
1. Peripheral asserts a processor's interrupt input
2. Processor temporarily transfers control to interrupt service routine
3. ISR gathers data from peripheral and acknowledges interrupt
4. ISR returns control to previously-executing program

Many Different Interrupts

What's a processor to do?

Processor receives interrupt ISR polls all potential interrupt sources

Intel 8259 PIC

Prioritizes incoming requests & notifies processor ISR reads 8-bit interrupt vector number of winner IBM PC/AT: two 8259s; became standard
Debugging Skills

The Edwards Way to Debug

1. Identify undesired behavior
2. Construct linear model for desired behavior
3. Pick a point along model
4. Form desired behavior hypothesis for point
5. Test
6. Move point toward failure if point working, away otherwise
7. Repeat #4–#6 until bug is found

The Xilinx Tool Chain

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The .mhs File

Xilinx `platgen` uses this to piece together the netlist from library components. Excerpt:

```
PORT VIDOUT_GY = VIDOUT_GY, DIR = OUT, VEC = [9:0]
PORT VIDOUT_BCB = VIDOUT_BCB, DIR = OUT, VEC = [9:0]
PORT FPGA_CLK1 = FPGA_CLK1, DIR = IN
PORT RS232_TD = RS232_TD, DIR=OUT

BEGIN microblaze
PARAMETER INSTANCE = mymicroblaze
PARAMETER HW_VER = 2.00.a
PARAMETER C_USE_BARREL = 1
END

BEGIN opb_uartlite
PARAMETER INSTANCE = myuart
PARAMETER C_CLK_FREQ = 50_000_000
PARAMETER C_BASEADDR = 0xFEFF0100
PARAMETER C_HIGHADDR = 0xFEFF01FF
PARAMETER LEVEL = 1
END
```

The .mss File

Used by Xilinx `libgen` to link software. Excerpt:

```
BEGIN PROCESSOR
PARAMETER HW_INSTANCE = mymicroblaze
PARAMETER DRIVER_NAME = cpu
PARAMETER DRIVER_VER = 1.00.a
PARAMETER EXECUTABLE = hello_world.elf
PARAMETER COMPILE = mb-gcc
PARAMETER ARCHIVER = mb-ar
PARAMETER DEFAULT_INIT = EXECUTABLE
PARAMETER STDIN = myuart
PARAMETER STDOUT = myuart
END

BEGIN UART
PARAMETER HW_INSTANCE = myuart
PARAMETER DRIVER_NAME = uartlite
PARAMETER DRIVER_VER = 1.00.b
PARAMETER LEVEL = 1
END
```

The .ucf File

Pin assignments and other global chip information.

```
net sys_clk period = 18.000;
net pixel_clock period = 36.000;
net VIDOUT_GY<0> loc="p9";
net VIDOUT_GY<1> loc="p10";
net VIDOUT_GY<2> loc="p11";
net VIDOUT_BCB<0> loc="p42";
net VIDOUT_BCB<1> loc="p43";
net VIDOUT_BCB<2> loc="p44";
net FPGA_CLK1 loc="p77";
net RS232_TD loc="p71";
```

Lab 1

Write and execute a C program that counts in decimal on the two 7-segment displays on the XSB-300E. We supply

- A hardware configuration consisting of a processor, UART, and
- A simple memory-mapped peripheral that latches and displays a byte controlling each segment of the displays.
- A skeleton project that compiles, downloads, and prints "Hello World" through the serial debugging cable.

Your Job

Write and test C code that

- Counts
- Converts the number into arabic numerals on the display
- Transmits this to the display

Goal: Learn basics of the tools, low-level C coding, and memory-mapped I/O.

Debugging Lab 1

- Examine build error messages for hints
- "make clean" sometimes necessary
- Call `print` to send data back to the host
- Run Minicom on /dev/ttyS0 (9600 8n1) to observe output