

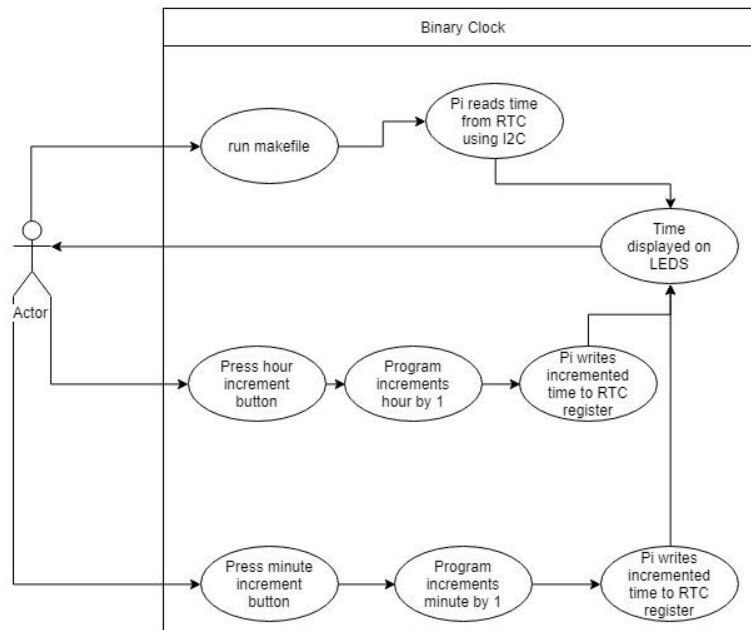
EEE3096S: Practical 3 Report

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Introduction

For this practical we were required to interface with the RTC using I2C to display real time on a binary clock using LEDs. The hour and minutes could be incremented using buttons and interrupts, hence two buttons were used in the circuit. The first button was used to fetch the hours value from RTC, increase the hour by 1 and then the pi would write this new time back to the RTC. The time was then displayed on the LEDs. The second button was used to fetch the minutes value from RTC, increase the minutes value by 1 and then write the new time back to the RTC. This time was then displayed on the LEDs.

UML Diagram of System



I2C Communication using WiringPi

(a) Initialisation

Initialising the RTC is done by setting up the RTC using the method `wiringPiI2CSetup(address)` with the address of the RTC being 0x6f.

(b) Send data

Writing DATA to the RTC was done using the method `wiringPiI2CWriteReg8 (int fd, int reg, int data)` where "fd" is the instance of the RTC, "reg" is the register and "data" is the data to be sent. The registers used in this practical were the seconds, minutes and hour which had addresses 0x00, 0x01 and 0x02 respectively.

(c) Receive Data

Receiving data from the RTC is the same as writing to it, however, the master becomes the RTC. The Pi sends a read command and receives the data by calling `wiringPiI2CReadReg8 (int fd, int reg)`. The registers are the same as those used to send the data.

Example timing diagrams of how the data goes between the two devices is shown below. To initialize the oscillator, the value 0x80 is sent the seconds register.

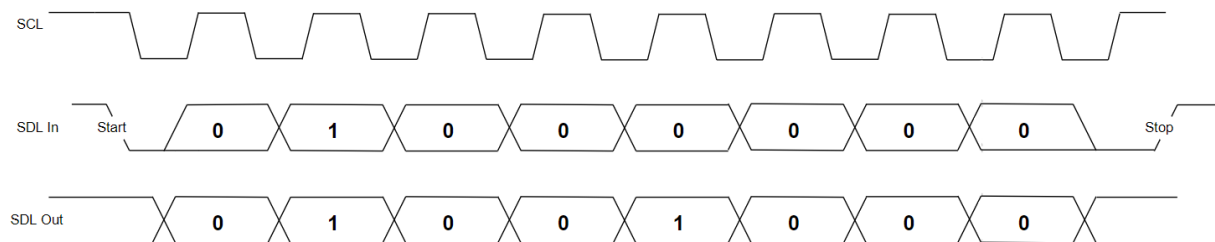


Fig 1. Data written to the RTC seconds register and data read

The timing diagram shows the 8 bit data that is sent to the seconds register and the data that is read.

Interrupts and Debouncing

Interrupts

An interrupt is a signal that prompts the operating system to stop work on one process and start work on another process [1]. Once the new process is completed, the previous one will continue. For this practical, interrupts were used when the push buttons were pressed to increment hours and minutes. The benefit of interrupts is that it allows the operating system to function smoothly when performing multiple processes, such as incrementing the hours/minutes while getting the time from the RTC.

Debouncing

Bouncing in the case of this practical is when the contacts in the buttons being used don't make contact cleanly and causes multiple signals to generate when the contacts within the button open or close [2]. For this practical we've used software debouncing. Debouncing stops the signal from "bouncing up and down" – essentially it holds the signal steady. This is useful as it ensures that only a single signal will be acted upon when pressing the buttons.

References

- [1] <https://www.techopedia.com/definition/3373/interrupt-computing>
- [2] <https://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/debouncing>

