

Linux Character Device Driver

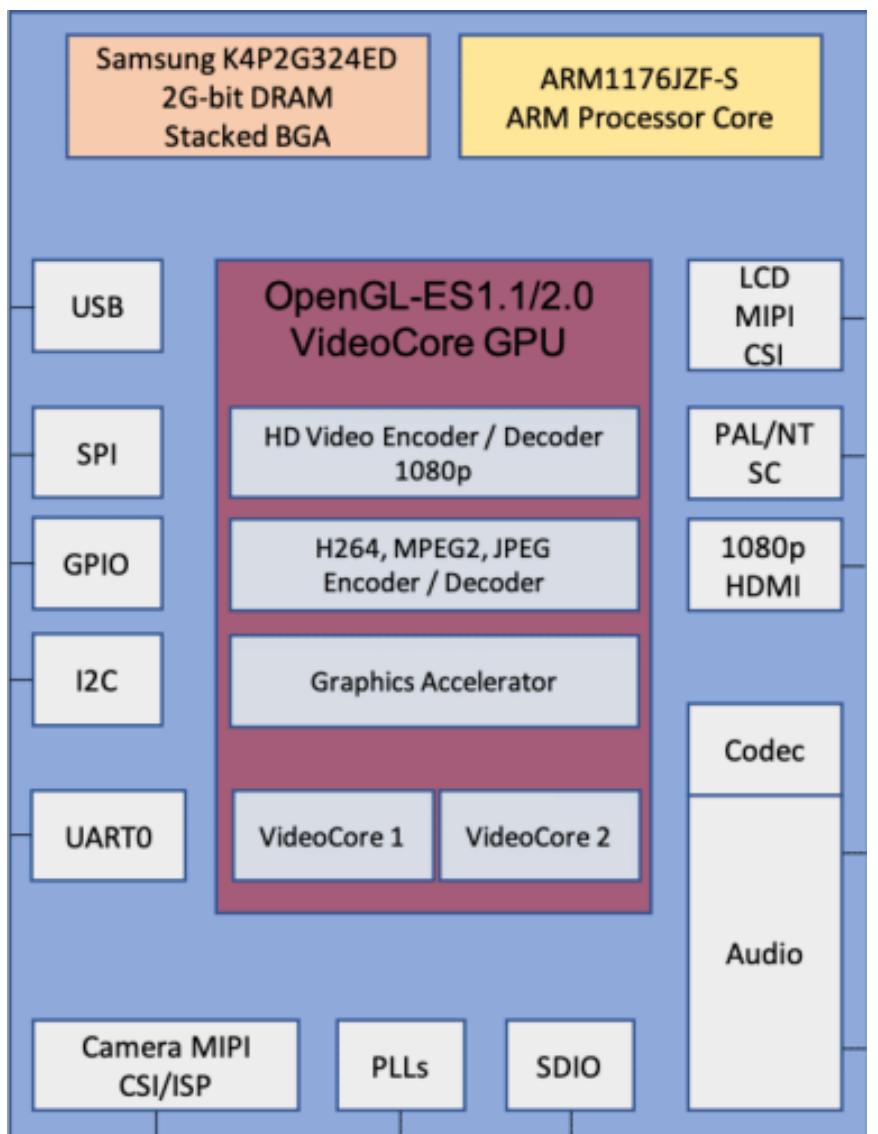
Sunbeam Infotech



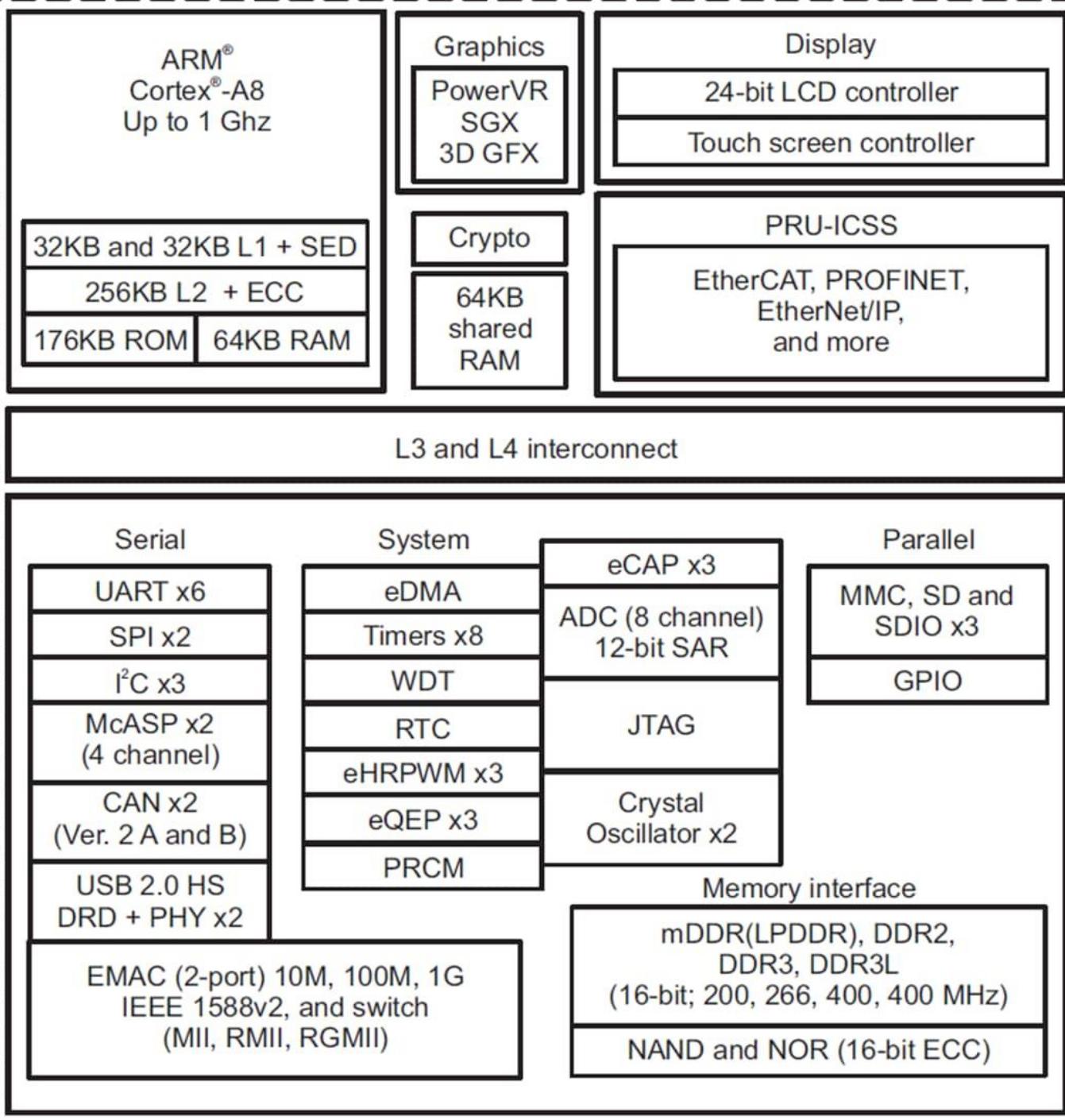
BCM2835 & AM335x

BBB →

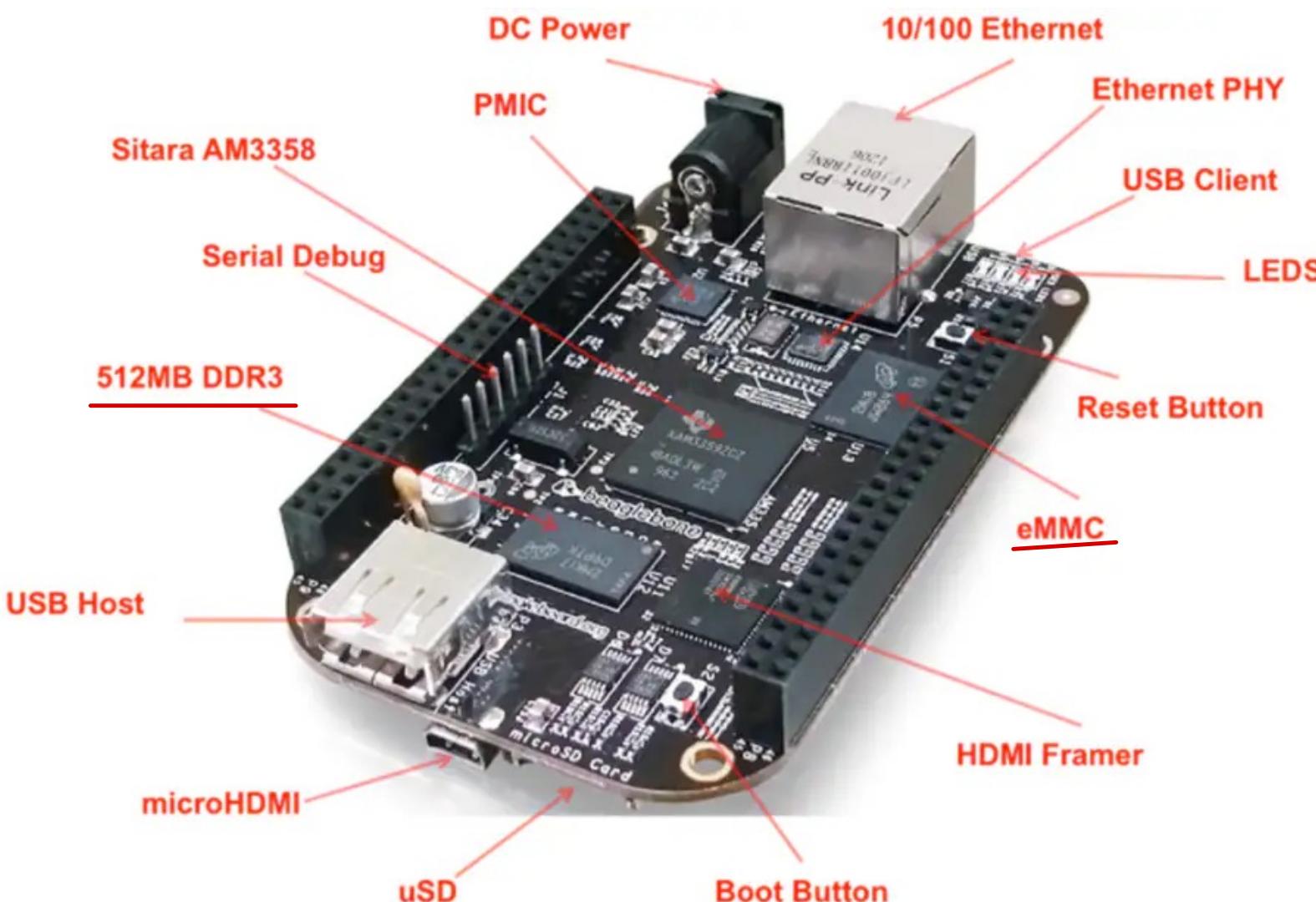
RPi
↓



Sun



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 Inter Connect

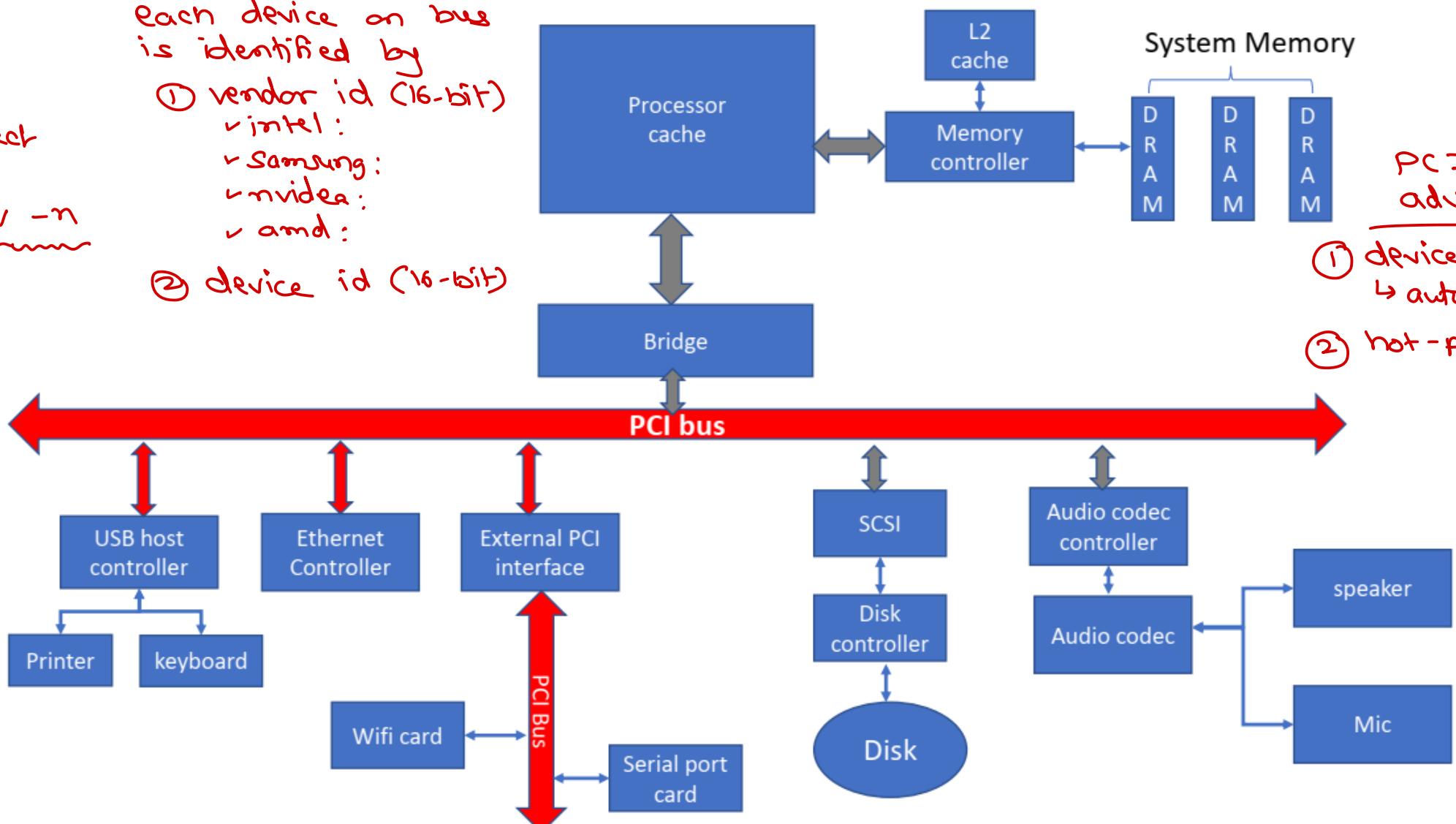
lspci -v -n

each device on bus is identified by

① vendor id (16-bit)

- ✓ intel:
- ✓ Samsung:
- ✓ nVidia:
- ✓ AMD:

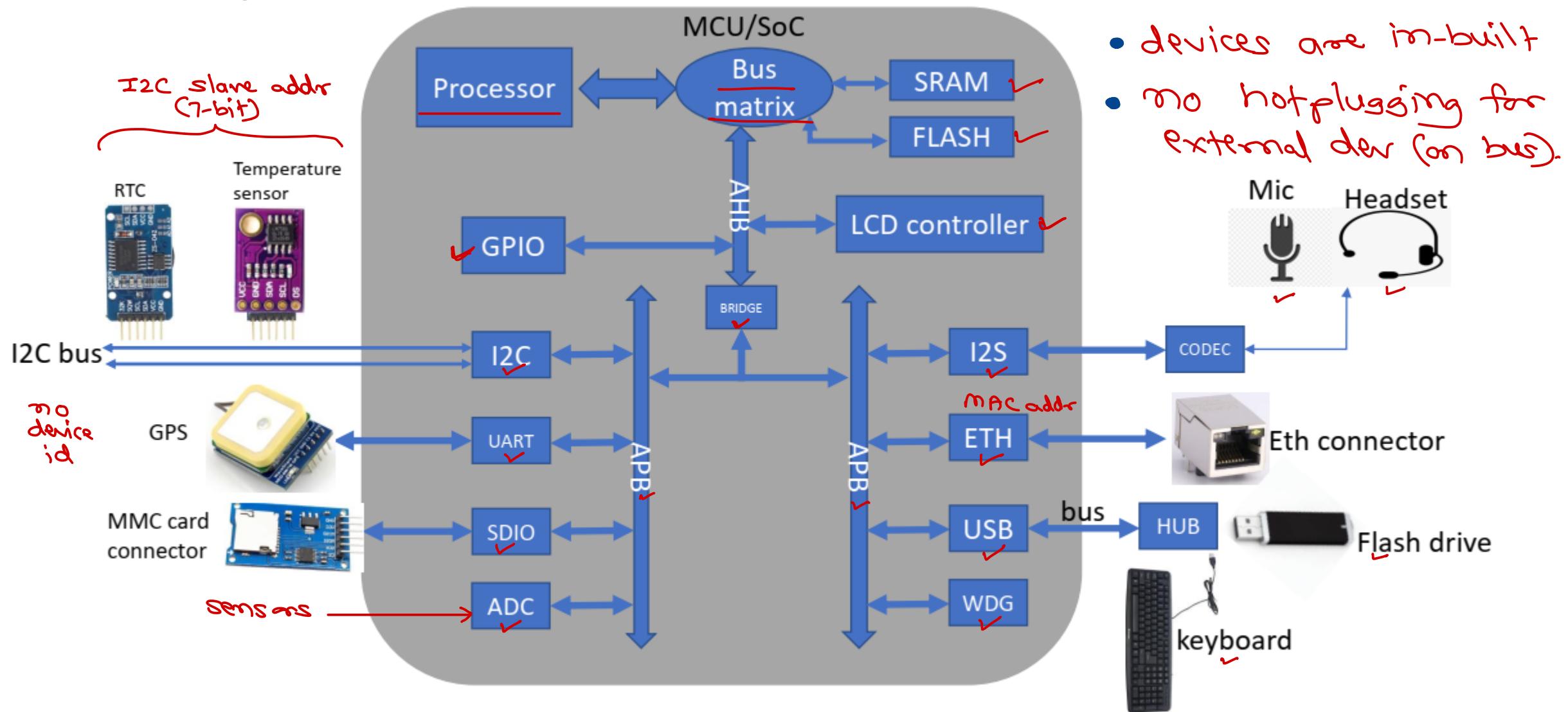
② device id (16-bit)



PCI bus advantages

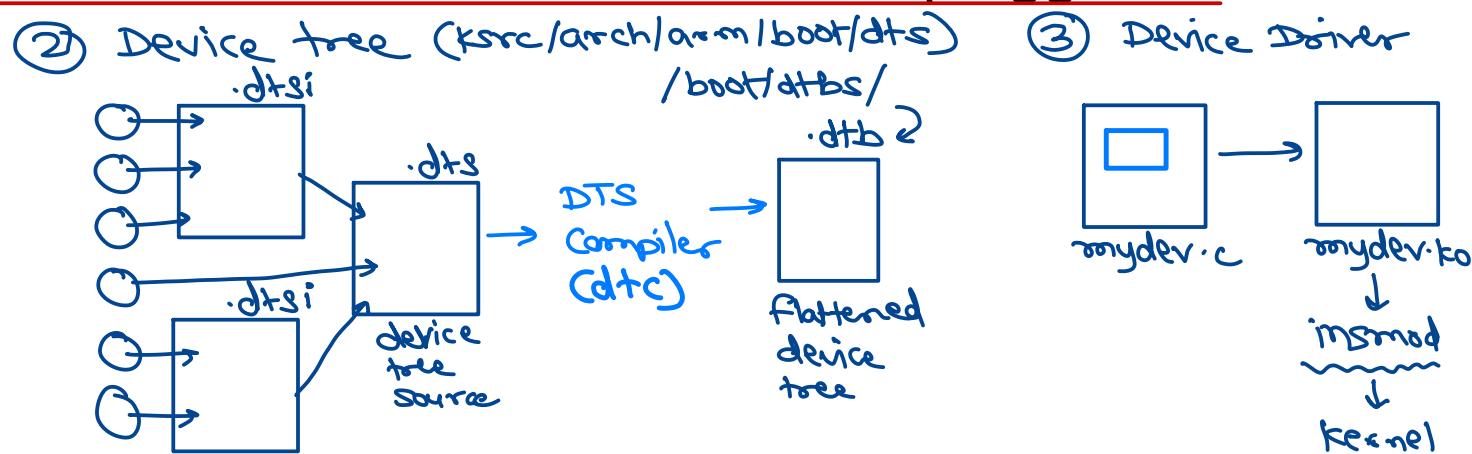
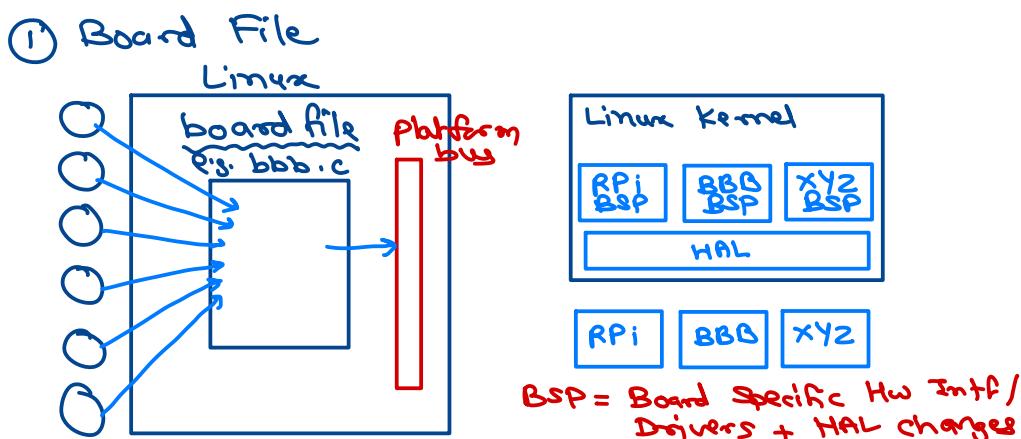
- ① device identification
↳ auto-discoverable
- ② hot-plugging

Embedded – SoC

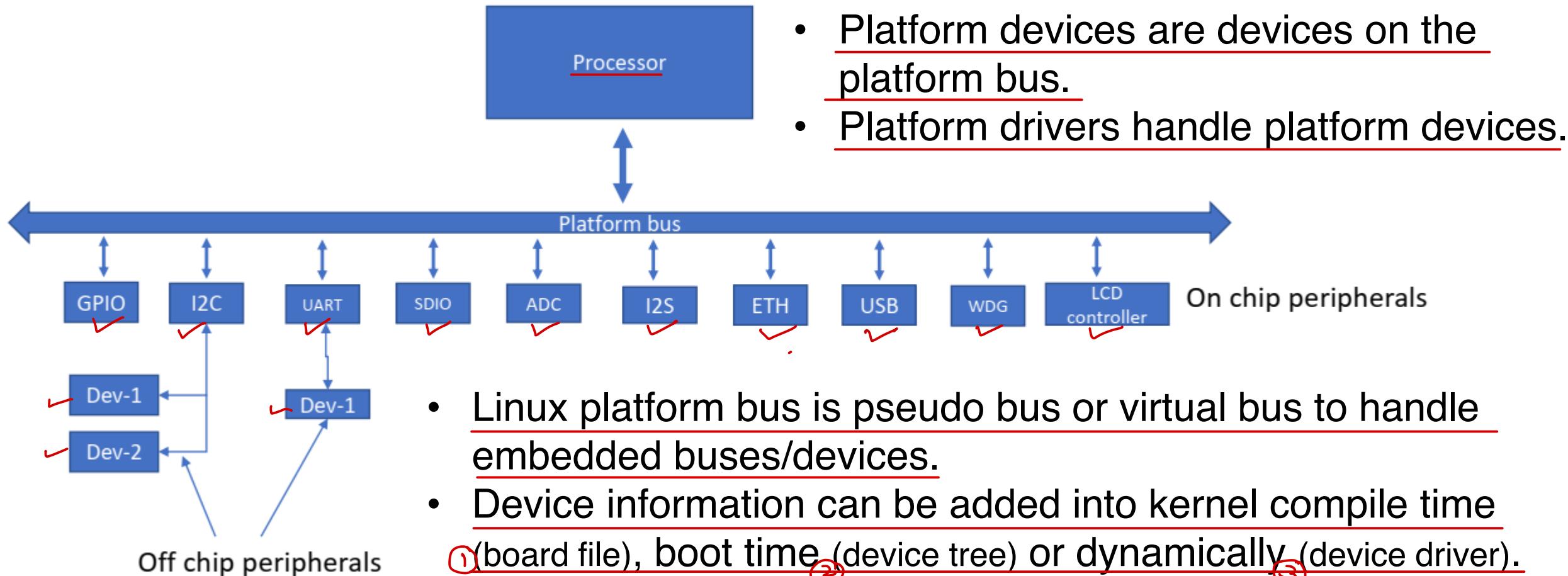


Platform bus, device and driver

- 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.



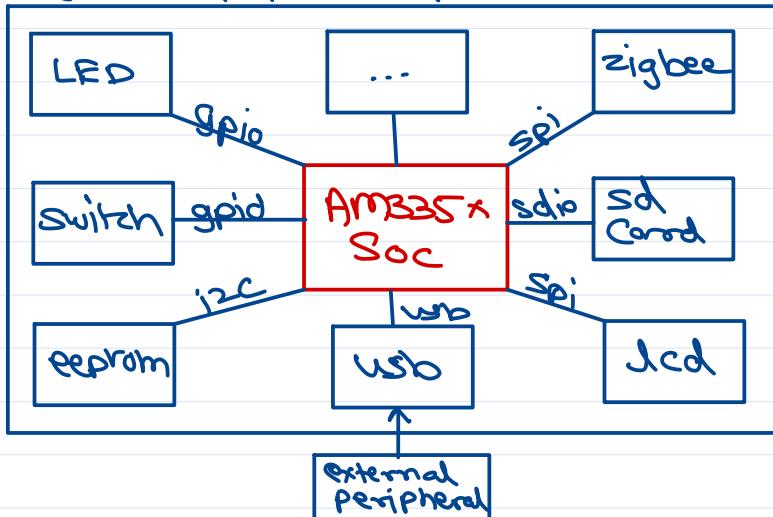
Platform bus



- 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 board



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 datastruct.

→ `my_board_init()`
 ✓ `add_device_serial()`
 ✓ `add_device_spi()`
 ✓ `add_device_eth()`
 ✓ `add_device_i2c()`
 ✓ `add_device_gpio()`
+ device drivers (.ko)

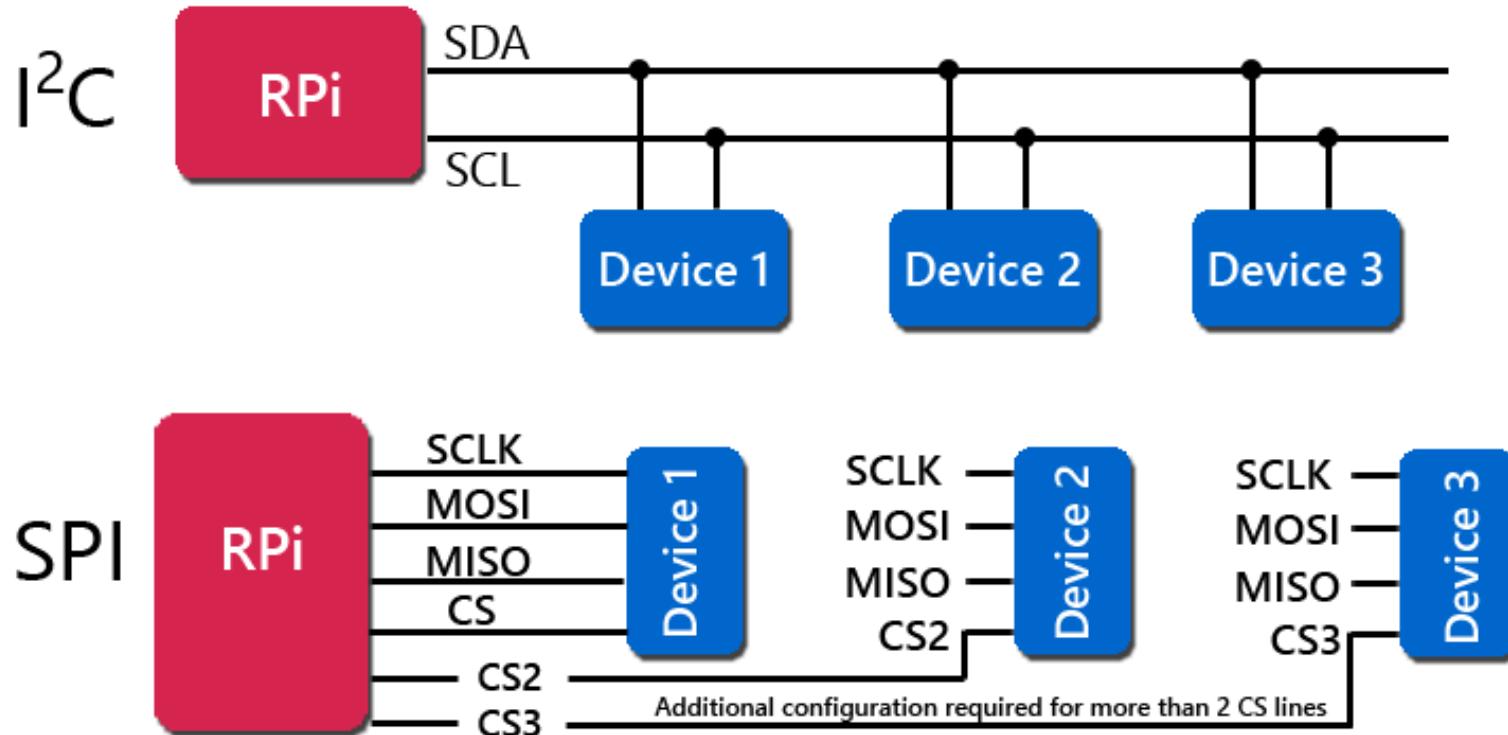
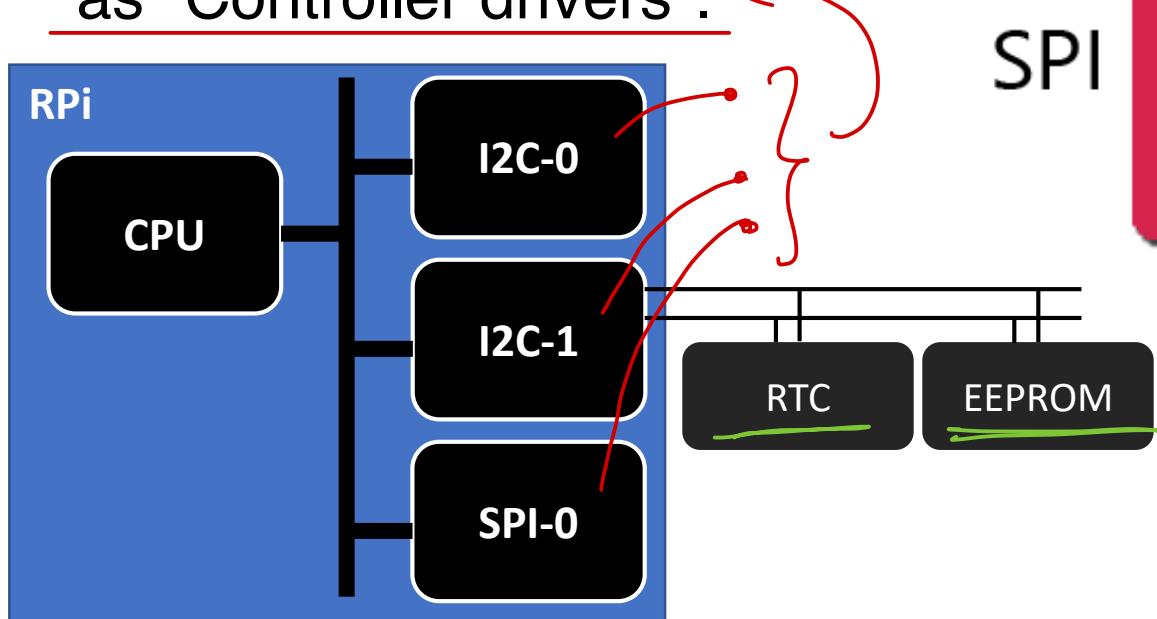


Same kernel can be used to init diff boards with diff dtb files.



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 (unmatching).

to shutdown/power off the device.

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



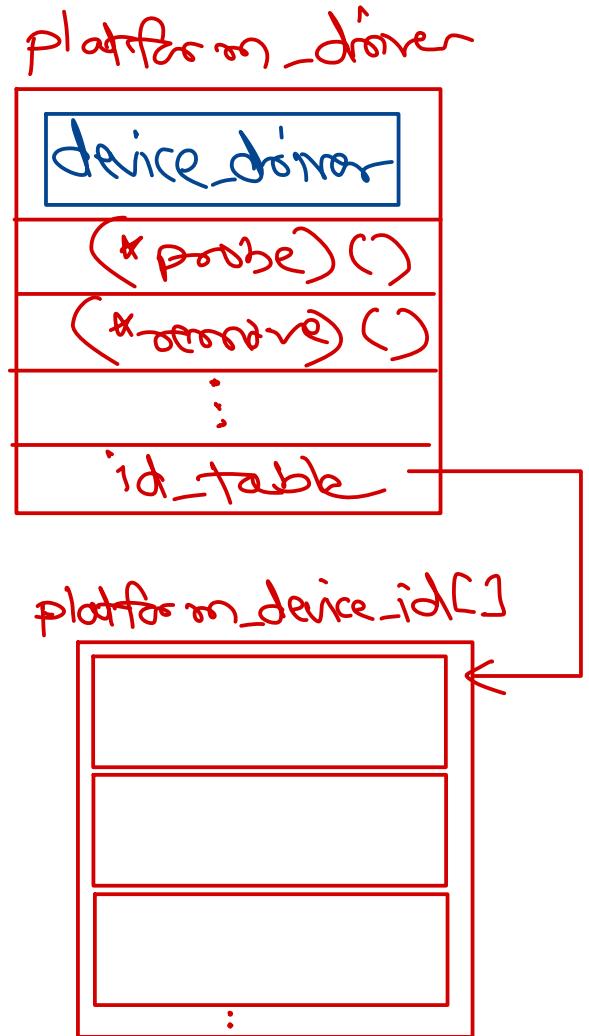
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Platform Device

- Platform device is represented by struct platform_device.

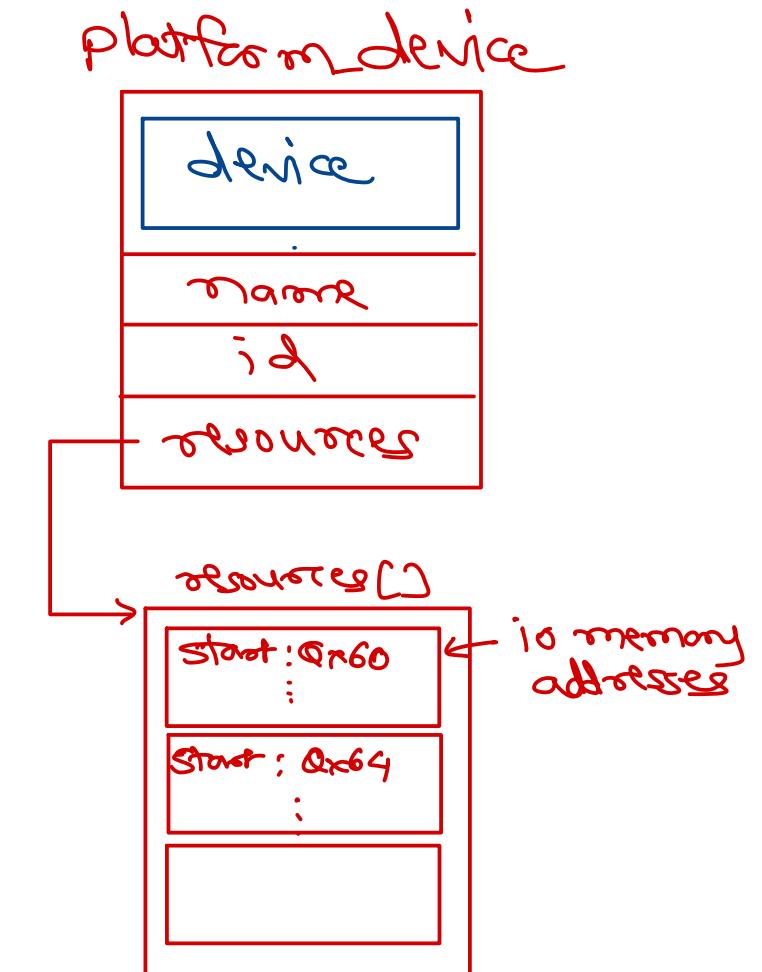
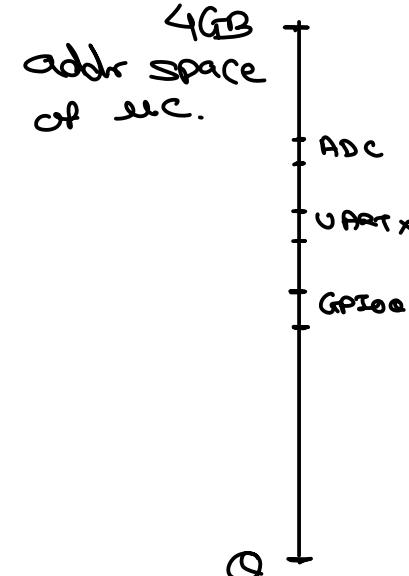
```
struct platform_device {
```

```
    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.



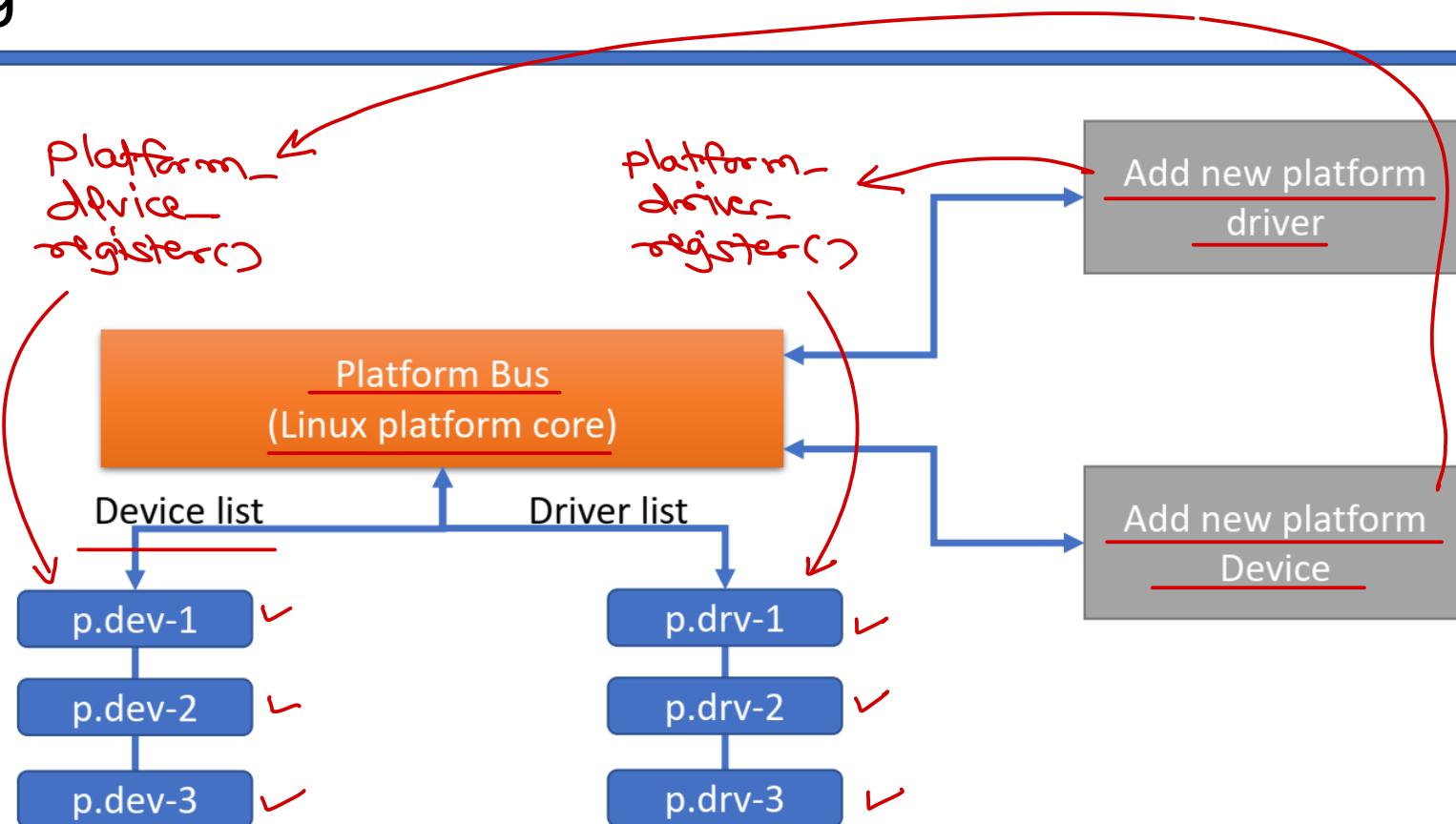
Device and Driver matching

- 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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