

Linux Character Device Driver

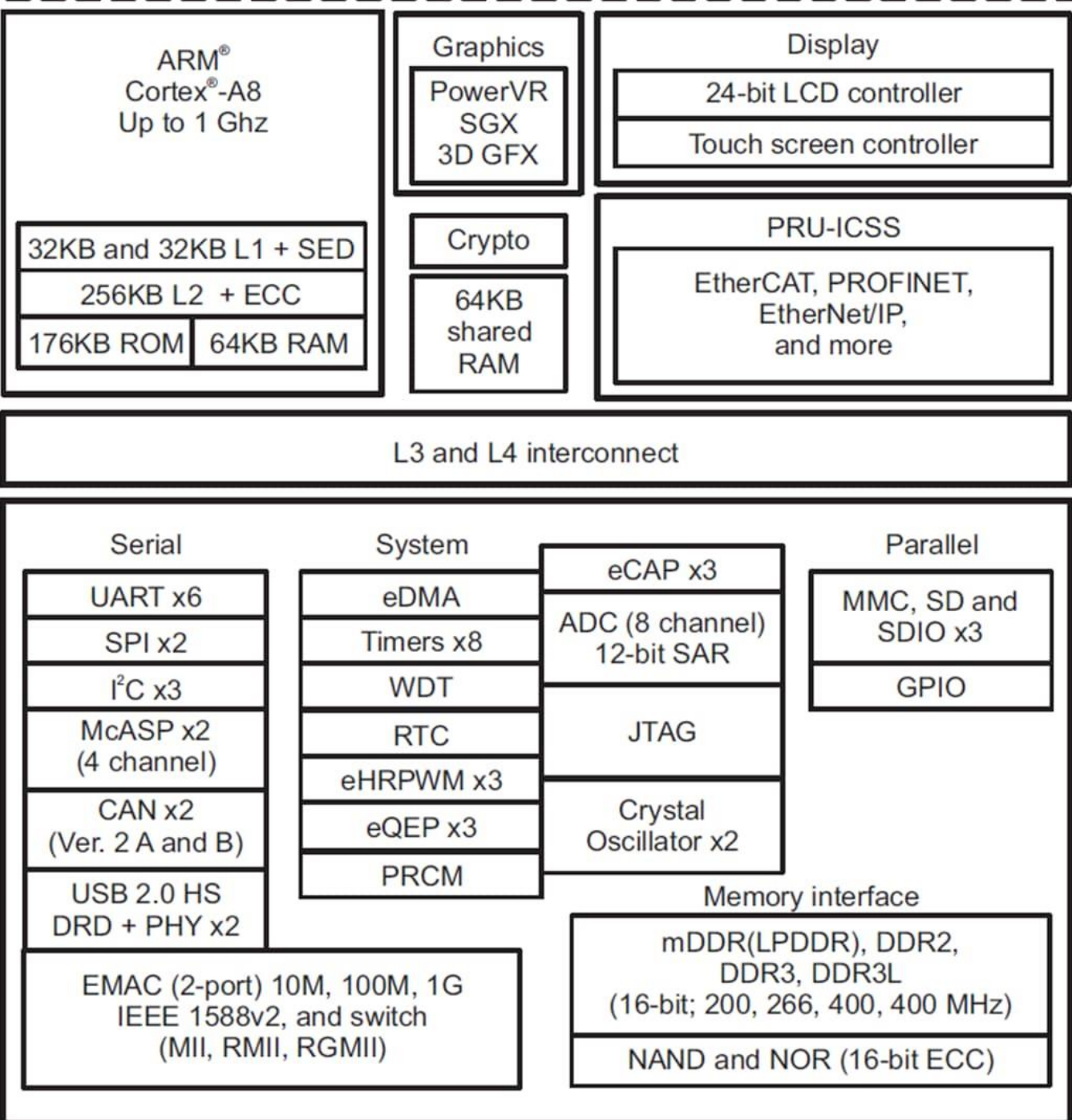
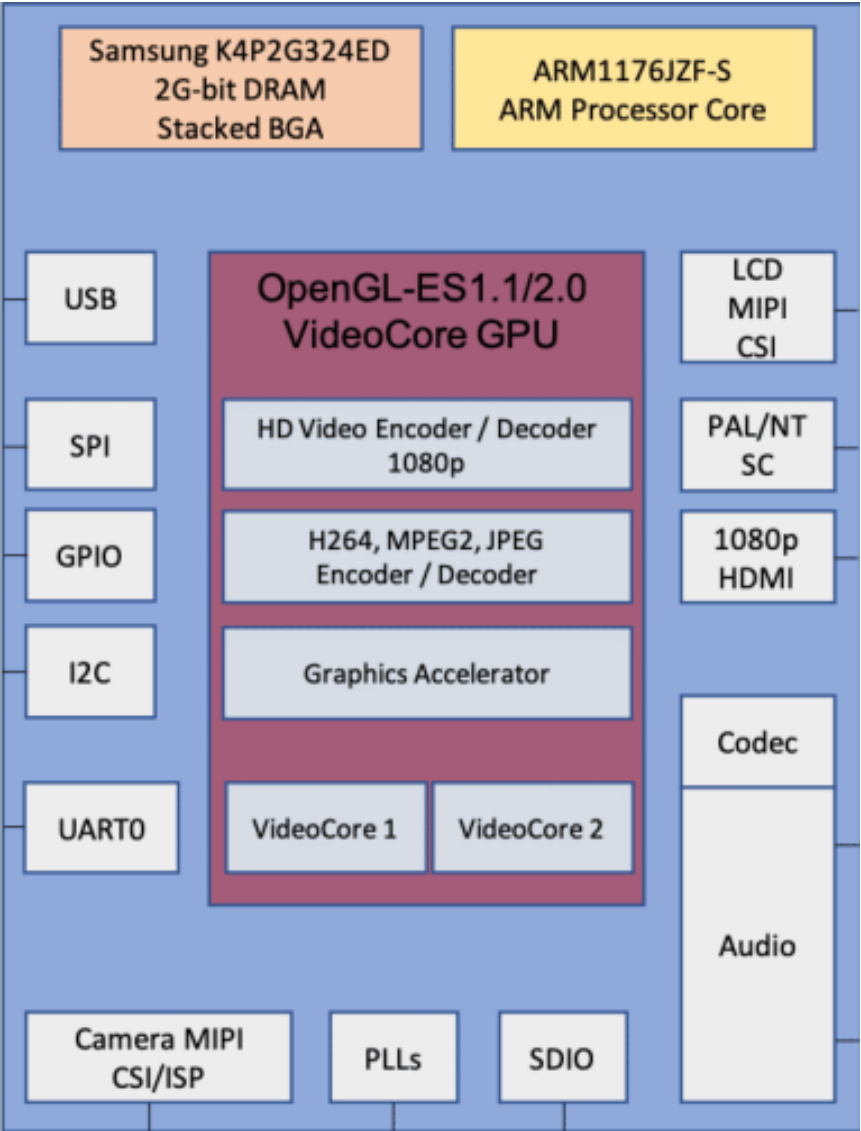
Sunbeam Infotech



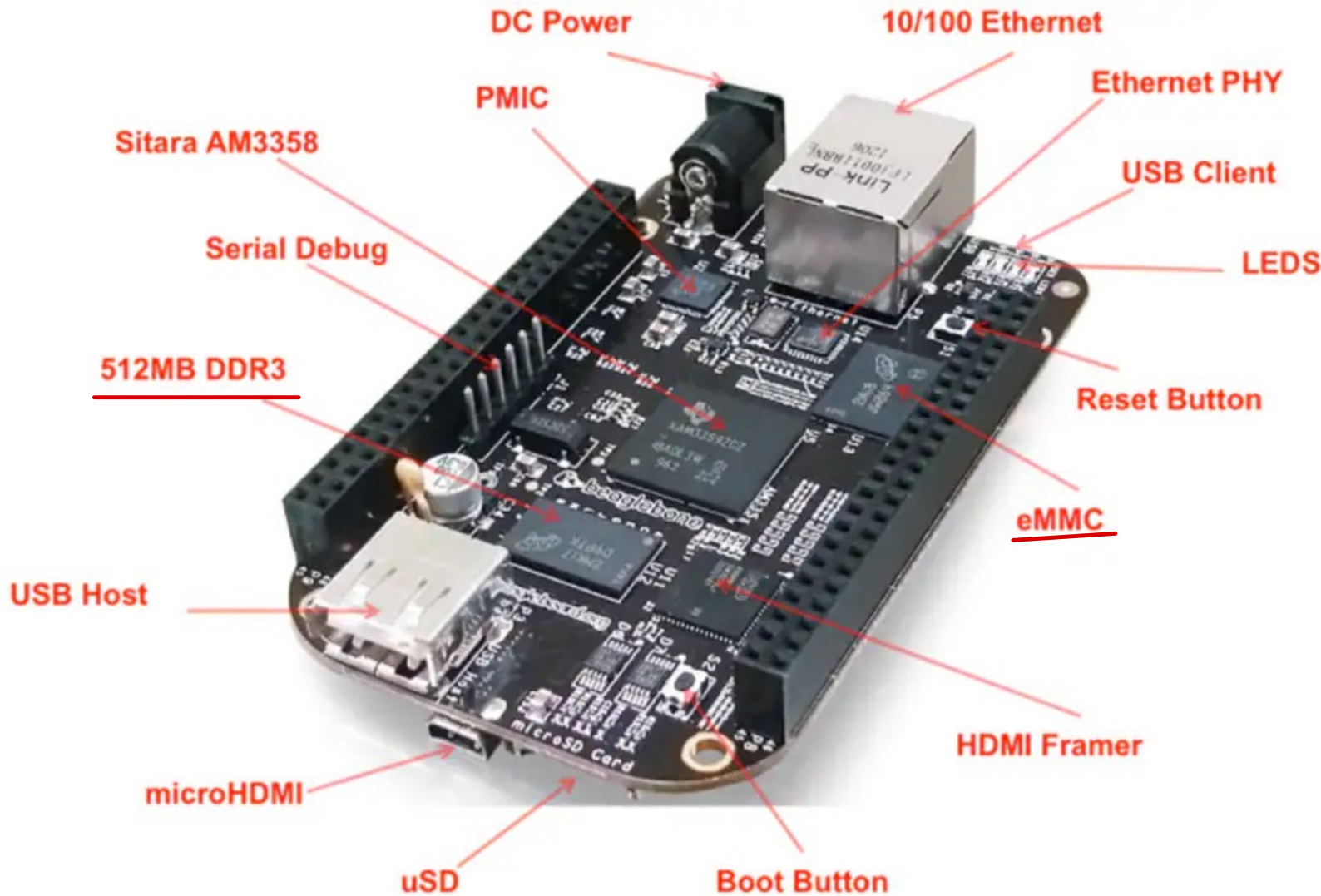
BCM2835 & AM335x

BBB →

RPi →



BeagleBone Black



Cortex-A8

ROM - 176 KB

RAM - 64 KB
+ 64 KB

External RAM - DDR3
- 512 MB

eMMC - 4 GB card.

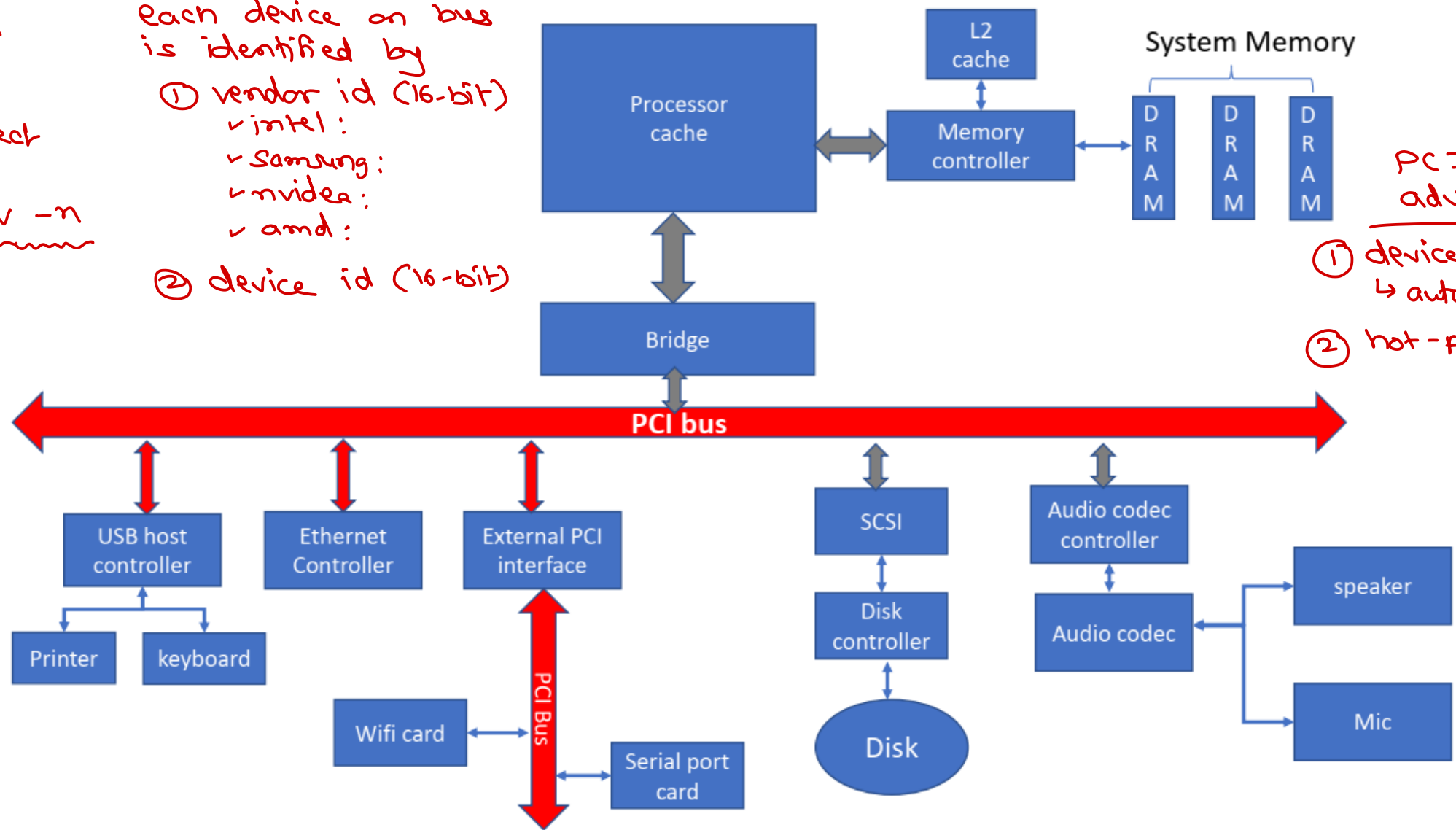
External mMC card
- 8 GB / 16 GB...



PCI bus – PC architecture

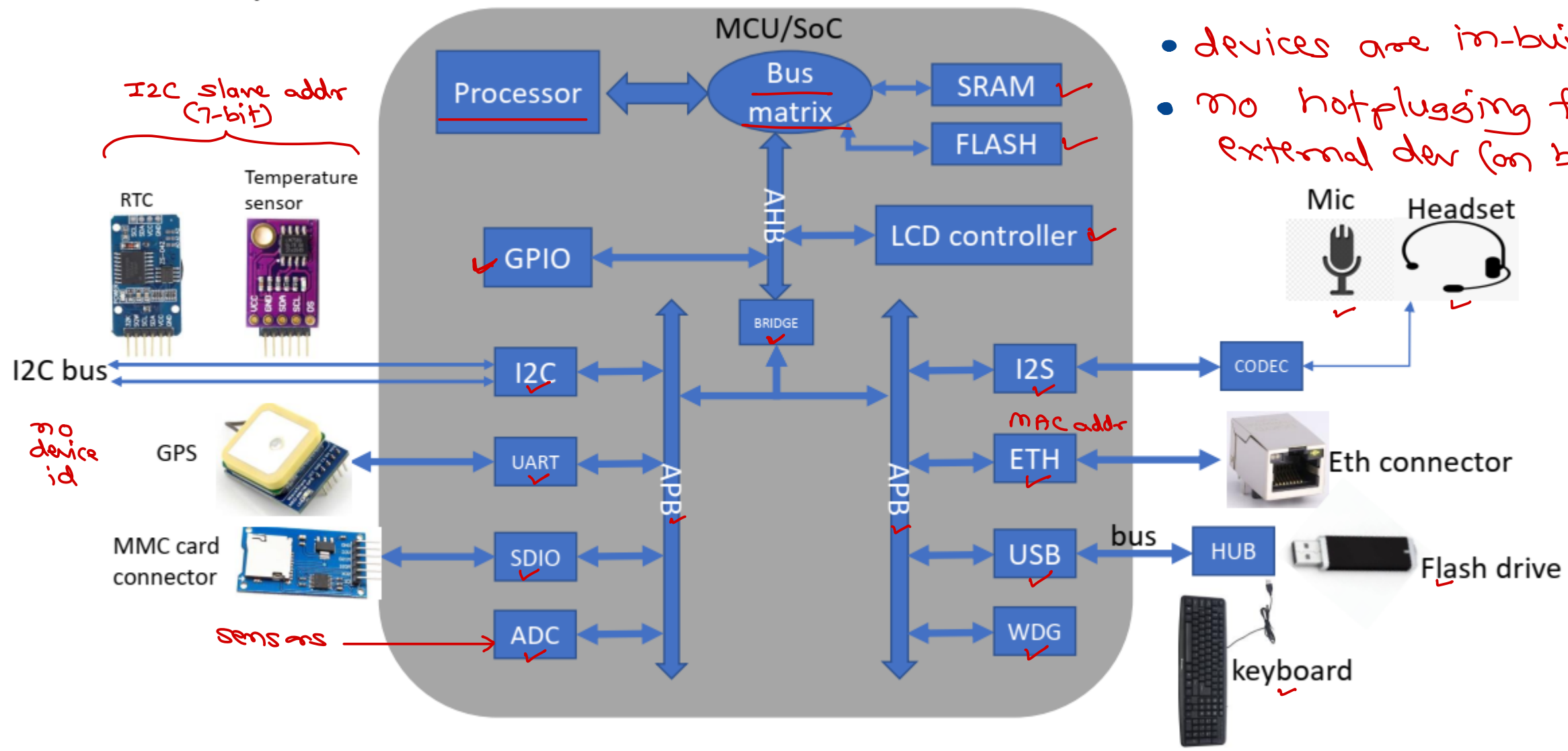
Peripheral Component Interconnect
lspci -v -n

each device on bus is identified by
① vendor id (16-bit)
 ✓ intel:
 ✓ samsung:
 ✓ nvidia:
 ✓ amd:
② device id (16-bit)



PCI bus advantages
① device identification
 ↳ auto-discoverable
② hot-plugging

Embedded – SoC



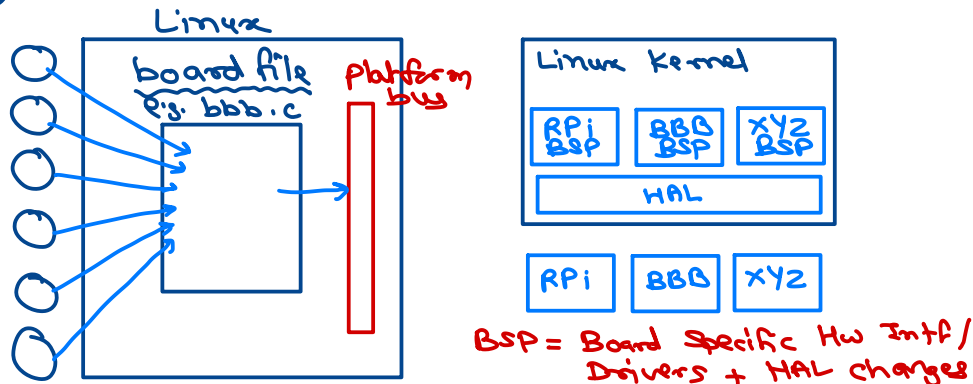
- devices are in-built
- no hotplugging for external dev (on bus).



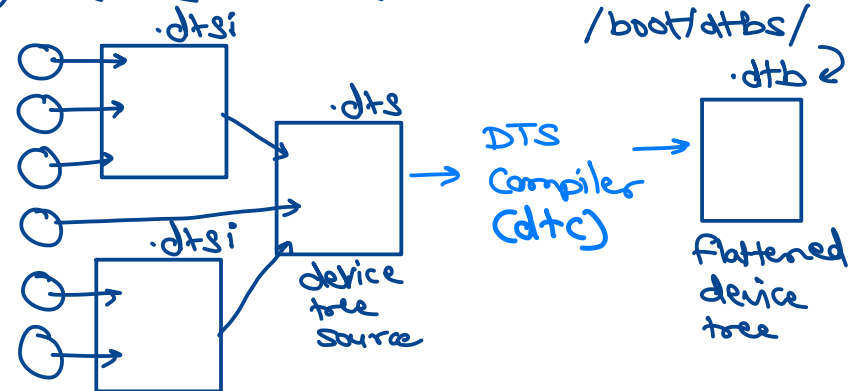
Platform bus, device and driver

- In Linux on PC architecture, most of the IO devices are connected over PCI and USB buses.
- PCI and USB buses are auto-discoverable (lspci, lsusb) and hot-pluggable (plug n play).
- Typical embedded Linux on ARM or other architecture do not have PCI bus.
- In embedded hardware (SoC) most of devices/buses are available on chip itself and are directly connected to CPU.
- Embedded buses like SPI, I2C, CAN, I2S are not discoverable/hot-pluggable.

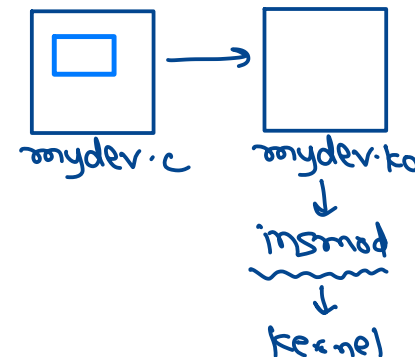
① Board File



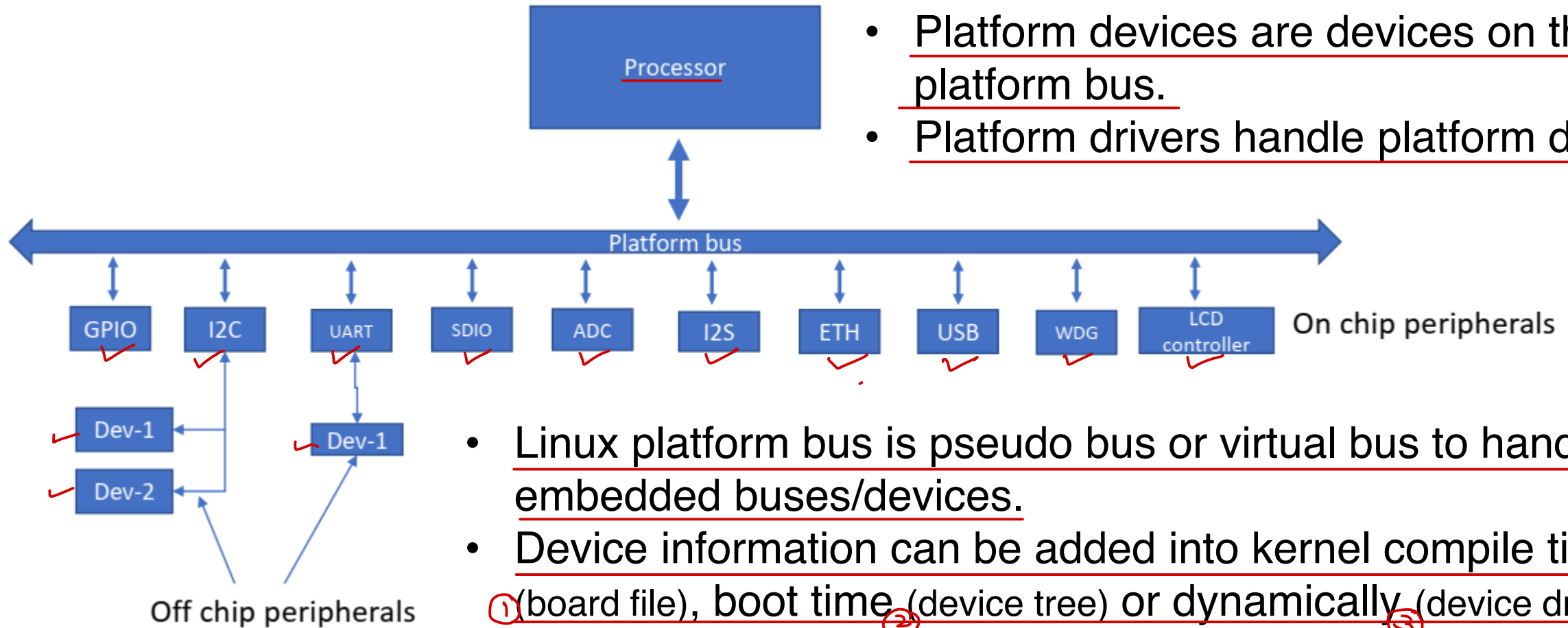
② Device tree (ksrc/arch/arm/boot/dts)



③ Device Driver



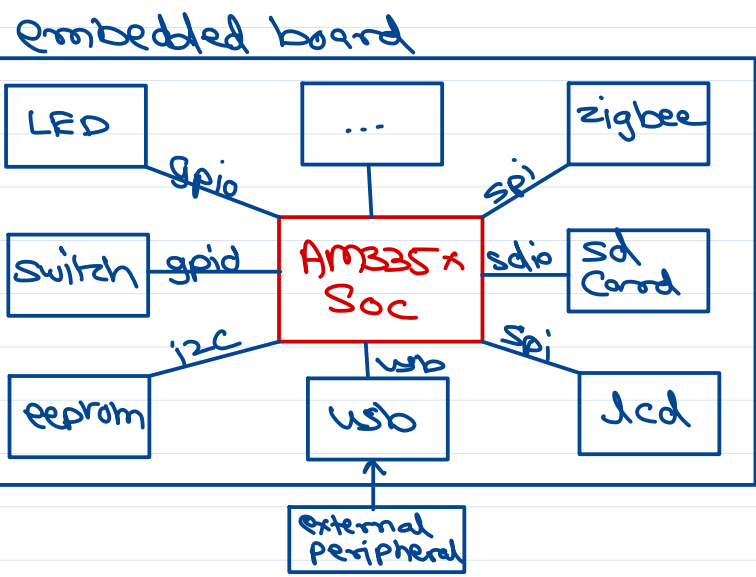
Platform bus



- Platform devices are devices on the platform bus.
 - Platform drivers handle platform devices.
-
- Linux platform bus is pseudo bus or virtual bus to handle embedded buses/devices.
 - Device information can be added into kernel compile time (board file), boot time (device tree) or dynamically (device driver).
 - Memory/IO address, IRQ number, Device Id, Device address, Pin configuration, Power/voltage information, etc.
 - Device Tree: <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/devicetree/usage-model.txt>



Device tree



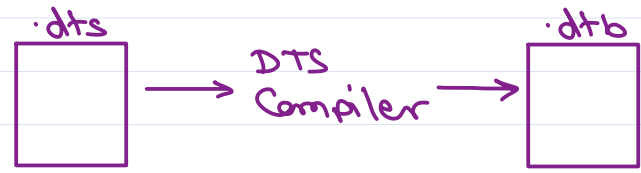
Embedded Buses/Connectivity

- ① USB
- ② RS232
- ③ SPI
- ④ I2C
- ⑤ CAN

platform devices

board file
↳ board specific + probe drivers (recompile kernel for each board).
device tree source
↳ board specific describe data struct.

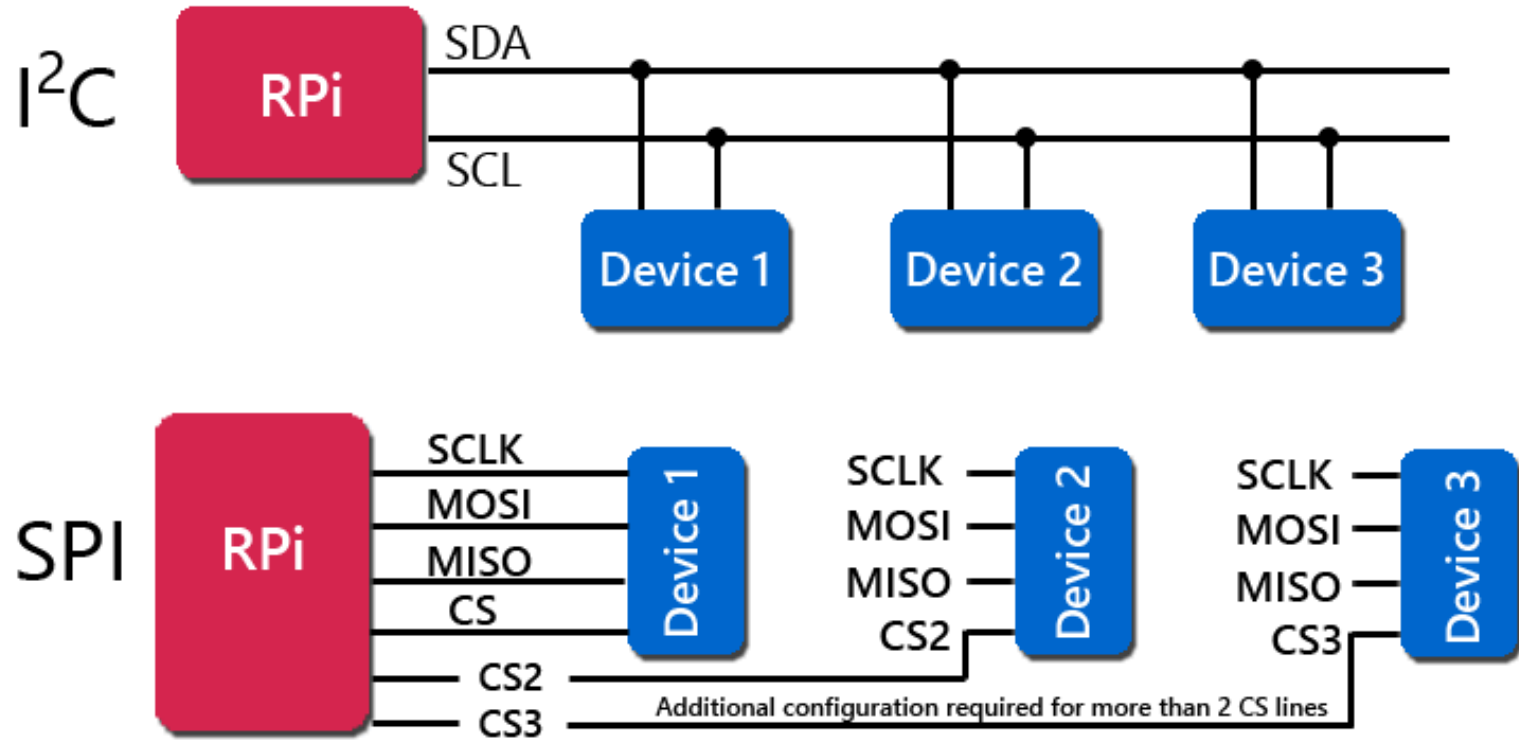
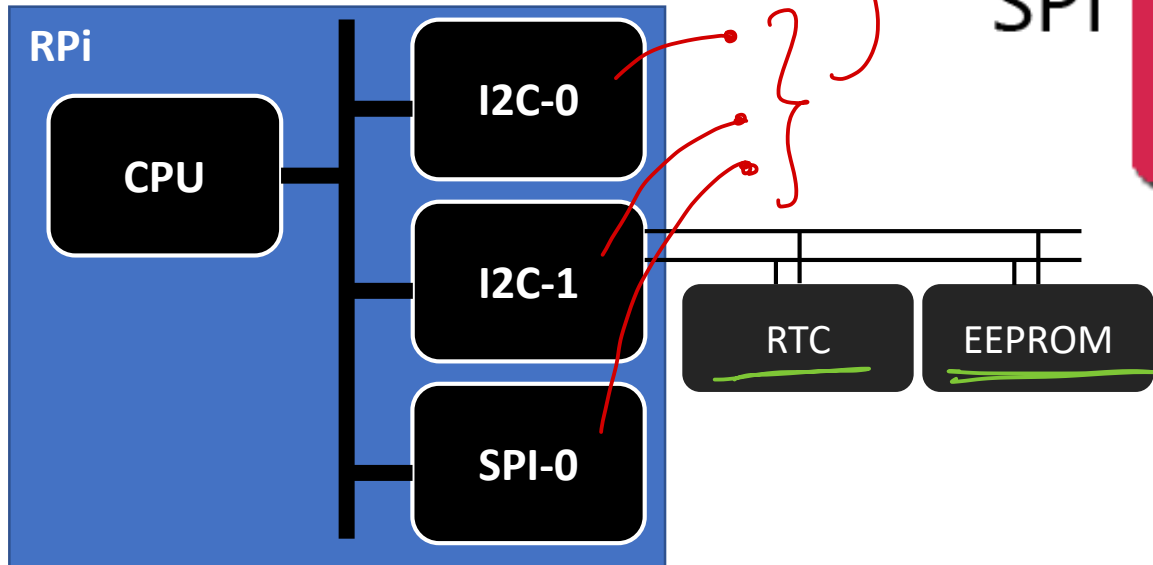
my-board-init()
✓ add_device_serial()
✓ add_device_spi()
✓ add_device_eth()
✓ add_device_i2cc()
✓ add_device_gpio()
+ device drivers (.ko)



Same kernel can be used to init diff boards with diff dtb files.

Platform devices and drivers

- Embedded devices (on-board and off-board) are platform devices.
- Respective vendors usually provide platform drivers host/bus controllers called as "Controller drivers".



- Devices on I2C bus are I2C client devices.
- RPi provides i2c host controller driver and client drivers implemented in user or kernel space.

Platform Driver

- <https://www.kernel.org/doc/Documentation/driver-model/platform.txt>

```
struct platform_driver {  
    int (*probe)(struct platform_device *);  
    int (*remove)(struct platform_device *);  
    void (*shutdown)(struct platform_device *);  
    int (*suspend)(struct platform_device *, pm_message_t state);  
    int (*resume)(struct platform_device *);  
    struct device_driver driver;  
    const struct platform_device_id *id_table;  
};
```

- To register platform driver
 - platform_driver_register(drv);

→ called when device attached or driver loaded (matching).

→ called when device detached or driver unloaded (matching).

→ to shutdown/power off the device.

→ when device is suspended (idle) and resume. During suspension few dev can be kept in low power state.

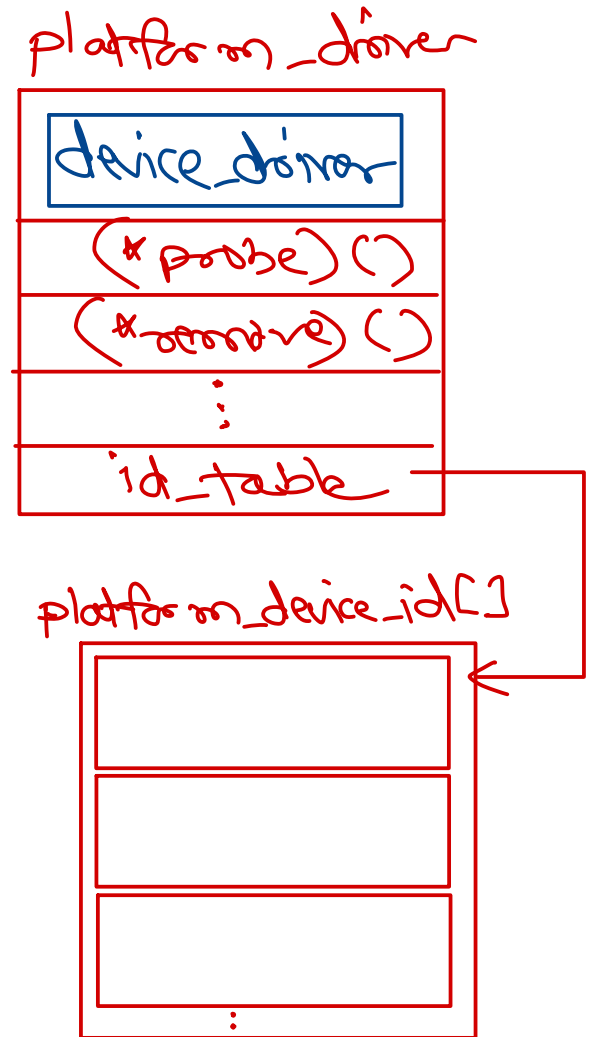


Platform Driver

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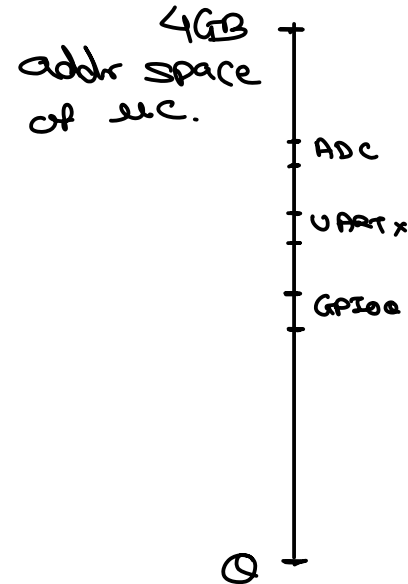
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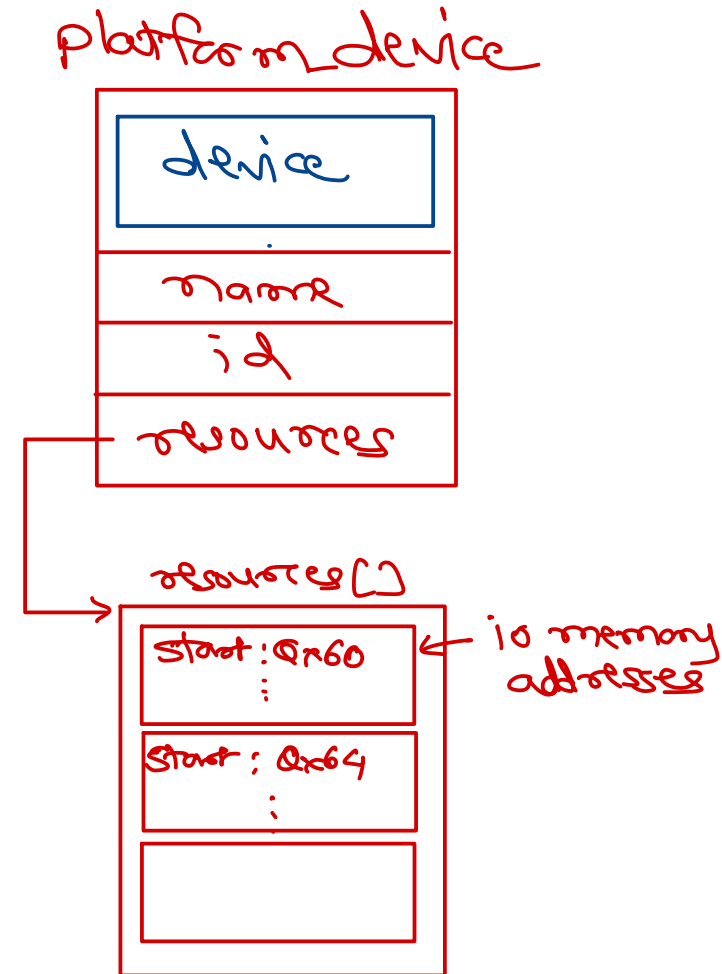
Platform Device

- Platform device is represented by struct `platform_device`.

```
struct platform_device {  
    const char      *name;  
    u32             id;  
    struct device    dev;  
    u32             num_resources;  
    struct resource *resource;  
};
```

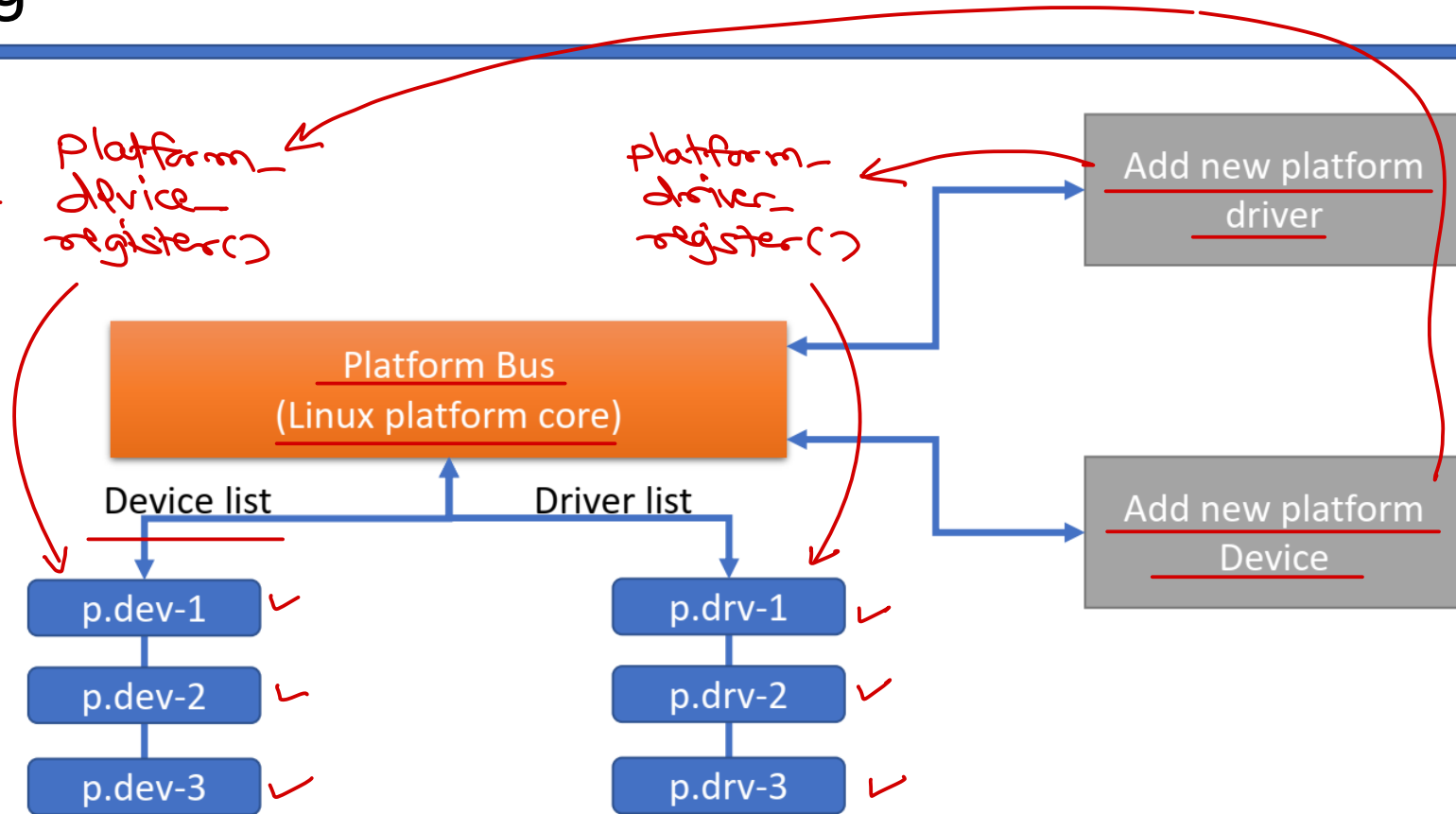


- The device is registered using: `platform_device_register(dev);`
 - From board file (compile time) or device driver (dynamically) – deprecated.
 - Devices are now registered using device tree.



Device and Driver matching

- Platform device and Platform driver are matched by the bus core matching mechanism.
 - Driver can detect the matching device added into the system.
 - Correct driver is auto-loaded when new device is added into the system.
- Each bus type has its match function that scans device and driver list.
- Linux platform core maintains platform device and driver list. It is auto updated when device or driver is added. e.g. /sys/bus/i2c – devices/drivers



- Match is done by name or ids.
- Upon match, probe() of driver is called by the core.
- When device/driver is removed, remove() is called.



platform_driver operations

- Platform driver must implement and register these method while platform_driver_register().
- When matching is done by the core, probe() will be called with platform_device as argument.
- probe() is responsible for
 - Device detection (verify) and initialization
 - Mapping IO memory and Register ISRs
 - Create user space access points (/dev or /sys)
 - Register device to the kernel framework
- When device or driver is removed, remove() will be called by the core.
- remove() is responsible for
 - Free memory and ISRs.
 - Shut-down or de-initialize the device.
 - Unregister device from the kernel framework
- suspend() is called to put device is pause/sleep (low power) state.
- resume() is called to set device in normal state (from sleep state).
- shutdown() is called to stop the device during system shutdown.





Thank you!

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