Developing kernel modules

bootlin

embedded Linux and kernel engineering



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Hello module 1/2

```
// SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0
/* hello.c */
#include <linux/init.h>
#include <linux/module.h>
#include <linux/kernel.h>
static int __init hello_init(void)
  pr_alert("Good morrow to this fair assembly.\n");
  return 0:
static void exit hello exit(void)
  pr_alert("Alas, poor world, what treasure hast thou lost!\n");
module init(hello init):
module_exit(hello_exit):
MODULE LICENSE("GPL"):
MODULE_DESCRIPTION("Greeting module");
MODULE AUTHOR("William Shakespeare"):
```



Hello module 2/2

- Code marked as __init:
 - Removed after initialization (static kernel or module.)
 - See how init memory is reclaimed when the kernel finishes booting:

```
[ 2.689854] VFS: Mounted root (nfs filesystem) on device 0:15.
```

- [2.698796] devtmpfs: mounted
- [2.704277] Freeing unused kernel memory: 1024K
- [2.710136] Run /sbin/init as init process
- Code marked as __exit:
 - Discarded when module compiled statically into the kernel, or when module unloading support is not enabled.
- Code of this example module available on

https://raw.githubusercontent.com/bootlin/training-materials/master/code/hello/hello.c



Hello module explanations

- ► Headers specific to the Linux kernel: linux/xxx.h
 - No access to the usual C library, we're doing kernel programming
- An initialization function
 - Called when the module is loaded, returns an error code (0 on success, negative value on failure)
 - Declared by the module_init() macro: the name of the function doesn't matter, even though <modulename>_init() is a convention.
- A cleanup function
 - Called when the module is unloaded
 - Declared by the module_exit() macro.
- Metadata information declared using MODULE_LICENSE(), MODULE_DESCRIPTION() and MODULE_AUTHOR()



Symbols exported to modules 1/2

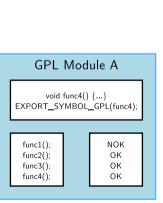
- From a kernel module, only a limited number of kernel functions can be called
- Functions and variables have to be explicitly exported by the kernel to be visible to a kernel module
- Two macros are used in the kernel to export functions and variables:
 - EXPORT_SYMBOL(symbolname), which exports a function or variable to all modules
 - EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(symbolname), which exports a function or variable only to GPL modules
 - Linux 5.3: contains the same number of symbols with EXPORT_SYMBOL() and symbols with EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL()
- A normal driver should not need any non-exported function.

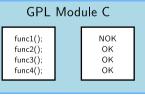




void func1() {...} void func2() {...} EXPORT_SYMBOL(func2); void func3() {...} EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL(func3); func1(); func2(); func3(): OK OK OK

func4();





NOK



Module license

Several usages

- Used to restrict the kernel functions that the module can use if it isn't a GPL licensed module
 - Difference between EXPORT_SYMBOL() and EXPORT_SYMBOL_GPL()
- Used by kernel developers to identify issues coming from proprietary drivers, which
 they can't do anything about ("Tainted" kernel notice in kernel crashes and oopses).
- See admin-guide/tainted-kernels for details about tainted flag values.
- Useful for users to check that their system is 100% free (for the kernel, check /proc/sys/kernel/tainted; run vrms to check installed packages)

Values

- GPL compatible (see include/linux/license.h: GPL, GPL v2, GPL and additional rights, Dual MIT/GPL, Dual BSD/GPL, Dual MPL/GPL)
- Proprietary



Compiling a module

Two solutions

- Out of tree, when the code is outside of the kernel source tree, in a different directory
 - Not integrated into the kernel configuration/compilation process
 - Needs to be built separately
 - The driver cannot be built statically, only as a module
- Inside the kernel tree
 - Well integrated into the kernel configuration/compilation process
 - The driver can be built statically or as a module



Compiling an out-of-tree module 1/2

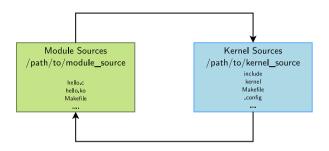
- ► The below Makefile should be reusable for any single-file out-of-tree Linux module (see Building External Modules for other options)
- ► The source file is hello.c
- ▶ Just run make to build the hello.ko file

```
ifneq ($(KERNELRELEASE),)
obj-m := hello.o
else
KDIR := /path/to/kernel/sources
all:
<tab>$(MAKE) -C $(KDIR) M=$$PWD
endif
```

► KDIR: kernel source or headers directory (see next slides)



Compiling an out-of-tree module 2/2



- ► The module Makefile is interpreted with KERNELRELEASE undefined, so it calls the kernel Makefile, passing the module directory in the M variable
- ► The kernel Makefile knows how to compile a module, and thanks to the M variable, knows where the Makefile for our module is. This module Makefile is then interpreted with KERNELRELEASE defined, so the kernel sees the obj-m definition.



Modules and kernel version

- ► To be compiled, a kernel module needs access to *kernel headers*, containing the definitions of functions, types and constants.
- Two solutions
 - Full kernel sources (configured + make modules_prepare)
 - Only kernel headers (linux-headers-* packages in Debian/Ubuntu distributions, or directory created by make headers_install).
- ► The sources or headers must be configured (.config file)
 - Many macros or functions depend on the configuration
- You also need the kernel Makefile, the scripts/ directory, and a few others.
- A kernel module compiled against version X of kernel headers will not load in kernel version Y
 - modprobe / insmod will say Invalid module format



New driver in kernel sources 1/2

- ► To add a new driver to the kernel sources:
 - Add your new source file to the appropriate source directory. Example: drivers/usb/serial/navman.c
 - Single file drivers in the common case, even if the file is several thousand lines of code big. Only really big drivers are split in several files or have their own directory.
 - Describe the configuration interface for your new driver by adding the following lines to the Kconfig file in this directory:

```
config USB_SERIAL_NAVMAN

tristate "USB Navman GPS device"

depends on USB_SERIAL

help

To compile this driver as a module, choose M

here: the module will be called navman.
```



New driver in kernel sources 2/2

- ► Add a line in the Makefile file based on the Kconfig setting: obj-\$(CONFIG_USB_SERIAL_NAVMAN) += navman.o
- ▶ It tells the kernel build system to build navman.c when the USB_SERIAL_NAVMAN option is enabled. It works both if compiled statically or as a module.
 - Run make xconfig and see your new options!
 - Run make and your new files are compiled!
 - See kbuild/ for details and more elaborate examples like drivers with several source files, or drivers in their own subdirectory, etc.



Hello module with parameters 1/2

```
// SPDX-License-Identifier: GPL-2.0
/* hello_param.c */
#include <linux/init.h>
#include linux/module.h>
MODULE LICENSE("GPL"):
static char *whom = "world":
module_param(whom, charp, 0644);
MODULE_PARM_DESC(whom, "Recipient of the hello message");
static int howmanv = 1:
module_param(howmany, int, 0644);
MODULE_PARM_DESC(howmany, "Number of greetings"):
```



Hello module with parameters 2/2

```
static int init hello init(void)
    int i:
    for (i = 0; i < howmany; i++)
        pr_alert("(%d) Hello, %s\n", i, whom);
    return 0;
static void __exit hello_exit(void)
    pr_alert("Goodbye, cruel %s\n", whom);
module_init(hello_init):
module_exit(hello_exit);
```

Thanks to Jonathan Corbet for the examples

Source code available on: https://github.com/bootlin/training-materials/blob/master/code/hello-param/hello-param.c

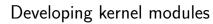


Declaring a module parameter

```
module param(
    name, /* name of an already defined variable */
    type, /* standard types (different from C types) are:
           * byte, short, ushort, int, uint, long, ulong
           * charp: a character pointer
           * bool: a bool, values 0/1, y/n, Y/N.
           * invbool: the above. only sense-reversed (N = true). */
    perm /* for /sys/module/<module_name>/parameters/<param>,
           * 0: no such module parameter value file */
);
/* Example: drivers/block/loop.c */
static int max_loop:
module param(max loop, int, 0444):
MODULE PARM DESC(max loop, "Maximum number of loop devices"):
```

Modules parameter arrays are also possible with module_param_array().

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Useful general-purpose kernel APIs



Memory/string utilities

- ▶ In include/linux/string.h
 - Memory-related: memset(), memcpy(), memmove(), memscan(), memcmp(), memchr()
 - String-related: strcpy(), strcat(), strcmp(), strchr(), strrchr(), strlen()
 and variants
 - Allocate and copy a string: kstrdup(), kstrndup()
 - Allocate and copy a memory area: kmemdup()
- ▶ In include/linux/kernel.h
 - String to int conversion: simple_strtoul(), simple_strtol(), simple_strtoull(), simple_strtoll()
 - Other string functions: sprintf(), sscanf()

Useful macros



- Most useful: container_of(), ARRAY_SIZE()
- Bit manipulation: BIT(), BIT_MASK(), GENMASK()
- Math: DIV_ROUND_UP(), abs()....
- ► Endianness: cpu_to_le32(), cpu_to_be32(),...
- Build-time assert: BUILD_BUG_ON(), BUILD_BUG_ON_MSG()....
- Run-time assert: WARN(), WARN_ON(),...
- Kconfig: IS_ENABLED(), IS_BUILTIN(), IS_MODULE(),...
- And many more, be curious!

(P)

Linked lists

- Convenient linked-list facility in include/linux/list.h
 - Used in thousands of places in the kernel
- Add a struct list_head member to the structure whose instances will be part of the linked list. It is usually named node when each instance needs to only be part of a single list.
- Define the list with the LIST_HEAD() macro for a global list, or define a struct list_head element and initialize it with INIT_LIST_HEAD() for lists embedded in a structure.
- ► Then use the list_*() API to manipulate the list
 - Add elements: list_add(), list_add_tail()
 - Remove, move or replace elements: list_del(), list_move(), list_move_tail(), list_replace()
 - Test the list: list_empty()
 - Iterate over the list: list_for_each_*() family of macros



Linked lists examples 1/2

```
From include/soc/at91/atmel_tcb.h
/*
 * Definition of a list element, with a
 * struct list_head member
*/
struct atmel_tc
    /* some members */
    struct list_head node;
};
```



Linked lists examples 2/2

From drivers/misc/atmel_tclib.c

```
/* Define the global list */
static LIST_HEAD(tc_list);
static int __init tc_probe(struct platform_device *pdev) {
    struct atmel tc *tc:
    tc = kzalloc(sizeof(struct atmel_tc), GFP_KERNEL);
    /* Add an element to the list */
    list add tail(&tc->node. &tc list):
struct atmel_tc *atmel_tc_alloc(unsigned block, const char *name)
    struct atmel_tc *tc;
    /* Iterate over the list elements */
    list_for_each_entrv(tc. &tc_list. node) {
        /* Do something with tc */
    [...]
```

Describing hardware devices

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Discoverable hardware: USB and PCI



Discoverable hardware

- Some busses have built-in hardware discoverability mechanisms
- Most common busses: USB and PCI
- ► Hardware devices can be enumerated, and their characteristics retrieved with just a driver or the bus controller
- Useful Linux commands
 - 1susb, lists all USB devices detected
 - 1spci, lists all PCI devices detected
 - A detected device does not mean it has a kernel driver associated to it!
- Association with kernel drivers done based on product ID/vendor ID, or some other characteristics of the device: device class, device sub-class, etc.







- ▶ On embedded systems, devices are often not connected through a bus allowing enumeration, hotplugging, and providing unique identifiers for devices.
- ► For example, the devices on I2C buses or SPI buses, or the devices directly part of the system-on-chip.
- ▶ However, we still want all of these devices to be part of the device model.
- ▶ Such devices, instead of being dynamically detected, must be statically described.



 Directly in the OS/bootloader code

- Using compiled data structures, typically in C
- How it was done on most embedded platforms in Linux, U-Boot.
- Considered not maintainable/sustainable on ARM32, which motivated the move to another solution.



2. Using ACPI tables

- On x86 systems, but also on a subset of ARM64 platforms
- ► Tables provided by the firmware

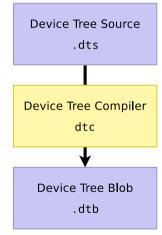


- Originates from OpenFirmware, defined by Sun, used on SPARC and PowerPC
 - That's why many Linux/U-Boot functions related to DT have a of_ prefix
- Now used by most embedded-oriented CPU architectures that run Linux: ARC, ARM64, RISC-V, ARM32, PowerPC, Xtensa, MIPS, etc.
- 3. Using a **Device Tree**
- Writing/tweaking a DT is necessary when porting Linux to a new board, or when connecting additional peripherals



Device Tree: from source to blob

- ▶ A tree data structure describing the hardware is written by a developer in a **Device Tree Source** file, .dts
- Processed by the Device Tree Compiler, dtc
- Produces a more efficient representation: Device Tree Blob, .dtb
- Additional C preprocessor pass
- .dtb \rightarrow accurately describes the hardware platform in an **OS-agnostic** way.
- ightharpoonup . dtb pprox few dozens of kilobytes
- ▶ DTB also called **FDT**, *Flattened Device Tree*, once loaded into memory.
 - fdt command in U-Boot
 - fdt_ APIs





dtc example

dtc example

```
$ cat foo.dts
/dts-v1/;

/ {
          welcome = <0xBADCAFE>;
          bootlin {
                webinar = "great";
                demo = <1>, <2>, <3>;
          };
};
```

```
$ dtc -I dts -O dtb -o foo.dtb foo.dts
$ ls -l foo.dt*
-rw-r--r-- 1 thomas thomas 169 ... foo.dtb
-rw-r--r-- 1 thomas thomas 102 ... foo.dts
```

dtc example

```
$ cat foo dts
/dts-v1/:
/ {
        welcome = <0xBADCAFE>;
        bootlin {
                webinar = "great":
                demo = <1>, <2>, <3>;
        };
```

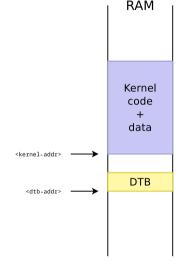
```
$ dtc -I dts -O dtb -o foo.dtb foo.dts
$ 1s -1 foo.dt*
-rw-r--r-- 1 thomas thomas 169 ... foo.dtb
-rw-r--r-- 1 thomas thomas 102 ... foo.dts
```

```
$ dtc -I dth -O dts foo dth
/dts-v1/:
/ {
         welcome = <0xbadcafe>;
         bootlin {
                   webinar = "great";
                   demo = <0 \times 01 \ 0 \times 02 \ 0 \times 03>;
         };
```



Device Tree: using the blob

- Can be linked directly inside a bootloader binary
 - For example: U-Boot, Barebox
- Can be passed to the operating system by the bootloader
 - Most common mechanism for the Linux kernel
 - U-Boot:
 - boot[z,i,m] <kernel-addr> <dtb-addr>
 - The bootloader can adjust the DTB before passing it to the kernel
- The DTB parsing can be done using libfdt, or ad-hoc code





Where are Device Tree Sources located?

- Even though they are OS-agnostic, no central and OS-neutral place to host Device Tree sources and share them between projects
 - Often discussed, never done
- In practice, the Linux kernel sources can be considered as the canonical location for Device Tree Source files
 - arch/<ARCH>/boot/dts/<vendor>/
 - arch/arm/boot/dts (on ARM 32 architecture before Linux 6.5)
 - \approx 4500 Device Tree Source files (.dts and .dtsi) in Linux as of 6.0.
- Duplicated/synced in various projects
 - U-Boot, Barebox, TF-A



Device Tree base syntax

- Tree of nodes
- Nodes with properties
- ► Node ≈ a device or IP block
- ► Properties ≈ device characteristics
- ► Notion of **cells** in property values
- Notion of **phandle** to point to other nodes
- dtc only does syntax checking, no semantic validation

```
    Node name

                             Unit address
                                       Property name

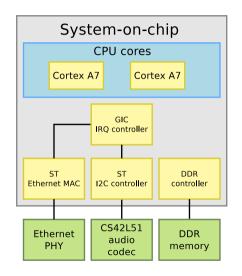
    Property value

                    a-string-property = "A string":
                    a-string-list-property = "first string", "second string"
Properties of node@0
                    a-byte-data-property = [0x01 0x23 0x34 0x56]:
                    child-node@0
                         first-child-property:
                         second-child-property = <1>:
                         a-reference-to-something = <&node1>;
                    child-node@1 {
                                              (reference to another node)
         Label -
                node1: node@1 {
                    an-empty-property:
                    a-cell-property = <1 2 3 4>:
                    child-node@0 {
                                                 Four cells (32 bits values)
```



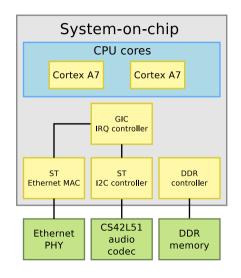
```
/ {
    #address-cells = <1>;
    #size-cells = <1>;
    model = "STMicroelectronics STM32MP157C-DK2 Discovery Board";
    compatible = "st,stm32mp157c-dk2", "st,stm32mp157";

    cpus { ... };
    memory@0 { ... };
    chosen { ... };
    intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 { ... };
    soc {
        i2c1: i2c@40012000 { ... };
        ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 { ... };
    };
};
```



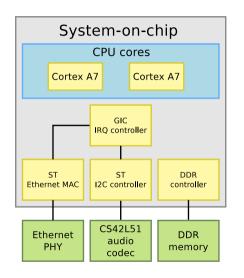


```
cpus ·
  #address-cells = <1>;
  #size-cells = <0>:
  cpu0: cpu@0 {
    compatible = "arm.cortex-a7":
    clock-frequency = <6500000000>;
    device_type = "cpu";
   reg = <0>:
  };
  cpu1: cpu@1 {
    compatible = "arm.cortex-a7";
    clock-frequency = <6500000000>:
    device_type = "cpu";
   reg = <1>;
memorv@0 { ... }:
chosen { ... }:
intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 { ... };
soc {
  i2c1: i2c@40012000 { ... }:
  ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 { ... }:
```



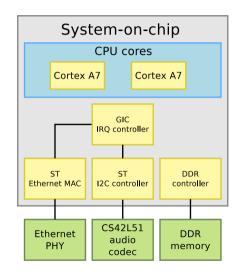


```
cpus { ... };
memory@0 {
 device_type = "memory";
 reg = <0x0 0x200000000>;
};
chosen {
 bootargs = "";
 stdout-path = "serial0:115200n8";
intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 { ... }:
soc {
  i2c1: i2c@40012000 { ... };
 ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 { ... }:
```



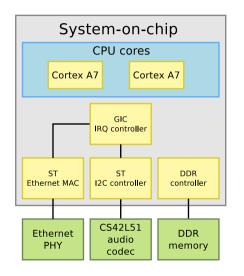


```
cpus { ... };
memory@0 { ... };
chosen { ... }:
intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 {
  compatible = "arm.cortex-a7-gic":
  #interrupt-cells = <3>;
  interrupt-controller:
  reg = <0 \times a0021000 0 \times 1000 > .
        <0xa0022000 0x2000>:
};
soc {
  compatible = "simple-bus";
  #address-cells = <1>;
  #size-cells = <1>:
  interrupt-parent = <&intc>:
  i2c1: i2c@40012000 { ... }:
  ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 { ... }:
```



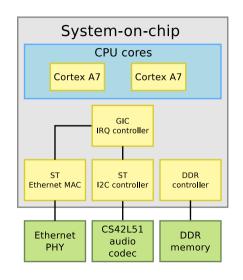


```
cpus { ... };
memory@0 { ... };
chosen { ... };
into: interrupt-controller@a0021000 { ... }:
soc {
 i2c1: i2c@40012000 {
    compatible = "st,stm32mp15-i2c";
    reg = <0 \times 40012000 \ 0 \times 400>;
    interrupts = <GIC SPI 31 IRO TYPE LEVEL HIGH>.
                 <GIC_SPI 32 IRO_TYPE_LEVEL_HIGH>;
    #address-cells = <1>;
    #size-cells = <0>:
    status = "okay":
    cs42151: cs42151@4a {
      compatible = "cirrus.cs42151";
      reg = <0x4a>:
      reset-gpios = <&gpiog 9 GPIO_ACTIVE_LOW>;
      status = "okay":
 ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 { ... }:
```





```
cpus { ... };
memorv@0 { ... }:
chosen { ... };
intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 { ... };
  compatible = "simple-bus":
  interrupt-parent = <&intc>;
  i2c1: i2c@40012000 { ... };
  ethernet0: ethernet@5800a000 {
    compatible = "st.stm32mp1-dwmac". "snps.dwmac-4.20a":
    reg = <0x5800a000 0x2000>;
    interrupts-extended = <&intc GIC_SPI 61 IRO_TYPE_LEVEL_HIGH>;
    status = "okay":
    mdio0 {
      #address-cells = <1>:
      #size-cells = <0>:
      compatible = "snps.dwmac-mdio";
      phy0: ethernet-phy@0 {
        reg = <0>;
```





Device Tree inheritance

- Device Tree files are not monolithic, they can be split in several files, including each other.
- .dtsi files are included files, while .dts files are final Device Trees
 - Only .dts files are accepted as input to dtc
- Typically, .dtsi will contain
 - definitions of SoC-level information
 - definitions common to several boards
- ► The .dts file contains the board-level information
- ► The inclusion works by **overlaying** the tree of the including file over the tree of the included file, according to the order of the #include directives.
- Allows an including file to override values specified by an included file.
- ▶ Uses the C pre-processor #include directive



Device Tree inheritance example

Definition of the AM33xx SoC family

```
&14_wkup {
    target-module@b000 {
        i2c0: 12c00 {
            compatible = "ti,omap4-i2c";
            reg = <0x0 0x10000;
            interrupts = <70>;
            status = "disabled";
        };
    };
};
```

am33xx-14.dtsi

Definition of the Bone Black board

```
#include "am33xx-14.dtsi"

812c0 {
    pinctrl-names = "default";
    pinctrl-0 = <8i2c0_pins>;
    status = "okay";

    baseboard_eeprom: eeprom050 {
        compatible = "atmel,24c256";
        reg = <0x50>;
    };
};
```

am335x-boneblack.dts

Note 1

The actual Device Trees for this platform are more complicated. This example is highly simplified.

Compiled DTB

```
&14 wkup {
    target-module@b000 {
        i2c0: i2c@0 {
            compatible = "ti.omap4-i2c";
            reg = <0x0 0x1000>:
            interrupts = <70>;
            pinctrl-names = "default":
            pinctrl-0 = <&i2c0 pins>;
            status = "okav":
            baseboard eeprom: eeprom@50
                compatible = "atmel.24c256":
                req = <0x50>;
           ):
       ):
   ):
};
```

am335x-boneblack.dtb

Note 2

The real DTB is in binary format. Here we show the text equivalent of the DTB contents



Inheritance and labels

Doing:

soc.dtsi

```
/ {
    soc {
        usart1: seriale5c0000000 {
            compatible = "st,stm32h7-uart";
        reg = <0x5c000000 0x400>;
        status = "disabled";
        };
    };
};
```

board.dts

```
#include "soc.dtsi"
/ {
    soc {
        serial@5c000000 {
            status = "okay";
        };
    };
};
```



Inheritance and labels

Doing:

soc.dtsi

```
/ {
    soc {
        usart1: serial@5c0000000 {
            compatible = "st,stm32h7-uart";
        reg = <0x5c000000 0x400>;
        status = "disabled";
        };
    };
};
```

board.dts

```
#include "soc.dtsi"
/ {
    soc {
        serial@5c000000 {
            status = "okay";
        };
    };
};
```

Is exactly equivalent to:

soc.dtsi

```
/ {
    soc {
        usart1: serial@5c000000 {
            compatible = "st,stm32h7-uart";
        reg = <0x5c000000 0x400>;
        status = "disabled";
        };
    };
};
```

board.dts

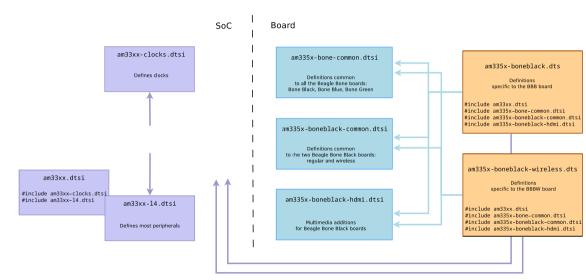
```
#include "soc.dtsi"

&usart1 {
    status = "okay";
};
```

ightarrow this solution is now often preferred



DT inheritance in Bone Black support





Device Tree design principles

- Describe hardware (how the hardware is), not configuration (how I choose to use the hardware)
- OS-agnostic
 - For a given piece of HW, Device Tree should be the same for U-Boot, FreeBSD or Linux
 - There should be no need to change the Device Tree when updating the OS
 - The Device Tree is de facto part of the kernel ABI
- Describe integration of hardware components, not the internals of hardware components
 - The details of how a specific device/IP block is working is handled by code in device drivers
 - The Device Tree describes how the device/IP block is connected/integrated with the rest of the system: IRQ lines, DMA channels, clocks, reset lines, etc.
- Like all beautiful design principles, these principles are sometimes violated.



Device Tree specifications

- ▶ How to write the correct nodes/properties to describe a given hardware platform ?
- DeviceTree Specifications → base Device Tree syntax
 + number of standard properties.
 - https://www.devicetree.org/specifications/
 - Not sufficient to describe the wide variety of hardware.
- Device Tree Bindings → documents that each specify how a piece of HW should be described
 - Documentation/devicetree/bindings/ in Linux kernel sources
 - Reviewed by DT bindings maintainer team
 - Legacy: human readable documents
 - New norm: YAML-written specifications



Devicetree Specification
Release v0.3

devicetree.org

13 February 2020



Device Tree binding: legacy style

Documentation/devicetree/bindings/i2c/i2c-omap.txt

```
I2C for OMAP platforms
-Required properties :
- compatible : Must be
       "ti.omap2420-i2c" for OMAP2420 SoCs
      "ti.omap2430-i2c" for OMAP2430 SoCs
       "ti.omap3-i2c" for OMAP3 SoCs
      "ti.omap4-i2c" for OMAP4+ SoCs
       "ti.am654-i2c", "ti.omap4-i2c" for AM654 SoCs
      "ti.i721e-i2c". "ti.omap4-i2c" for J721E SoCs
       "ti,am64-i2c", "ti,omap4-i2c" for AM64 SoCs
- ti.hwmods: Must be "i2c<n>". n being the instance number (1-based)
- #address-cells = <1>:
- #size-cells = <0>:
Recommended properties :
- clock-frequency : Desired I2C bus clock frequency in Hz. Otherwise
  the default 100 kHz frequency will be used.
Optional properties:
- Child nodes conforming to i2c bus binding
Note: Current implementation will fetch base address, irg and dma
from omap hymnod data base during device registration.
Future plan is to migrate hymod data base contents into device tree
blob so that, all the required data will be used from device tree dts
file.
```

```
Examples:

i2c1: i2c00 {
    compatible = "ti,omap3-i2c";
    #address-cells = <1>;
    #8ize-cells = <0;
    ti,hmmods = "i2c1";
    clock-frequency = <4000000;
};
```



Device Tree binding: YAML style

Documentation/devicetree/bindings/i2c/ti,omap4-i2c.yaml

```
# SPDX-License-Identifier: (GPL-2.0-only OR BSD-2-Clause)
                                                              interrupts:
                                                                maxItems: 1
%VAMI 1 2
$id: http://devicetree.org/schemas/i2c/ti.omap4-i2c.vaml#
                                                              clocks:
$schema: http://devicetree.org/meta-schemas/core.vaml#
                                                                maxItems: 1
title: I2C controllers on TI's OMAP and K3 SoCs
                                                              clock-names:
                                                               const: fck
maintainers.
  - Vignesh Raghavendra <vigneshr@ti.com>
                                                             clock-frequency: true
properties:
                                                              power-domains: true
  compatible:
    oneOf.
                                                              "#address-cells":
                                                               const: 1
          - ti.omap2420-i2c
          - ti.omap2430-i2c
                                                             "#size-cells":
          - ti.omap3-i2c
                                                                const: 0
          - ti_oman4-i2c
      - items:
                                                              ti.hwmods:
                                                               description:
                                                                 Must be "i2c<n>", n being [...]
              - ti.am4372-i2c
                                                               $ref: /schemas/types.vaml#/definitions/string
              - ti.am64-i2c
                                                               deprecated: true
              - ti,am654-i2c
              - ti.i721e-i2c
          - const: ti.omap4-i2c
                                                            required:
                                                             - compatible
  reg:
                                                             - reg
   maxItems: 1
                                                             - interrupts
```

```
additionalProperties: false
if:
 properties
    compatible
      enum
        - ti.omap2420-i2c
        - ti.oman2430-i2c
        - ti.omap3-i2c
        - ti.oman4-i2c
then:
 properties:
    ti.hwmods:
      items
        - pattern: "^i2c([1-9])$"
else:
  properties:
    ti.hwmods: false
examples
    #include <dt-bindings/interrupt-controller/irg.h>
    #include <dt-bindings/interrupt-controller/arm-gic.h>
    main i2c0: i2c@20000000 {
        compatible = "ti.i721e-i2c". "ti.omap4-i2c":
        reg = <0 \times 20000000 \ 0 \times 100 > :
        interrupts = <GIC SPI 200 IRO TYPE LEVEL HIGH>:
   };
```



Validating Device Tree in Linux

- dtc only does syntactic validation
- YAML bindings allow to do semantic validation
- Linux kernel make rules:
 - make dt_binding_check verify that YAML bindings are valid
 - make dtbs_check
 validate DTs currently enabled against YAML bindings
 - make DT_SCHEMA_FILES=Documentation/devicetree/bindings/trivialdevices.yaml dtbs_check
 validate DTs against a specific YAML binding



The compatible property

- Is a list of strings
 - From the most specific to the least specific
- Describes the specific **binding** to which the node complies.
- lt uniquely identifies the **programming model** of the device.
- Practically speaking, it is used by the operating system to find the appropriate driver for this device.
- When describing real hardware, the typical form is vendor, model
- Examples:
 - compatible = "arm, armv7-timer";
 - compatible = "st,stm32mp1-dwmac", "snps,dwmac-4.20a";
 - compatible = "regulator-fixed";
 - compatible = "gpio-keys";
- Special value: simple-bus → bus where all sub-nodes are memory-mapped devices



- - Most important property after compatible
 - Memory-mapped devices: base physical address and size of the memory-mapped registers. Can have several entries for multiple register areas.

```
sai4: sai@50027000 {
      reg = \langle 0x50027000 \ 0x4 \rangle, \langle 0x500273f0 \ 0x10 \rangle;
};
```



reg property

- ▶ Most important property after compatible
- ▶ **Memory-mapped** devices: base physical address and size of the memory-mapped registers. Can have several entries for multiple register areas.
- ▶ I2C devices: address of the device on the I2C bus.

```
&i2c1 {
   hdmi-transmitter@39 {
      reg = <0x39>;
   };
   cs42151: cs42151@4a {
      reg = <0x4a>;
   };
};
```



reg property

- ▶ Most important property after compatible
- ▶ **Memory-mapped** devices: base physical address and size of the memory-mapped registers. Can have several entries for multiple register areas.
- ▶ **I2C** devices: address of the device on the I2C bus.
- ▶ **SPI** devices: chip select number

```
&qspi {
    flash0: mx661512351@0 {
        reg = <0>;
    };
    flash1: mx661512351@1 {
        reg = <1>;
    };
};
```



- Most important property after compatible
- ▶ **Memory-mapped** devices: base physical address and size of the memory-mapped registers. Can have several entries for multiple register areas.
- ▶ **I2C** devices: address of the device on the I2C bus.
- ► **SPI** devices: chip select number
- The unit address must be the address of the first reg entry.

```
sai4: sai@50027000 {
    reg = <0x50027000 0x4>, <0x500273f0 0x10>;
};
```



cells property

- Property numbers shall fit into 32-bit containers called cells
- ► The compiler does not maintain information about the number of entries, the OS just receives 4 independent cells
 - Example with a reg property using 2 entries of 2 cells:

```
reg = <0x50027000 0x4>, <0x500273f0 0x10>;
```

• The OS cannot make the difference with:

```
reg = <0x50027000>, <0x4>, <0x500273f0>, <0x10>;
reg = <0x50027000 0x4 0x500273f0>, <0x10>;
reg = <0x50027000>, <0x4 0x500273f0 0x10>;
reg = <0x50027000 0x4 0x500273f0 0x10>;
```



cells property

- Property numbers shall fit into 32-bit containers called cells
- ► The compiler does not maintain information about the number of entries, the OS just receives 4 independent cells
- ▶ Need for other properties to declare the right formatting:
 - #address-cells: Indicates the number of cells used to carry the address
 - #size-cells: Indicates the dimension of the address range. 0: one address, 1: address range (interval), 2: multiple address ranges.
- ▶ The parent-node declares the children reg property formatting
 - Platform devices need memory ranges

```
module@a0000 {
    #address-cells = <1>;
    #size-cells = <1>;

    serial@1000 {
        reg = <0x1000 0x10>, <0x2000 0x10>;
    };
};
```



cells property

- Property numbers shall fit into 32-bit containers called cells
- ► The compiler does not maintain information about the number of entries, the OS just receives 4 independent cells
- ▶ Need for other properties to declare the right formatting:
 - #address-cells: Indicates the number of cells used to carry the address
 - #size-cells: Indicates the dimension of the address range. 0: one address, 1: address range (interval), 2: multiple address ranges.
- ▶ The parent-node declares the children reg property formatting
 - Platform devices need memory ranges
 - SPI devices need chip-selects

```
spi@300000 {
    #address-cells = <1>;
    #size-cells = <0>;

flash@1 {
    reg = <1>;
};
```



Status property

- The status property indicates if the device is really in use or not
 - okay or ok \rightarrow the device is really in use
 - ullet any other value, by convention <code>disabled</code> o the device is not in use
- ► In Linux, controls if a device is instantiated
- In .dtsi files describing SoCs: all devices that interface to the outside world have status = disabled
- ► Enabled on a per-device basis in the board .dts



Resources: interrupts, clocks, DMA, reset lines, ...

- Common pattern for resources shared by multiple hardware blocks
 - Interrupt lines
 - Clock controllers
 - DMA controllers
 - Reset controllers
 - •
- ► A Device Tree node describing the controller as a device
- References from other nodes that use resources provided by this controller

```
intc: interrupt-controller@a0021000 {
   compatible = "arm,cortex-a7-gic";
   #interrupt-cells = <3>:
   interrupt-controller;
   reg = <0 \times a0021000 \ 0 \times 1000>. <0 \times a0022000 \ 0 \times 2000>:
rcc: rcc@50000000 {
   compatible = "st,stm32mp1-rcc", "syscon";
   reg = <0 \times 500000000 0 \times 1000>;
   #clock-cells = <1>:
   \#reset-cells = <1>:
dmamux1: dma-router@48002000 {
   compatible = "st.stm32h7-dmamux":
   reg = <0x48002000 0x1c>;
   \#dma-cells = <3>:
   clocks = <&rcc DMAMUX>:
   resets = <&rcc DMAMUX_R>:
spi3: spi@4000c000 {
   interrupts = <GIC_SPI 51 IRO_TYPE_LEVEL_HIGH>;
   clocks = <&rcc SPI3_K>:
   resets = <&rcc SPI3_R>:
   dmas = \langle 8dmamux1 61 0x400 0x05 \rangle. \langle 8dmamux1 62 0x400 0x05 \rangle:
```



Generic suffixes

- xxx-gpios
 - When drivers need access to GPIOs
 - May be subsystem-specific or vendor-specific
 - Examples: enable-gpios, cts-gpios, rts-gpios
- xxx-names
 - Sometimes naming items is relevant
 - Allows drivers to perform lookups by name rather than ID
 - The order of definition of each item still matters
 - Examples: gpio-names, clock-names, reset-names

```
uart0@4000c000 {
    dmas = <&edma 26 0>, <&edma 27 0>;
    dma-names = "tx", "rx";
    ...
};
```



References

Device Tree 101 webinar, Thomas Petazzoni (2021):

Slides: https://bootlin.com/blog/devicetree-101-webinar-slides-and-videos/

Video: https://youtu.be/a9CZ1Uk30YQ

- Kernel documentation
 - driver-api/driver-model/
 - devicetree/
 - filesystems/sysfs
- https://devicetree.org
- ▶ The kernel source code
 - Full of examples of other drivers!



Linux device and driver model

bootlin

embedded Linux and kernel engineering



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Corrections, suggestions, contributions and translations are welcome!



Linux device and driver model

Introduction



The need for a device model?

- ► The Linux kernel runs on a wide range of architectures and hardware platforms, and therefore needs to **maximize the reusability** of code between platforms.
- For example, we want the same USB device driver to be usable on a x86 PC, or an ARM platform, even though the USB controllers used on these platforms are different.
- ► This requires a clean organization of the code, with the *device drivers* separated from the *controller drivers*, the hardware description separated from the drivers themselves, etc.
- This is what the Linux kernel Device Model allows, in addition to other advantages covered in this section.

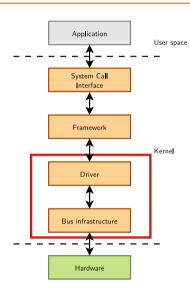


Kernel and Device Drivers

In Linux, a driver is always interfacing with:

- a framework that allows the driver to expose the hardware features in a generic way.
- ➤ a **bus infrastructure**, part of the device model, to detect/communicate with the hardware.

This section focuses on the *bus infrastructure*, while *kernel frameworks* are covered later in this training.





Device Model data structures

- ▶ The *device model* is organized around three main data structures:
 - The struct bus_type structure, which represents one type of bus (USB, PCI, I2C, etc.)
 - The struct device_driver structure, which represents one driver capable of handling certain devices on a certain bus.
 - The struct device structure, which represents one device connected to a bus
- The kernel uses inheritance to create more specialized versions of struct device_driver and struct device for each bus subsystem.
- In order to explore the device model, we will
 - First look at a popular bus that offers dynamic enumeration, the USB bus
 - Continue by studying how buses that do not offer dynamic enumeration are handled.

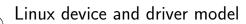
Bus Drivers

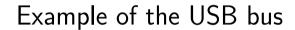
- ► The first component of the device model is the bus driver
 - One bus driver for each type of bus: USB, PCI, SPI, MMC, I2C, etc.
- It is responsible for
 - Registering the bus type (struct bus_type)
 - Allowing the registration of adapter drivers (USB controllers, I2C adapters, etc.), able to detect the connected devices (if possible), and providing a communication mechanism with the devices
 - Allowing the registration of device drivers (USB devices, I2C devices, PCI devices, etc.), managing the devices
 - Matching the device drivers against the devices detected by the adapter drivers.
 - Provides an API to implement both adapter drivers and device drivers
 - Defining driver and device specific structures, mainly struct usb_driver and struct usb_interface

sysfs



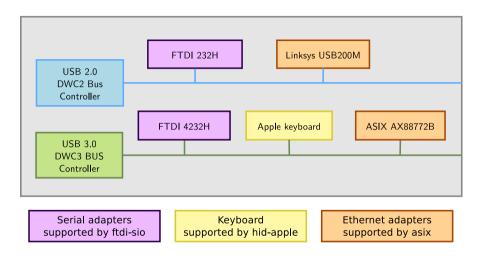
- The bus, device, drivers, etc. structures are internal to the kernel
- ► The sysfs virtual filesystem offers a mechanism to export such information to user space
- Used for example by udev to provide automatic module loading, firmware loading, mounting of external media, etc.
- sysfs is usually mounted in /sys
 - /sys/bus/ contains the list of buses
 - /sys/devices/ contains the list of devices
 - /sys/class enumerates devices by the framework they are registered to (net, input, block...), whatever bus they are connected to. Very useful!







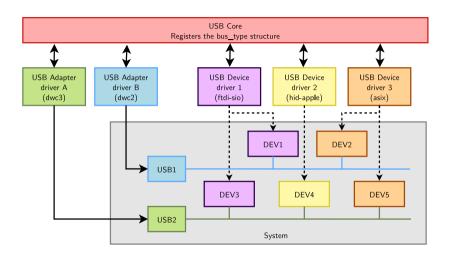
Example: USB Bus 1/3



Hardware view of the bus



Example: USB Bus 2/3



Device model view of the bus



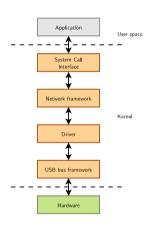
Example: USB Bus 3/3

- ► Core infrastructure (bus driver)
 - drivers/usb/core/
 - struct bus_type is defined in drivers/usb/core/driver.c and registered in drivers/usb/core/usb.c
- Adapter drivers
 - drivers/usb/host/
 - For EHCI, UHCI, OHCI, XHCI, and their implementations on various systems (Microchip, IXP, Xilinx, OMAP, Samsung, PXA, etc.)
- Device drivers
 - Everywhere in the kernel tree, classified by their type (Example: drivers/net/usb/)



Example of Device Driver

- To illustrate how drivers are implemented to work with the device model, we will study the source code of a driver for a USB network card
 - It is USB device, so it has to be a USB device driver
 - It exposes a network device, so it has to be a network driver
 - Most drivers rely on a bus infrastructure (here, USB) and register themselves in a framework (here, network)
- We will only look at the device driver side, and not the adapter driver side
- The driver we will look at is drivers/net/usb/rt18150.c





Device Identifiers

- ▶ Defines the set of devices that this driver can manage, so that the USB core knows for which devices this driver should be used
- ► The MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE() macro allows depmod (run by make modules_install) to extract the relationship between device identifiers and drivers, so that drivers can be loaded automatically by udev. See /lib/modules/\$(uname -r)/modules.{alias,usbmap}



Instantiation of usb_driver

- ▶ struct usb_driver is a structure defined by the USB core. Each USB device driver must instantiate it, and register itself to the USB core using this structure
- ➤ This structure inherits from struct device_driver, which is defined by the device model.

```
static struct usb_driver rtl8150_driver = {
    .name = "rtl8150",
    .probe = rtl8150_probe,
    .disconnect = rtl8150_disconnect,
    .id_table = rtl8150_table,
    .suspend = rtl8150_suspend,
    .resume = rtl8150_resume
};
```



Driver registration and unregistration

- When the driver is loaded / unloaded, it must register / unregister itself to / from the USB core
- ▶ Done using usb_register() and usb_deregister(), provided by the USB core.

```
static int __init usb_rtl8150_init(void)
{
    return usb_register(&rtl8150_driver);
}

static void __exit usb_rtl8150_exit(void)
{
    usb_deregister(&rtl8150_driver);
}

module_init(usb_rtl8150_init);
module_exit(usb_rtl8150_exit);
```

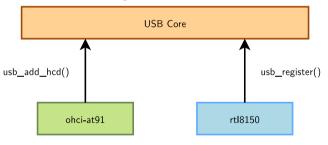
► All this code is actually replaced by a call to the module_usb_driver() macro:

```
module_usb_driver(rt18150_driver);
```



At Initialization

- ► The USB adapter driver that corresponds to the USB controller of the system registers itself to the USB core
- ► The rt18150 USB device driver registers itself to the USB core

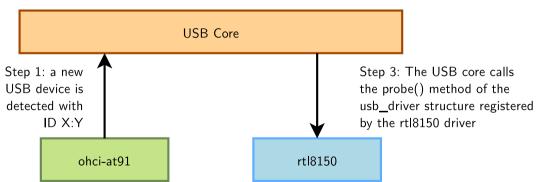


► The USB core now knows the association between the vendor/product IDs of rt18150 and the struct usb_driver structure of this driver



When a device is detected

Step 2: USB core looks up the registered IDs, and finds the matching driver







- Invoked for each device bound to a driver
- ► The probe() method receives as argument a structure describing the device, usually specialized by the bus infrastructure (struct pci_dev, struct usb_interface, etc.)
- ► This function is responsible for
 - Initializing the device, mapping I/O memory, registering the interrupt handlers. The bus infrastructure provides methods to get the addresses, interrupt numbers and other device-specific information.
 - Registering the device to the proper kernel framework, for example the network infrastructure.



Example: probe() and disconnect() methods

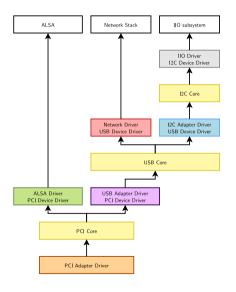
```
static int rtl8150_probe(struct usb_interface *intf,
    const struct usb device id *id)
    rt18150 t *dev:
    struct net device *netdev:
    netdev = alloc etherdev(sizeof(rt18150 t)):
    Γ...1
    dev = netdev priv(netdev):
    tasklet_init(&dev->tl, rx_fixup, (unsigned long)dev);
    spin_lock_init(&dev->rx_pool_lock);
    netdev->netdev_ops = &rt18150_netdev_ops;
    alloc_all_urbs(dev):
    Γ...1
    usb_set_intfdata(intf, dev);
    SET_NETDEV_DEV(netdev. &intf->dev);
    register netdev(netdev):
    return 0:
```

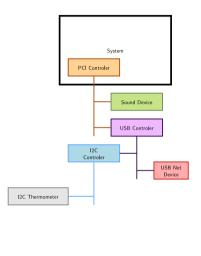
```
static void rt18150 disconnect(struct usb interface *intf)
        rt18150 t *dev = usb get intfdata(intf):
        usb set intfdata(intf, NULL):
        if (dev) {
                set_bit(RTL8150_UNPLUG, &dev->flags);
                tasklet kill(&dev->tl):
                unregister netdev(dev->netdev):
                unlink all urbs(dev):
                free_all_urbs(dev);
                free skb pool(dev):
                if (dev->rx skb)
                        dev kfree skb(dev->rx skb):
                kfree(dev->intr buff):
                free netdev(dev->netdev):
```

Source: drivers/net/usb/rt18150.c



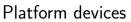
The Model is Recursive







Platform drivers





- Amongst the non-discoverable devices, a huge family are the devices that are directly part of a system-on-chip: UART controllers, Ethernet controllers, SPI or I2C controllers, graphic or audio devices, etc.
- In the Linux kernel, a special bus, called the **platform bus** has been created to handle such devices.
- lt supports **platform drivers** that handle **platform devices**.
- ▶ It works like any other bus (USB, PCI), except that devices are enumerated statically instead of being discovered dynamically.



Implementation of a Platform Driver (1)

The driver implements a struct platform_driver structure (example taken from drivers/tty/serial/imx.c, simplified)



Implementation of a Platform Driver (2)

... and registers its driver to the platform driver infrastructure

```
static int __init imx_serial_init(void) {
    return platform_driver_register(&serial_imx_driver);
}
static void __exit imx_serial_cleanup(void) {
    platform_driver_unregister(&serial_imx_driver);
}
module_init(imx_serial_init);
module_exit(imx_serial_cleanup);
```

Most drivers actually use the module_platform_driver() macro when they do nothing special in init() and exit() functions:

```
module_platform_driver(serial_imx_driver);
```



Platform device instantiation

- ▶ As platform devices cannot be detected dynamically, they are defined statically
 - Legacy way: by direct instantiation of struct platform_device structures, as done
 on a few old ARM platforms. The device was part of a list, and the list of devices
 was added to the system during board initialization.
 - Current way: by parsing an "external" description, like a device tree on most embedded platforms today, from which struct platform_device structures are created.



compatible property and Linux kernel drivers

- Linux identifies as platform devices:
 - Top-level DT nodes with a compatible string
 - Sub-nodes of simple-bus
 - Instantiated automatically at boot time
- ► Sub-nodes of I2C controllers → I2C devices
- ► Sub-nodes of SPI controllers → SPI devices
- Each Linux driver has a table of compatible strings it supports
 - struct of_device_id[]
- When a DT node compatible string matches a given driver, the device is bound to that driver.

```
/ {
                                           Platform device
     compatible = "...":
  soc 4
     compatible = "simple-bus";
                                           Platform device
        compatible = "...":
     };
                                           Platform device
        compatible = "...";
                                          I2C device
          compatible = "...";
     };
  };
```



Matching with drivers in Linux: platform driver

drivers/i2c/busses/i2c-omap.c

```
static const struct of_device_id omap_i2c_of_match[] = {
                .compatible = "ti.omap4-i2c".
                .data = &omap4_pdata,
                .compatible = "ti,omap3-i2c",
                .data = &omap3_pdata,
MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE(of, omap_i2c_of_match);
Γ...]
static struct platform_driver omap_i2c_driver = {
        .probe
                        = omap i2c probe.
        .remove
                        = omap i2c remove.
        driver
                       = "omap_i2c".
                .name
                        = &omap_i2c_pm_ops,
                .of_match_table = of_match_ptr(omap_i2c_of_match).
        },
```



Matching with drivers in Linux: I2C driver

sound/soc/codecs/cs42151.c

sound/soc/codecs/cs42151-i2c.c



Using additional hardware resources

- Regular DT descriptions contain many information, including phandles (pointers) towards additional hardware blocks or hardware details which cannot be discovered.
 - Some of them are available through a generic array of resourses, like addresses for the I/O registers and IRQ lines:
 - Such information can be represented using struct resource, and an array of struct resource is associated to each struct platform_device.
 - Common information/dependencies are parsed by the relevant subsystems, like clocks, GPIOs, or DMA channels:
 - Each subsystem is responsible of instantiating its components, and offering an API to retrieve these objects and use them from device drivers.
 - Specific information might be directly be retrieved by device drivers, through (expensive) direct DT lookups (old drivers use struct platform_data).
- All these methods allow the same driver to be used with multiple devices functioning similarly, but with different addresses, IRQs, etc.



Using Resources

▶ The platform driver has access to the resources:

```
res = platform_get_resource(pdev, IORESOURCE_MEM, 0);
base = ioremap(res->start, PAGE_SIZE);
sport->rxirq = platform_get_irq(pdev, 0);
```

- ► As well as the various common dependencies through individual APIs:
 - clk_get()
 - gpio_request()
 - dma_request_channel()



Driver data

- ▶ In addition to the per-device resources and information, drivers may require driver-specific information to behave slighlty differently when different flavors of an IP block are driven by the same driver.
- ▶ A const void *data pointer can be used to store per-compatible specificities:

Which can be retrieved in the probe with: