1. INPUT-OUTPUT INTERFACE

Input-output interface provides a method for transferring information between internal storage and external I/O devices. Peripherals connected to a computer need special communication links for interfacing them with the central processing unit. The purpose of the communication link is to resolve the differences that exist between the central computer and each peripheral. The major differences are:

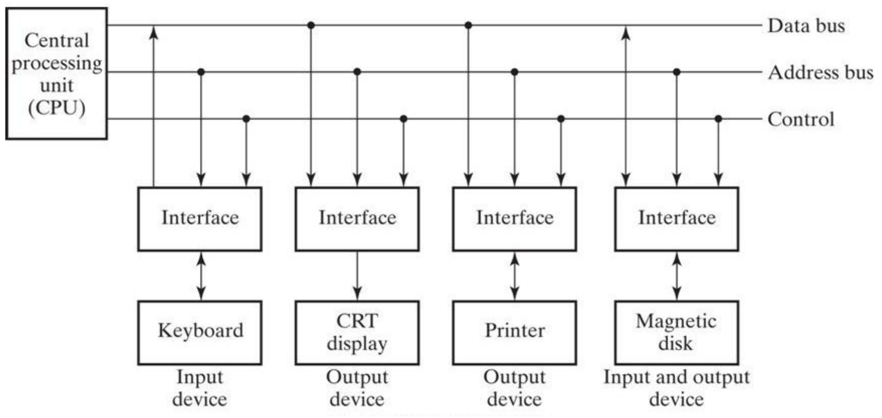
1. Peripherals are electromechanical and electromagnetic devices and their manner of operation is different from the operation of the CPU and memory, which are electronic devices. Therefore, a conversion of signal values may be required.
2. The data transfer rate of peripherals is usually slower than the transfer rate of the CPU, and consequently, a synchronization mechanism may be need.
3. Data codes and formats in peripherals differ form the word format in the CPU and memory.
4. The operating modes of peripherals are different from each other and each must be controlled so as not to disturb the operation of other peripherals connected to the CPU.

To resolve these differences, computer systems include special hardware components between the CPU and peripherals to supervise and synchronize all input and output transfers. These components are called interface units because they interface between the processor bus and the peripheral device. In addition, each device may have its own controller that supervises the operations of the particular mechanism in the peripheral.

The I/O bus from the processor is attached to all peripheral interfaces. To communicate with a particular device, the processor places a device address on the address lines. Each interface attached to the I/O bus contains an address decoder that monitors the address lines. When the interface detects its own address, it activates the path between the bus lines and the device that it controls. All peripherals whose address does not correspond to the address in the bus are disabled their interface.

At the same time that the address is made available in the address lines, the processor provides a function code in the control lines.

FIGURE 11-5 Connection of I/O Devices to CPU



The interface selected responds to the function code and proceeds to execute it. The function code is referred to
as an I/O command and is in essence an instruction that is executed in the interface and its
attached peripheral unit. The interpretation of the command depends on the peripheral that the
processor is addressing.

2. I/O VERSUS MEMORY BUS

In addition to communicating with I/O, the processor must communicate with the memory unit. Like the I/O bus, the memory bus contains data, address, and read/write control lines. There are three ways that computer buses can be used to communicate with memory and I/O:

1. Use two separate buses, one for memory and the other for I/O.
2. Use one common bus for both memory and I/O but have separate control lines for each.
3. Use one common bus for memory and I/O with common control lines

In the first method, the computer has independent sets of data, address, and control buses, one for accessing memory and the other for I/O. This is done in computers that provide a separate I/O processor (IOP) in addition to the central processing unit (CPU). The memory communicates with both the CPU and the IOP through a memory bus. The IOP communicates also with the input and output devices through a separate I/O bus with its own address, data and control lines. The purpose of the IOP is to provide an independent pathway for the transfer of information between external devices and internal memory.

2.1 ISOLATED VERSUS MEMORY-MAPPED I/O

Many computers use one common bus to transfer information between memory or I/O and the CPU. The distinction between a memory transfer and I/O transfer is made through separate read and write lines. The CPU specifies whether the address on the address lines is for a memory word or for an interface register by enabling one of two possible read or write lines. The I/O read and I/O write control lines are enabled during an I/O transfer. The memory read and memory write control lines are enabled during a memory transfer. This configuration isolates all I/O interface addresses from the addresses assigned to memory and is referred to as the isolated I/O method for assigning addresses in a common bus.

In the isolated I/O configuration, the CPU has distinct input and output instructions, and each of these instructions is associated with the address of an interface register. When the CPU fetches and decodes the operation code of an input or output instruction, it places the address associated with the instruction into the common address lines. At the same time, it enables the I/O read (for input) or I/O write (for output) control line. This informs the external components that are attached to the common bus that the address in the address lines is for an interface register and not for a memory word. On the other hand, when the CPU is fetching an instruction or an operand from memory, it places the memory address on the address lines and enables the memory read or memory write control line. This informs the external components that the address is for a memory word and not for an I/O interface.

The isolated I/O method isolates memory word and not for an I/O addresses so that memory address values are not affected by interface address assignment since each has its own address space. The other alternative is to use the same address space for both memory and I/O. This is the case in computers that employ only one set of read and write signals and do not distinguish between memory and I/O addresses. This configuration is referred to as memory-mapped I/O. The computer treats an interface register as being part of the memory system. The assigned addresses for interface registers cannot be used for memory words, which reduces the memory address range available.

In a memory-mapped I/O organization there are no specific input or output instructions. The CPU can manipulate I/O data residing in interface registers with the same instructions that are used to manipulate memory words. Each interface is organized as a set of registers that respond to read and write requests in the normal address space. Typically, a segment of the total address space is reserved for interface registers, but in general, they can be located at any address as long as there is not also a memory word that responds to the same address.

Computers with memory-mapped I/O can use memory-type instructions to access I/O data. It allows the computer to use the same instructions for either input-output transfers or for memory transfers. The advantage is that the load and store instructions used for reading and writing from memory can be used to input and output data from I/O registers. In a typical computer, there are more memory-reference instructions than I/O instructions. With memory-mapped I/O all instructions that refer to memory are also available for I/O.

3. MODES OF TRANSFER

Binary information received from an external device is usually stored in memory for later processing. Information transferred from the central computer into an external device originates in the memory unit. The CPU merely executes the I/O instructions and may accept the data temporarily, but the ultimate source or destination is the memory unit. Data transfer between the central computer and I/O devices may be handled in a variety of modes. Some modes use the CPU as an intermediate path; other transfer the data directly to and from the memory unit. Data transfer to and from peripherals may be handled in one of three possible modes:

1. Programmed I/O
2. Interrupt-initiated I/O
3. Direct memory access (DMA)

Programmed I/O operations are the result of I/O instructions written in the computer program. Each data item transfer is initiated by an instruction in the program. Usually, the transfer is to and from a CPU register and peripheral. Other instructions are needed to transfer the data to and from CPU and memory. Transferring data under program control requires constant monitoring of the peripheral by the CPU. Once a data transfer is initiated, the CPU is required to monitor the interface to see when a transfer can again be made. It is up to the programmed instructions executed in the CPU to keep close tabs on everything that is taking place in the interface unit and the I/O device.

In the programmed I/O method, the CPU stays in a program loop until the I/O unit indicates that it is ready for data transfer. This is a time-consuming process since it keeps the processor busy needlessly. It can be avoided by using an interrupt facility and special commands to inform the interface to issue an interrupt request signal when the data are available from the device. In the meantime the CU can proceed to execute another program.

INTERRUPT-INITIATED I/O

An alternative to the CPU constantly monitoring the flag is to let the interface inform the computer when it is ready to transfer data. This mode of transfer uses the interrupt facility. While the CPU is running a program, it does not check the flag. However, when the flag is set, the computer is momentarily interrupted from proceeding with the current program and is informed of the fact that the flag has been set. The CPU deviates from what it is doing to take care of the input or output transfer. After the transfer is completed, the computer returns to the previous program to continue what it was doing before the interrupt.

The CPU responds to the interrupt signal by storing the return address from the program counter into a memory stack and then control branches to a service routine that processes the required I/O transfer. The way that the processor chooses the branch address of the service routine varies from tone unit to another. In principle, there are two methods for accomplishing this. One is called vectored interrupt and the other, no vectored interrupt. In a non vectored interrupt, the branch address is assigned to a fixed location in memory. In a vectored interrupt, the source that interrupts supplies the branch information to the computer. This information is called the interrupt vector. In some computers the interrupt vector is the first address of the I/O service routine. In other computers the interrupt vector is an address that points to a location in memory where the beginning address of the I/O service routine is stored.

DIRECT MEMORY ACCESS (DMA)

The transfer of data between a fast storage device such as magnetic disk and memory is often limited by the speed of the CPU. Removing the CPU from the path and letting the peripheral device manage the memory buses directly would improve the speed of transfer. This transfer technique is called direct memory access (DMA). During DMA transfer, the CPU is idle and has no control of the memory buses. A DMA controller takes over the buses to manage the transfer directly between the I/O device and memory.

The CPU may be placed in an idle state in a variety of ways. One common method extensively used in microprocessors is to disable the buses through special control signals. Figure 6.13 shows two control signals in the CPU that facilitate the DMA transfer. The bus request (BR) input is used by the DMA controller to request the CPU to relinquish control of the buses. When this input is active, the CPU terminates the execution of the current instruction and places the address bus, the data bus, and the read and write lines into a high-impedance state behaves like an open circuit, which means that the output is disconnected and dies not have a logic significance. The CPU activates the Bus grant (BG) output to inform the external DMA that the buses are in the high-impedance state. The DMA that originated the bus request can now take control of the buses to conduct memory transfers without processor intervention. When the DMA terminates the transfer, it disables the bus request line. The CPU disables the bus grant, takes control of the buses, and returns to its normal operation.

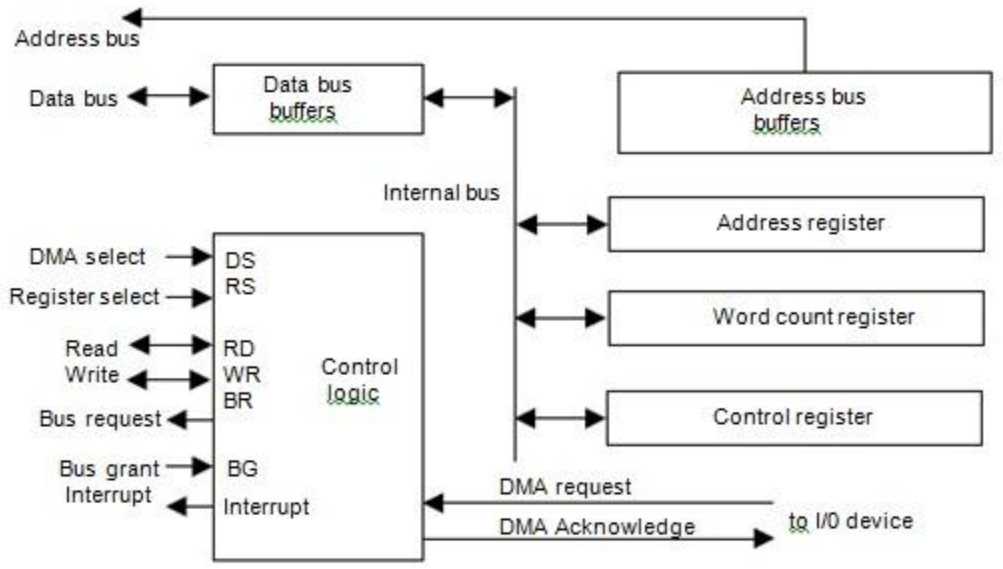
When the DMA takes control of the bus system, it communicates directly with the memory. The transfer can be made in several ways. In DMA burst transfer, a block sequence consisting of a number of memory words is transferred in a continuous burst while the DMA controller is master of the memory buses. This mode of transfer is needed for fast devices such as magnetic disks, where data transmission cannot be stopped or slowed down until an entire block is transferred. An alternative technique called cycle stealing allows the DMA controller to transfer one data word at a time after which it must return control of the buses to the CPU. The CPU merely delays its operation for one memory cycle to allow the direct memory I/O transfer to "steal" one memory cycle

DMA CONTROLLER

Figure 6.14 shows the block diagram of a typical DMA controller. The unit communicates with the CPU via the data bus and control lines. The registers in the DMA are selected by the CPU through the address bus by enabling the DS (DMA select) and RS (register select) inputs. The RD (read) and WR (write) inputs are bidirectional. When the BG (bus grant) input is 0, the CPU can communicate with the DMA registers through the data bus to read from or write to the DMA registers. When BG = 1, the CPU has relinquished the buses and the DMA can communicate directly with the memory by specifying an address in the address bus and activating the RD or WR control. ;the DMA communicates with the external peripheral through the request and acknowledge lines by using a prescribed handshaking procedure.

The DMA controller has three registers: an address register, a word count register, and a control register. The address register contains an address to specify the desired location in memory. The address bits go through bus buffers into the address bus. The address register is incremented after each word that is transferred to memory. The word count register is incremented after each word that is transferred to memory. The word count register holds the number of words to be transferred. This register is decremented by one after each word transfer and internally tested for zero. The control register specifies the mode of transfer. All registers in the DMA appear to the CPU as I/O interface registers. Thus the CPU can read from or write into the DMA registers under program control via the data bus.

Figure 6.14 Block diagram of DMA controller.

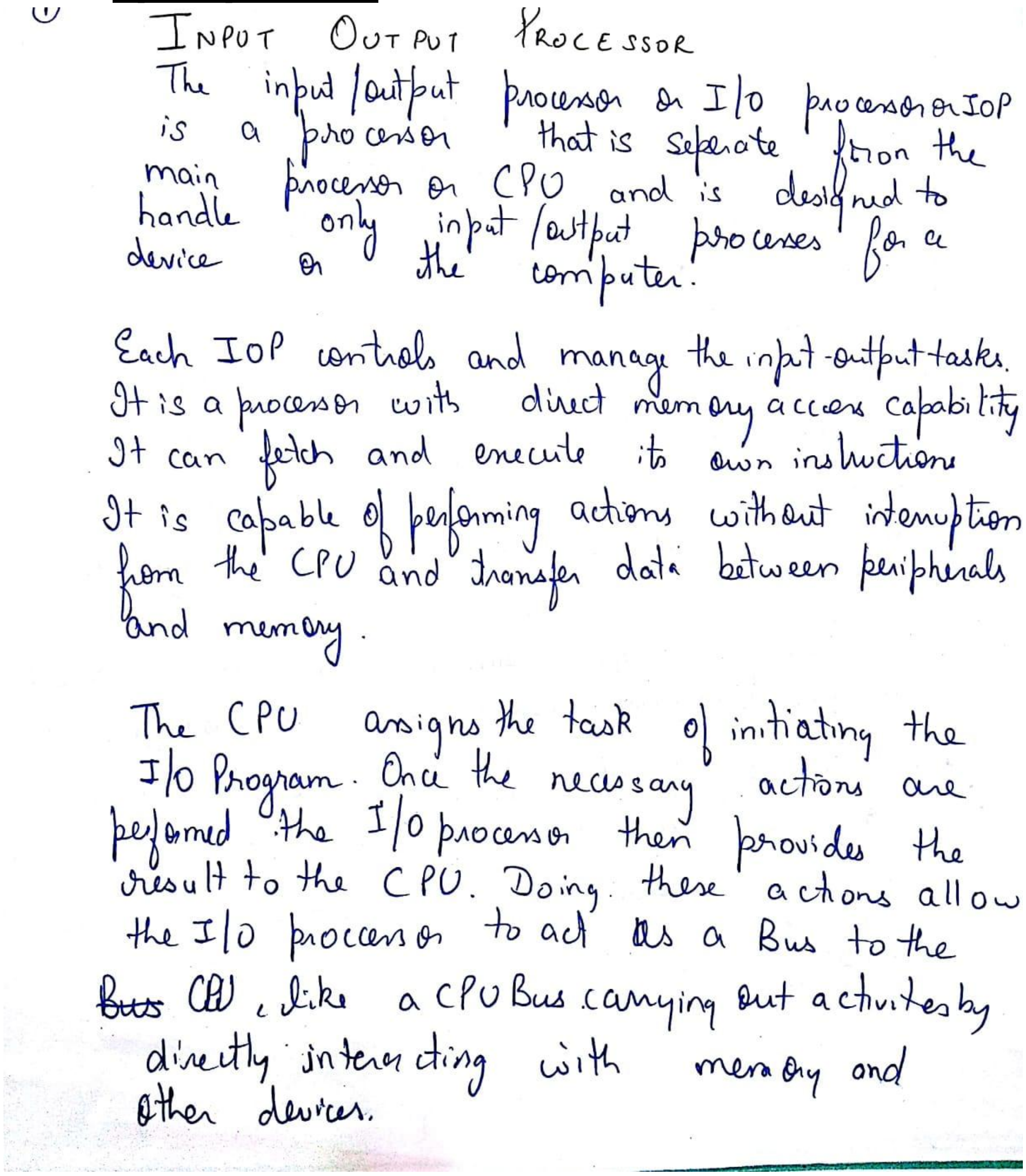


The DMA is first initialized by the CPU. After that, the DMA starts and continues to transfer data between memory and peripheral unit until an entire block is transferred. The initialization process is essentially a program consisting of I/O instructions that include the address for selecting particular DMA registers. The CPU initializes the DMA by sending the following information through the data bus:

1. The starting address of the memory block where data are available (for read) or where data are to be stored (for write)
2. The word count, which is the number of words in the memory block
3. Control to specify the mode of transfer such as read or write
4. A control to start the DMA transfer

The starting address is stored in the address register. The word count is stored in the word count register, and the control information in the control register. Once the DMA is initialized, the CPU stops communicating with the DMA unless it receives an interrupt signal or if it wants to check how many words have been transferred.

4. **Input Output Processor**



(1)

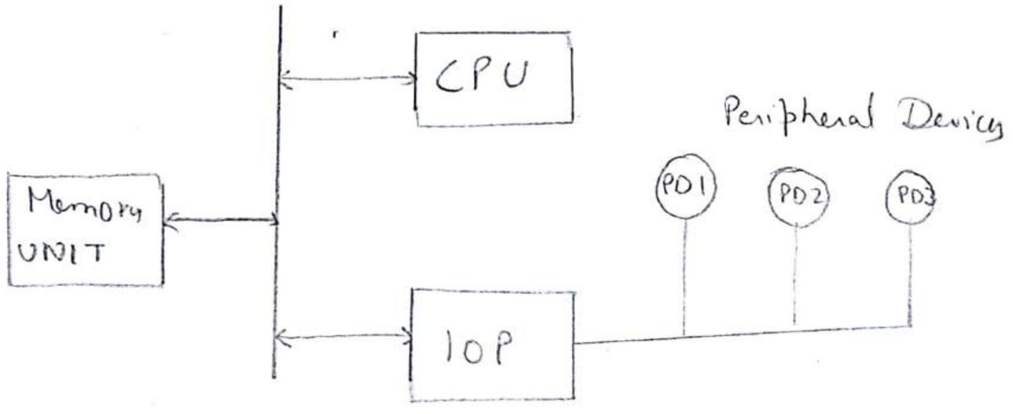
INPUT OUTPUT PROCESSOR

The input/output processor or I/O processor or IOP is a processor that is seperate from the main processor or CPU and is designed to handle only input/output processes for a device or the computer.

Each IOP controls and manage the input-output tasks. It is a processor with direct memory access capability It can fetch and execute its own instructions It is capable of performing actions without interruption from the CPU and transfer data between peripherals and memory.

The CPU assigns the task of initiating the I/O Program. Once the necessary actions are peformed the I/O processor then provides the result to the CPU. Doing these actions allow the I/O proccessor to act as a Bus to the ~~Bus~~ CPU, like a CPU Bus carrying out activites by directly interacting with memory and other devices.

(2)



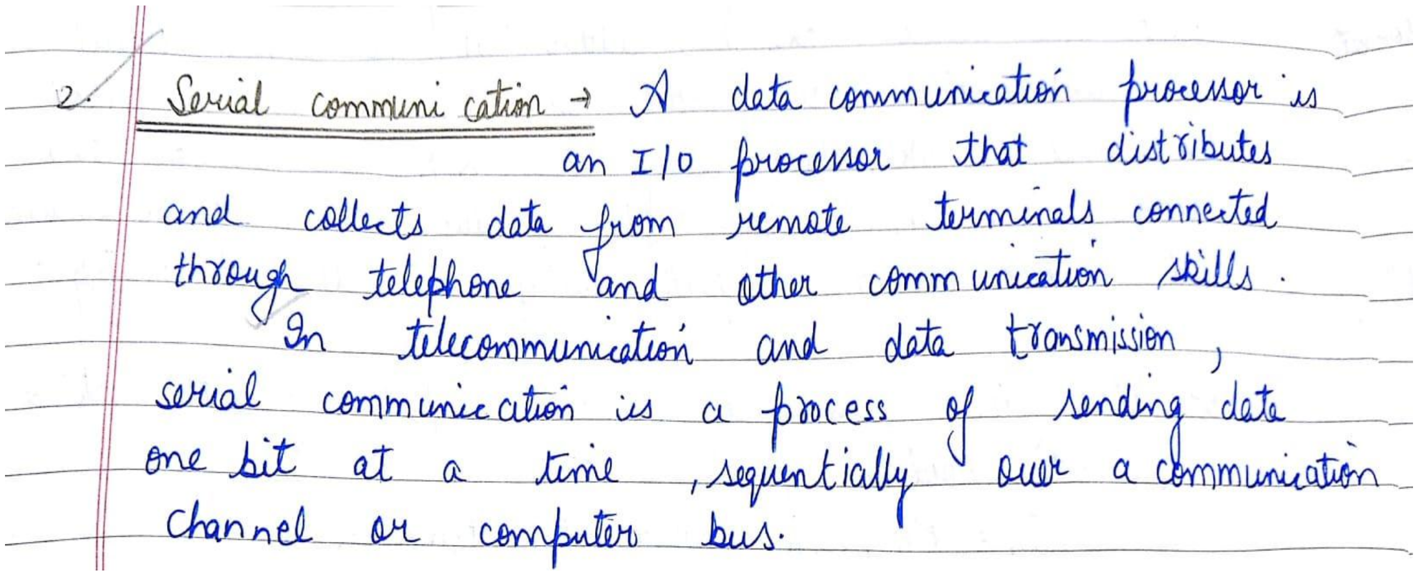
Block Diagram

Advanced I/O processor have memory built into it, allowing quick actions.

For example. Computer without an I/O Processor would require CPU to perform all the actions/activites, reducing overall performance. However a computer with an I/O Processor would allow the CPU to send some activites to I/O Processor While the I/O Processor would ~~allow the CPU to send some activites~~ perform some necessary actions CPU is free to carry out other activites making the Computer more efficient and increase its performance

Instructions read from memory by an IOP are called <u>commands</u>, distinguishing them from instructions by CPU. Commands are prepared by programmers and are stored in memory. Command words make the program for IOP. CPU informs IOP where to find the commands in memory

5. Serial Communication



2. Serial communication → A data communication processor is an I/O processor that distributes and collects data from remote terminals connected through telephone and other communication skills.
In telecommunication and data transmission, serial communication is a process of sending date one bit at a time, sequentially over a communication channel or computer bus.

Continued…..

Serial communication is used for all long-haul communica-tion and most computer networks where the cost of cable and synchronization difficulties make parallel communication impratical.

Serial computer buses are becoming more common ever at shorter distances as improved signal integrity and transmission speeds in newer serial technologies have begun to outweigh the parallel bus's advantage of simplicity

⇒ <u>Serial buses ⇒</u> Many communications systems were generally designed to connect two integrated circuits on the same printed circuit board, connected by signal traces on that board.

Integrated ciruit are more expensive when they have more no. of pin. To reduce the number of pins in package, many ICs use a serial bus to transfer data when speed is not important.

⇒ <u>Half-duplex ⇒</u> A half duplex transmission system is one that is capable of transmitting in both directions but data can be transmitted in only one direction at a time. A pair of wires are needed in this mode. The time required to switch a half-duplex line from one direction to another direction is called the turnaround time.

⇒ <u>Full-duplex ⇒</u> A full duplex line can send and receive data in both the directions simultansoly. The ~~can~~ mode can be achieved by four-wire link