Coresight - HW Assisted Tracing on ARM

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Introduction

Coresight is an umbrella of technologies allowing for the debugging of ARM based SoC. It includes solutions for JTAG and HW assisted tracing. This document is concerned with the latter.

HW assisted tracing is becoming increasingly useful when dealing with systems that have many SoCs and other components like GPU and DMA engines. ARM has developed a HW assisted tracing solution by means of different components, each being added to a design at synthesis time to cater to specific tracing needs. Components are generally categorised as source, link and sinks and are (usually) discovered using the AMBA bus.

"Sources" generate a compressed stream representing the processor instruction path based on tracing scenarios as configured by users. From there the stream flows through the coresight system (via ATB bus) using links that are connecting the emanating source to a sink(s). Sinks serve as endpoints to the coresight implementation, either storing the compressed stream in a memory buffer or creating an interface to the outside world where data can be transferred to a host without fear of filling up the onboard coresight memory buffer.

At typical coresight system would look like this:

```
********************* AMBA AXI ***************
****** AMBA Debug APB **************
***************
             . !
***************** Cross Trigger Matrix (CTM) ************
************ AMBA Advanced Trace Bus (ATB) ************
******************
                  _____
|
| ::::::::
|-->:: CTI ::<!!
                    ==== [] ===
=== N ===
                      TPIU= Trace Port Interface Unit
    To trace port
                      SWD = Serial Wire Debug
```

While on target configuration of the components is done via the APB bus, all trace data are carried out-of-band on the ATB bus. The CTM provides a way to aggregate and distribute signals between CoreSight components.

The coresight framework provides a central point to represent, configure and manage coresight devices on a platform. This first implementation centers on the basic tracing functionality, enabling components such ETM/PTM, funnel, replicator, TMC, TPIU and ETB. Future work will enable more intricate IP blocks such as STM and CTI.

Acronyms and Classification

```
Acronyms:
PTM:
        Program Trace Macrocell
ETM:
        Embedded Trace Macrocell
STM:
        System trace Macrocell
ETB:
        Embedded Trace Buffer
ITM:
        Instrumentation Trace Macrocell
TPIU:
        Trace Port Interface Unit
TMC-ETR:
        Trace Memory Controller, configured as Embedded Trace Router
TMC-ETF:
        Trace Memory Controller, configured as Embedded Trace FIFO
CTI:
        Cross Trigger Interface
Classification:
Source:
        ETMv3.x ETMv4, PTMv1.0, PTMv1.1, STM, STM500, ITM
Link:
        Funnel, replicator (intelligent or not), TMC-ETR
Sinks:
        ETBv1.0, ETB1.1, TPIU, TMC-ETF
Misc:
        CTI
```

Device Tree Bindings

See Documentation/devicetree/bindings/arm/coresight.txt for details.

As of this writing drivers for ITM, STMs and CTIs are not provided but are expected to be added as the solution matures.

Framework and implementation

The coresight framework provides a central point to represent, configure and manage coresight devices on a platform. Any coresight compliant device can register with the framework for as long as they use the right APIs:

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (p:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-
master\Documentation\trace\coresight\(linux-master\) (Documentation) (trace)
(coresight) coresight.rst, line 146)
Unknown directive type "c:function".
.. c:function:: struct coresight_device *coresight_register(struct coresight_desc *desc);
```

```
System Message: ERROR/3 (D:\onboarding-resources\sample-onboarding-resources\linux-
master\Documentation\trace\coresight\((linux-master)\) (Documentation) (trace)
(coresight) coresight.rst, line 147)
Unknown directive type "c:function".

.. c:function:: void coresight_unregister(struct coresight_device *csdev);
```

The registering function is taking a struct coresight_desc *desc and register the device with the core framework. The unregister function takes a reference to a struct coresight_device *csdev obtained at registration time.

If everything goes well during the registration process the new devices will show up under sys/bus/coresight/devices, as showns here for a TC2 platform

```
root:~# ls /sys/bus/coresight/devices/
replicator 20030000.tpiu 2201c000.ptm 2203c000.etm 2203e000.etm
20010000.etb 20040000.funnel 2201d000.ptm 2203d000.etm
root:~#
```

The functions take a struct coresight_device, which looks like this:

```
struct coresight_desc {
```

```
enum coresight_dev_type type;
struct coresight_dev_subtype subtype;
const struct coresight_ops *ops;
struct coresight_platform_data *pdata;
struct device *dev;
const struct attribute_group **groups;
};
```

The "coresight_dev_type" identifies what the device is, i.e, source link or sink while the "coresight_dev_subtype" will characterise that type further.

The struct coresight_ops is mandatory and will tell the framework how to perform base operations related to the components, each component having a different set of requirement. For that struct coresight_ops_sink, struct coresight_ops_link and struct coresight_ops_source have been provided.

The next field struct coresight_platform_data *pdata is acquired by calling of_get_coresight_platform_data(), as part of the driver's probe routine and struct device *dev gets the device reference embedded in the amba device:

```
static int etm_probe(struct amba_device *adev, const struct amba_id *id)
{
    ...
    ...
    drvdata->dev = &adev->dev;
    ...
}
```

Specific class of device (source, link, or sink) have generic operations that can be performed on them (see struct coresight_ops). The **groups is a list of sysfs entries pertaining to operations specific to that component only. "Implementation defined" customisations are expected to be accessed and controlled using those entries.

Device Naming scheme

The devices that appear on the "coresight" bus were named the same as their parent devices, i.e, the real devices that appears on AMBA bus or the platform bus. Thus the names were based on the Linux Open Firmware layer naming convention, which follows the base physical address of the device followed by the device type. e.g.

```
root:~# ls /sys/bus/coresight/devices/
20010000.etf 20040000.funnel 20100000.stm 22040000.etm
22140000.etm 230c0000.funnel 23240000.etm 20030000.tpiu
20070000.etr 20120000.replicator 220c0000.funnel
23040000.etm 23140000.etm 23340000.etm
```

However, with the introduction of ACPI support, the names of the real devices are a bit cryptic and non-obvious. Thus, a new naming scheme was introduced to use more generic names based on the type of the device. The following rules apply:

Thus, with the new scheme the devices could appear as

```
root:~# ls /sys/bus/coresight/devices/
etm0 etm1 etm2 etm3 etm4 etm5 funnel0
funnel1 funnel2 replicator0 stm0 tmc etf0 tmc etr0 tpiu0
```

Some of the examples below might refer to old naming scheme and some to the newer scheme, to give a confirmation that what you see on your system is not unexpected. One must use the "names" as they appear on the system under specified locations.

Topology Representation

Each CoreSight component has a connections directory which will contain links to other CoreSight components. This allows the user to explore the trace topology and for larger systems, determine the most appropriate sink for a given source. The connection information can also be used to establish which CTI devices are connected to a given component. This directory contains a nr links attribute detailing the number of links in the directory.

For an ETM source, in this case etm0 on a Juno platform, a typical arrangement will be:

```
linaro-developer:~# 1s - 1 /sys/bus/coresight/devices/etm0/connections
<file details> cti_cpu0 -> ../../23020000.cti/cti_cpu0
<file details> nr_links
<file details> out:0 -> ../../230c0000.funnel/funnel2
```

Following the out port to funnel2:

```
linaro-developer:~# ls -l /sys/bus/coresight/devices/funnel2/connections
```

```
<file details> in:1 -> ../../23140000.etm/etm3
   <file details> in:2 -> ../../23240000.etm/etm4
   <file details> in:3 -> ../../23340000.etm/etm5
   <file details> nr_links
   <file details> out: 0 -> ../../20040000.funnel/funnel0
And again to funnel0:
   linaro-developer:~# ls -l /sys/bus/coresight/devices/funnel0/connections
   <file details> in:0 -> ../../220c0000.funnel/funnel1
   <file details> in:1 -> ../../230c0000.funnel/funnel2
   <file details> nr links
   <file details> out:0 -> ../../20010000.etf/tmc etf0
```

<file details> in:0 -> ../../23040000.etm/etm0

Finding the first sink tmc etf0. This can be used to collect data as a sink, or as a link to propagate further along the chain:

```
linaro-developer:~# ls -l /sys/bus/coresight/devices/tmc etf0/connections
   <file details> cti_sys0 -> ../../20020000.cti/cti_sys0
   <file details> in:0 -> ../../20040000.funnel/funnel0
   <file details> nr links
   <file details> out: 0 -> ../../20150000.funnel/funnel4
   linaro-developer:~# ls -l /sys/bus/coresight/devices/funnel4/connections
   <file details> in:0 -> ../../20010000.etf/tmc_etf0
   <file details> in:1 -> ../../20140000.etf/tmc etf1
   <file details> nr_links
   <file details> out:0 -> ../../20120000.replicator/replicator0
and a replicator 0:
   {\tt linaro-developer:} {\tt ~\#~ls~-l~/sys/bus/coresight/devices/replicator0/connections}
   <file details> in:0 -> ../../20150000.funnel/funnel4
   <file details> nr links
   <file details> out:0 -> ../../20030000.tpiu/tpiu0
   <file details> out:1 -> ../../20070000.etr/tmc_etr0
Arriving at the final sink in the chain, tmc etr0:
   linaro-developer:~# ls -l /sys/bus/coresight/devices/tmc_etr0/connections
```

<file details> cti sys0 -> ../../20020000.cti/cti sys0
<file details> in:0 -> ../.././20120000.replicator/replicator0 <file details> nr links

As described below, when using sysfs it is sufficient to enable a sink and a source for successful trace. The framework will correctly enable all intermediate links as required.

Note: cti sys0 appears in two of the connections lists above. CTIs can connect to multiple devices and are arranged in a star topology via the CTM. See (Documentation/trace/coresight/coresight-ect.rst) [4] for further details. Looking at this device we see 4

```
linaro-developer:~# ls -l /svs/bus/coresight/devices/cti svs0/connections
<file details> nr links
<file details> stm0 -> ../../20100000.stm/stm0
<file details> tmc_etf0 -> ../../20010000.etf/tmc_etf0
<file details> tmc etr0 -> ../../20070000.etr/tmc etr0
<file details> tpiu0 -> ../../20030000.tpiu/tpiu0
```

How to use the tracer modules

There are two ways to use the Coresight framework:

- using the perf cmd line tools.
- interacting directly with the Coresight devices using the sysFS interface.

Preference is given to the former as using the sysFS interface requires a deep understanding of the Coresight HW. The following sections provide details on using both methods.

Using the sysFS interface:

Before trace collection can start, a coresight sink needs to be identified. There is no limit on the amount of sinks (nor sources) that can be enabled at any given moment. As a generic operation, all device pertaining to the sink class will have an "active" entry in sysfs:

```
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# ls
replicator 20030000.tpiu
                           2201c000.ptm 2203c000.etm 2203e000.etm
              20040000.funnel 2201d000.ptm 2203d000.etm
20010000.eth
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# ls 20010000.etb
enable_sink status trigger_cntr
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# echo 1 > 20010000.etb/enable_sink
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# cat 20010000.etb/enable sink
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices#
```

At boot time the current etm3x driver will configure the first address comparator with "_stext" and "_etext", essentially tracing any instruction that falls within that range. As such "enabling" a source will immediately trigger a trace capture:

```
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# echo 1 > 2201c000.ptm/enable_source
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# cat 2201c000.ptm/enable_source
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# cat 20010000.etb/status
               0x2000
Depth:
Status:
               0x1
RAM read ptr: 0x0
RAM wrt ptr:
               0x19d3 <---- The write pointer is moving
             0x0
Trigger cnt:
Control:
               0x1
Flush status:
              0x0
               0x2001
Flush ctrl:
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices#
```

Trace collection is stopped the same way:

```
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# echo 0 > 2201c000.ptm/enable_source
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices#
```

The content of the ETB buffer can be harvested directly from/dev:

```
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices# dd if=/dev/20010000.etb \
of=~/cstrace.bin
64+0 records in
64+0 records out
32768 bytes (33 kB) copied, 0.00125258 s, 26.2 MB/s
root:/sys/bus/coresight/devices#
```

The file cstrace.bin can be decompressed using "ptm2human", DS-5 or Trace32.

Following is a DS-5 output of an experimental loop that increments a variable up to a certain value. The example is simple and yet provides a glimpse of the wealth of possibilities that coresight provides.

Info			Tracing enabled	d			
Instruction	10637886	66 0x8026B	53C E52DE00	04	false	PUSH {lr}	
Instruction	0	0x8026B540	E24DD00C	false	SUB	sp,sp,#0xc	
Instruction	0	0x8026B544	E3A03000	false	VOM	r3,#0	
Instruction	0	0x8026B548	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Timestamp: 17106715833							
Instruction	319	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Instruction	9	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Instruction	7	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Instruction	7	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Instruction	10	0x8026B54C	E59D3004	false	LDR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B550	E3530004	false	CMP	r3,#4	
Instruction	0	0x8026B554	E2833001	false	ADD	r3,r3,#1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B558	E58D3004	false	STR	r3,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B55C	DAFFFFFA	true	BLE	{pc}-0x10 ; 0x8026b54c	
Instruction	6	0x8026B560	EE1D3F30	false	MRC	p15, #0x0, r3, c13, c0, #1	
Instruction	0	0x8026B564	E1A0100D	false	MOV	r1,sp	
Instruction	0	0x8026B568	E3C12D7F	false	BIC	r2,r1,#0x1fc0	
Instruction	0	0x8026B56C	E3C2203F	false	BIC	r2, r2, #0x3f	
Instruction	0	0x8026B50C	E59D1004	false	LDR	r1,[sp,#4]	
Instruction	0	0x8026B570	E59F0010	false	LDR	r0,[pc,#16]; [0x8026B58C]	- 0220051
Instruction	0	0x8026B574	E592200C	false	LDR	r2, [r2, #0xc]	- UX6U3
Instruction	0			false	LDR		
	0	0x8026B57C	E59221D0			r2,[r2,#0x1d0]	
Instruction	U	0x8026B580	EB07A4CF	true	BL	{pc}+0x1e9344 ; 0x804548c4	
Info	1257002	1 00006	Tracing enable		£-1	3DD 40	
Instruction	13570831				false	ADD sp,sp,#0xc	
Instruction	U	0x8026B588	E8BD8000	true	LDM	sp!, {pc}	
Timestamp: 17107041535							

2. Using perf framework:

Coresight tracers are represented using the Perf framework's Performance Monitoring Unit (PMU) abstraction. As such the perf framework takes charge of controlling when tracing gets enabled based on when the process of interest is scheduled. When configured in a system, Coresight PMUs will be listed when queried by the perf command line tool:

linaro@linaro-nano:~\$./perf list pmu

List of pre-defined events (to be used in -e):

```
cs_etm// [Kernel PMU event]
```

```
linaro@linaro-nano:~$
```

Regardless of the number of tracers available in a system (usually equal to the amount of processor cores), the "cs_etm" PMU will be listed only once.

A Coresight PMU works the same way as any other PMU, i.e the name of the PMU is listed along with configuration options within forward slashes '/'. Since a Coresight system will typically have more than one sink, the name of the sink to work with needs to be specified as an event option. On newer kernels the available sinks are listed in sysFS under (\$SYSFS)/bus/event source/devices/cs etm/sinks/:

```
{\tt root@localhost:/sys/bus/event\_source/devices/cs\_etm/sinks \# \ ls \ tmc \ etf0 \ \ tmc \ etr0 \ \ tpiu0}
```

On older kernels, this may need to be found from the list of coresight devices, available under (\$SYSFS)/bus/coresight/devices/:

```
root:~# ls /sys/bus/coresight/devices/
etm0   etm1   etm2   etm3   etm4   etm5   funnel0
funnel1 funnel2 replicator0 stm0 tmc_etf0 tmc_etr0 tpiu0
root@linaro-nano:~# perf record -e cs etm/@tmc etr0/u --per-thread program
```

As mentioned above in section "Device Naming scheme", the names of the devices could look different from what is used in the example above. One must use the device names as it appears under the sysFS.

The syntax within the forward slashes '/' is important. The '@' character tells the parser that a sink is about to be specified and that this is the sink to use for the trace session.

More information on the above and other example on how to use Coresight with the perf tools can be found in the "HOWTO.md" file of the openCSD gitHub repository [3].

2.1) AutoFDO analysis using the perf tools:

perf can be used to record and analyze trace of programs.

Execution can be recorded using 'perf record' with the cs_etm event, specifying the name of the sink to record to, e.g.

```
perf record -e cs etm/@tmc etr0/u --per-thread
```

The 'perf report' and 'perf script' commands can be used to analyze execution, synthesizing instruction and branch events from the instruction trace. 'perf inject' can be used to replace the trace data with the synthesized events. The --itrace option controls the type and frequency of synthesized events (see perf documentation).

Note that only 64-bit programs are currently supported - further work is required to support instruction decode of 32-bit Arm programs.

```
2.2) Tracing PID
```

The kernel can be built to write the PID value into the PE ContextID registers. For a kernel running at EL1, the PID is stored in CONTEXTIDR_EL1. A PE may implement Arm Virtualization Host Extensions (VHE), which the kernel can run at EL2 as a virtualisation host; in this case, the PID value is stored in CONTEXTIDR_EL2.

perf provides PMU formats that program the ETM to insert these values into the trace data; the PMU formats are defined as below:

```
"contextid1": Available on both EL1 kernel and EL2 kernel. When the
```

kernel is running at EL1, "contextid1" enables the PID tracing, when the kernel is running at EL2, this enables tracing the PID of guest applications.

"contextid2": Only usable when the kernel is running at EL2. When

selected, enables PID tracing on EL2 kernel.

"contextid": Will be an alias for the option that enables PID

```
tracing. I.e, contextid = contextid1, on EL1 kernel. contextid = contextid2, on EL2 kernel.
```

perf will always enable PID tracing at the relevant EL, this is accomplished by automatically enable the "contextid" config - but for EL2 it is possible to make specific adjustments using configs "contextid1" and "contextid2", E.g. if a user wants to trace PIDs for both host and guest, the two configs "contextid1" and "contextid2" can be set at the same time:

```
perf record -e cs etm/contextid1,contextid2/u -- vm
```

Generating coverage files for Feedback Directed Optimization: AutoFDO

'perf inject' accepts the --itrace option in which case tracing data is removed and replaced with the synthesized events. e.g.

```
perf inject --itrace --strip -i perf.data -o perf.data.new
```

Below is an example of using ARM ETM for autoFDO. It requires autofdo (https://github.com/google/autofdo) and gcc version 5. The bubble sort example is from the AutoFDO tutorial (https://gcc.gnu.org/wiki/AutoFDO/Tutorial).

```
$ gcc-5 -03 sort.c -o sort
$ taskset -c 2 ./sort
```

```
Bubble sorting array of 30000 elements 5910 ms

$ perf record -e cs_etm/@tmc_etr0/u --per-thread taskset -c 2 ./sort Bubble sorting array of 30000 elements 12543 ms
[ perf record: Woken up 35 times to write data ]
[ perf record: Captured and wrote 69.640 MB perf.data ]

$ perf inject -i perf.data -o inj.data --itrace=i164 --strip $ create_gcov --binary=./sort --profile=inj.data --gcov=sort.gcov -gcov_version=1 $ gcc-5 -03 -fauto-profile=sort.gcov sort.c -o sort_autofdo $ taskset -c 2 ./sort_autofdo Bubble sorting array of 30000 elements 5806 ms
```

How to use the STM module

Using the System Trace Macrocell module is the same as the tracers - the only difference is that clients are driving the trace capture rather than the program flow through the code.

As with any other CoreSight component, specifics about the STM tracer can be found in sysfs with more information on each entry being found in [1]:

```
root@genericarmv8:~# ls /sys/bus/coresight/devices/stm0
enable_source hwevent_select port_enable subsystem uevent
hwevent_enable mgmt port_select traceid
root@genericarmv8:~#
```

Like any other source a sink needs to be identified and the STM enabled before being used:

```
root@genericarmv8:~# echo 1 > /sys/bus/coresight/devices/tmc_etf0/enable_sink
root@genericarmv8:~# echo 1 > /sys/bus/coresight/devices/stm0/enable source
```

From there user space applications can request and use channels using the devfs interface provided for that purpose by the generic STM API:

Details on how to use the generic STM API can be found here: - Documentation/trace/stm rst [2].

The CTI & CTM Modules

The CTI (Cross Trigger Interface) provides a set of trigger signals between individual CTIs and components, and can propagate these between all CTIs via channels on the CTM (Cross Trigger Matrix).

A separate documentation file is provided to explain the use of these devices. (Documentation/trace/coresight/coresight-ect.rst) [4].

CoreSight System Configuration

CoreSight components can be complex devices with many programming options. Furthermore, components can be programmed to interact with each other across the complete system

A CoreSight System Configuration manager is provided to allow these complex programming configurations to be selected and used easily from perf and sysfs.

See the separate document for further information. (Documentation/trace/coresight/coresight-config.rst) [5].

- [1] Documentation/ABI/testing/sysfs-bus-coresight-devices-stm
- [2] Documentation/trace/stm.rst
- [3] https://github.com/Linaro/perf-opencsd
- [4] (1,2) Documentation/trace/coresight/coresight-ect.rst
- [5] Documentation/trace/coresight/coresight-config.rst