

Alarm Clock Embedded Systems Project Report

Monday 10:00 lab

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Devices used:

Eduboard LPC2148 v1.0

No external devices used

Interfaces used:

GPIO, I²C, SPI

Devices used:

1. LCD display
2. RTC
3. Button
4. Joystick
5. Buzzer
6. Timer
7. EEPROM

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1 Project Description

1.1 General description

The project is an digital clock with the ability to set an alarm for a given hour. The device displays current time on the LCD display. Using button and joystick it is possible to set the current time, or set an alarm. If the alarm is set and the alarm time is the current time, the buzzer emits a sound until the alarm is turned off.

1.2 Project functionalities

Functionality	Person Responsible	Implementation status
Timer	Jakub Pawlak	Implemented
RTC	Artur Pietrzak	Partially implemented
SPI	Artur Pietrzak	Not implemented
LCD Display	Jakub Pawlak	Implemented
Buttons & Joystick	Artur Pietrzak	Implemented
Buzzer	Jakub Pawlak	Not implemented
EEPROM	Juliusz Szymajda	Not implemented
I2C	Juliusz Szymajda	Not implemented

Table 1: Project functionalities and responsible persons

1.3 Setting the alarm

The alarm setting mode it entered by pressing down the joystick center push-down switch. When in alarm setting mode, the user can change the alarm time by selecting the digit with left/right movement, and selecting the value with up/down movement. After the correct time is selected, alarm is set by pressing the button.

When alarm is turned on, it can be turned off by short press of the button.

1.4 Changing the current time

The time setting mode is entered by holding down the button. Then, the time is set with the joystick in the similar way, the alarm is set. After setting the time it is set by short press of the button.

1.5 Turning off the alarm

When the alarm clock starts emitting sound, the user can turn it off by pressing the button.

2 Peripherals and interface configuration

2.1 GPIO

Example of GPIO usage in our project is the for the buzzer. The board schematic shows that for this purpose we must use P0.7 [1, p.9].

```
1 static void init_buzzer()
2 {
3     PINSEL0 &= ~(3 << 14); // clear bits 15:14
4
5     IODIR |= (1 << 7); // set P0.7 as output
6
7     IOSET = (1 << 7); // set P0.7 high (buzzer off)
8 }
9
10 static void buzzer_on()
11 {
12     IOCLR = (1 << 7); // bring P0.7 low
13 }
14
15 static void buzzer_off()
16 {
17     IOSET = (1 << 7); // set P0.7 high
18 }
```

Listing 1: Code used for controlling the buzzer pin

The pin we want to use can have many functionalities, so the first thing that needs to be done, is to set it as GPIO port. This is accomplished by writing to the PINSEL register. The bits 15:14 control port P0.7, and value 00 corresponds to GPIO functionality [2, p.59].

Next, we need to set the port to function as output. This is done via the IODIR register, so we set the 7th bit to 1, which means that P0.7 will be used as output.

Finally, we write the 7th bit to IOSET register, to set the pin high. This is done to turn off the buzzer, so it does not make noise from the start.

From the diagram [1, p.9], we can see that the buzzer is controlled via PNP transistor, so we turn it on by setting the pin low, and vice versa. To set the pin low, we write the appropriate bit to IOCLR register, and to set it high, we write to IOSET register.

It is also possible to control the pin state directly via IOPIN register, however working with IOSET and IOCLR is easier, because it eliminates the need to think about logic operations necessary to avoid accidentally changing the state of other pins.

2.2 LCD Display

2.2.1 Setup

We begin setting up the lcd by configuring the IODIR registers to set the appropriate pins as output and clear them. The pins used are data pins P1.16 to P1.23, represented as LCD_DATA, lcd enable pin P1.25 (LCD_E), lcd read/write pin P0.22 (LCD_RW), register select P1.24 (LCD_RS), and backlight P0.30 (LCD_BACKLIGHT).

Next, we proceed by sending a command $(38)_{16}$, which represents the ‘Function Set’ instruction. We set the data length to 8 bits, and the number of display lines to 2.

Next, we send display on/off command, to reset the display.

Then, we clear the display and send the $(06)_{16}$ command, which sets the cursor direction to ‘increment’.

Finally, we turn on the display, without cursor, and set cursor to home position.

All of the values to send, were taken from the instruction table in the display driver manual [3, p.24]

```

1 void DisplayInit(void) {
2     IODIR1 |= (LCD_DATA | LCD_E | LCD_RS);
3     IOCLR1  = (LCD_DATA | LCD_E | LCD_RS);
4
5     IODIRO  |= LCD_RW;
6     IOCLRO  = LCD_RW;
7
8     IODIRO  |= LCD_BACKLIGHT;
9     IOCLRO  = LCD_BACKLIGHT;
10
11     LcdCommand(0x30);
12     delay2ms();
13     LcdCommand(0x30);
14     delay37us();
15     LcdCommand(0x30);
16     delay37us();
17
18     LcdCommand(0x38); // set 8-bit, 2 line mode
19     delay37us();
20
21     LcdCommand(0x08); // display off
22     delay37us();
23
24     clearDisplay();
25
26     LcdCommand(0x06); // cursor direction - increment, no shift
27     delay2ms();
28
29     LcdCommand(0x0c); // display on, cursor off
30     delay2ms();
31
32     LcdCommand(0x02); // cursor to home position
33     delay2ms();
34 }

```

Listing 2: LCD setup function

2.2.2 Sending data to the display

```
1 static void
2 writeLCD(uint8 reg, uint8 data)
3 {
4     volatile uint8 i;
5
6     if (reg == 0)
7         IOCLR1 = LCD_RS;
8     else
9         IOSET1 = LCD_RS;
10
11     IOCLR0 = LCD_RW;
12     IOCLR1 = LCD_DATA;
13     IOSET1 = ((uint32)data << 16) & LCD_DATA;
14
15     IOSET1 = LCD_E;
16
17     for(i=0; i<16; i++)
18         asm volatile ("nop"); //15ns x 16 = about 250 ns
19     IOCLR1 = LCD_E;
20
21     for(i=0; i<16; i++)
22         asm volatile ("nop"); //15ns x 16 = about 250 ns
23     delay2ms();
24 }
25
26 void LcdCommand(unsigned char byte){
27     writeLCD(0, byte);
28 }
29
30 void LcdData(unsigned char byte){
31     writeLCD(1, byte);
32 }
33
34 void clearDisplay() {
35     LcdCommand(0x01);
36     delay2ms();
37 }
```

Listing 3: Functions for using the display

The core of interaction with the LCD is the `writeLCD` function, which takes 2 parameters - register (0 — instruction or 1 — data), and the actual 8-bit data we want to send. We begin by setting the register select pin (lines 6–9).

Before we send any data, we clear the read/write pin, to indicate that we want to write data to the display. Then we clear the data pins, and set the value in line 13. We first have to shift the value by 16 bits to the left, because we use pins P1.16–P1.23, and then we mask them with `LCD_DATA` to make sure that we do not set any other pins.

After setting the data pins, we set the LCD_E pin, which starts the data read. After some delay, we stop the data transmission by clearing LCD_E pin and wait an additional delay before the next piece of data can be sent.

2.2.3 Moving the cursor

The text that is currently displayed on the LCD is stored in so-called ‘display data RAM’ (DDRAM). The cursor is located at whatever address is currently stored at the DDRAM address counter [3, p.21].

Therefore, we can change the cursor position, by changing the address in the AC. Luckily, the LDC controller has an instruction for just that purpose. It is used by sending a command with bit 7 set, followed by 7-bit DDRAM address.

The first row is addresses $(00)_{16} - (27)_{16}$, and the second row is addresses $(40)_{16} - (67)_{16}$ [3, p.11].

Therefore, for setting the cursor position, we created the following function:

```

1 void SetCursor(unsigned int line, unsigned int column){
2     if (column > 39)
3         column = 39;
4
5     if (line == 0)
6         LcdCommand(0x80 + column);
7     else
8         LcdCommand(0xc0 + column);
9 }
```

Listing 4: Function for controlling the cursor position

Firstly, we limit the column to not be greater than 39, as the DDRAM only has 40 characters per line.

Then, we send the ‘Set DDRAM address’ command with the appropriate address. If we want to set the position in the first line, we send $(80)_{16}$ (7-th bit set, indicating command) followed by the column, as the 1st line address starts from 0. If we want to set the position in the second line, instead of $(80)_{16}$ we use $(C0)_{16}$, which is $(80)_{16}$ (7th bit) + $(40)_{16}$ (starting address of the 2nd line).

2.2.4 Writing text

Writing text to display is very simple, we just send data, and the cursor automatically increments position after each character. We just loop over the array of characters and write each one using the `LcdData` function from listing 3.

```
1 void LcdPrint(char* str){
2     while(*str){
3         LcdData(*str);
4         delay37us();
5         str++;
6     }
7 }
```

Listing 5: Function for writing text to the display

2.3 I²C

2.4 SPI

2.5 Timer

For producing precise delay we use timer 0 of the microcontroller.

To start, we reset and disable the timer, by writing 2 (bit 1) to the timer control register (TCR). Then, we can write the values controlling the delay. Firstly we write the prescaler to prescale counter (PC). Then, we write actual delay length to the match register 0 (MR0). We calculate the necessary number of ticks by multiplying the clock frequency by 5, which is the PLL multiplier, and then dividing by 1000 to get ticks per 1 ms instead of 1 s.

Then, we write 6 (bits 1 and 2) to the match control register (MCR) to indicate that we want the timer to stop and reset at MR0 match. Finally we write 1 to the control register to enable the timer and start counting [2, p.251].

```

1 delayMs(uint16 delayLength, uint32 prescaler) {
2     //initialize and start Timer #0
3     TOTCR = 0x00000002; //disable and reset Timer1
4     TOPC = prescaler; //set prescale
5     TOMRO = delayLength * //calculate no of timer ticks
6         ((CRYSTAL_FREQUENCY * 5) / 1000);
7     TOMCR = 0x00000006; //reset counter and stop
8         timer on MR0 match
9     TOTCR = 0x00000001;
10 }

```

Listing 6: Timer delay function

3 Failure Mode and Effect Analysis

3.1 Failure severity

The project depends on its components to be able to function properly. However, not all of them are equally important — some are necessary for the usage of the project, while others just provide additional functionalities.

The table below presents a list of components considered in failure effect analysis, as well as the significance of its failure.

Component	Severity
Microcontroller	Critical
Power Supply	Critical ¹
RTC	Critical
LCD Display	High
Buzzer	Medium
Button	Medium
Joystick	Medium
EEPROM	Low

Table 2: Severity of component's failure

The most crucial elements of the project are the microcontroller, power supply, and RTC. The microcontroller must not fail, because it is responsible for all of the logic of the device. The power supply must also be functioning, because there is no backup battery able to

¹Long-term power supply failures are of critical severity, but in case of short pause in power delivery, the system is able to recover using the RTC and the data stored in EEPROM

sustain the device operation. The RTC is necessary for the operation of the project, because it ensures the correctness of the told time.

The failure of the LCD display is of high severity, because it is the main way of interacting with the clock. However, it is not of critical severity, because even without the display, if the alarm was set, it will ring at the specified time.

The buzzer, button and joystick are used for the alarm, which is the additional functionality of the clock. Without them it is still possible to use the device for telling the current time.

The EEPROM failure is of the low severity, because it is only used for backup storage in case of short power supply failure. In the normal circumstances, its failure would not at all impact the usability of the device.

3.2 Failure detection

The failure of the microcontroller would be very easily noticeable, as it would probably result in a complete failure of the device.

The lack of power is also easily detectable, because the device will not show anything. The board is equipped with a small green power indicator LED [1]. Should that indicator not be lit, means the failure of the power supply.

The LCD failure is also trivial to notice, as the display would not be showing anything. To differentiate it from the power supply failure, the power indicator LED should be inspected.

References

- [1] Embedded Artists. *LPC2148 Education Board User's Guide*, 2006. EA2-USG-0601 v1.2 Rev B.
- [2] NXP. *LPC214x User manual*. Rev. 4 — 23 April 2012.
- [3] Hitachi. *HD44780U (LCD-II) (Dot Matrix Liquid Crystal Display Controller/Driver)*. ADE-207-272(Z) '99.9 Rev. 0.0.