

Embedded System

Lecture Note 4. Embedded System

Programming(I)

tags: **Embedded**

—  Chending ⏲ Fri, May 1, 2021

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課程綱要

□ 課程綱要：

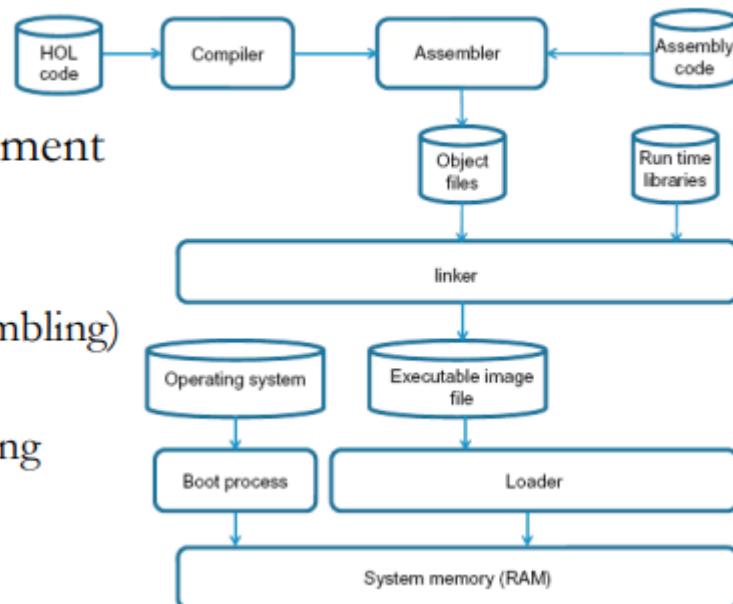
編號	主 題	內 容 重 點
1	嵌入式系統程式設計簡介	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 嵌入式系統程式設計與發展環境 ● 嵌入式系統程式開發與C程式語言 ● 程式設計開發工具簡介：Make
2	基本程式開發技術	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 程式開發流程與結構化程式設計 ● 程式效率與優化 (Optimization)
3	嵌入式系統程式設計技術	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 嵌入式系統程式基本控制流程 ● 嵌入式系統程式開發與狀態機實現 ● 程式強韌性與看門狗計時器(WDT)

I. 嵌入式系統程式設計簡介

A. Embedded System Programming

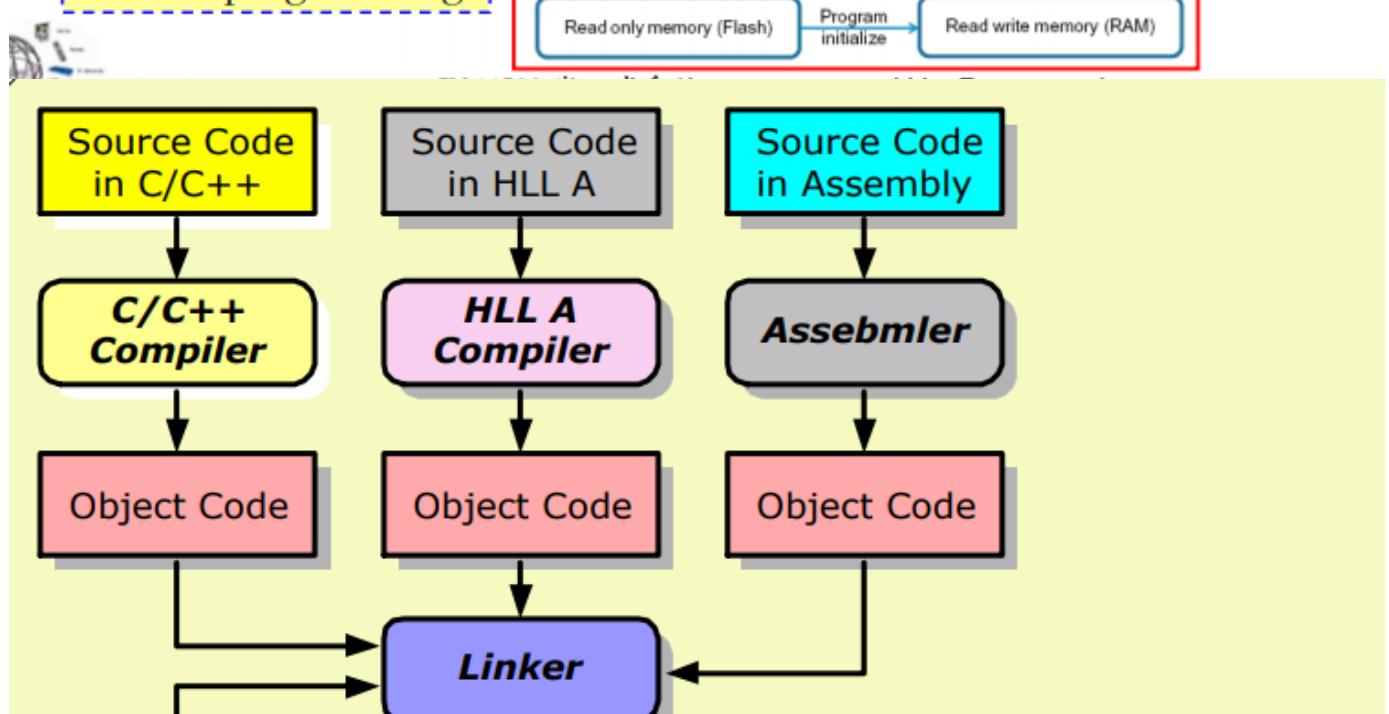
Building Program for General Purpose Computer:

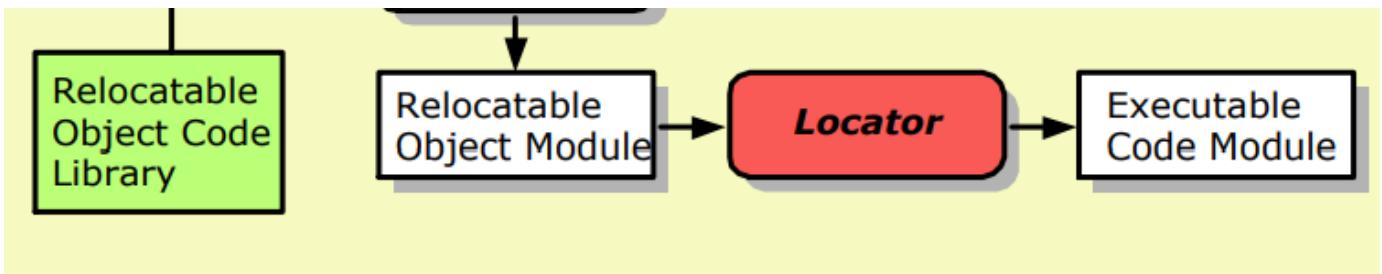
- ❑ Program development
 - Program Design
 - Coding
 - Compiling (Assembling)
 - Linking
 - Testing/Debugging



Building Program for Embedded System:

- ❑ Program development
 - Program Design
 - Coding
 - Compiling/Assembling
 - Linking
 - Testing/Debugging
(/w RTOS Kernel)
 - ROM programming

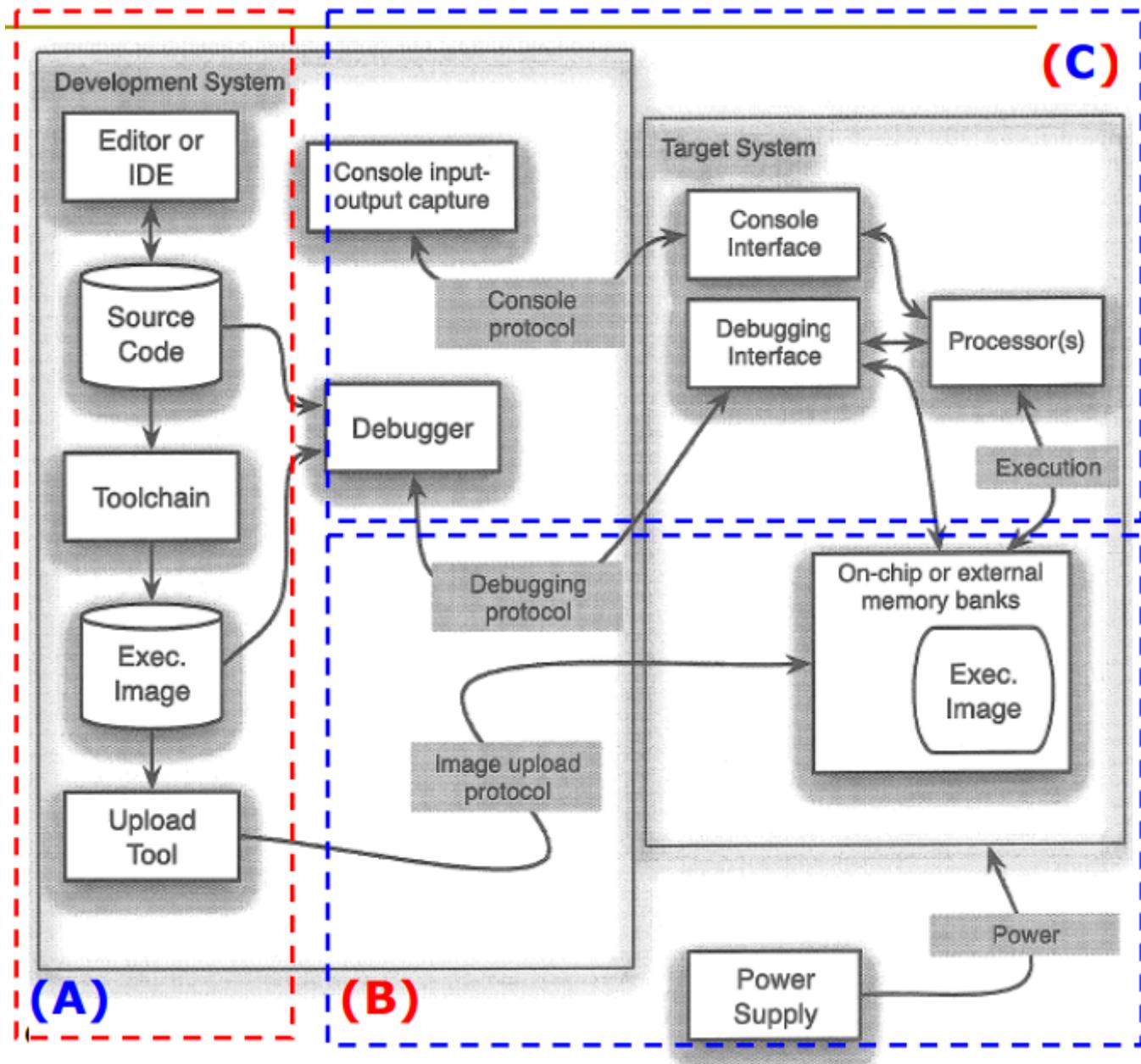




B. Embedded System & Software

The development of embedded system software

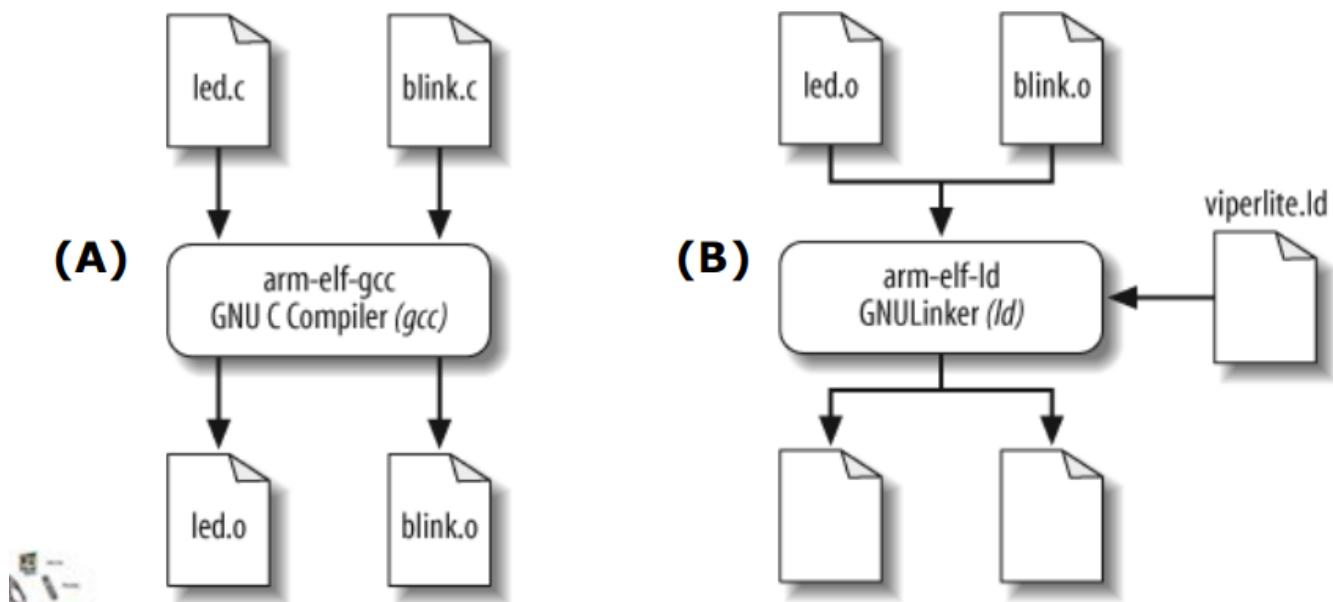
- (A) Building the software
 - Programming
 - Coding
 - Creating exec. image
- (B) Download the image
- (C) Testing (Debugging)



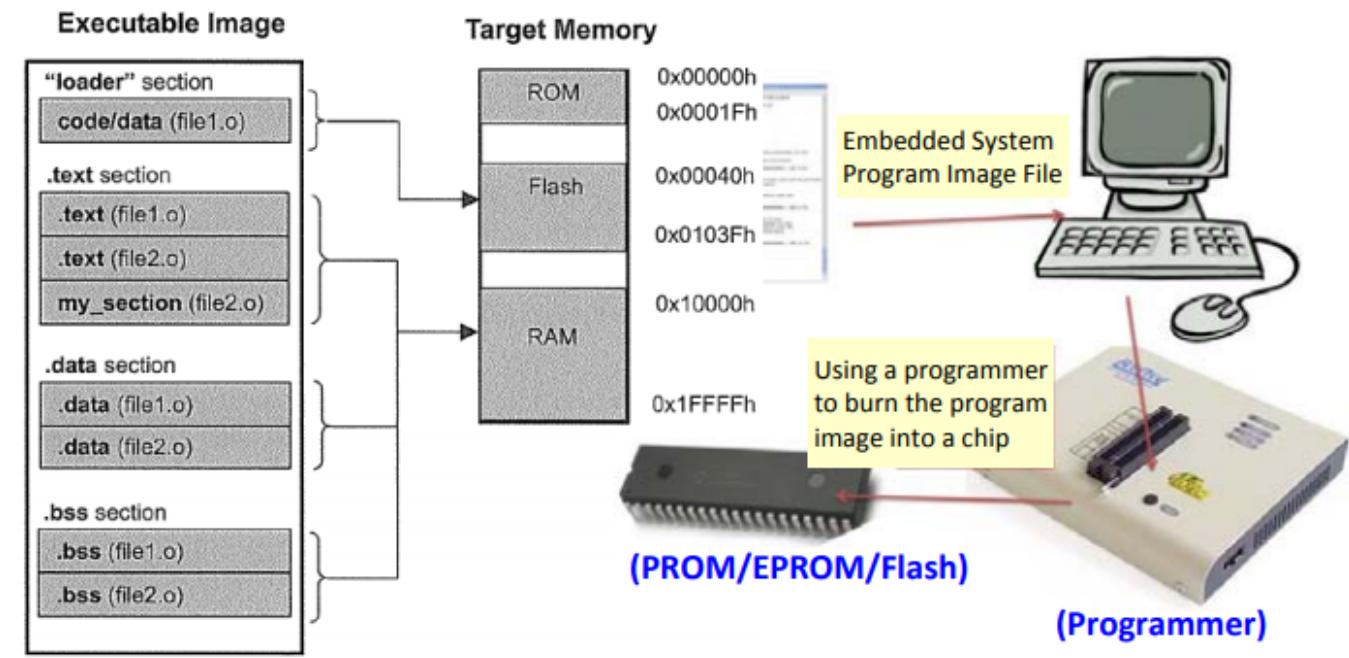
(A) Compiling using GNU GCC

(B) Linking and Locating using GNU Linker (ld)

C. Ex: "Hello, Embedded World!"



(C) Mapping Image & Program into Target Memory



- (1) Compiling using GNU GCC
 - `gcc -c blink.c -o blink.o`
 - `gcc -c startup.s -o startup.o`
- (2) Linking and Locating using GNU Linker (`ld`)
 - `ld -T linker.ld blink.o startup.o -O blink.elf`
- (3) Produce memory image
 - `objcopy -O ihex blink.elf blink.bin`
- (4) Program `blink.bin` into ROM/Flash memory
- (5) Reset the target machine to run the program

D. Embedded System Programming

1. The Programming languages

- High-level programming language is desirable
 - C is most widely used (might not be very satisfactory!)
 - Other high-level programming languages:
 - C++
 - Java ME/Java (Android)
 - Ada
 - ...
- Assembly language is powerful but not welcomed
 - Control hardware directly
 - Program efficiency
 - Hardware dependent
- Using high-level programming languages in embedded system programming
 - Advantages:
 - Provide good expressiveness
 - Enable high productivity
 - Ease Maintainability and portability
 - Disadvantages:
 - Requiring specific run-time environment
 - Lacking of desirable features
 - More impacting factors in program efficiency
- C is good and popular but not very satisfactory!
- Desirable features of programming languages:
 - Interrupt service routines (ISR)
 - Device control (I/O control)
 - Accessing physical memory by specifying address
 - Timing control and real-time constraints
 - Concurrent processes or multi-tasking
 - ...
- Common approach – Extending HLL features:
 - New syntax/keyword [e.g. C99/C11]
 - Run-time support function library [e.g. inp()/outp()]

- In-line assembly

2. C for Embedded System Programming:

- GNU C is freely available and widely used
- C language in embedded system programming
 - C language in embedded system programming
 - Useful standard features:
 - Union and declaration of bit data
 - Attribute descriptor volatile
 - Pointer (type *)<addr> for accessing memory
 - Features from platform-specific extensions:
 - In-line/embedded code in assembly language
 - Declaring desired location of object (at or _at)
 - Interrupt service routine (Keyword: interrupt)
 - Dependent of compiler implementation
- Union and bit data operations in C program:
 - Union:
 - Variable holding objects of different types and sizes
 - Similar syntax as the struct of C
 - All the members of a union share the same memory area
 - Bit data operations:
 - Bit-wise Boolean operations
 - Shift left/right
 - Applications:
 - Manipulating bit data
 - Input/Output control

➤ Syntax of **union** declaration:

```
union u_tag {
    union-member-1;
    union-member-2;
    ...
}
```

uvar;

➤ Access of a union member:

- (1) **uvar.member**
- (2) **union-pointer -> member**

```
typedef unsigned char U8;
```

```
struct IO_Control {
```

```
union {
```

```
U8 CMD_REG;
```

```
struct {
```

```
U8 OP: 2;
```

```
U8 DIR: 1;
```

```
U8 IBIT: 1;
```

```
U8 DontCare: 4;
```

```
} BITS;
```

```
} CMD;
```

```
} DEV_CMD;
```

```
DEV_CMD.CMD.CMD_REG = 0x8F;
```

```
DEV_CMD.CMD.BITS.OP = 0x2;
```

- Bit operations in C program

□ Common operations of bit manipulation:

- Testing – **Bit_Data & 1** (**Byte_Data & 0x04**)
- Setting – **Bit_Data | 1** (**Byte_Data | 0x04**)
- Clearing – **Bit_Data & 0** (**Byte_Data & 0xFB**)
- Inverting – **~ Bit_Data** (**Byte_Data ^ 0x04**)

□ Useful operations:

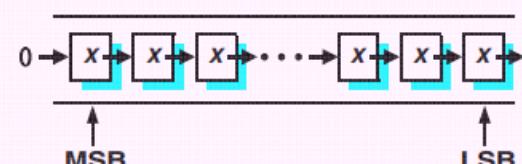
a	a & 0 → 0	a & 1 → a	a 0 → a	a 1 → 1	a ^ 0 → a	a ^ 1 → ~a
0	0	0	0	1	0	1
1	0	1	1	1	1	0

□ Bit-wise shift operations on data

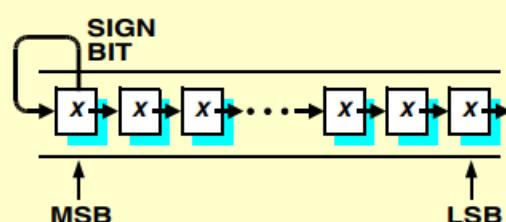
- Shift left **<<**
- Shift right **>>**

 **Note: Logic and Arithmetic shift**

Shift Logic Right



Shift Arithmetic Right



□ Common operations:

- Packing data bits
- Unpacking data bits
- Extracting data bits
- Inserting data bits

□ Example:

- Handling packed date/time

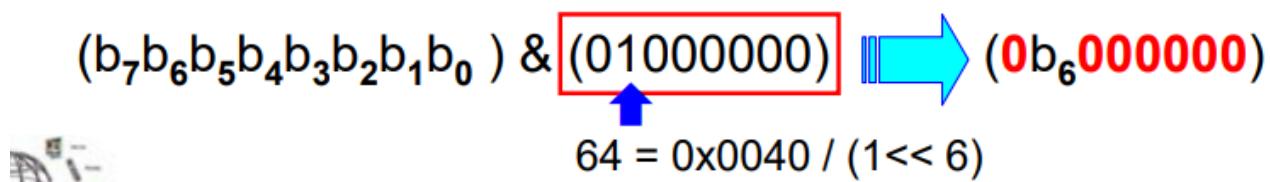


- Some Examples of Bit operations

□ Example of Bit Operations – Testing bit value(s)

- $a \& 0 \Rightarrow 0$ (bit unchanged)
- $a \& 1 \Rightarrow a$ (bit set)

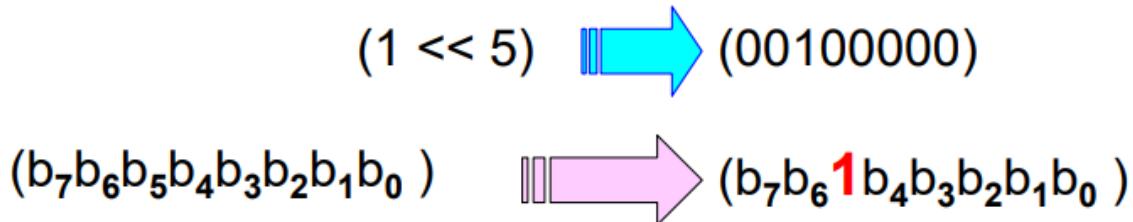
```
if((status_bits & 64) != 0) { /* Check bit 6 */
    /* Do the actions if bit 6 is set. */
}
```



□ Example of Bit Operations – Setting bit(s)

- $a | 0 \Rightarrow a$ (bit unchanged)
- $a | 1 \Rightarrow 1$ (bit set)

```
status_data |= (1 << 5); /* Sets bit 5 */
```



□ Example of Bit Operations – Clearing bit(s)

- $a \& 0 \Rightarrow 0$ (bit cleared)
- $a \& 1 \Rightarrow a$ (bit unchanged)

```
status_data &= ~(1 << 7); /* Clears bit 7 */
```

$$\begin{array}{ccc} (1 << 7) & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & (10000000) \\ \sim(1 << 7) & \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} & (01111111) \end{array}$$

$$(b_7 b_6 b_5 b_4 b_3 b_2 b_1 b_0) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} (0 b_6 b_5 b_4 b_3 b_2 b_1 b_0)$$

□ Example of Bit Operations – Inverting bit(s)

- $a \wedge 0 \Rightarrow a$
- $a \wedge 1 \Rightarrow \sim a$ (Toggling)

```
status_data ^= (1 << 6); /* Flips bit 6 */
```

$$(1 << 6) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} (01000000)$$

$$(b_7 b_6 b_5 b_4 b_3 b_2 b_1 b_0) \xrightarrow{\quad\quad\quad} (b_7 0 b_5 b_4 b_3 b_2 b_1 b_0)$$

❑ Example of Bit Operations – Extracting Bit Data

	Bits 15 - 11	Bits 10 - 5	Bits 4 - 0
time	Hours	Minutes	Seconds ÷ 2
time >> 5	?????	Hours	Minutes
(time >> 5) & 0x3F	00000	00000	Minutes
	15		0
minutes = (time >> 5) & 0x3F		Minutes	

❑ Example of Bit Operations – Inserting Bit Data

	Bits 15 - 11	Bits 10 - 5	Bits 4 - 0
oldtime	Hours	Old Minutes	Seconds ÷ 2
newtime = oldtime & ~(0x3F << 5)	Hours	000000	Seconds ÷ 2
newtime = (newmins & 0x3F) << 5	Hours	New Minutes	Seconds ÷ 2

❑ Example of Bit Operations – (Un)Packing date

- The format of 16-bit packed date: **mm/dd/(year-2000)**



■ Data Declaration:

```
/* -- Unpacked Date Data -- */
int yy;
int mm;
int dd;
/* -- Packed Date Data ----- */
unsigned int pdate;
/* ----- */
```

❖ Packing:

```
pdate = mm <<(15-3);
pdate |= dd <<(11-4);
pdate |= (yy-2000) &0x7F;
```

❖ Unpacking:

```
yy =(pdate & 0x7F)+2000;
mm =(pdate & 0xF000)>>12;
dd =(pdate & 0x0F80)>>7;
```

- Attribute descriptors in C program

❑ Storage classes:

- ✓ auto
- ✓ register
- ✓ volatile
- ✓ restrict
- ✓ static
- ✓ extern
- **typedef** (for syntactic convenience)

❑ **volatile**:

- Keyword of C to be used as type qualifier
- Indicating the value of a variable may be asynchronously modified by mechanisms other than the code in which the declaration appears
- Force compiler to suppress optimization

❑ **restrict** (C99) – solution to pointer aliasing

- In-line assembly code in C program
 - Compiler dependent directive or macro
 - `_asm`, `_asm{ ... }`
 - `asm(...)`
 - `_asm/_endasm`
 - Compiler dependent directive or macro
 - `_asm`, `_asm{ ... }`
 - `asm(...)`
 - `_asm/_endasm`

- Some Examples of in-line assembly code in C

➤ Syntax of the **_asm** directive:

- (1) **_asm asm-statement**
- (2) **_asm {
 asm-statement-1
 asm-statement-2
 asm-statement-3

}**

```
void TransBuff( char *Buff,
                unsigned count,
                char uchar)
{
    _asm {
        mov  esi, Buff
        mov  ecx, count
        mov  al, uchar
LB1:
        xor  [esi], al
        inc  esi
        loop LB1
    }
}
```

```
#define LEDPort 0xFF5E
unsigned char setLedMask
(unsigned char newMask)
{
    unsigned char oldMask;

    asm {
        mov dx, LEDPort
        /* Save current state of */
        /* the LEDs */
        in al, dx
        mov oldMask, al
    }
}
```

```
/* Load the new mask */
mov al, newMask
/* Modify state of LEDs */
out dx, al
}
```

```
return (oldMask);
}
```

```
void an_asm_function( )
{
    asm(" bp0:
          # housekeeping
          pushf
          pushl %eax
          # copy original flags
          pushf
          popl %eax
bp1:
          # flip all bits in that copy
          xorl $0xffffffff, %eax
    }
}
```

```
bp2:
# write bit-flipped flags
pushl %eax
popf
bp3: ");
}

void main( )
{
    an_asm_function();
    exit(0);
}
```

- Common in embedded system programming
- Achieved via:
 - Pointer dereference capability of C
 - Standard feature of C
 - Possible issue: virtual address vs. physical address
 - Might need operating system support
 - Compiler implementation dependent feature

```
/* GCC:
#define IOPin0 (*((volatile unassigned long *) 0xE0028000))
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

```
/* RealView ARM C:
volatile unassigned long IOPin0 __attribute__((at (0xE0028000)));
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

```
/* Keil CARM C:
volatile unassigned long IOPin0 __at__ 0xE0028000;
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

```
/* GCC:
#define IOPin0 (*((volatile unassigned long *) 0xE0028000))
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

```
/* RealView ARM C:
volatile unassigned long IOPin0 __attribute__((at (0xE0028000)));
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

```
/* Keil CARM C:
volatile unassigned long IOPin0 __at__ 0xE0028000;
.... ...
IOPin0 = 0x4;
```

- Writing Interrupt Service Routine (ISR) in C

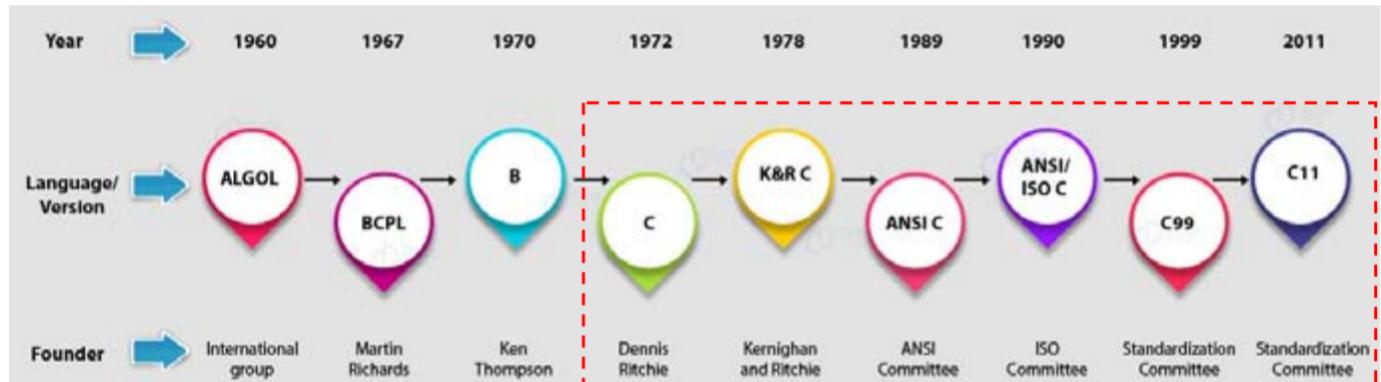
- Common in embedded system programming
- Compiler dependent feature:
 - Non-standard keyword interrupt as type specifier used in part of function declaration
 - Compiler-specific keyword `__attribute__` (GCC)
 - Processor-specific pragma – `#pragma interrupt`
- The Implementation of compiler:
 - Generate processor-specific entry/exit code of an ISR
 - Protect the ISR function from incorrect invocation
- Programmer needs to set up the vector

```
interrupt void ISR_Vect1 (void) {
    /* code processing the interrupt */
}
```

```
void __interrupt ISR_Vect1 (void) {
    /* code processing the interrupt */
}
```

```
void __attribute__ ((interrupt)) ISR_Vect1 (void) {
    /* code processing the interrupt */
}
```

3. C is evolving



- (1) New features of C99 (ISO/IEC 9899:1999)

- Single line // comments
- Variable length arrays (VLA) and flexible array members
- Mixed declarations and code
- New block scopes for selection and iteration statements
- Inline functions
- Restricted pointers
- Complex (and imaginary) support in <complex.h>
- boolean type in <stdbool.h> and other new data types
- ... more (Total 53? new features)

Ref - [http://www.open_\(http://www.open\)-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg14/www/newinc9x.htm_\(http://std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg14/www/newinc9x.htm\)](http://www.open_(http://www.open)-std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg14/www/newinc9x.htm_(http://std.org/jtc1/sc22/wg14/www/newinc9x.htm))
[https://gcc.gnu.org/c99status.html_\(https://gcc.gnu.org/c99status.html\)](https://gcc.gnu.org/c99status.html_(https://gcc.gnu.org/c99status.html)).

- (2) New features of C11 (ISO/IEC 9899:2011) from C99

- Alignment specification supported in <stdalign.h>
- Multi-threading support (<threads.h> and <stdatomic.h >)
- Improved Unicode support (char16_t and char32_t)
- Type-generic expressions using _Generic keyword
- Bounds checking interfaces and analyzability features
- Anonymous structures and unions (useful in nesting)
- Static assertions
- ... more

Usage in GCC: gcc -std=c11

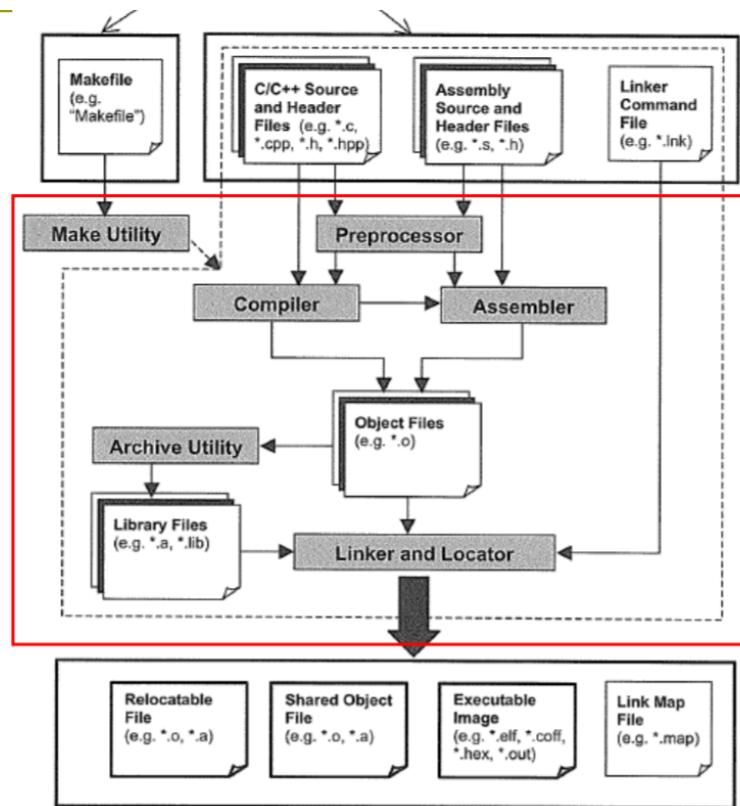
- (3) Extensions to C99 (ISO/IEC 9899:1999) supporting embedded processors

- Data types for bitwise data units
- Fixed-point number arithmetic
- Named address spaces
- Named register storage classes
- Basic I/O hardware addressing
- Vendor-specific compiler supports exist

E. Program Building Tools Program Building Tools

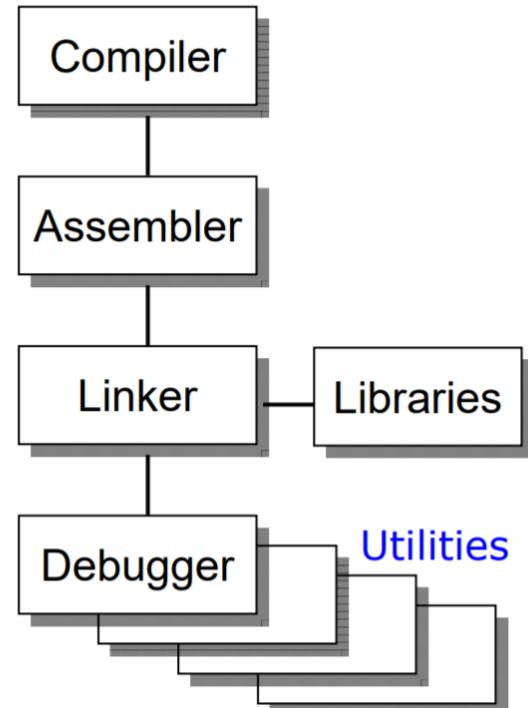
Basic Tools for Embedded System Programming:

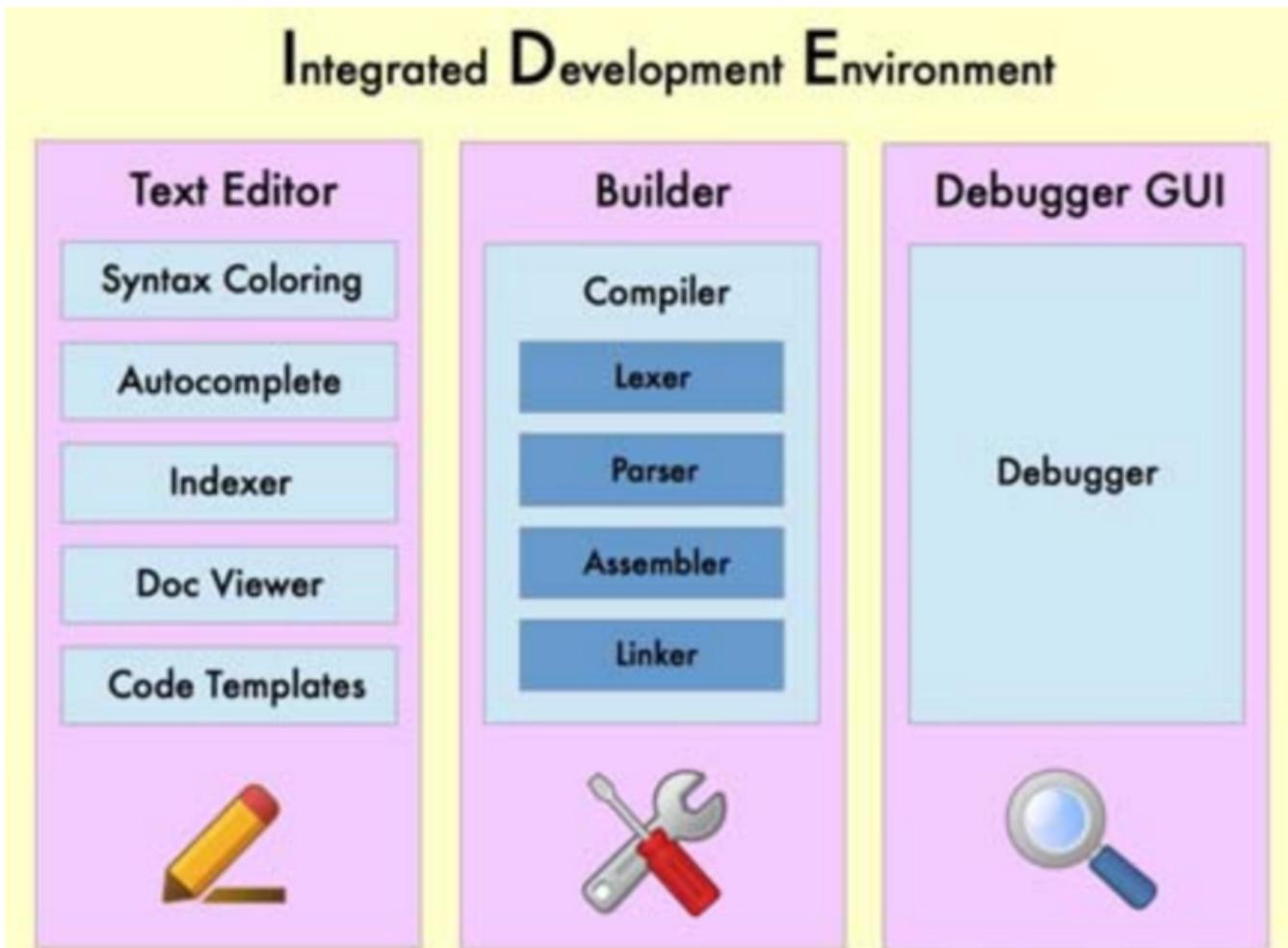
- ❑ Make utility
- ❑ Language processor
 - Preprocessor
 - Assembler
 - Compiler
- ❑ Linker
- ❑ Locator



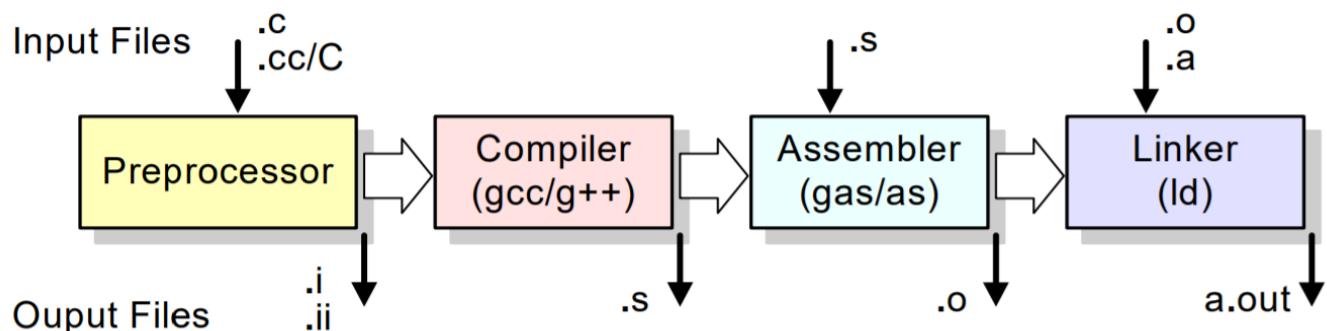
The Development Tools:

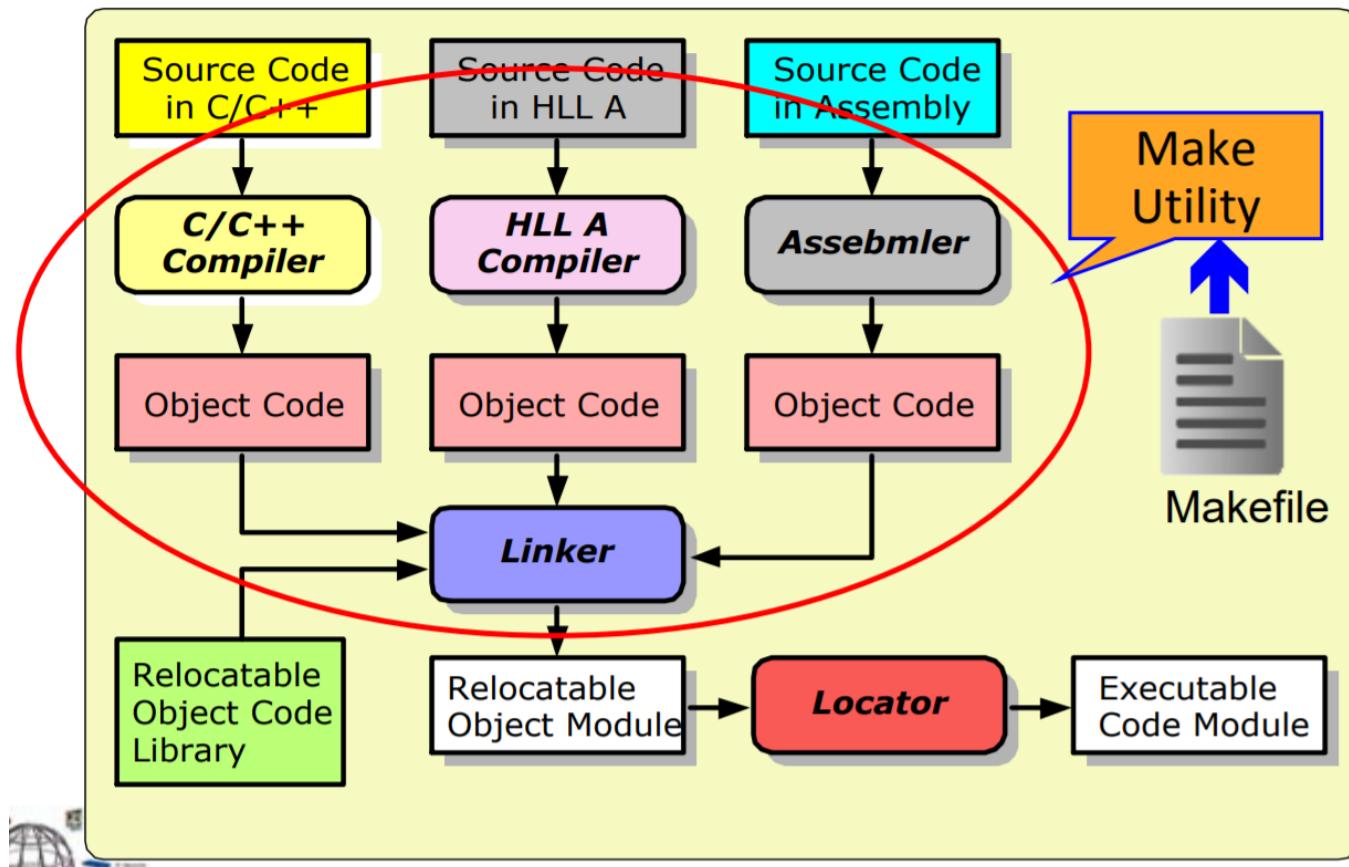
- ❑ Basic tools
 - Compiler/Assembler
 - Run-time Libraries
 - Linker
 - Debugger
 - Utilities
- ❑ Toolchain
 - A set of tools used in a serial (chained) manner
 - Examples –
 - ❖ GNU Toolchain
 - ❖ devkitARM





❑ Example: GCC (GNU Compile Collection)

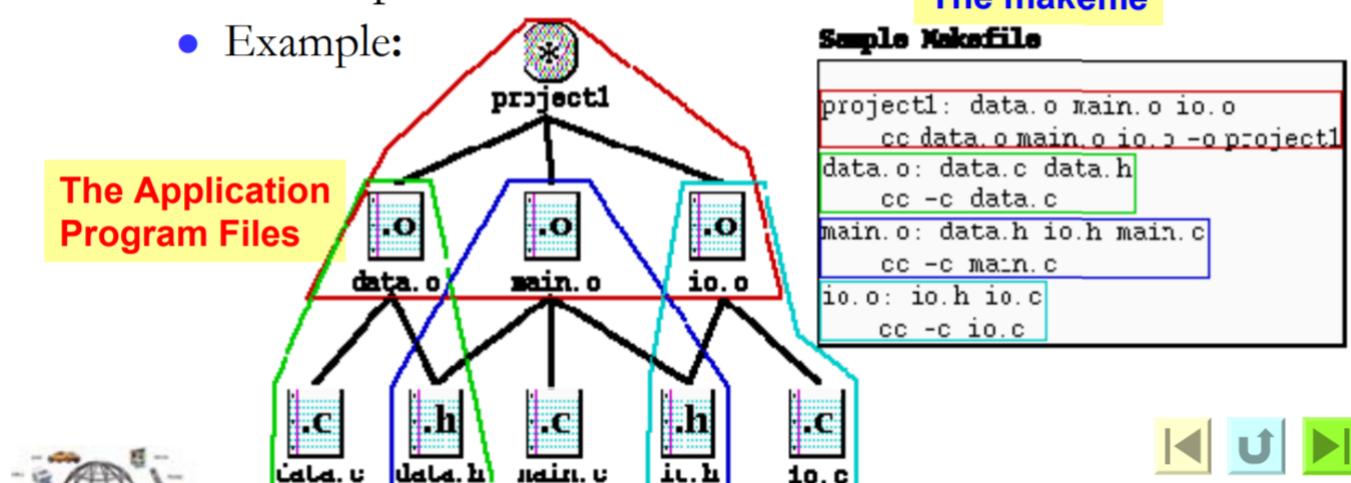




1. Introduction to Make Utility

□ The makefile:

- a text file consisting of *make* directives
- the script file
- Example:



❑ Anatomy of makefile:

- A simple text file of *rules*
 - ❖ Target: name of file or action
 - ❖ Pre-requisite: file name (used as input to create the target)
 - ❖ Recipe: action to be carried out
- Composition:
 - ❖ variable/macro definitions
 - ❖ dependency rules
 - ❖ directives
 - ❖ comments
 - ❖ shell commands
- Specifying dependency rules

Rules in a makefile:

Target: Pre-requisite ...
 <Tab>Recipe
 <Tab>Recipe
 ...

A <TAB> character (0x09) must be put at the beginning of each recipe line

Target name Files this target depends on

(if any of these have changed, re-run this target)

main.o: main.h main.cpp

g++ -c main.cpp -o main.o

Required tab

(You must indent this line with a tab)

Stuff to execute

(only runs if any of the dependencies have changed since last time you ran 'make')

Example of *Makefile*:

(1/2)

```

1 OUTPUT_NAME=lab
2
3 PROJECT_PATH=./
4 COMMON_PATH=../common
5 INCLUDE_PATH1=$(PROJECT_PATH)
6 INCLUDE_PATH2=$(COMMON_PATH)/driver
7 INCLUDE_PATH3=$(COMMON_PATH)/gnu/include
8 VPATH = $(PROJECT_PATH):$(COMMON_PATH)
9
10 #
11 # Include the make variables (CC, etc...)
12 #
13 PREFIX=/usr/local
14 CROSS_COMPILE = arm-elf-
15 CC=$(PREFIX)/bin/$(CROSS_COMPILE)gcc
16 LD=$(PREFIX)/bin/$(CROSS_COMPILE)ld
17
18 DBGFLAGS= -g
19 OPTFLAGS= -O0
20 AFLFLAGS_DEBUG := -Wa,-gstabs
21
22 CFLAGS= -nostartfiles $(DBGFLAGS) $(OPTFLAGS) -I$(INCLUDE_PATH1) -I$(INCLUDE_PATH2) -I$(INCLUDE_PATH3) -I
23 AFLFLAGS=-mcpu=cortex-m3 -msoft-float -mno-fpu $(AFLFLAGS_DEBUG) $(CFLAGS)
24 LFLAGS= -Wl,-M,--Map=$(OUTPUT_NAME).map
25
26 PROJECT_OBJS = main.o lcd.o stdin_out.o
27 GNU_OBJS = gnu/src/sbrk.o gnu/src/mmulib.o gnu/src/startup.o gnu/src/low-level-init.o
28 REUSE_OBJS = driver/irq/src/irq.o driver/common/src/mmio.o driver/common/src/creator_io.o
29 OBJS = $(PROJECT_OBJS) $(GNU_OBJS) $(REUSE_OBJS)
30
31 all : $(OBJS)
32     $(CC) -T$(OUTPUT_NAME).ld $(LFLAGS) -o "$(OUTPUT_NAME).axf" $(notdir $(OBJS)) $(LIBMODULES)
33     arm-elf-objcopy -O binary -S $(OUTPUT_NAME).axf $(OUTPUT_NAME).bin
34
35
36 %.o: %.S
37     $(CC) $(AFLFLAGS) -c -o $(notdir $@) $<
38 %.o: %.c
39     $(CC) $(CFLAGS) -c -o $(notdir $@) $<
40
41

```

length:1299 lines:46 Ln:1 Col:1 Sel:0 Dos\Windows ANSI

Variable Settings

Targets and Rules/Recipes

2. Make

❑ The makefile (make script file)

- a text file consisting of ***make*** directives
- the script file
- contents

❖ Definitions of variables (names, macros)

ex: **CC = gcc**

DBG_FLAG = -d

❖ Rules

ex: **helloworld: helloworld.o**

<TAB>cc -o helloworld helloworld.o

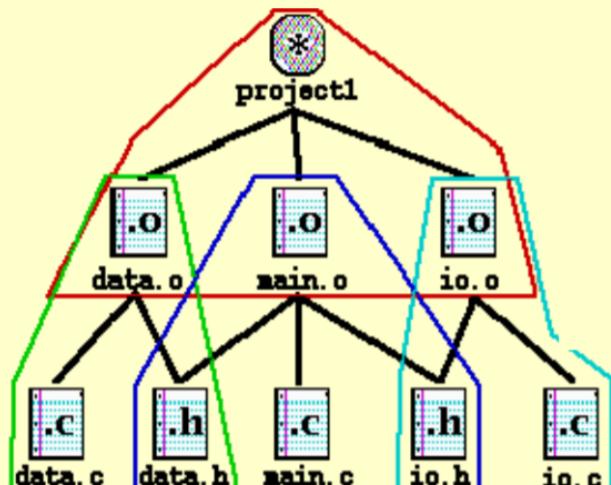
❖ Comments - text begins with “#”

❖ Inclusion of other **makefile(s)**



(1) The makefile: A script file of dependency rules

```
project1: data.o io.o main.o
        cc -o project1 data.o io.o main.o
main.o: data.h io.h main.c
        cc -c main.c
data.o: data.h data.c
        cc -c data.c
io.o: io.h io.c
        cc -c io.c
.PHONY: clean
clean:
        rm main.o data.o io.o
```



(2) The makefile: Dependency rules with macros

```

OBJS = main.o data.o io.o
DBG_FLAG =           # assign -g when debugging
project1: $(OBJS)
    $(CC) $(DBG_FLAG) -o $(OBJS)
main.o: data.h io.h main.c
    cc -c main.c
data.o: data.h data.c
    cc -c data.c
io.o: io.h io.c
    cc -c io.c
.PHONY: clean      # This line can be omitted!
clean:
    rm $(OBJS)

```

(3) Example of automatic variables in makefile:

HelloMake: One Two Three

Output is "HelloMake" because it is the 1st target

```

@echo @@
@echo $?
@echo $^
touch HelloMake

```

One:

 touch One

Two:

 touch Two

clean:

 rm -f HelloMake One Two Three

General rules and notes:

- Building the 1st target by default
- Phony target: target with no dependency rules
- Frequently used file name of input: Makefile
- May include other files: include file1 file2 ...
- Each command is executed by separate shell
 - The shell used by default is /bin/sh
 - The shell used can be changed inside the makefile

- Selecting the shell: SHELL=/bin/bash
- Each line with commands must start with <TAB>
- Multiple commands can be in the same line
 - separated by ‘;’
 - executed in the same invoked shell
- make utility stops when an error occurs
- Non-Stop Execution of make
 - Errors are ignored
 - prefix command with “-”, ex: -rm oldfiles
 - other options: -i switch, .IGNORE
- An empty line that begins with <TAB> is an empty command
- Variables in makefiles may be overridden by giving the values as command-line arguments
- Example: make DBG_FLAG=-d

□ Notes of Caution:

- Source of subtle bugs:
 - ❖ forgotten or extra dependency
 - ❖ un-synchronized or inconsistent timestamps of files (what if a timestamp shows future time?)
- Makefile not be totally platform independent
 - ❖ options of compilers or commands
 - ❖ executing platform-dependent commands
- The syntax of using <TAB> char (0x09) at the start of command lines



F. Cross-Compiling Toolchain

(A) Build Machine (B) Host Machine (C) Target Machine



Cross-Compiling Toolchain: Build == Host != Target
Native Toolchain Build == Host == Target

Difference:

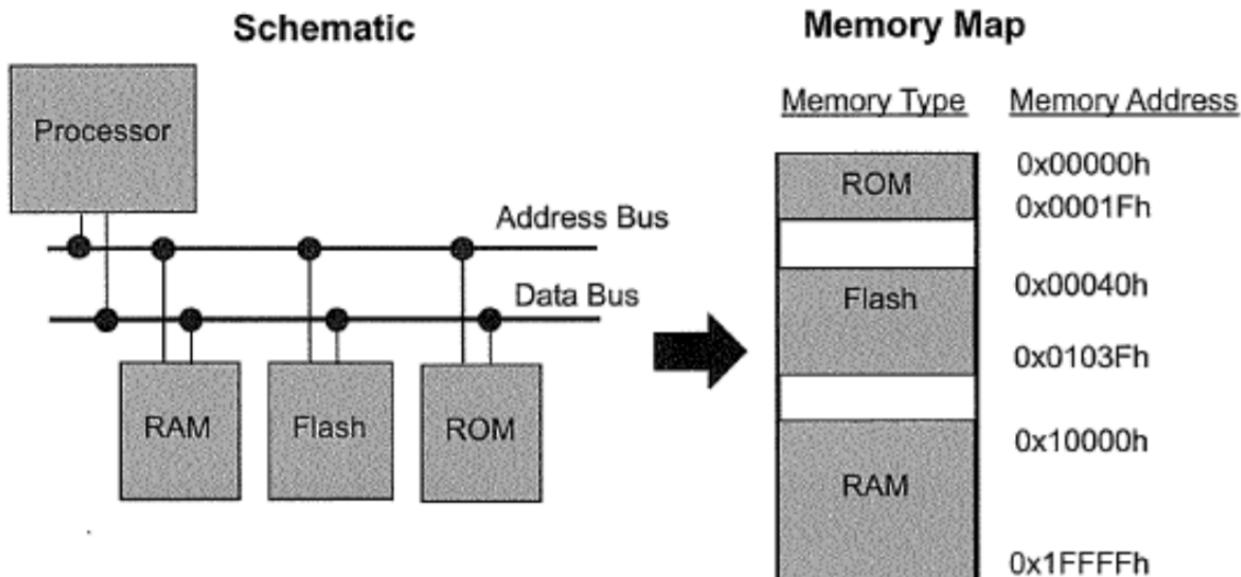
- CPU Architecture (ISA)
- ABI (Application Binary Interface)
 - Source code compatible vs. Binary code compatible
- Operating System
- Run-time Library 程式執行的支援

Core components in Linux cross-compiling toolchain:

- GCC
- C library
- Binutil
 - Binary Utility 二進位機器碼工具組，像是Assembler
- Linux kernel headers
 - 存放在特定的資料夾，像是IO的控制程式，Linux Loadable Kernel Module

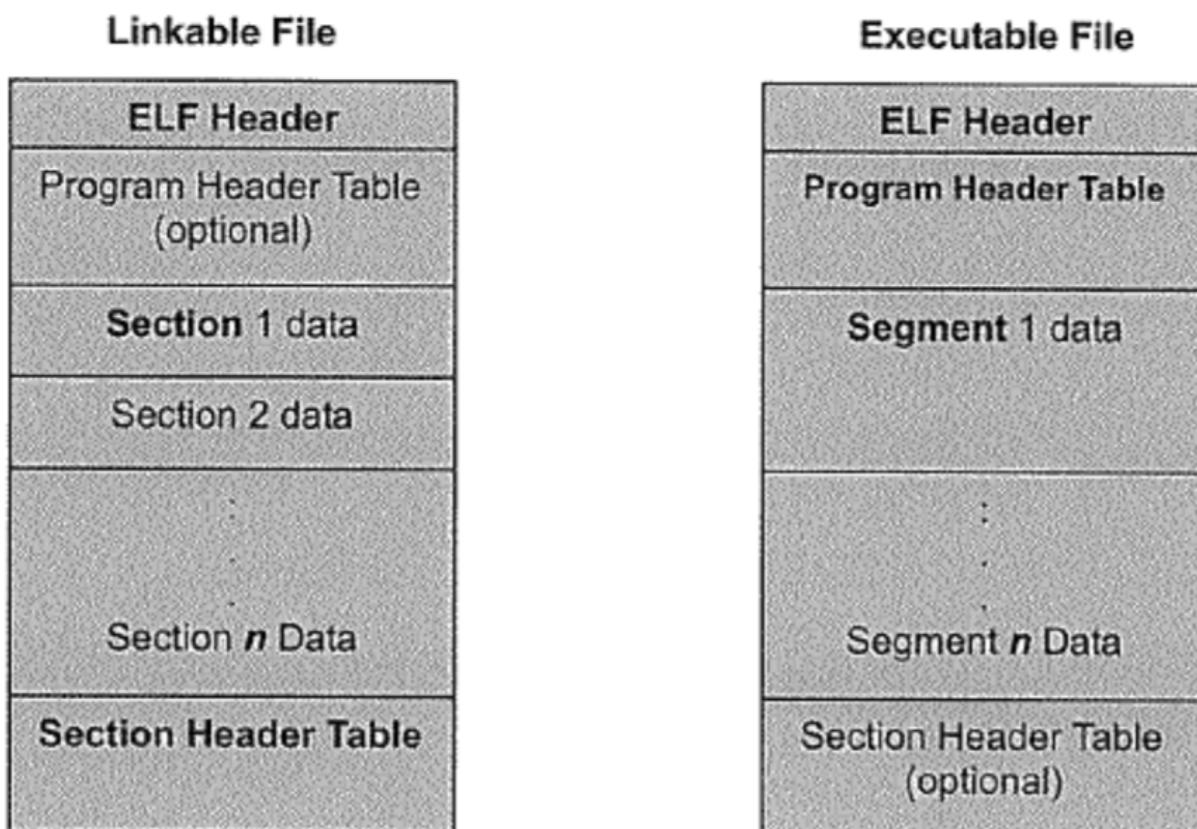
G. Memory Map

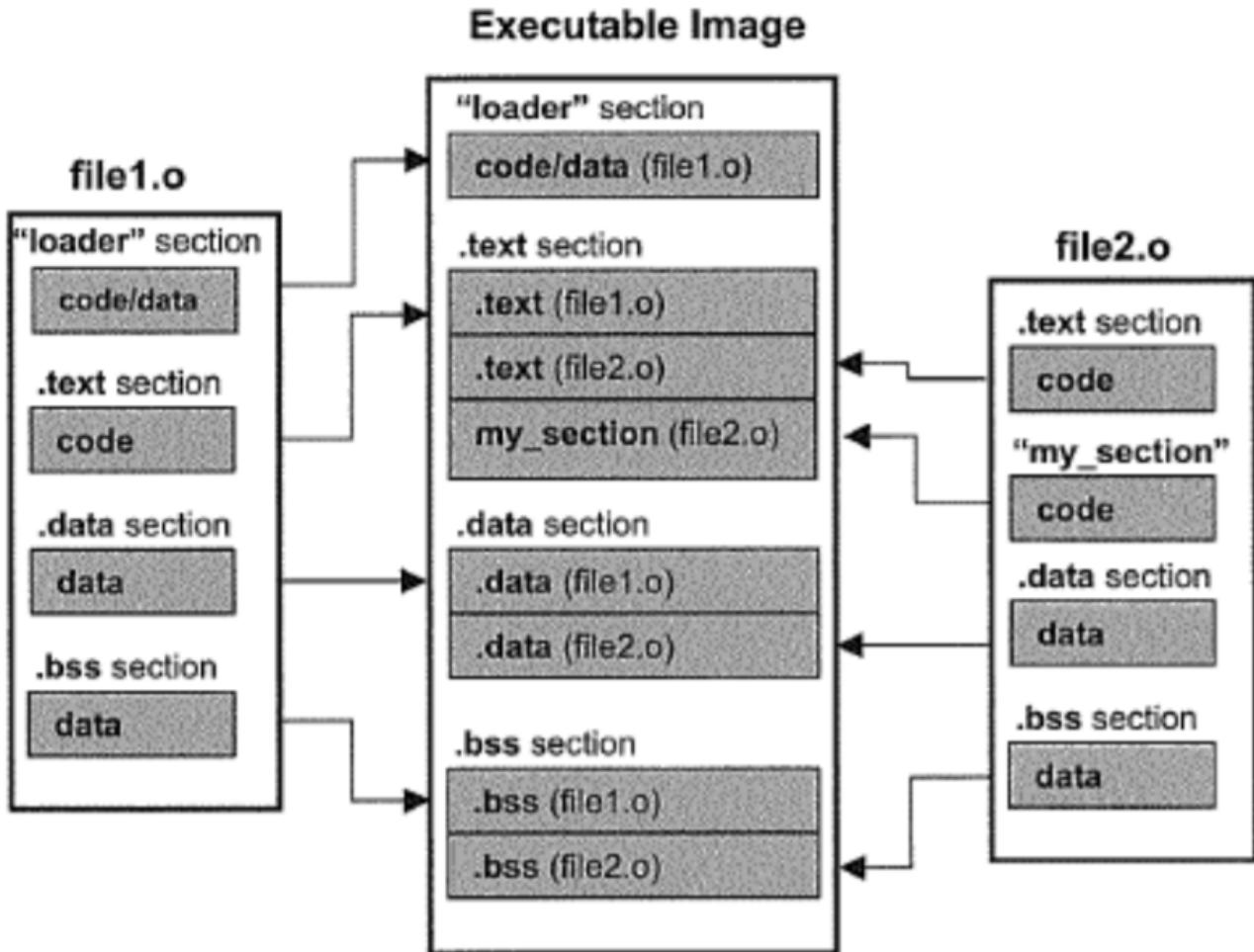
□ Memory Map of an Example Target (simplified)



ROM不能修改，Flash是EEPROM的概念，可以修改

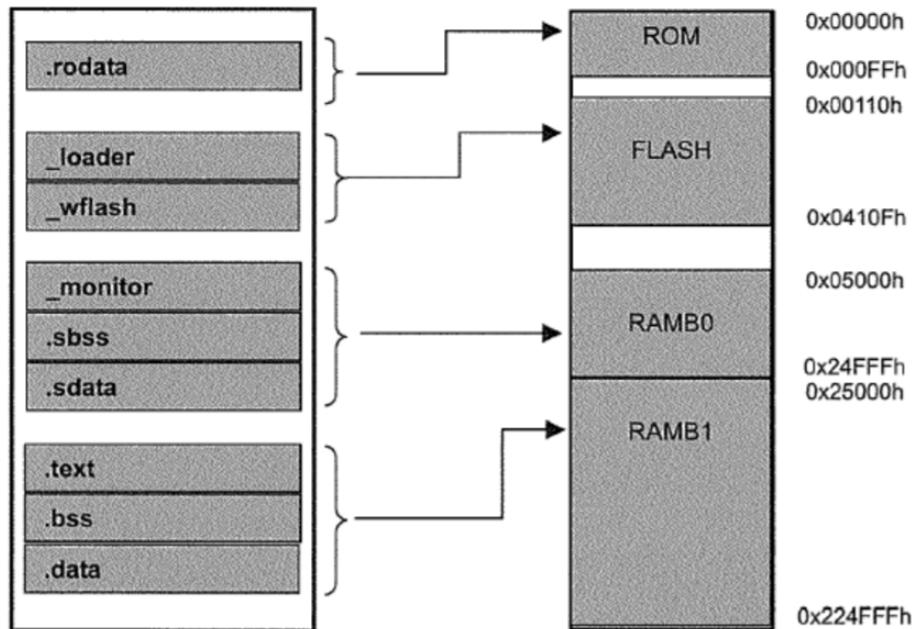
ELF: Executable Linkable File





在嵌入式系統開發link不一定能自動做

□ Mapping Executable Image into Target Memory



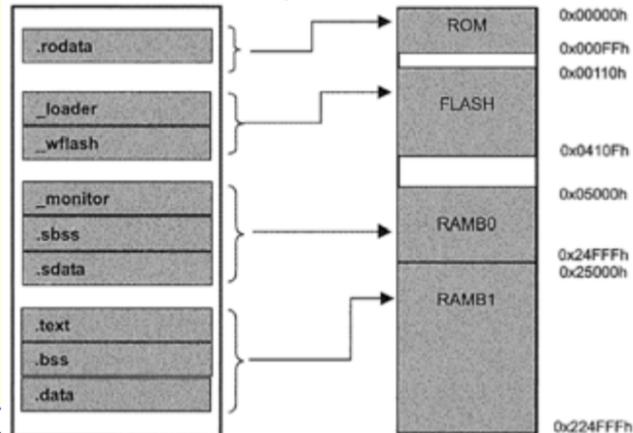
```

MEMORY {
    ROM: origin = 0x000000, length = 0x000100
    FLASH: origin = 0x00110, length = 0x004000
    RAMB0: origin = 0x05000, length = 0x020000
    RAMB1: origin = 0x25000, length = 0x200000
}
SECTION {
    .rodata : > ROM
    _loader : > FLASH
    _wflash : > FLASH
    _monitor : > RAMB0
    .sbss (ALIGN 4): > RAMB0
    .sdata (ALIGN 4): > RAMB0
    .text : > RAMB1
    .bss (ALIGN 4) : > RAMB1
    .data (ALIGN 4) : > RAMB1
}

```



E244500 嵌



Memory bus的寬度是4個bytes

II. 基本程式開發技術

A. Basic Computer Programming

Techniques in Program Development:

- Top-down design vs. bottom-up design
- Function decomposition and modularization
- Structured programming
- Information hiding and encapsulation
- Stepwise refinement
- Mixed language programming
- Object-oriented (OO) programming
- ...

B. Structured Programming Techniques

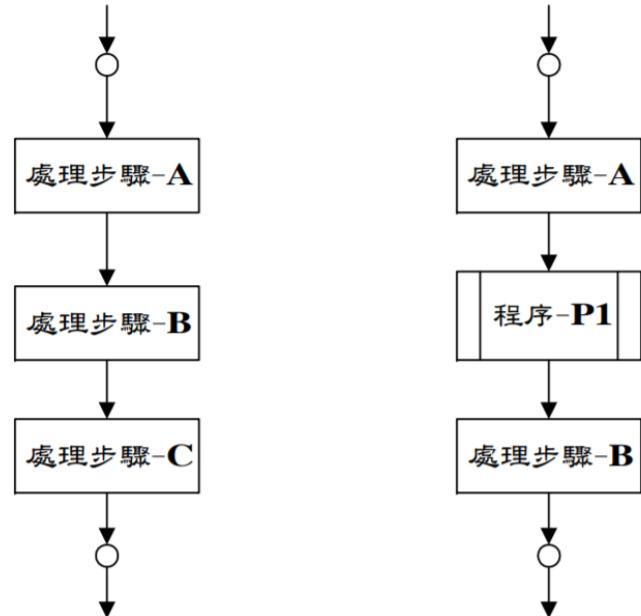
要點：

- 程式設計模組化
- 各模組僅有單一入口與單一出口
- 適度控制各模組之規模與複雜度
- 避免使用無條件之 GOTO 敘述

- 使用基本之程式執行控制結構
- 維持程式模組之一貫性

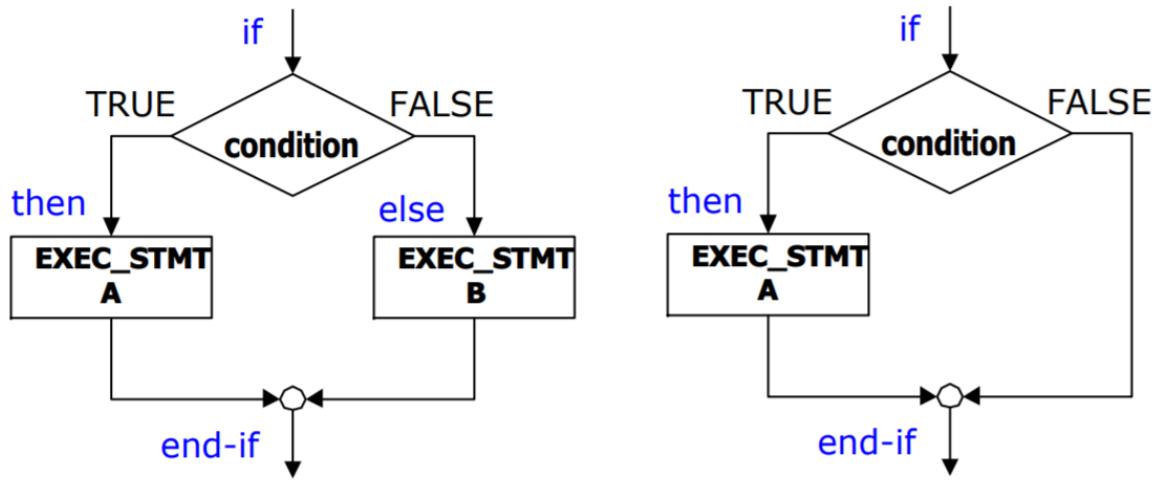
□ Sequences -

- Default flow control
- Implicitly enforced by system architecture
- Controlled by the program counter

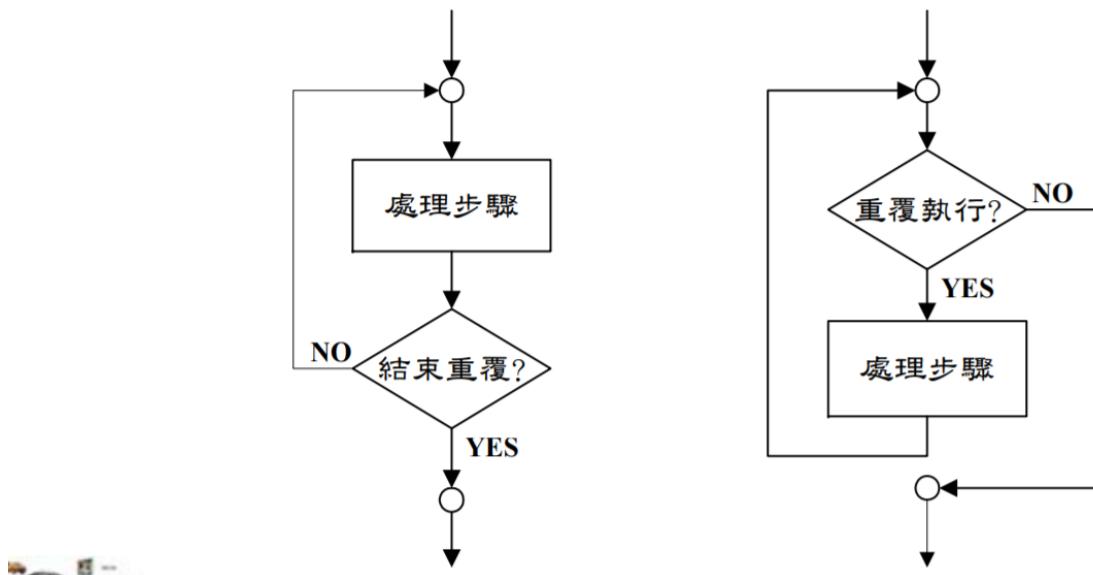


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❑ Selections – if/else, switch, case

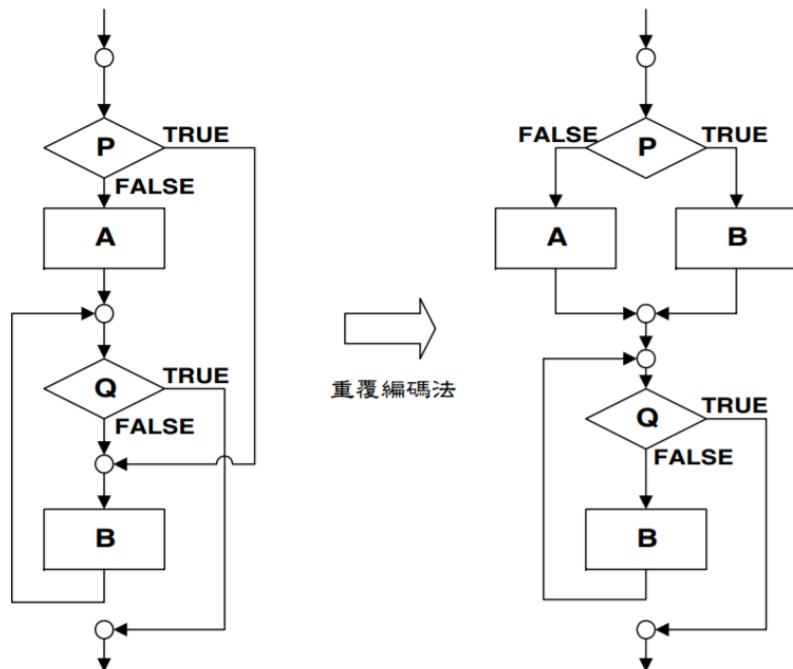


❑ Repetitions – while, do/while, repeat/until, for



Example of Structured Programming:

- Making program more structured:
 - Code repetition
 - Modularization



C. Efficiency and Optimization

- Program efficiency
 - The metrics:
 - The execution time (worst case, average case)
 - The storage used (memory) – footprint
 - ...
 - Might be part of non-functional requirement
- Program Optimization
 - To improve program efficiency:
 - Program execution time
 - Program memory
 - Power/Energy consumption

注意，演算法所說的時間複雜度主要是說資料量大的時候，對於嵌入式系統而言較不適用，所以程式效率就是直接看執行時間，執行效率被分類在非功能性需求

Program execution times depend on:

- CPU processing speed
- Architecture effects:
 - pipelining
 - superscalar
 - ...
- State of the (instruction and data) caches
- Input data values

- Software factors: language and translator
- Programming skill

測量程式執行速度

📁 Measuring Program Speed:

❑ CPU simulator

- I/O may be hard
- May not be totally accurate

❑ Hardware timer

- Requires hardware support
- Needs instrumentation program

❑ Logic analyzer

- Limited logic analyzer memory depth
- High cost (expensive)

(1) 用Simulator不是花多少時間執行你的程式，而是要本身提供分析的功能

(2) Timer就像是體育場上用電子計時，非人工計時，instrumentation program 就是開頭與結尾加上時間ticks

(3) 程式執行經過的指令都會記錄起來

D. Program Performance

📁 Elements of program performance (Shaw):

$$\mathbf{T = P + I}$$

T: Execution time,
P: Program path,
I : Instruction timing

- 📁 Path depends on data values. Choose the case you are interested in.
- 📁 Instruction timing depends on
 - ❑ CPU speed
 - ❑ Pipelining
 - ❑ Cache behavior

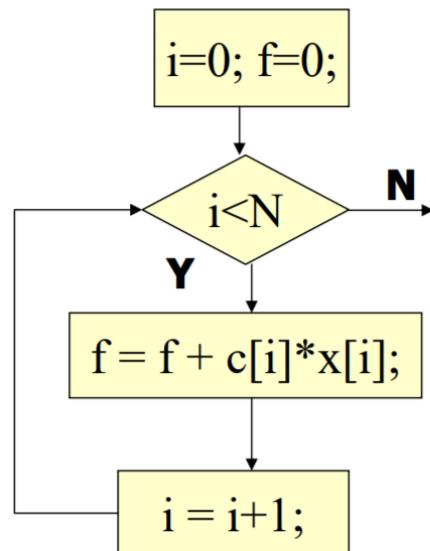
Performance Path

Performance Path

- 📁 Consider for loop:

```
for (i=0, f=0; i<N; i++)
    f = f + c[i]*x[i];
```

- 📁 Loop initiation block is executed once.
- 📁 Loop test is executed **(N+1)** times.
- 📁 Loop body and variable update are executed **N** times.



Instruction Timing

- 📁 Not all instructions take the same amount of time to execute
 - ❑ Hard to get run time data for instructions
 - ❑ Timing data can be obtained from data sheet or reference manual as reference
- 📁 Instruction execution times are not always independent
- 📁 Execution time may depend on operand values

指令的執行時間並非獨立，可以用統計的方式，多執行幾次

Best results come from analyzing optimized instructions, not high-level language code:

- non-obvious translations of HLL statements into instructions
 - code may move
 - cache effects are hard to predict
- 程式執行的stack要多大?stack overflow不可忽視，會影響答案

E. Trace

Trace: A record of the execution path of a program

- Trace gives execution path for analyzing performance
- A useful trace:
- requires proper input values
- is large (gigabytes)

Hardware capture:

- logic analyzer
- hardware assist in CPU

Software: 軟體可以減少成本

- PC (Program Counter) sampling 紀錄通過那些點就好，並不用記錄所有指令，profiling則是計算點被經過的次數，越多次數的點就是熱點

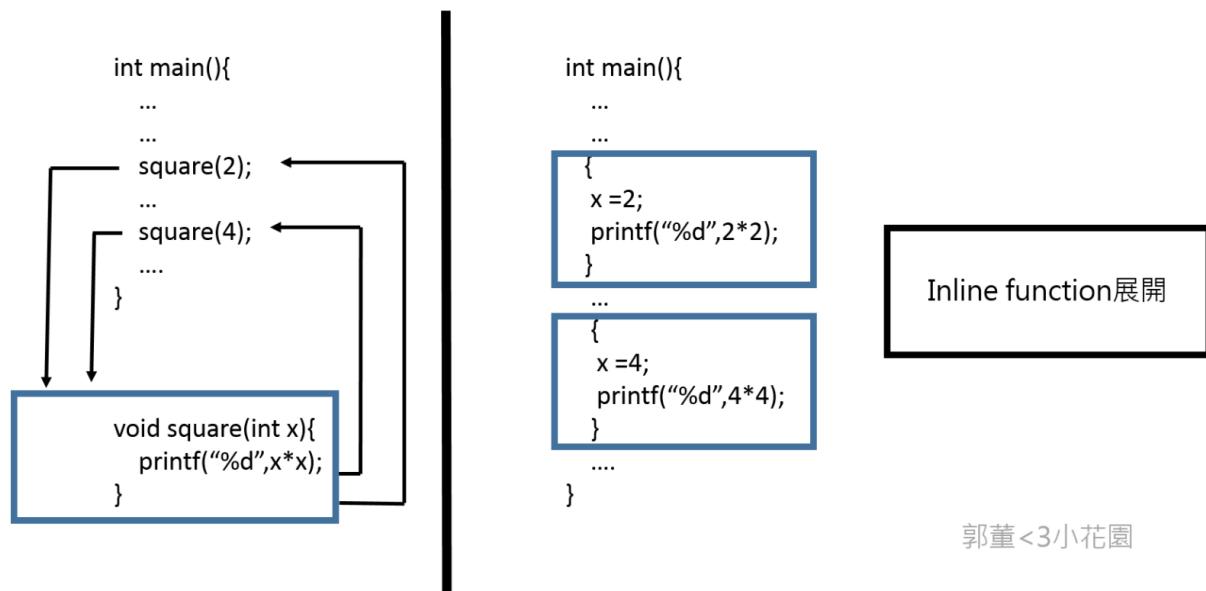
- Instrumentation instructions
- Simulation

為改善程式的speed, storage, power comsumption可以執行的方法有(1) 了解compiler (2) 優化你的code

F. Optimization by translators

Optimization on generated code

- Register allocation
- Common sub-expression elimination 消除共同計算式
- Jump optimization 把要jump過去的程式直接搬到附近，把目的地搬過來
- Loop optimization 減少loop的次數，通常是unrolling或是把一些變數拿出來
- Strength reduction 用一些簡單指令達到效果， $*2 == <<2$
- Constant folding/propagation $2*3$ 直接先做成 6
- Procedure inlining 呼叫函式時，需要準備參數，把參數存到stack裡面，再呼叫函式執行，執行後還要return回來，再清除stack，這些都是overhead



- Instruction selection 選怎樣的機器指令可以最有效率

Compiler需要做到什麼樣的程度？

Controlled by setting the levels of optimization

Example of Optimization by Compiler:

GNU Compiler

- general optimization level: 0 ~ 3
- individual options for specific types of optimization
- command-line switch: `-Olevel` (`level`: 0 ~ 3)
 - `-O0` : eqv. “no -O setting” (default)
 - `-O1` : eqv. “-O”
 - `-Os` : reduce the size of executable file
 - `-funroll-loops`
 - ...

程式還在除錯階段時就不用優化

Optimization Levels

- Level of optimizations carried out by the compilers is selectable
 - `-O0`
 - Minimum optimization
 - The least optimized code, but with the best debug view
 - `-O1`
 - Restricted optimization
 - Optimized code and a reasonable debug view.
 - `-O2` (default)
 - High optimization
 - Well optimized code, but with limited debug view
 - `-O3`
 - More aggressive optimization, weighted toward `-Ospace` / `-Otime` choice
 - Enables multifile compilation by default (more later)
- Select optimization for code size or execution speed with `-Ospace` (the default) or `-Otime`
- Use the `-g` or `--debug` option to generate source level debug information

ARM RealView

G. Optimization by Programmer

Optimization by programmers

- Programming skills and algorithm
 - Structured programming
 - Modularization
- Assembly language/low-level programming
 - Examples:

XOR r1, r2
XOR r2, r1
XOR r1, r2

CWD
XOR AX, DX
SUB AX, DX

- $r1 = (r1 \wedge (r1 >> 31)) - (r1 >> 31);$

Mixed-language programming

格式：CWD

功能：將AX中16位帶符號數，進行帶符號擴展為32位，送DX和AX中。高16位送DX中，低16位送AX中。

Loops are good targets for optimization

- Generally consume much program execution time
- The **80/20** principle

Basic loop optimizations:

- Code motion
- Induction-variable elimination
- Strength reduction ($x^2 \Rightarrow x \ll 1$)
- Loop unrolling

for (i=0; i < N*M; i++)

$z[i] = a[i] + b[i];$



X = N*M;

for (i=0; i < X; i++)

$z[i] = a[i] + b[i];$

📁 **Induction variable:** loop index

📁 Consider the loop:

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
  for (j=0; j<M; j++)
    z[i][j] = b[i][j];
```



📁 Rather than re-compute **i*M+j** for array element in each iteration,

- ❑ share the induction variable between arrays, and
- ❑ do the increment at the end of loop body.

📁 Consider the following loop:

```
for (i=0; i<N; i++)
  for (i=0; i<M; i++)
```



~~$\text{z}[i][j] = \text{b}[i][j];$~~

Optimized versions:

(1) $\mathbf{K} = \mathbf{N} * \mathbf{M};$

```
tmp_z = z;
```

```
tmp_b = b;
```

```
for (i = 0; i < K; i++) *tmp_z++ = *tmp_b++;
```

(2) $\text{for } (i = 0; i < N*M; i++) *(tmp_z+i) = *(tmp_b+i);$

Compare the following code segments: (1/2)

CODE A

```
for (i = 0; i < N; i++)
    for (j = 0; j < N; j++)
        if (i == j) A[i][j] = 1; else A[i][j] = 0;
```

CODE B

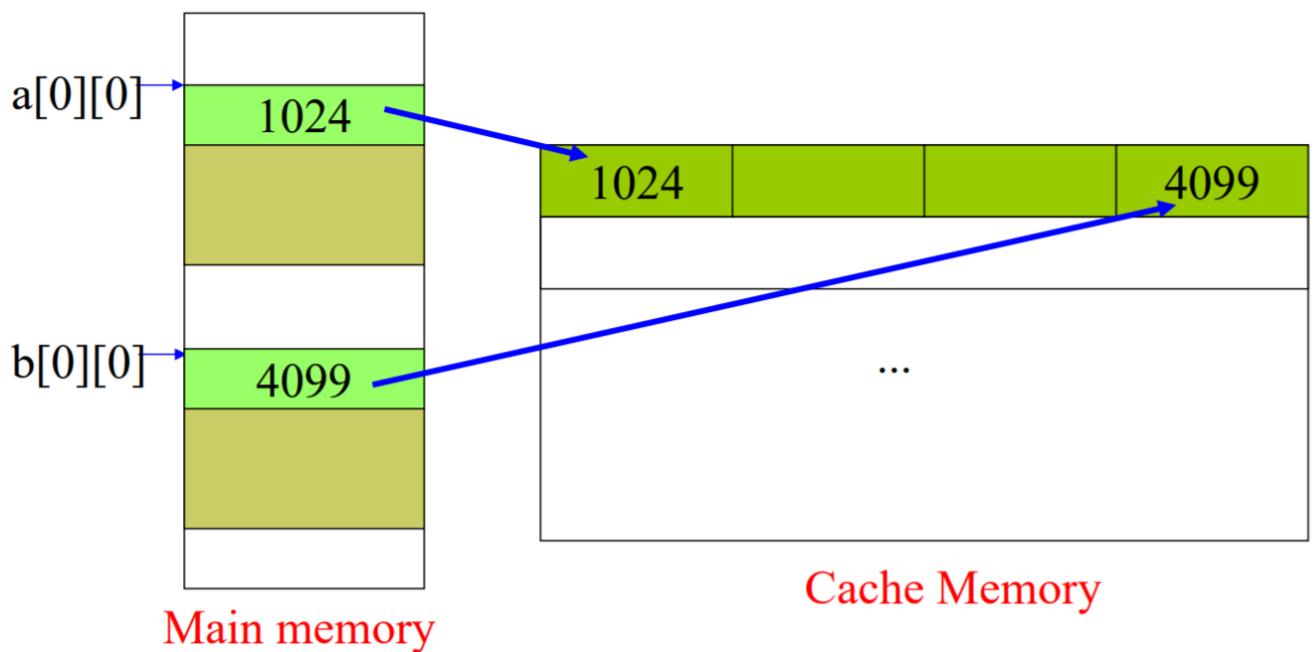
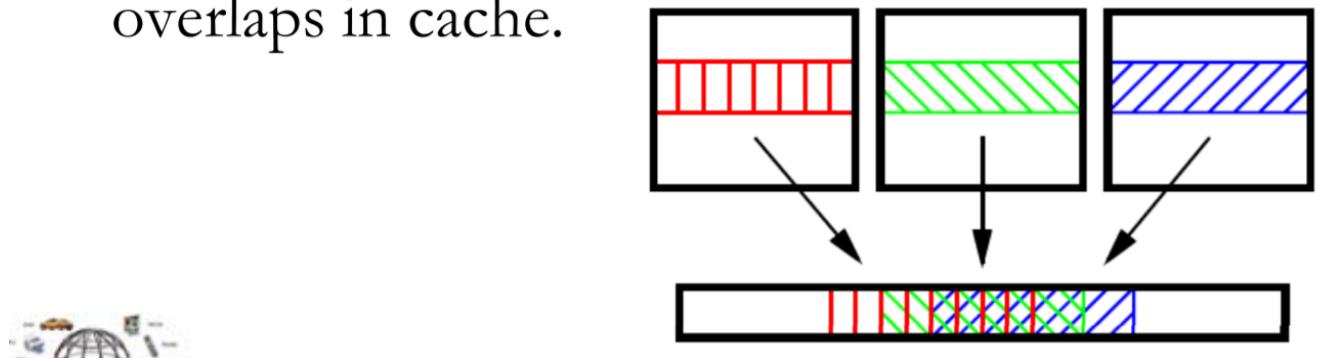
```
tmp_A = A;
for (i = 1; i <= N; i++)
    for (j = 1; j <= N; j++)
        *tmp_A++ = (i/j)*(j/i);
```

CODE C

```
temp_A = A;
K = N * N;
for (i = 0; i < K; i++) *temp_A++ = 0;
K = N + 1;
for (i = 0, j = 0; i < N; i++, j += K)
    *(A+j) = 1;
```

H. Cache Analysis

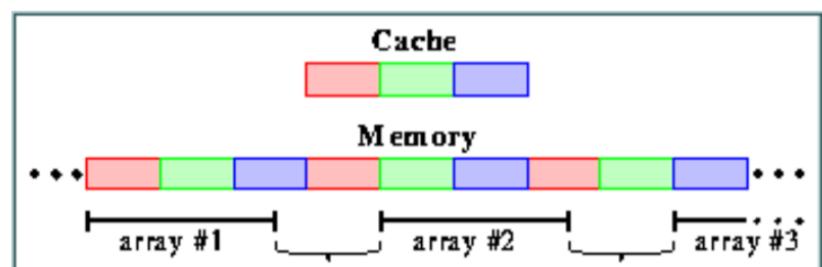
- 📁 **Loop nest:** set of loops, one inside another.
- 📁 **Perfect loop nest:** no conditionals in nest.
- 📁 Because loops use large quantities of data, cache conflicts are common.
- 📁 Cache conflict occurs when data mapping overlaps in cache.



- 📁 Array elements conflict as they are mapped into the same cache line, even if they are not mapped to same location.

📁 Solutions:

- Move one array
- Pad array
- Cache partition



Example – On optimizing C/C++ Code

- Adjust structure sizes to power of two
- Place case labels in narrow range
- Place frequent case labels first
- Minimize local variables
- Declare local variables in the innermost scope
- Reduce the number of parameters
- ...

<http://www.eventhelix.com/RealtimeMantra/Basics/>

(<http://www.eventhelix.com/RealtimeMantra/Basics/>)

Trade-off between execution speed & code size

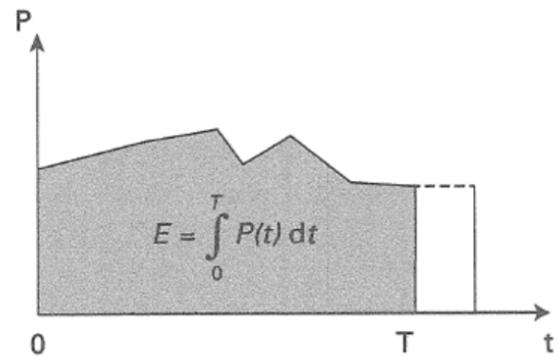
Helpful tool: profiler

- Techniques to reduce execution time:
- Inline functions
- Table lookup
- Hand-coded assembly
- Register variables / global variables 放在stack去獲取的時間比放在memory長
- Pooling vs. Interrupt 程式效率不一定，但CPU效率Interrupt可能比較好，因為CPU有可能閒著
- Fixed-point arithmetic

I. Energy/Power Optimization

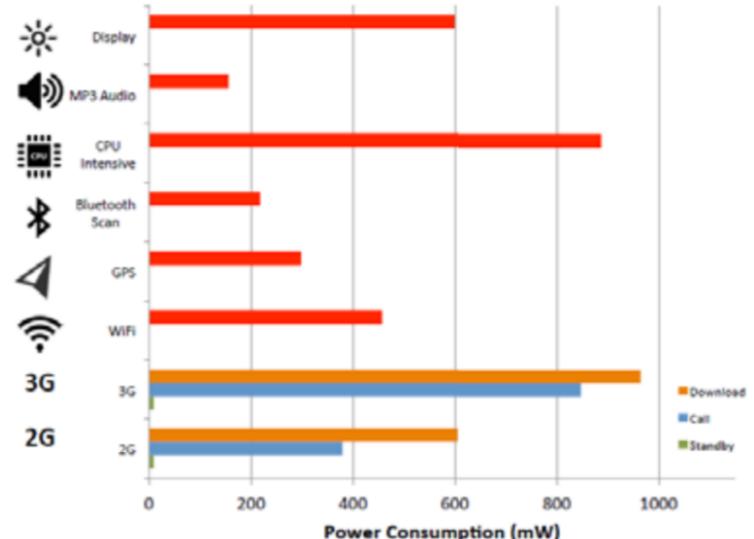
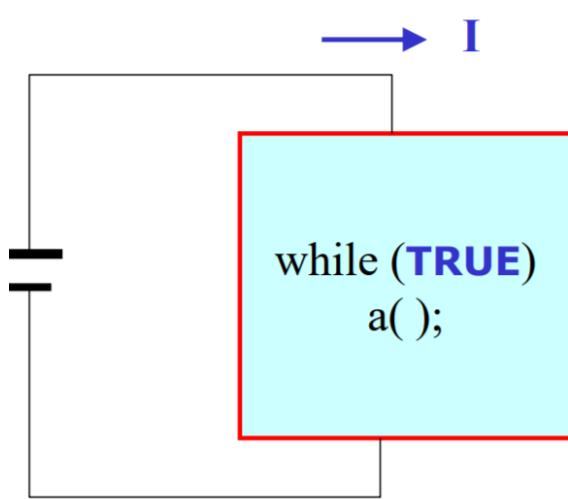
📁 Energy: ability to do work.

- ❑ $E = P \times \text{Time}$
- ❑ Most important in battery-powered systems



📁 Power: energy per unit time.

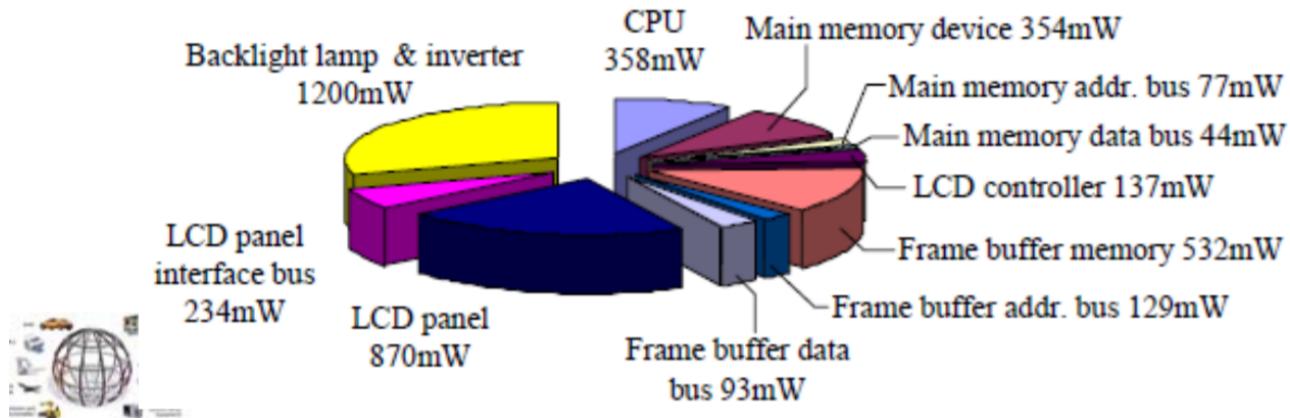
- ❑ $P = V \times I = V^2 / R$
- ❑ Important even in wall-plug systems
--- power becomes heat



📁 Relative energy per operation (Catthoor *et al*):

- Addition: 1
- Multiplication: 3.6
- External I/O: 10
- Memory transfer: 33
- SRAM read: 4.4
- SRAM write: 9

Ref: Power Consumption of System Components when an MPEG-4 Player is running



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Energy consumption has a sweet spot as cache size changes:

- Cache too small: program thrashes, burning energy on external memory accesses
- Cache too large: cache itself burns too much power

📁 Use registers efficiently

📁 Identify and eliminate cache conflicts

📁 Moderate loop unrolling eliminates some loop overhead instructions

📁 Eliminate pipeline stalls

📁 Inlining procedures may help:

- ❑ reduces linkage,
- ❑ but may increase cache thrashing.

J. Optimizing for Program Size

Optimizing for Program Size

📁 Goals:

- ❑ reduce hardware cost of memory
- ❑ reduce power consumption of memory units

📁 **Program Size = Code Size + Data Size**

📁 Two opportunities:

- ❑ data
- ❑ instructions

📁 **Issue:** Reduce program size usually results in increasing execution time!

Minimization of Data Size

- 📁 Reuse constants, variables, data buffers in different parts of code.
 - ❑ Requires careful verification of correctness
 - ❑ Not suitable for shared data
- 📁 Generate data using instructions

Reducing Code Size

- 📁 Avoid function inlining
- 📁 Choose CPU with compact instructions
- 📁 Use specialized instructions where possible
- 📁 Select/Enable compiler switches to do the optimization on reducing code size
 - ❑ Be careful on “dead code elimination”
 - ❑ Never assume optimized code remains the same as the un-optimized code
- 📁 Reducing the code size by hand:
 - ❑ Avoid using standard library routines
 - Less general functions
 - Cygnus ***newlib***
 - ❑ Use “**native word size code**”
 - ❑ Use **goto** statement in case of complicated control structure (**but use carefully!**)
- 📁 Issues:
 - ❑ Conflicting with execution efficiency
 - ❑ Difficulty in debugging

Discussion:

Memory Address Alignment

1. Is it related to performance issue?
2. What is the (potential) impact?
3. How to solve if it imposes impact ?

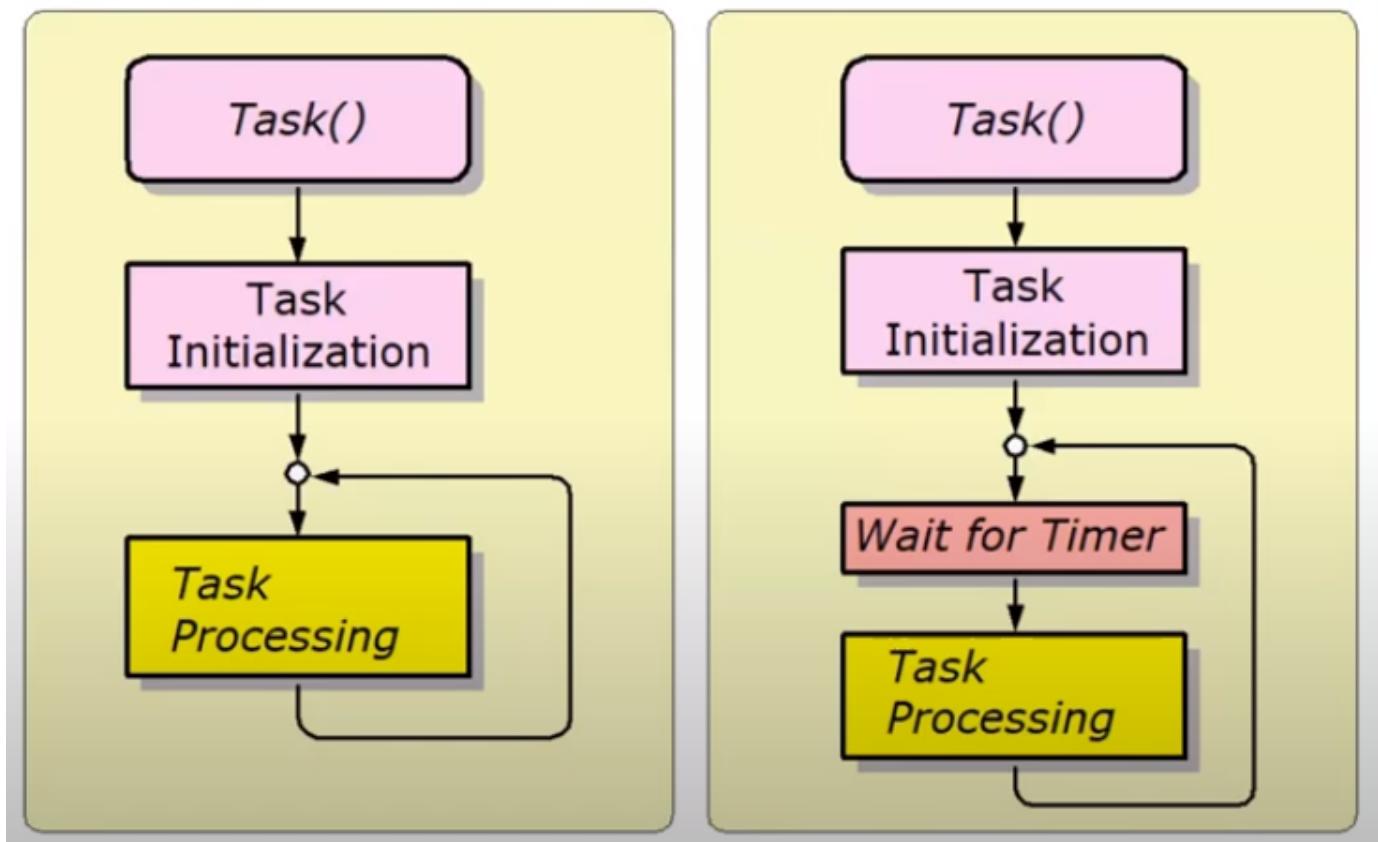
III. 嵌入式系統程式設計技術

A. 嵌入式系統程式基本控制流程

1. 嵌入式系統程式基本結構

(1) 嵌入式系統程式基本結構

a. Basic Structure



- 電源關掉後，重新開機後初始化完，就會繼續執行，跟電腦很像，因為嵌入式系統的程式是放在ROM、FLASH中
- 如果有作業系統的話，關機就不是只有關電源而已，需要在硬體上有特定的開關，讓它啟動關機程序，跟手機很像，按關機按紐，會出現系統提示，根據提示才能關機
- 如果在wait for timer時，就有空閒時間，可以做到multi-tasking

- 例題1 : A simple task to blink LEDs

```
#include <headers.h>
void main(void) {
    char LED_Pattern = 0x5A;          // 0x5A = 00000001 B
    Task_Initialization();
    while(1) {
        LED_Turn_On(LED_Pattern);    // 簡易跑馬燈效果
        Delay(500);
        LED_Pattern <<= 1;           // new LED pattern.
    }
}
```

- 例題2 : A simple task to blink LEDs on PXA270 EVM

```
#include <PXA270.h> (*Simplified)
***** Function prototypes *****/
static int creator_system_init(void);
void Delay(unsigned int ms);
static int process(void);
/*-----*/
int main(void) {
    if (!creator_system_init()) // Creator 硬體初始設定
        return (0);
    process();                // 執行主要任務
    return (0);
}
```

```
static int process (void)
{
    U8 state;
    if (!LCD_init()) return (0);
    stdio_init();
    mt_enable_cursor(); mt_clrscr();
    while (1){
        state = dipsw; // 取得Creator EVM之DIP_SW狀態
        /* 將DIP_SW狀態反應在LED (D9 ~ D16)使之閃爍 */
        mt_main_led_set(state); Delay(100); // 點亮LED
        mt_main_led_set(0xff); Delay(100); // 熄滅LED
        mt_setcursor(0, 1); mt_printf("DIP SW=%0X\n", state);
    }
    return (1);
}
```

- dip switch是一種開關，可以用來作為輸入或簡單設定的資料

- mt_printf是類似printf的，用在特定硬體環境，廠商提供

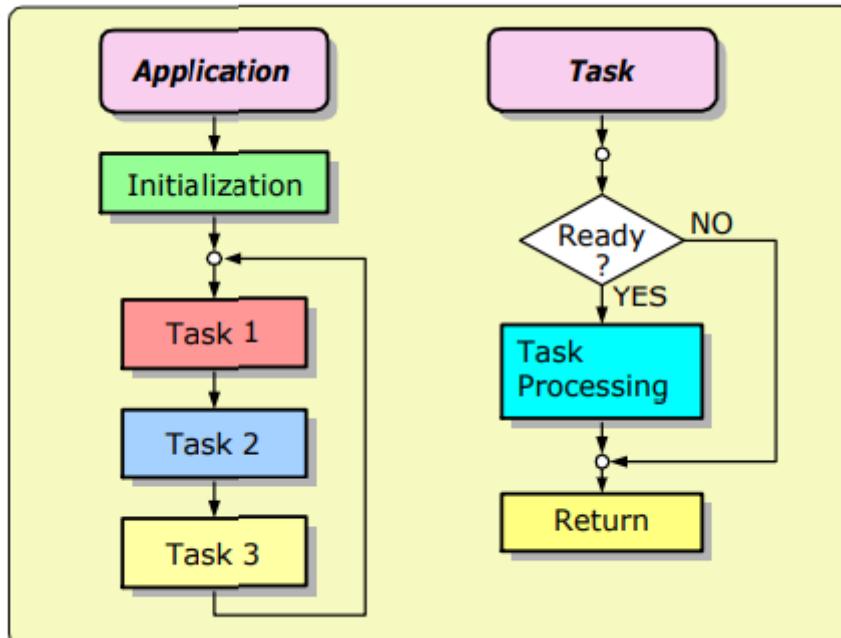
```

/*
 * 功能：簡易延遲millisecond(ms)
 * 輸入：ms .....：延遲多少ms
 * 輸出：無
 */
void Delay (unsigned int ms)
{
    /* 一定要加上volatile, 避免Compiler最佳化迴圈功能 */
    volatile int i, j;
    /* 使用軟體迴圈達到概略的時間延遲 */
    for (i = 0; i < ms; i++) { for (j = 0; j < 10000; j++){} }
}

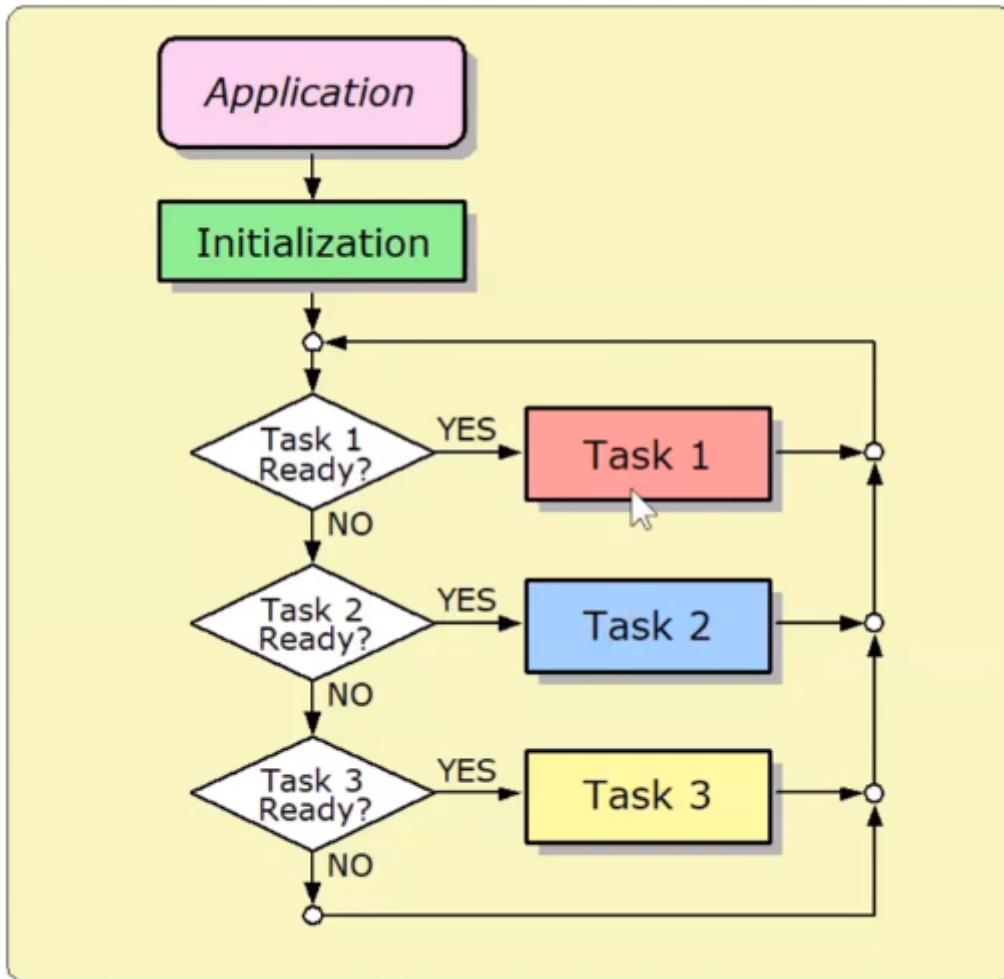
```

- 注意用sleep這個函式，可能是在作業系統的環境下才能實現
 - sleep即使在作業系統下實現，可能還需要硬碟輔助等，會有延遲
 - sleep在桌電可能是以秒為單位，而且沒有resource constrain，誤差容許較大
 - for loop什麼事都沒做，所以要使用volatile，避免compiler優化，省略掉
 - 空跑for loop會讓嵌入式系統時間浪費，不過嵌入式系統本身就是特定應用，除非要做別的事情，這樣其實沒關係
 - 也可以使用timer來發送interrupt訊號，設定timer也是需要花費時間，如果只要delay短暫時間，設定timer就太浪費時間
 - No operation指令讓CPU慢一點，配合IO
- Basic control flow

b. Basic Control flow

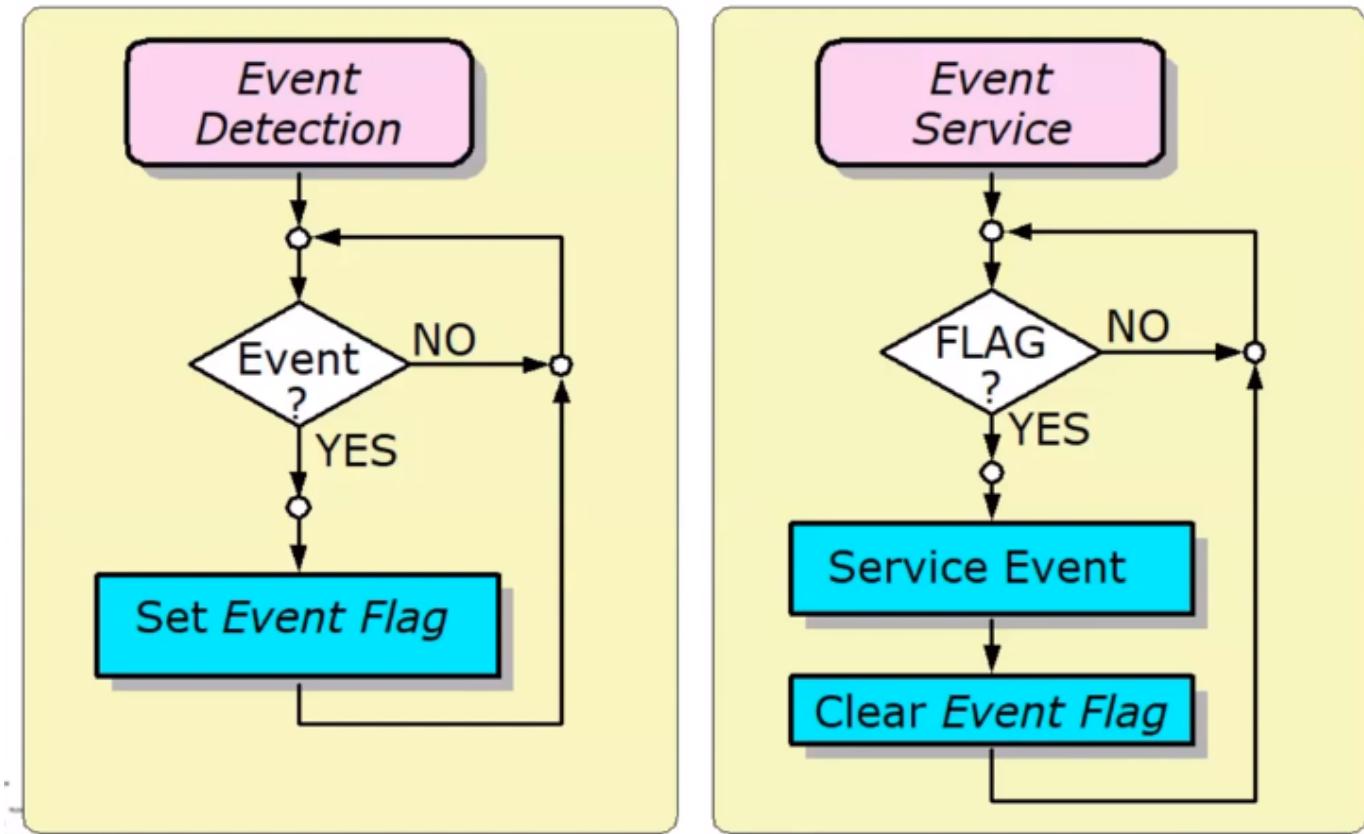


- 要就做完，要馬不做



- Priority-based
- Non-preemptive
 - Task runs until completion
 - High priority task may be blocked
 - Low priority task may starve

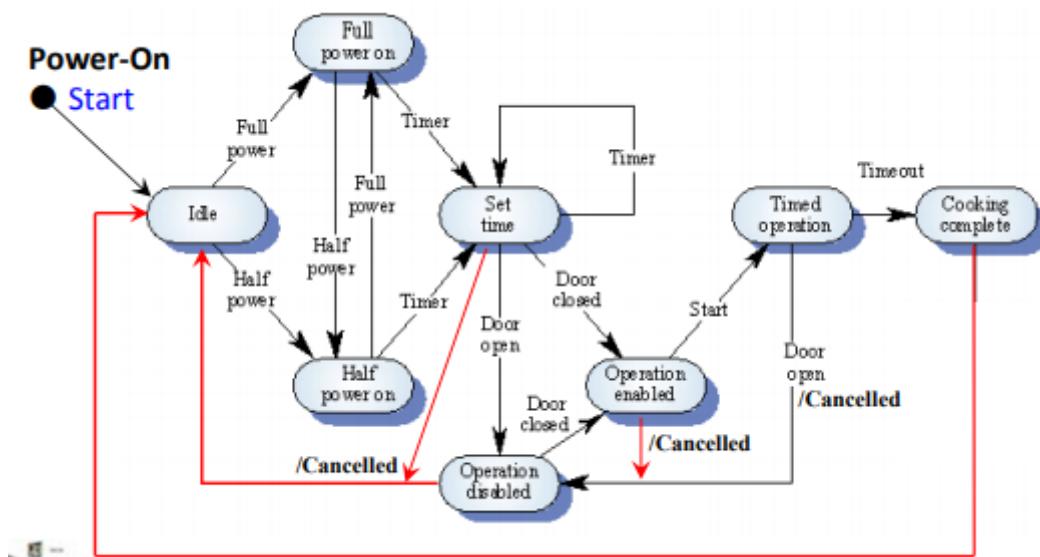
c. Inter-task (Inter-process) communication



- Shared data
- Operating system supported mechanisms
 - Shared memory and Mutex
 - Pipe (shared queue)
 - Message passing
 - ...

B. 嵌入式系統程式開發予狀態機實現

a. State Machine & Embedded System Design

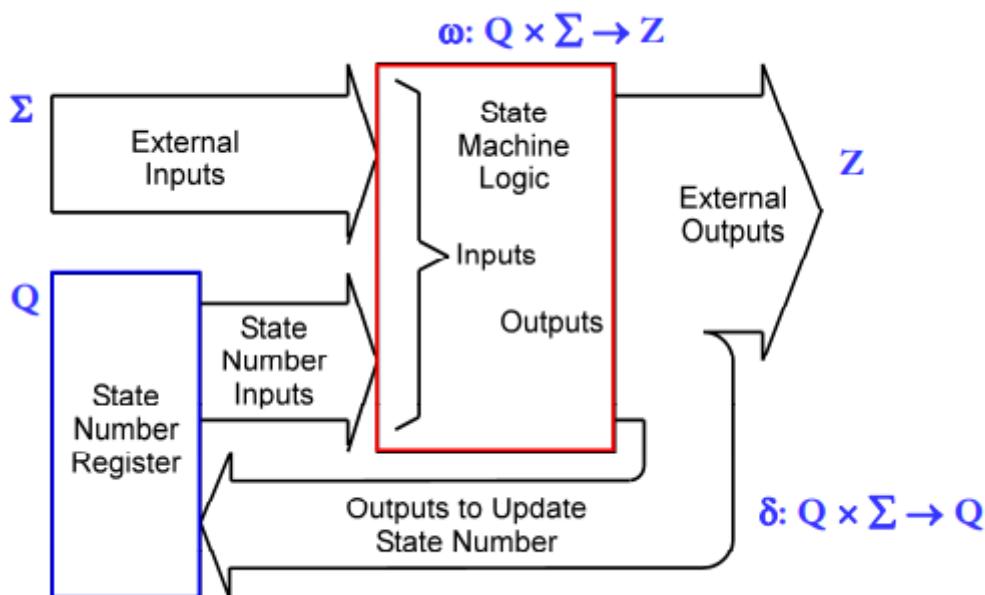


StateChart (State Diagram):

❑ Representation describing finite state machines

❑ Components:

- Q – a finite set of states
- Σ – a finite collection of input symbols (alphabet)
- Z – a finite collection of output symbols
- ω – output function representing $Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Z$
- δ – representation of transitions: $Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$
- q_0 – the start state ($q_0 \in Q$)
- F – a finite set of accepting states ($F \subseteq Q$)

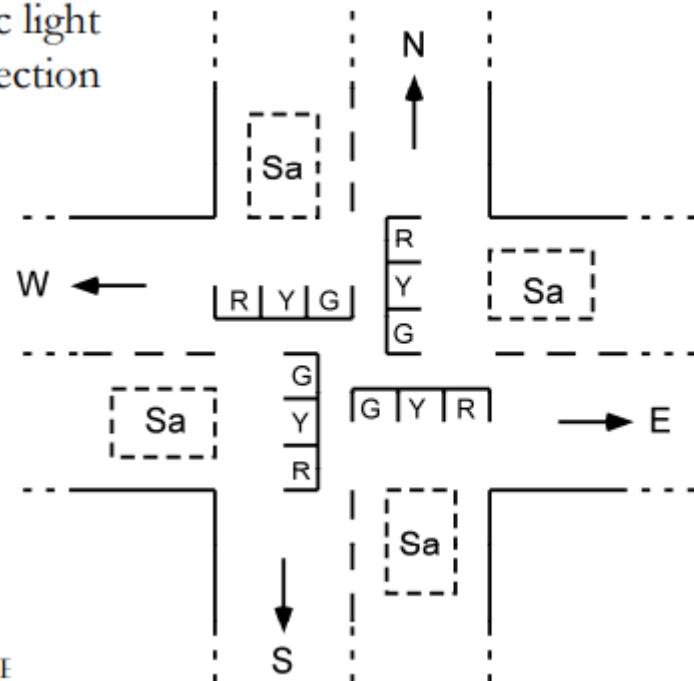


- ❑ Requirement/Specification Analysis
- ❑ State Machine Design:
 - Lists of inputs, outputs, states and transitions
 - State minimization
 - State assignment (state encoding)
 - Handling of unused states and “don’t care” states
- ❑ Implementation:
 - Hardware
 - Software
- ❑ The state machine diagram must be unambiguous
 - Transition expressions leaving a state are mutually exclusive
 - Transition expressions leaving a state are all inclusive
- ❑ Except the starting state, a state must have at least one previous state (so there is transition entering the state)
- ❑ No dead-end state
- ❑ States can be grouped into a sub-state-machine

- A demonstrating example of state machine:

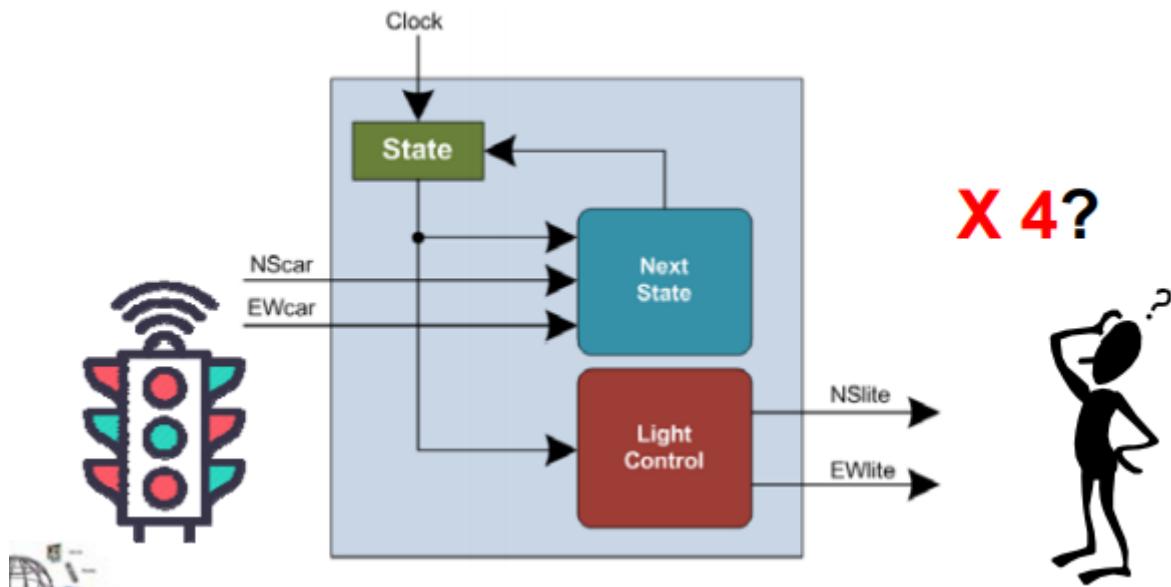
- ❑ Developing the traffic light control at road intersection

Symbol	Description
Sa	Sensor sensing approaching traffic
R	Light: Red
Y	Light: Yellow
G	Light: Green
N, E, S, W	Direction of Traffic



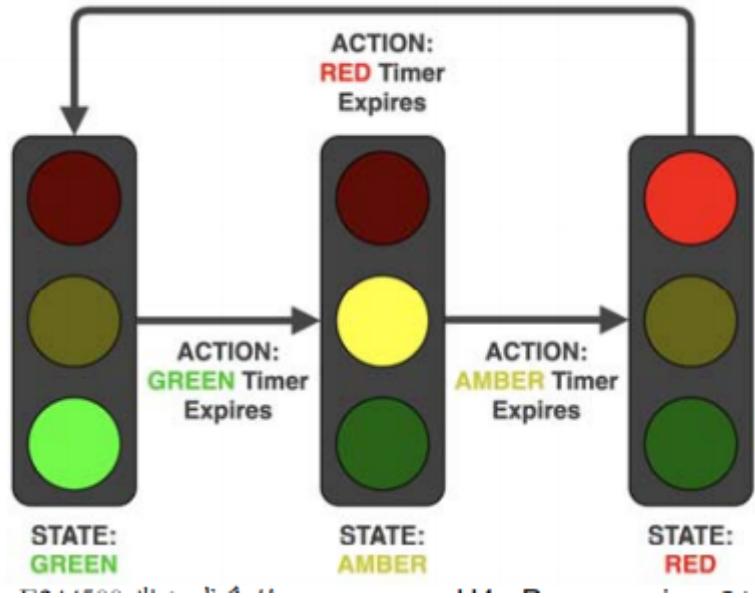
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❑ Developing the traffic light control at road intersection



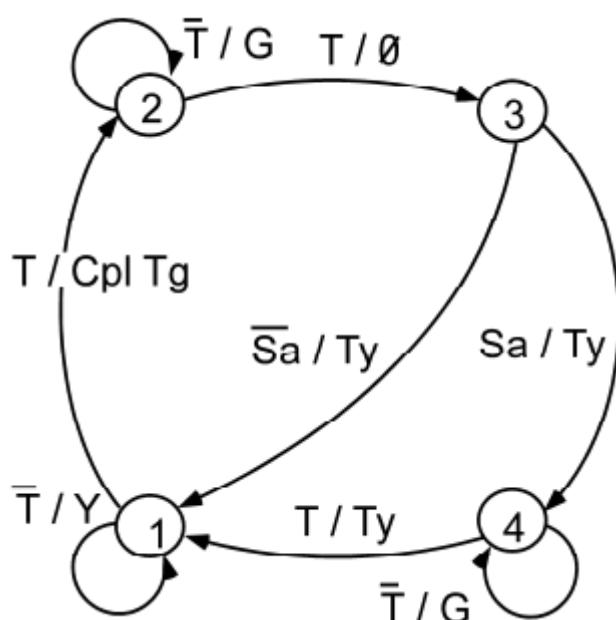
❑ Developing the traffic light control at road intersection

- ✗ The controller on EW and NS directions are
 - same operations
 - mutually exclusive
- ✗ One state machine fits
- ✗ Input:
 - Timer time out signal
 - Sensor signal
- ✗ Output:
 - Red light On/Off
 - Yellow light On/Off
 - Green light On/Off



❑ State diagram of the traffic light control

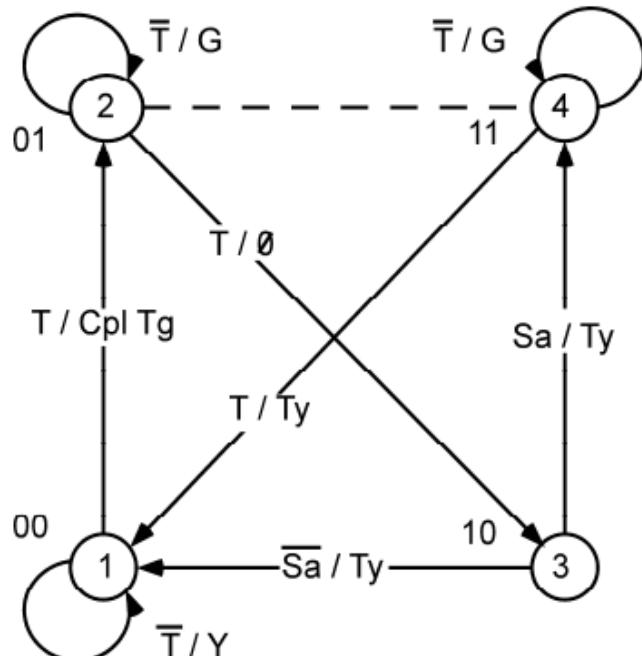
Type	Symbol	Description
Input	T	Timer alarm
	Sa	Approaching traffic
Output	Ty	Timer starts for Y
	Tg	Timer Starts for G
	Y	Yellow light on
	G	Green light on
Misc.	Φ	Don't care



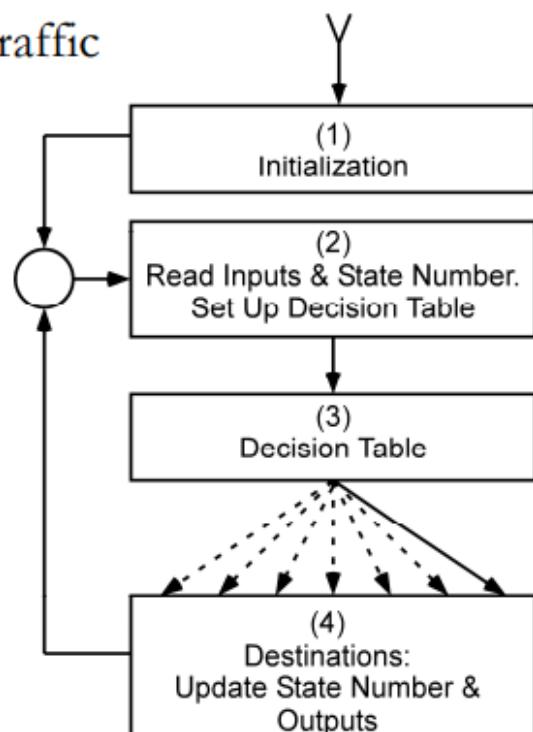
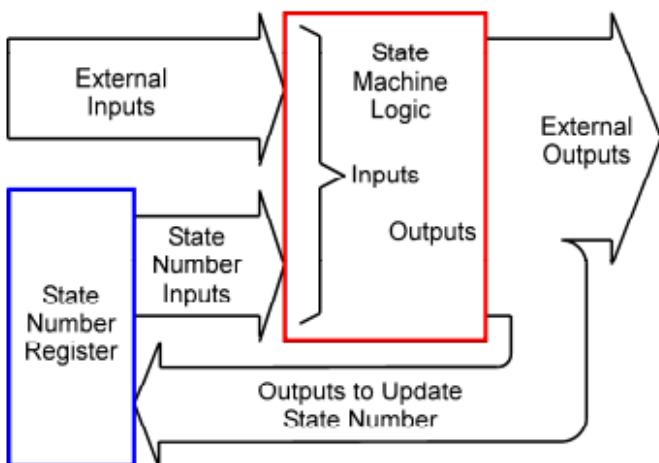
□ State assignment diagram of the traffic light control

Truth Table

No.	State		Inputs		Outputs						Next State			
	Q1	Q0	Sa	T	Y	G	Cpl	Tg	Ty	Rst	Inc	Q1	Q0	No.
1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	2
2	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	3
3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	-	0	1
	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
4	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	4
	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1



□ Software implementation of the traffic light control: **Top-level flow**



📁 Software Implementation of State Machine:

❑ Basic approaches

- Hardwired coding
- State-coded/driven
- Table driven (Transition table)

❑ Issues and design choices

- Complexity in implementation
- Difficulty/Cost in maintenance
- Memory consumption

❑ Hardwired coding

- *Ad-hoc* implementation
- States are maintained implicitly
- Achievable efficiency (via code optimization)
- Issues:
 - ❖ Complexity – case by case
 - ❖ Maintenance – generally difficult and costly

- 經驗法則

❑ State-coded/driven

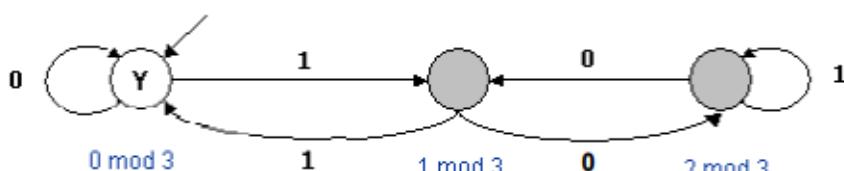
- Direct simulation of a state machine
- Basic components:
 - ❖ State variable
 - ❖ Nested switch/case statements
- Issues:
 - ❖ Complexity – moderate
 - ❖ Maintenance – in general manageable

❑ Table-driven

- Generic implementation
- Components:
 - ❖ Data structure – transition table
 - ❖ Generic code as the engine to drive state machine
 - ❖ The action routines
- Low cost in maintenance
- Issues:
 - ❖ The transition table can be space-consuming
- 可以用sparse matrix解

❑ An example (1/4) –

- Implementing the *DFA* that can determine whether the input binary number is a multitude of three.
(Note: Input fed from **left to right**.)
- The state diagram:



1	1	0	1
---	---	---	---

❑ An example (2/4) –

- The skeleton of implementation:

```

Initialize();
get_input();
if (End_of_Input) output("NO INPUT!");
else { do { state _ transition();
            get_input();
        } while(!End_of_Input);
        if (state == accept) output("YES.");
        else output("NO.");
    }
}

```



📁 Implementation of state machine:

(cont'd)

❑ An example (3/4) –

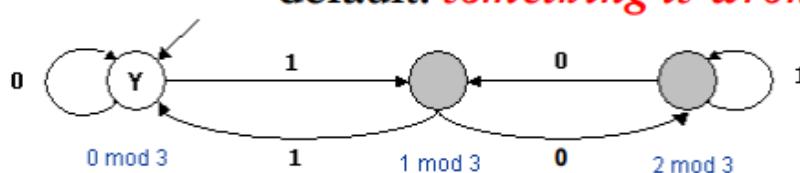
- Implementation of state and state transition:

The pseudo code of *state_transition()*:

```

switch (state)
    0: if (Input == 1) state = 1; break;
    1: if (Input == 1) state = 0; else state = 2; break;
    2: if (Input == 0) state = 1; break;
    default: something is wrong!

```



Really necessary?

- default可能是硬體問題，在嵌入式系統裡面很重要

□ An example (4/4) –

- Implementation of state and state transition:

The pseudo code of *state_transition()*:

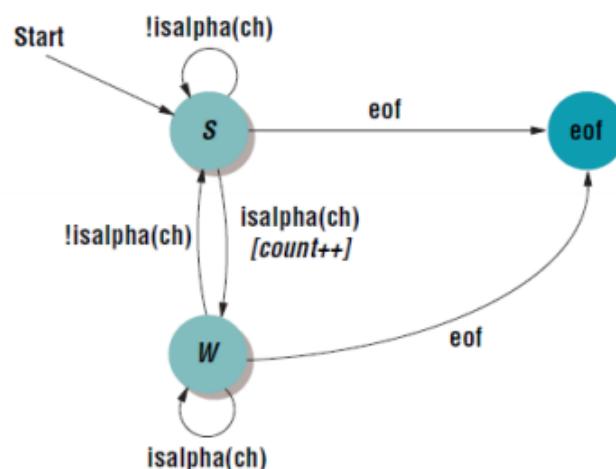
state = transition_table[*Input*, *state*];

state Input	0	1	2
0	0	2	1
1	1	0	2

❑ Another example (1/4) –

- Implementing the *DFA* for the program that can count the words in a text file
- The state diagram:

State	Code	Description
Start	00	DFA starts
S	01	Skipping white spaces
W	10	In a word
eof	11	DFA terminates



❑ Another example (2/4) –

- The skeleton of implementation:

```

Initialize();
wc = 0;          // Initializing wc (word count)
read_file(ch);
if ( End_of_File ) output("NO INPUT!");
else { do { state_transition();
            read_file(ch);
        } while( !End_of_File );
        output("The word count is ", wc);
    }
    
```



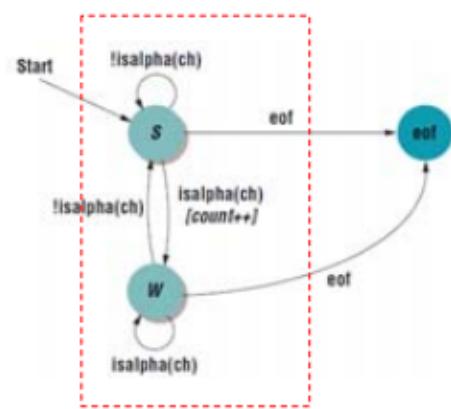
❑ Another example (3/4) –

- Implementation of state and state transition:

The pseudo code of *state_transition()*:

```

switch (state)
1: if ( isalpha(ch) ) {
        wc++; state = 2;
    }
    break;
2: if ( !isalpha(ch) ) state = 1;
    break;
default: something is wrong!
    
```





❑ Another example (4/4) –

- Implementation of state and state transition:

The pseudo code of *state_transition()*:

`state = transition_table[Input_ch, state];`

<i>Input ch</i>	state 1	state 2
<i>white space</i>	1	1
<i>alphabet</i>	2	2

- 注意action要另外紀錄

❑ Yet another example (1/4) –

- Implementing the user interface for controlling the system operations:
 - ❖ Mode control
 - ❖ Functions: F1~F5
 - ❖ Cursor movement
 - ❖ Data input
 - ❖ Display control
- Typical U/I design



- Design Issues:
 - ❖ Multiple roles of key-switch
 - ❖ Hierarchical structure of states
 - ❖ Super-state/Sub-state and rules of state transition
 - ❖
- The Essential Modules:
 - ❖ get_input_key();
 - ❖ update_display();
 - ❖ the state machine
- **The skeleton:**

```

System_Initialization( );
while ( state != PowerOff ) {
        Update_Display( );
        if( Key_Pressed() ) {
                Get_Input( );
                Processing & state_transition( );
        }
}
System_ShutDown( );

```

- Implementation of state and state transition:

The pseudo code and Implementation

depending on

- System functions and operations
- Available keys
- Requirements/Specifications

Left as an exercise!

C. 程式強韌性與看門狗計時器(WDT)

Robustness of System:

- A system that does not break down easily or is not wholly affected by a single application failure.
- A system that either recovers quickly from or holds up well under exceptional circumstances.
- A system that is not wholly affected by a bug in one aspect of it.
- ...

Towards Robustness:

- Being reliable
- Perform a great number of routine checks
- C language programs:
 - checking assertions
 - checking array index
 - embedding magic numbers
 - checking the result from function call/invocation
- Check ***everything everywhere***
- Being (extremely) paranoid!
 - magic numbers 特別給定的值，是不可以被改變的

📁 Robust Design:

- ❑ With exceptional conditions in a way that is both "safe" and "intelligent".
- ❑ Whenever failure is detected, the program must perform "cleanup" to "undo" the current operation.

📁 Robust Programming Techniques:

- ❑ Being Paranoia (**Check Everything Everywhere**)
- ❑ One-or-Nothing (**Commit or Rollback**)
- ❑ Structured exception handling (**SEH**)
- ❑ Clean stack exception handling (**CSEH**)

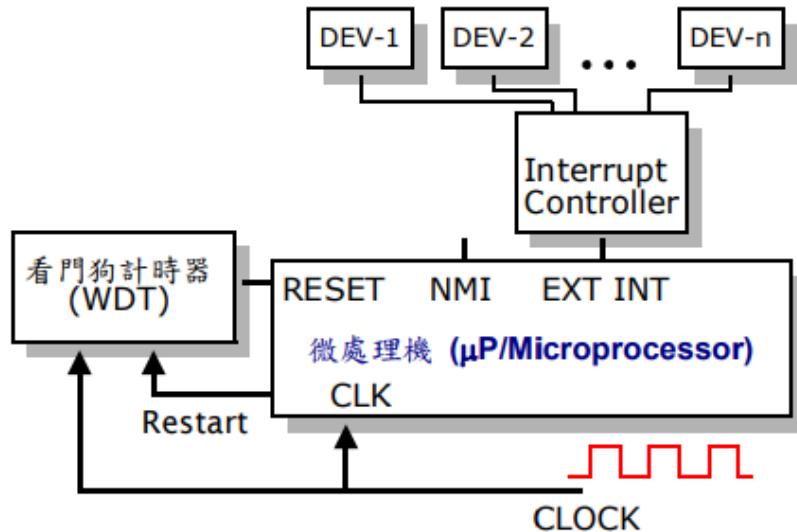
📁 Watchdog Timer (WDT):

- ❑ Hardware to automatically detect software anomalies/malfunctioning
- ❑ Based on a count-down counter
- ❑ Required to be restarted by software
- ❑ Asserts reset or NMI signal upon **counting to zero**
- ❑ Useful in helping recover from transient failures



- NMI : Non Maskable Interrupt

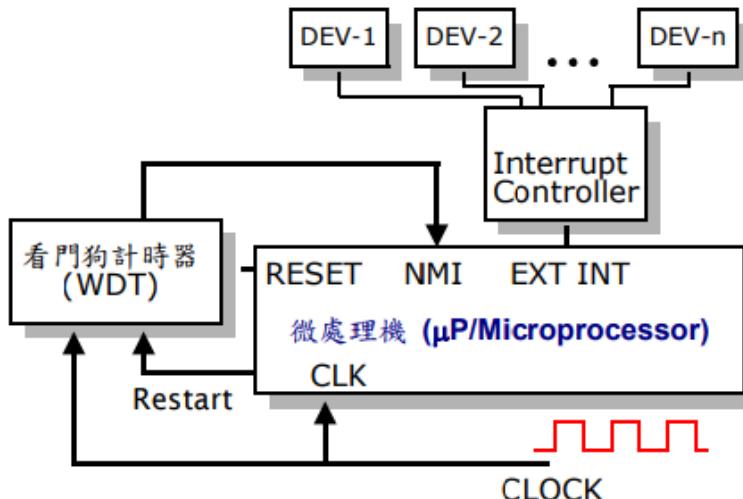
Setup of Watchdog Timer (1):



* The WDT connects to the reset signal input of the μP

- Interrupt controller可以遮蔽Interrupt，然而NMI是不可被遮蔽，微處理機對它一定會有反應

Setup of Watchdog Timer (2):



* The WDT connects to the NMI signal input of the μP

📁 Programming the Watchdog Timer (WDT):

```
/* Define the configuration of WDT*/  
...  
main (void)  
{  
    HW_Init( );  
    for ( ; ; ) {  
        WDT_Kick ( ); /* Retriggering the WDT */  
        read_sensors ( );  
        output_control_signal ( );  
        Dev_display_status ( );  
    }  
}
```



📁 Programming the Watchdog Timer (WDT):

❑ Issues

- The length of time duration
- Where or which task does the kicking?
- Can the WDT be disabled (turned off)?
- ...