

# Linux Character Device Driver

*Sunbeam Infotech*



# Kernel thread/daemon

Step 1: implement a thread func.

```
int my_func(void *data) {  
    for(i=0; i<10; i++) {  
        pr_info("%d\n", i);  
        msleep(1000);  
    }  
    return 0;  
}
```

Step 2: start the thread.

```
kthread_run(my_func, NULL, "th-name");
```

- ↳ ① kthread\_create() → create thread - sleep state.
- ↳ ② wake\_up\_process() → wakeup thread ,

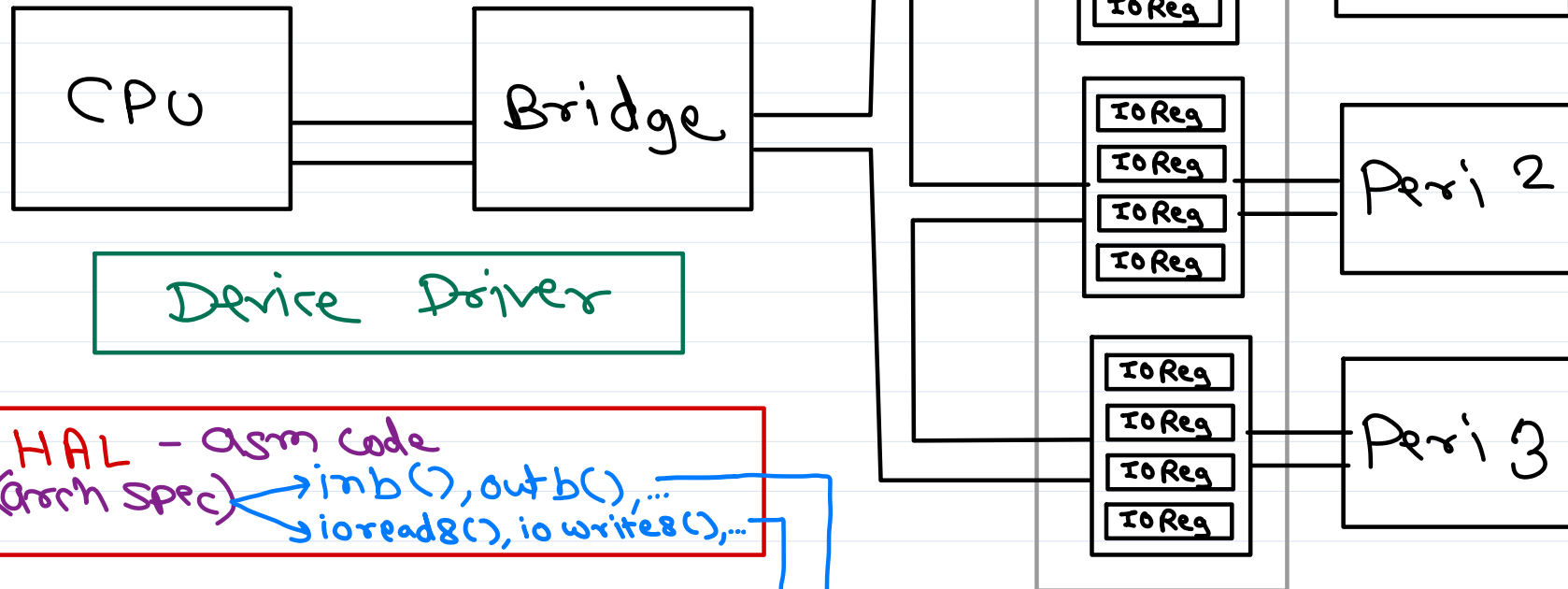


# IO Ports

request\_region() } io ports | io mem { request\_mem\_region()  
release\_region() } release mem region()

iowrite32(0x55AA55AA, 0x4804C194);  
asm value ← ↳ gpio addr

outb(0xAD, 0x64); → 286  
 value ← ↳ io port addr



HAL - asm code  
 (arch spec) → inb(), outb(), ...  
 → ioread8(), iowrite8(), ...

IO: mem mapped  
 HW: OR IO mapped  
 ↳ e.g. arm  
 ↳ e.g. x86

## Memory mapped IO

- IO bus & memory bus is overlapping
- Same instrn for mem & IO access
- e.g. ARM, ...  
 ↳ LDR, STR.

## IO mapped IO

- Different buses/  
 Special signal for mem & IO.
- Different instrn for mem & IO access.
- e.g. x86, ...  
 ↳ IN, OUT



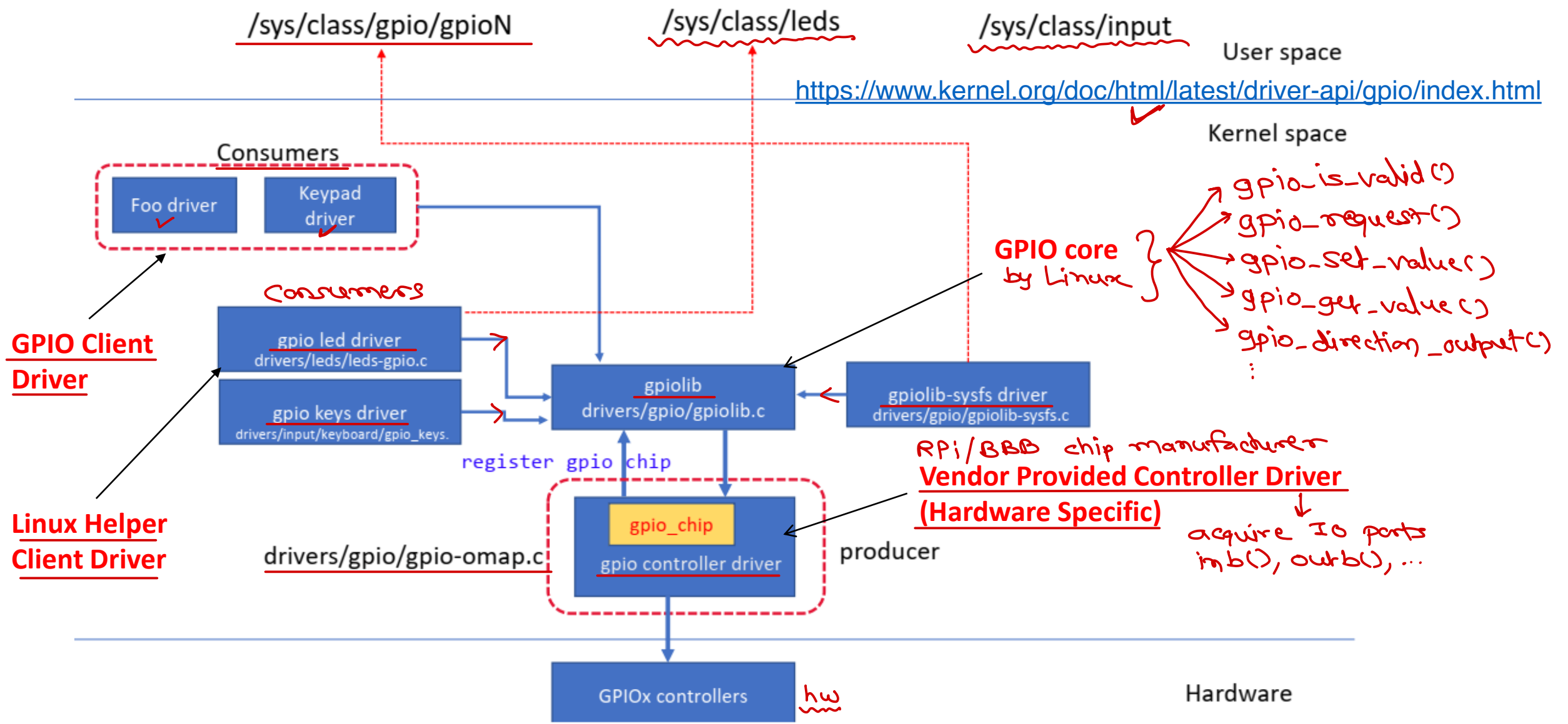
# Hardware interaction

- IO devices are interfaced with CPU via IO ports.
  - On x86 system, this is IO mapped IO.
  - On ARM system, this is memory mapped IO.
- To ensure uniform programming, kernel provides IO access macros/functions in HAL.
- Before accessing IO <sup>port</sup> ~~memory~~ addresses, they should be owned by the driver. This can be done by *request\_region()*. It can be released at the end using *release\_region()*.
- Actual IO operation can be done using inb(), outb(), inw(), outw(), inl(), outl(), ...
- Device driver should also handle interrupts produced by the hardware device. The ISR is registered using *request\_irq()*. It is released using *free\_irq()*.
- ISR should not contain blocking code, because ISR runs in interrupt context. Any long running task should be deferred in tasklet, workqueue or timer (as appropriate).
- Typical hardware init and de-init code is done in open() and release() driver operation; while actual data transfer is done in read() and write() operation.

cat /proc/ioports



# Linux GPIO SubSystem - producer/consumer pattern



# Using Linux GPIO subsystem

- Verify the GPIO is valid or not. `bool gpio_is_valid(int gpio_number);`
- If valid, request the GPIO from the Kernel GPIO subsystem. `int gpio_request(unsigned gpio, const char *label);`
  - `int gpio_request_one(unsigned gpio, unsigned long flags, const char *label);` – Request one GPIO.
  - `int gpio_request_array(struct gpio *array, size_t num);` – Request multiple GPIOs.
- Export GPIO to sysfs. `int gpio_export(unsigned int gpio, bool direction_may_change);` `void gpio_unexport(unsigned int gpio);`  
optional
- Set the direction of the GPIO (IN/OUT).
  - `int gpio_direction_input(unsigned gpio);` → Switch
  - `int gpio_direction_output(unsigned gpio, int initial_value);` → led
- Make the GPIO to High/Low if it is set as an output pin.
  - `gpio_set_value(unsigned int gpio, int value);`
- Set the debounce-interval and read the state if it is set as an input pin. Enable IRQ for edge/level triggered.
  - `int gpio_get_value(unsigned gpio);`
  - `int gpiod_set_debounce(unsigned gpio, unsigned debounce);`
  - `int gpio_to_irq(unsigned gpio);`
  - `request_irq()` with flag `IRQF_TRIGGER_RISING`, `IRQF_TRIGGER_FALLING`, `IRQF_TRIGGER_HIGH`, or `IRQF_TRIGGER_LOW` and `free_irq()`;
- Release the GPIO while exiting the driver. `void gpio_free(unsigned int gpio);`
  - `void gpio_free_array(struct gpio *array, size_t num);` – Release multiple GPIOs.





*Thank you!*

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