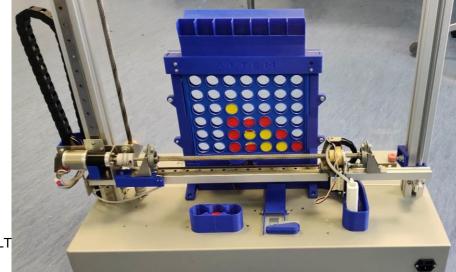




Submitted to: Fontys University of Applied Sciences

June 2023 Boris Ivanov







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1 Foreword

2 [PLACEHOLDER]

- 3 This is an internship report on 'Designing an Autonomous Robot-Player for Connect-4'. This project has
- 4 been realized at ALTEN by Boris Ivanov on behalf of educational program Electrical & Electronic
- 5 Engineering at Fontys University of Applied Sciences in Eindhoven. The project and this report were
- 6 realized in the period of February 2023 June 2023.
- 7 I was guided by my mentor Michael van der Velden.

8 [Continue]

9

Table of Contents

10	Foreword	3
11	Summary	5
12	List of abbreviations	5
13	List of figures & tables	5
14	I. Introduction	6
15	II. About the Company	6
16	1. Background information	6
17	III. Project description and assignment	
18	Project background	8
19	2. Problem description	8
20	3. Assignment	g
21	4. Project scope	g
22	5. Boundary condition	10
23	6. Project approach:	10
24	i. Development phases	10
25	ii. Verification method (V-model)	
26	IV. Research	12
27	Research objectives	12
28	2. Main and sub-questions	Error! Bookmark not defined
29	3. Research approach	Error! Bookmark not defined
30	4. Results	18
31	5. Conclusions	18
າາ	V Specification	





1	VI.	System Design	1	
2	VII.	Detailed Design/ Module Design	2	
3	VIII.	Realization	2	
4	IX.	Verification and validation	2	
5	1.	Test set-up	2	
6	2.	Test results	2	
7	X. R	tesult analysis	2	
8	XI.	Conclusions	2	
9	XII.	Recommendations	3	
10				
11	Bibliography			
12	Attach	ments	4	
13	A. (Original assignment	4	
14	В. Р	Project plan	4	
15	C. (Originality Declaration	4	
16	D. (Confidentiality Declaration (optional)	Error! Bookmark not defined.	
17	E. S	RD, System Requirements Document (optional)	4	
18	F. S	DD, System Design Document (optional)	4	
19	G. N	MDD, Module Design Document (optional)	Error! Bookmark not defined.	
20	Н. Т	TRD, Test Report Document (optional)	4	
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1 Summary

2 [written at the end]

3 List of abbreviations

4 [continually updated]

	ACRONYM	DESCRIPTION
	IT	Information Technology
5		
6	List of figures & tables	
7	[continually updated]	
8	Figure 1: Organogram	6
9	Figure 2: The Connect-4 Robot [PLACEHOLDER]	8
10	Figure 3: The V-Model	11
11	Figure 4: OVERVIEW OF THE ROBOT PLAYER	Error! Bookmark not defined.
12	Figure 9: Level 1 of the software architecture	13
13	Figure 10: Level 2 of the software architecture for both	n cores14
14	Figure 11: Level 3 of the software architecture for Core	ex-M4Error! Bookmark not defined.
15	Figure 4: User Code Marking	14
16	Figure 5: The .IOC Configuration File of Latest Implem	nentation16
17	Figure 6: The .IOC file of a Dual-Core Communication	Project16
18	Figure 7: Comparison of settings across projects	17
19		
20	[continually updated]	
21	Table 1: Project boundaries	10
22	•	
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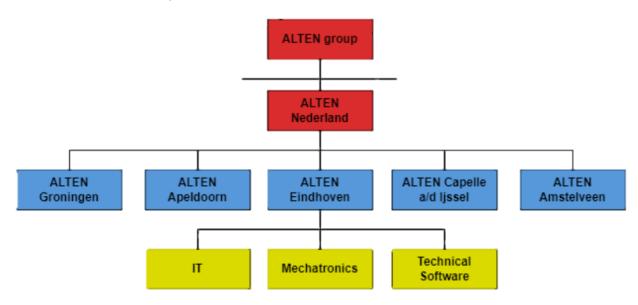
I. Introduction

6 [written at a later stage]

7 II. About the Company

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- 9 ALTEN is a global technology consulting and engineering firm. They provide research projects for
- technical and information systems divisions in the industrial, telecommunications, and service sectors.
- 11 Their focus is on the conception and research for the technical divisions. Additionally, ALTEN provides
- networks and telecom architectures, as well as the development of IT systems for the information
- 13 departments [1].
- 14 As far as industries that rely on ALTEN for their business include, but are not limited to,
- telecommunications, computer systems, networking, multimedia, energy & life sciences, finance, defence,
- aviation, and information systems [2].



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FIGURE 1: ORGANOGRAM

1. Background information

- 21 Established in France in 1988, ALTEN is a global engineering and technology consulting firm with
- locations in 30 nations. ALTEN had 54,100 employees and earned 3.78 billion euros in revenue in 2022.
- 23 45% of the group's business is conducted in the French market [1].





- 1 Within the Netherlands, their expertise is in the following categories: ALTEN IT, Technical Software and
- 2 Mechatronics, with the "Connect-4" project falling within the Mechatronics department.
- 3 Technical software focuses on embedded systems, simulation & modelling, monitoring & control, and
- 4 business critical systems. This includes anything from banking systems to traffic light control [3]. ALTEN
- 5 provides end-to-end software engineering solutions, including software design, development, testing,
- 6 integration, and maintenance, to its clients across industries.
- 7 Mechatronics supports its clients by developing and improving its products with the latest improvements
- 8 in technology. ALTEN's mechatronics services include designing and prototyping complex systems,
- 9 simulation and modelling, control systems development, system integration, and testing and validation.
- 10 The company has a team of experienced engineers who work closely with clients to understand their
- requirements and develop custom solutions that meet their needs [4].
- This project is part of ALTEN's in-house projects, which are often used to develop new skills for
- consultants or the ones of interns. Since ALTEN wants to demonstrate their competence in the field of
- motion systems it wanted to create a demonstrator around this. The Connect-4 (Four Up, 4-in-a-row)
- robot was developed for demos at trade fairs and open days at universities. The robot game is meant to
- demonstrate the knowledge of the consultants at ALTEN, and it is therefore developed with industrial
- 17 components.

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IHo Project description and assignment

- In this chapter you give all the details about the project assignment, in clear sections. The reader comes to
- 22 know everything about the following areas:
- What is the initial situation? What is there to miss? Why is that a problem? What are the unintended consequences?
- What is the purpose of the project? What does the client achieve with it? What is the desired end situation?
 - What is, by virtue of the two previous points, the precise assignment description?
- 28 In this chapter you clearly describe what does belong to and does not belong to your assignment. So if the
- 29 company wants you to use a certain design method or apply a specific technique (FPGA, microcontroller,
- 30 protocols, etc.) the reader can find it here.
- 31 If the assignment in the course of the project changes, this will be explained in this chapter.
- 32 So again:
- 33 A. Successful problem definition, means clear goal of the project
- B. Defining boundaries of the project. Boundaries are more conditions that must be met. E.g. if there is enough budget.
- *C.* What is out of scope? For example, out of scope is: sw development is not part of the project.



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Graduation Report



D. Make sure that the final results/solutions could be verified if possibleda,

1. Project background

FIGURE 2: THE CONNECT-4 ROBOT [PLACEHOLDER]

My graduation internship for Fontys Hogeschool will be conducted at ALTEN, with my task being to realize as many as possible software blocks and verify the whole system to the best of my abilities. This all would be done to a Connect-4 robot player, shown in figure 1, which has had its software architecture designed by another graduate student. And the rest of the design was once functional.

The game itself is fairly simple to play. There is a seven-by-six rack board, with slots at each side for the two players to enter their tokens. A red one for the robot player and a yellow one for the human

player. The first player to connect four tokens in a row in any direction wins.

The whole process, of playing the game, should be completely autonomous. After the player token has been placed in the idle robot, it can decide its next move based on a difficulty setting. To be able to play the game, the 4-in-a-row robot is equipped with numerous parts that help it achieve its task. The big ones are the two motors for movement in the X and Z direction, together with their encoders and home/end switches. Additionally, it has two servos, one to rotate the end-effector and another to open the board for resetting the game state. Also, the robot has an RGB sensor and a flipper to be able to sort and distribute the tokens to the correct sides. The robot's end-effector is equipped with a vacuum pump, vacuum sensor, and valve to be able to pick up tokens. Finally, the machine can detect when and where a token is dropped, through a series of IR sensors on the entrance of the board.

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The project has existed for several years, and several major changes have occurred during its existence.

The one that concerns the current state, is the change of micro-controller used in the system. Before, the

29 system used a single-core processor, but with constant improvements in functionality and new additions,

30 the system started to become slower and unresponsive. Therefore, it was decided that a new processor

will be put into the system. The dual-core STM32H755 is more powerful than its predecessor and fits with

32 the newer requirements. The initial idea was that one core would be responsible for the real-time

processing, while the other core would be the "primary" core and it will delegate tasks and take care of the

higher-level logic like the game decisions, displaying results and more.

35 Another major change is the new PCB made to accommodate the new controller, together with rewiring

the system, and another set of demo software projects on specific sections of the system.

2. Problem description

37 38 39

With the newly added dual-core processor the system had to undergo a major restructure of its software

architecture and its PCB design. These two tasks were undertaken by previous interns. However, the





- software architecture wasn't realized or verified due to time constraints. Several "demos" were made to
- showcase some parts of the architecture working together. However, neither demonstration code has been
- 3 extensively verified or documented. More information about the demonstration projects will be included
- 4 in Chapter IV.
- 5 The above-mentioned software projects have different functionality. One is the initialization-homing
- 6 procedure, another one is low-level code about different peripherals on the STM32, and finally the
- 7 communication and rudimentary data exchange between the two cores. Additionally a legacy code of the
- 8 old system exists.
- 9 None of the projects adhere to the newly created software architecture, therefore, all the software so far
- 10 has to be reviewed and assessed if it is suitable for the new system.

3. Assignment

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The assignment, therefore, is to merge old with the new and evaluate if the previous systems work as intended. Write additional code that supports the operation of the Connect-4 robot player. That would be any block from the newer core Cortex-M7 (described in Chapter VI.), and the main game logic. Additional tasks include, but not limited to: designing high-level logic for different system sub-modules from the previously designed architecture, designing libraries for sensors (RGB sensor, IR sensor) and peripherals (GPIO, motors, encoders, etc.), implementing low-level logic (EXTI, NVIC, HSEM, etc.).

To sum up, the task is to bring the robot to an operational level by designing and implementing the necessary elements and validating the previous work done.

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Additionally, ethernet communication with the systems should be investigated. This would be the starting ground for future upgrades of the system. This would have to facilitate communication with the internet, the transfer and receiving of data to keep high scores, current player's turn, a human machine interface, etc.

4. Project scope

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The project is concerned with the re-evaluation (and if needed redesign) and implementation of the previously designed software architecture. The dual-core communication is worked out, but the rest of the modules have to be implemented. The programming language will be C.

Project boundaries	Within Scope ?
Implement software modules	Yes
Redesign software modules	Yes
Research ethernet communication	Yes
Implementing ethernet communication	No
Redesign hardware/mechanics	No





Changes to the gameplay	No
	i l

TABLE 1: PROJECT BOUNDARIES

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5. Boundary condition

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- 5 Boundary conditions are essential to ensure that a project is completed within the specified limits and to
- 6 prevent any unwanted consequences. In the context of the Connect-4 robot player project, there are
- 5 several boundary conditions that should be considered. These include hardware limitations, time
- 8 constraints, and more.
- 9 The project must be completed within the allotted timeframe, and deadlines for each stage of the project
- must be established to ensure timely completion. The nature of merging different software project at
- different points of completion is usually very time-consuming.
- The hardware limitations of the robot player must be considered during the design and implementation of
- the software. The STM32H7 processor has a limited amount of memory, there are a lot of other hardware
- components with varied points of failure.

6. Project approach:

i. Development phases

- The project will follow the normal V-model development procedure. However, since the project has been
- under development for quite some time, a big part of the verification phase is complete. The system and
- 19 the architecture of the said system have been designed, together with parts of the different lower-levelled
- 20 modules and their software implementations.
- A part of this project will be the validation of the already made design choices and system/sub-systems
- (refer to Chapter VI), through different means of testing (unit, module, integration) and a varied
- assortment of techniques (black-box, white-box, happy-path) and through the designing of newer modules
- that are to be integrated into the system.





ii. Verification method (V-model)

- 2 The V-model is a development model that emphasizes the importance of testing and verification
- 3 throughout the development process. It is suitable for the Connect-4 project because it involves a complex
- 4 system with multiple components that must be integrated and tested thoroughly.

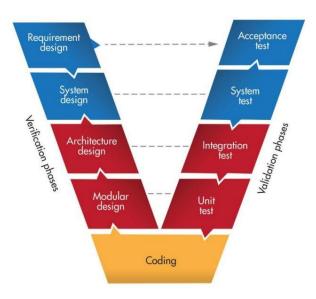


FIGURE 3: THE V-MODEL





IV₁ Research

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1. Research objectives

- Validation of the previous software designs
- Architectural set-up
- State Machine Improvements

6 2. Research

- 7 The research needed for completion of this project is varied and layered. Several topics needed
- 8 investigating, to ensure a thorough evaluation of the robot and at the end, to make it operational. The
- 9 topics are as follows: baseline research of the STM32 controllers and how they operate, familiarization
- with the existing software project and new architecture, how to test software on embedded systems and
- finally ethernet communication [if included]. The following pages briefly introduce the system architecture
- that was designed when the project was handed over, then followed by the baseline research of the
- 13 STM32H microcontroller and later the projects and the discoveries about them. About more detailed
- information on the architecture, one may request access to the SAD (Software Architecture Document) [5]

15 A look at the Connect-4 Robot Player through its software architecture

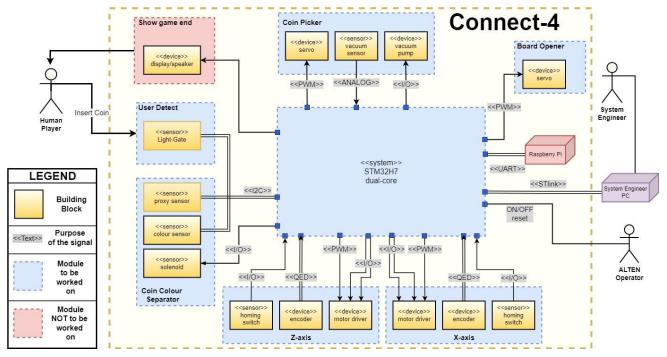


FIGURE 4: OVERVIEW OF THE ROBOT PLAYER

- 16 The previous designer chose to describe the system by several different levels of abstraction. Abstraction,
- in this case being how obstructed are the low-level controls of the peripherals and the registers of the
- microcontroller. In total there are 3 layers to the software architecture, each of them describing the
- 19 different modules needed to make the system functional. Level 1 has the highest abstraction, level 3 the
- 20 lowest. By designing and implementing from the lowest level, a clear path to completion is presented.
- Furthermore, by building up the lower-levelled blocks and testing them, the stability of the system can be
- verified better, and debugging can be done more easily when building up the more complex blocks.
- 23 What can be seen in figure X is the overview of the system, with the different controlling methods





- required by each peripheral. Blue signifies that the module needs work upon. Red means that this is not
- 2 implemented on the system and will not be worked upon during this project. The objects in the blue-
- 3 dashed blocks are the different sub-modules of the system. Each inner block of the sub-modules describes
- 4 the hardware used to achieve the task, coloured in darker yellow.

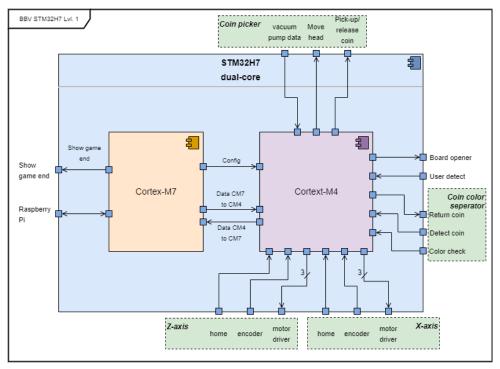


FIGURE 5: LEVEL 1 OF THE SOFTWARE ARCHITECTURE

- 6 The first level of the architecture describes that the core Cortex-M7 (referred to as CM7) will take care of
- 7 the game handling logic, like the next-move decision, delegating tasks to the other core, and the bulk of
- 8 the additions for the future will be done on this core. It will be the primary core of the system, while
- 9 Cortex-M4 (referred to as CM4) will be the secondary core of the system. It will take care of the real-time
- processing and it will act upon tasks given from Cortex-M7. The core will drive the motors, separate, and
- pick the tokens and more.





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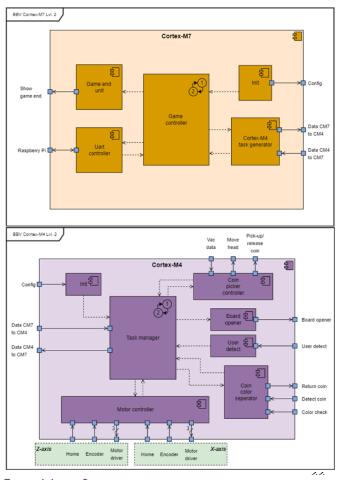


Figure 6: Level ${\bf 2}$ of the software architecture for both cores

The second level is as deep as it goes for Cortex-M7, since the rest of the functionality is out of scope for this project and is for future upgrades. However this doesn't mean that there's no work to be done on this level. The game controller is the main finite state machine of the Connect-4 robot player, and together with the task generator, they are responsible for the whole gameplay loop. A part of the task for this assignment is to imporve that state machine.

For Cortex-M4 the second layer describes another set of controllers, the hardware of the robot. It is apparent that another level would be needed to explain the full functionality of these blocks. However, on this level it can be clear how the game operates. There are modules for picking up the tokens, bringing them from a place to place, a module to separates user and robot tokens to their respective places, a token detector, a board opening module and the main controller of this layer, the task manager.

23

Layer 3 is the last one from the software architecture. The blocks there describe the lowest level components that make up the system. For example, the blocks Motor X and Motor Z, together with PID X and PID Z, or block controlling the vacuum pump or the variety of sensors present in the system. As mentioned before, the description of this architecture is the work of a previous assignment and further detail is saved due to brevety [5]. However, a part of this current assignment is to evaluate how good the architecture will be in practice, and during design.

Investigating the microcontroller and the existing software

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In parallel with the software architecture research, the Nucleo-144 board containing STM32H745/55 was investigated. Necessary in order to grasp the basic principles behind its operation and how the boards are set-up for development.

35 STM has a proprietary IDE (STM32CubeIDE) with which the board could be programmed and is what's

been used by the previous designers of the system. It has the unique

feature of being able to configure all the features that the

38 microcontroller has to offer, and auto-generates code for the

39 initialization of the device. This is a newer addition to the CubeIDE,

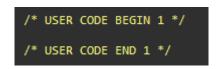


FIGURE 7: USER CODE MARKING

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- and such a configuration file does not exist for the legacy code of the Connect-4 system.
- 2 Because parts of the code are auto-generated great attention needs to be paid to several matters.
- 3 First and most important is to only write code in the designated places within the project files, which
- 4 wasn't the case for all of the demo projects received. When the developers' input is required to program a
- 5 feature that should exist in the auto-generated sections of code, that section where it should be placed at is
- 6 marked as "USER CODE BEIGN/END".
- 7 Secondly, the generated code and the programing of the microcontroller is made easier through the STM
- 8 provided library, HAL (Hardware Abstraction Layer). It provides a simple, generic set of APIs (application
- 9 programming interfaces) to interact with higher level logic, while abstracting the low-level complexities of
- 10 hardware [6]

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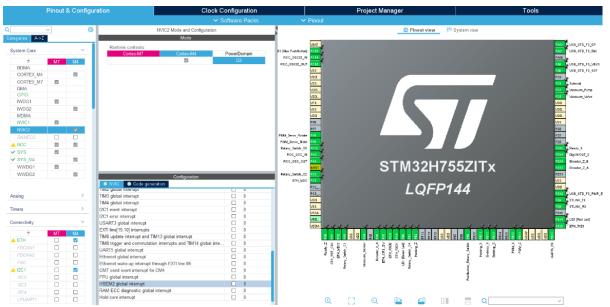
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- A good starting point to understand how the system works on a low-level, is to look into the devices it
- uses to function and by referring the dual-core architecture. In **Error! Reference source not found.** some
- of them could be noticed, like the PWM and I2C.
- 14 The full list of peripherals in use and their functions are as follows: [to copy acronyms to top]
- GPIO, General Purpose Input/Output Pins, which controls the external devices.
 - NVIC, Nested Vectored Interrupt Controller, one for each core, to take care of interrupts.
- RCC, Reset and Clock Control, to set the internal clocks.
 - ADC, Analog to Digital Converter, to transform the vacuum sensor data.
- TIM, Timers, multiples of which control the PWMs, for the motors and servos, and the encoders.
- ETH, Ethernet connection for future upgrades.
 - I2C, the I2C communication protocol, which facilitates the connection with some sensors.
- UART, the Universal Asynchronous Receiver/Transmitter protocol, which facilitate communication with the Raspberry Pi and the Operator of the system.
- 24 Through the inspection of the software projects the necessary peripheral devices could be identified and
- compared. On the intranet of ALTEN, three projects could be found initially. One is called the "Legacy
- 26 Project", the initial working version from the old STM32F. Of the other two, one is called "Connect-4"
- 27 Demo", which has code for the Task Generator based on the HSEM (Hardware Semaphores) notifications
- and the basic FSM on the game logic described in the SAD , and the other one is called "Dual-Core
- 29 Communication Demo", which has code that describes the data exchange between the two cores, through
- 30 the use of HSEM, and a shared buffer. The 4th project was received from the previous intern after the start
- of the internship, and it is called the "Initialization Demo". It is based on the "Connect-4 Demo" project,
- but doesn't include all its functionalities, however it adds the functionality to move the motors and to
- perform a homing routine. Furthermore, initially the "Initialization Demo" wasn't running on the system
- due to the problems described in, [include chapter], and when those issues were overcome the code still
- didn't run on the system. Through more research, it was concluded that a lot of the logic in the project
- was wrong and had to be modified.
- 37 Due to lack of documentation, most of the logic of the projects was hard to follow, but since success has
- been achieved with the demo projects, it was important to learn from them and see what is available for
- 39 use. It's important to note, that only the Initialization Demo was able to run on the current machine due to





- hardware configurations, meaning that the old codes had limited capabilities to be tested on the hardware
- 2 as it stands right now.
- 3 When inspecting the "Initialization Demo", the configuration file of the micro-controller opens as well.
- 4 Here the developer can configure all the features that the STM32H755 has to offer.



- On the left side is the pinout view, with user input names for the functions of different pins. In the middle Figure 8: The .IOC Configuration File of Latest Implementation
- 6 are the different options each feature has. And on the right side, are the categories themselves.
- As evident, there is a lot to go through, and even more so, because several projects are involved. Here
- 8 comes the first challenge of the merging several projects.
- 9 If one is to look at a project of different functionality, for example how the "Dual-Core communication" is
- constructed, we can notice several differences with the configuration from figure X.



12 FIGURE 9: THE .IOC FILE OF A DUAL-CORE COMMUNICATION PROJECT





- First off, the pinout is completely different, but for now this isn't important since the project in figure 5 is
- the one that includes the most up to date layout of the pins. However, if we were to focus on the
- 3 configuration settings of the separate features, it can be noticed that both the presence of some settings
- 4 and their enabling is different.

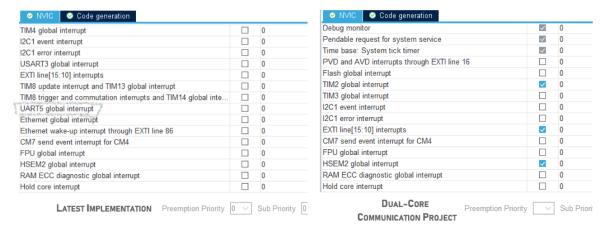


FIGURE 10: COMPARISON OF SETTINGS ACROSS PROJECTS

- 5 The presence of options was later linked to their enabling in different sections of the configuration. For
- 6 example, if *UART5* was never configured to begin with (as is the case in the dual-core project), you will
- 7 never see the option for a *UART5 global interrupt* in the NVIC settings.
- 8 Next, it's observed that there are features existing in both projects, that are enabled on one, but not the
- 9 other. For example, look at the HSEM and EXTI line interrupts. This is a bit more impactful to the merging
- of the demo projects into a single one, since the lack of their presence means that the auto-generated code
- for them won't exist. And with it, the place where the developer can implement their required functions.
- 12 Which in turn will negate the added code, if a new auto-generation is needed, which is mandatory every
- time a feature of the controller is configured or modified. As mentioned, everything in the generated files
- that resided outside of the aforementioned "USER CODE" places, will disappear.
- 15 For the current implementation this means the following: Since it will cost too much time to manually
- scrape through all the different options, when a feature is found not present in the current project, but is
- in a demonstration project, only then will it be investigated where and how to configure it, and then add
- the necessary code for it.
- 19 Here, I believe it is appropriate to mention that the latest software project before my own implementation
- 20 was received 7 weeks after the internship started. This was an unforeseen delay in communication from
- 21 the previous intern, who also hadn't uploaded the software in question in the intranet of ALTEN. Which
- resulted in spending more time on developing tests for the system, which are to be described in a later
- 23 **chapter [include chapter]** and researching the previous projects more, the results from which are
- 24 described in [add chapter].

Gameplay Logic Improvement

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Based on a recommendation from a previous report of the system, which stated that the main logic of the system needs improvement, research into what that meant was done. Contact was established with the

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- person who had worked on it since he is a consultant at ALTEN. The following information was collected:
- 2 The state machine was very simple and needed expansion and improvement, to set-up a new project that
- 3 adheres to the file structure dictated by the architecture.
- 4 To understand how the state machine could be improved, first the topics of synchronization and hardware
- 5 semaphores have to be explained. Synchronization is a key component of the state machines of the robot,
- 6 since there are two cores that operate in parallel. The cores will have to communicate with each other and
- 7 exchange some data. How does one core know that the other has written the data to memory? How does
- 8 the other core know when to look in the memory?
- 9 A hardware semaphore is a synchronization primitive, used in projects with multiple cores to synchronize
- 10 processes together. In general, it is used to control access to a common resource to the cores. And there
- are several types, however for this implementation, the only focus will be on binary semaphores. That is, a
- semaphore that has only two states. Locked or unlocked. When a semaphore is locked, if another process
- wants to access the same resource currently occupied by the semaphore, it has to wait for it to finish and
- unlock the resource before it can access it.
- 15 From the basic work done on this topic, a location in SRAM4 memory was found that is available for the
- hardware semaphores. That is, a special place in memory where the data could be exchanged between the
- two cores in a safe and atomic manner [7]. This would be where the data for which column to play at, or
- at which column the user has dropped the token, would have to happen.
- Additionally, in the "Connect-4 Demo" it is shown how the HSEMs are used for notifications, which in
- 20 essence establish a way for the two cores to know what the other one is doing. Applicable in this case since

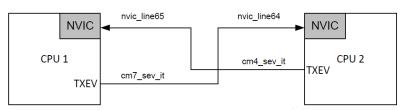


FIGURE 11: SEND-EVENT INSTRUCTION NOTIFICATION MECHANISM [8]

it is desired for one core to be considered a Primary-core and the other one Secondary-Core.

Through the notifications in the cores: states could be advanced and synchronized to each other; operations could be performed on

time. As such, one core will send notifications with commands, while the other will send notification with

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- status updates. One such notification "task" exists as an example in one of the projects. The rest have to
- 30 still be designed.

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- To sum up the improvements, with the notification method, the Cortex-M4 will know when to look into
- 32 the memory to read off the location where it has to play its next move. Also, through locking, it is ensured
- that only one core has access to a peripheral at any given time. Additionally, to expand the current tasks
- 34 and give a clear meaning to their functions. Add tasks which describe the system in a fuller extent.
- 35 Implement the design.
 - 3. Results
 - 4. Conclusions

V₁ Specification

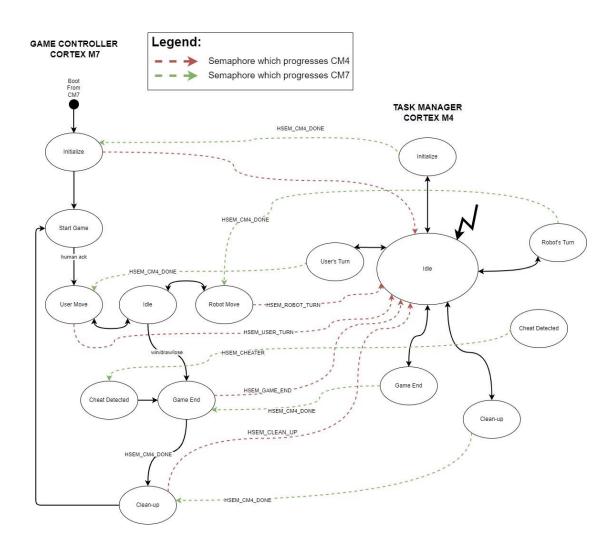
- 2 Make sure:
- 3 A. Clear definition of the test cases and their outcome
- 4 B. MoSCoW model for realistic overview
- 5 C. Can be described in a SRD (System Requirement Document) and attached
- 6 D. In this chapter you describe the outcome of the SRD





VI₁ System Design

- 2 Here you can e.g. introduce or start applying and the top-down structured design of your project.
- *A.* Can be described in a SDD (System Design Document) and attached to the report
- 4 B. In this chapter you describe the outcome of the SDD
- 5 One of the designs needed to improve the system was to improve the main gameplay logic of the
- 6 Connect-4 robot. The software modules that facilitate this are the Game Controller from Cortex-M7,
- alongside the Task Generator from the same core and the Task Manager from Cortex-M4.
- 8 First, compared to the old FSM, the new one were made to match each other. Done so the
- 9 synchronization can be represented and understood better by future developers. More states were
- added, to ease the future development of the system. These states are the cheat and clean-up state, as
- well as a revised meaning for the game end task.
- The new states, require new tasks to be designed as well. Tasks and the aforementioned HSEM
- notifications, are the same thing. When a task is sent to a core, it should trigger a state transition and a
- respective action out of that state. [explanation about notifications triggering state transitions and
- 15 synch]







- 1 In the end, the figure bellow describes the communication and exchange of information of each core.
- 2 More detailed information on the states/tasks and their meaning can be found in the Annex to be
- attached later].

Cortex-M7 States	Purpose of state	Cortex-M4 States	Purpose of state
Initialize		Initialize	
Start Game		Start Game	
User Move		User Move	
Idle		Idle	
Robot Move		Robot Move	
Cheat Detected		Cheat Detected	
Game End		Game End	
Clean-up		Clean-up	

- 4 [something similar for the tasks?]
- 5 [problems with power setting (SMPS) and deadlock state of the controller due version of softwares]

VII6 Detailed Design/ Module Design

- 7 A. Can be described in a MDD (Module Design Document) and attached to the report
- 8 *B.* In this chapter you describe the outcome of the SDD regarding the design (calculations, simulations, schematics, software)

VIII Realization

- 11 A. Can be described in a MDD (Module Design Document) and attached to the report
- 12 B. In this chapter you describe the outcome of the SDD regarding the building of the prototype
- 13 C. The test plan and test report of the MDD can be used as source

IX₄ Verification and validation

- 15 1. Test set-up
- 16 **2. Test results**

X₇ Result analysis

XI₈ Conclusions

- 19 The reader should be able to understand this chapter even when he, immediately after he has read the
- 20 introduction and chapters, has skipped all intermediate: make sure you connect the content within the
- 21 conclusion chapter!
- 22 The reader who has read the whole report, should encounter no new information in this last chapter,
- indeed: he must be able to predict what it says! In this chapter the results are compared with the initial
- 24 assignment (requirements/specifications) 15





- and conclusions are drawn. Do not draw conclusions that are not underpinned with previous mentioned
- 2 results. Conclusions coming out of the blue are not acceptable!
- 3 Recommendations (could be a separate chapter) tell the reader what should be improved or still has to
- 4 be done in order to complete the assignment
- 5 This last chapter has no figures or lists. The maximum length is one page.

XII6 Recommendations

Evaluation

7

- 8 This is not a chapter, and therefore has no number and no sections. Just like the foreword or preface the
- 9 evaluation is a personal part of the report and you can write this component also in the 'I' form. You
- reflect on the experiences you have had during the project. You oversee the whole journey and you
- discuss what you've learned. You describe what you've found and what you remember as your most
- "teachable or valuable moments" i.e.: when did the error(s) or problem(s) occur and why; especially
- how you've solved the problems and again emphasize that!
- 14 This is not the place to settle outstanding accounts. But suppose there was a profound reorganization at
- 15 your Department, where many people are transferred or dismissed, then of course this has influenced
- 16 your work, and then you need to mention this. But do this carefully, without offending somebody.
- 17 Finally it is advised to take some time to look back at and evaluate your study. First compare your
- 18 graduation time, subjects, needed skills, needed knowledge, etc. to that what you have learned at Fontys
- 19 Engineering. Which subjects, courses, practical's and projects were helpful or even indispensable. Also
- 20 you could advice how to change the curriculum of Fontys Engineering from every possible view point.
- Adding or deleting subjects and/or courses, change practical's, change the way of teaching, you name it.
- 22 This will help Fontys Engineering to keep the curriculum updated and in that way Fontys Engineering is
- able to educate the engineer of the future!
- To be clear: this part is not often written in (business) reports. But some universities do want this part
- 25 to show your competences and your (positive) critical view on your education. Fontys Electrical
- 26 Engineering is happy with this separate chapter as a learning experience for the study.

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Bibliography

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- A. Original assignment 5
- B. Project plan 6
- C. Originality Declaration 7
- 8 E. SRD, System Requirements Document (optional)
- F. SDD, System Design Document (optional) 9
- H. TRD, Test Report Document (optional) 10