

Task 2 – Data processing calculations on Cortex-M3 with reduced execution time report

This short report outlines the changes made to reduce execution time of given ARM assembly code from 935 cycles to 338 cycles, around 64% less cycles using original data.

Original code	Replaced with in modified code	Changes made to reduce execute time
<code>MOV r0, #(1+samed_end-samed)-(filter_end-filter)</code>	<code>MOV r0, #(1+samed_end-samed)-8</code>	Filter values are no longer stored separately in a memory area as according to application specification 3 the number of filter values are fixed.
<pre> MOV r1, #0 ; coun find_scaling_factor MOV r2, #(filter_end-filter) LDR r10, =filter ; the MOV r7, #0 ; scal scaling_loop LDRB r5, [r10], #1 ; get ADD r7, r7, r5 ; accu SUBS r2, r2, #1 ; chec BNE scaling_loop ; move </pre>	Removed from original code.	The code to find the scaling factor is no longer needed as it could be replaced with a constant, in this case the value 512 which is 2^9 .
<code>MOV r3, #0</code>	Removed from original code.	Initializing count no longer required as we can overwrite the previous result with the first calculated value directly.
<pre> MOV r9, r8 ADD r8, r8, #1 </pre>	<code>SUB r9, r9, #7</code>	Address of next set of sampled data could be worked out by subtracting 7 (assuming there are 8 filter values) using the current address
<pre> MOV r2, #(filter_end-filter) LDR r10, =filter ; start </pre>	Removed from original code.	As filter values are embedded in the code, we do not need to load the address of the memory location storing the filter values.
<pre> filter_loop LDRB r4, [r9], #1 LDRB r5, [r10], #1 MUL r6, r4, r5 ADD r3, r3, r6 SUBS r2, r2, #1 BNE filter_loop </pre>	<pre> filter_loop LDR r4, [r9], #4 UBFX r5, r4, #0, #8 LSL r3, r5, #5 UBFX r5, r4, #8, #8 LSL r5, r5, #5 ADD r3, r3, r5 UBFX r5, r4, #16, #8 LSL r5, r5, #6 ADD r3, r3, r5 </pre>	<p>4 bytes are loaded in one instruction using LDR and filtered out using UBFX removing the need of accessing memory for each byte. LSL is used to multiply the data values with the filter values.</p> <p>N.B MUL has the same number of cycles as LSL.</p>

	<pre> UBFX r5, r4, #24, #8 LSL r5, r5, #7 ADD r3, r3, r5 LDR r4, [r9], #4 UBFX r5, r4, #0, #8 LSL r5, r5, #7 ADD r3, r3, r5 UBFX r5, r4, #8, #8 LSL r5, r5, #6 ADD r3, r3, r5 UBFX r5, r4, #16, #8 LSL r5, r5, #5 ADD r3, r3, r5 UBFX r5, r4, #24, #8 LSL r5, r5, #5 ADD r3, r3, r5 </pre>	
<pre>UDIV r3, r3, r7</pre>	<pre>LSR r3, r3, #9</pre>	Scaling down the result by dividing by 512 could be done by logical shift right LSR 9 as $2^9 = 512$.
<pre>ADD r1, r1, #1 CMP r0, r1</pre>	<pre>SUBS r0, r0, #1</pre>	To check if all the values has been processed, counting down is used to reduce 1 cycle. Flag is used in conjunction with instruction SUB to remove the need of instruction CMP for the conditional branch instruction.
<pre>filter ; 8-bit unsigned filter values DCB 32, 32, 64, 128, 128, 64, 32, 32 filter_end</pre>	Removed from original code.	Filter values are embedded in the code and therefor this is no longer required.