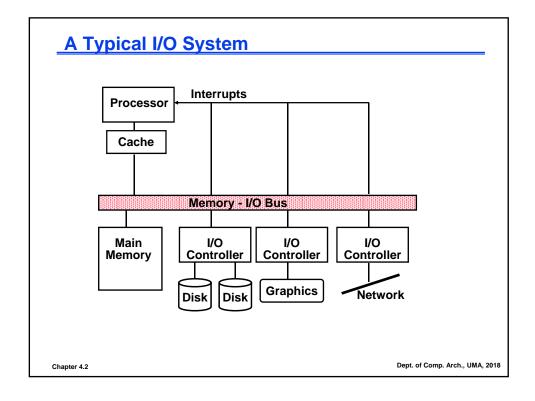
# **Chapter 4: Input/Output System**

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#### **Input and Output Devices**

- □ I/O devices are incredibly diverse with respect to
  - Behavior input, output or storage
  - Partner human or machine
  - Data rate the peak rate at which data can be transferred between the I/O device and the main memory or processor

| Device           | Behavior        | Partner | Data rate (Mb/s)        |
|------------------|-----------------|---------|-------------------------|
| Keyboard         | input           | human   | 0.0001                  |
| Mouse            | input           | human   | 0.0038                  |
| Laser printer    | output          | human   | 3.2000                  |
| Magnetic disk    | storage         | machine | 800.0000-3000.0000      |
| Graphics display | output          | human   | 800.0000-8000.0000      |
| Network/LAN      | input or output | machine | 100.0000-<br>10000.0000 |

orders of magnitude

Chapter 4.3

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#### I/O Performance Measures

- □ I/O bandwidth (throughput) amount of information that can be input (output) and communicated across an interconnect (e.g., a bus) to the processor/memory (I/O device) per unit time
  - 1. How much data can we move through the system in a certain time?
  - 2. How many I/O operations can we do per unit time?
- □ I/O response time (latency) the total elapsed time to accomplish an input or output operation
  - An especially important performance metric in real-time systems
- Expandability is there any easy way to connect another disk to the system?
- Resilience if this I/O controller (network) fails, is it going to affect the rest of the network?

Chapter 4.4

# **Input/output Ports**

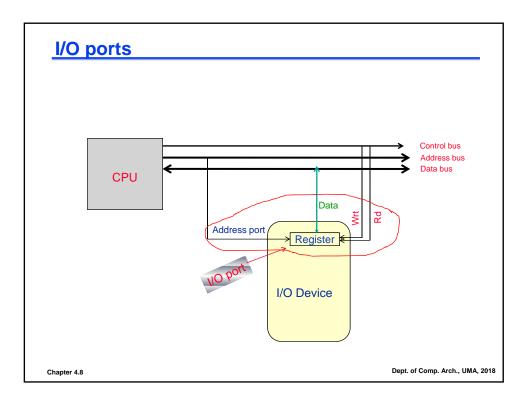
Chapter 4.6

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# I/O ports

- □ Communication between CPU and I/O devices
  - How does the processor communicate with devices other than main memory?
    - By using Input/output ports
  - I/O ports
    - Input port: transfers from external device to CPU
    - Output port: transfers from CPU to external
    - Input/Output ports: transfers in both directions

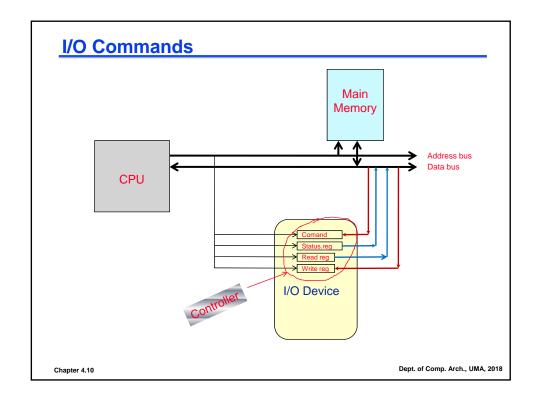
Chapter 4.7



## **I/O Commands**

- □ I/O devices are managed by I/O controller hardware
  - Transfers data to/from device
  - Synchronizes operations with software
- □ Ports in a I/O controller:
  - Command registers
    - Cause device to do something
  - Status registers
    - Indicate what the device is doing and occurrence of errors
  - Data registers
    - Write: transfer data to a device
    - Read: transfer data from a device

Chapter 4.9

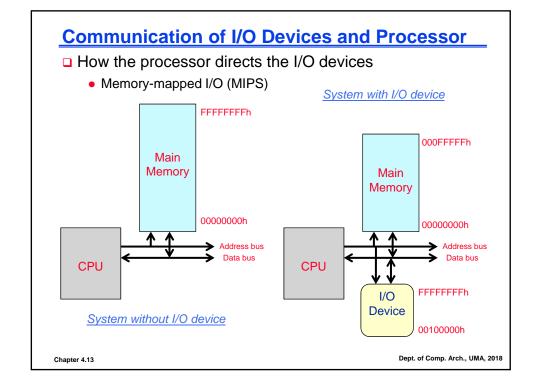


- □ User programs (processor in protected mode) are prevented from issuing I/O operations directly because the OS does not provide access to the I/O ports
- Only when processor is in kernel (supervisor) mode, then the I/O ports can be accessed
- □ How the processor directs the I/O devices: through the address space
  - Memory-mapped I/O
  - 2. Specific I/O instructions

Chapter 4.11

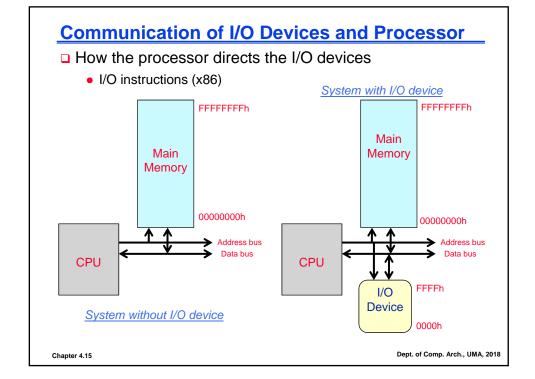
- □ How the processor directs the I/O devices
  - 1. Memory-mapped I/O
    - Portions of the high-order memory address space are assigned to each I/O device
    - Read and writes to those memory addresses are interpreted as commands to the I/O devices
    - Load/stores to the I/O address space can only be done by the OS
    - MIPS processor:
      - Load instruction to read from I/O device
        - » i.e. lw \$4, 100(\$5)
      - Store instruction to write to I/O device
        - » i.e. sw \$4, 100(\$5)

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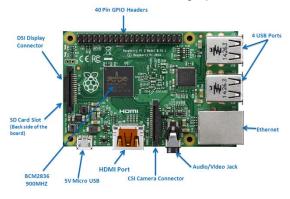
- □ How the processor directs the I/O devices
  - 2. I/O instructions
    - Separate instructions to access I/O registers
    - Can only be executed in kernel mode
    - Example: x86:
      - Control signal:  $\overline{IO}/M$  (1= memory, 0 = IO)
      - Specific Input instruction to read from I/O device
        - » i.e. in al, 37h
          - »  $P(37) \rightarrow AL$  register
      - Specific Output instruction to write to I/O device
        - » i.e. out 37h, al
          - » AL register  $\rightarrow$  P(37)

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## Raspberry Pi

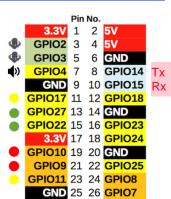
- Raspberrypi 2 B: a 900MHz quad-core ARM Cortex-A7 CPU 1GB RAM
- □ Like the (Pi 1) Model B+, it also has: 100 Base Ethernet, 4 USB ports, 40 GPIO pins, full HDMI port, combined 3.5mm audio jack and composite video, camera interface (CSI), display interface (DSI), micro SD card slot, videoCore IV 3D graphics core.



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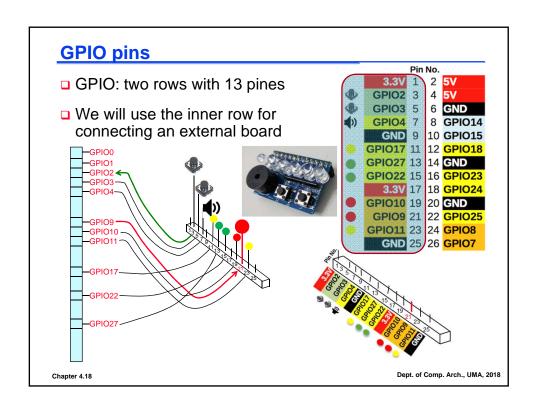
## Raspberry Pi: GPIO port

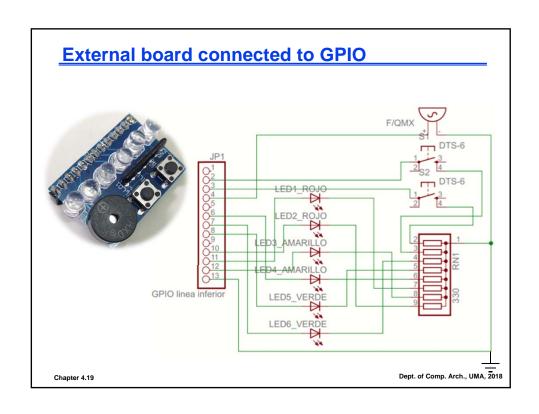




- □ Raspberry Pi manages up to 54 pins
- Only the showed ones are accessible
- □ GPIO ports are mapped in memory, starting at 0x3F200000

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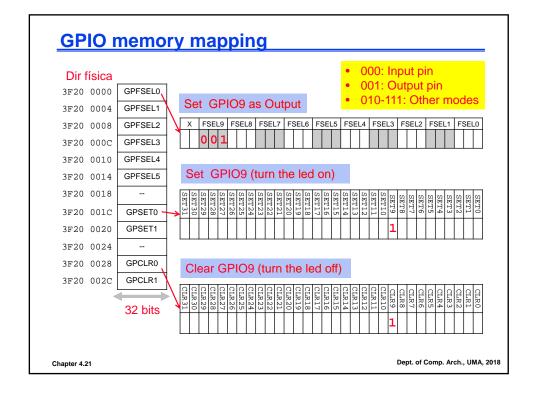


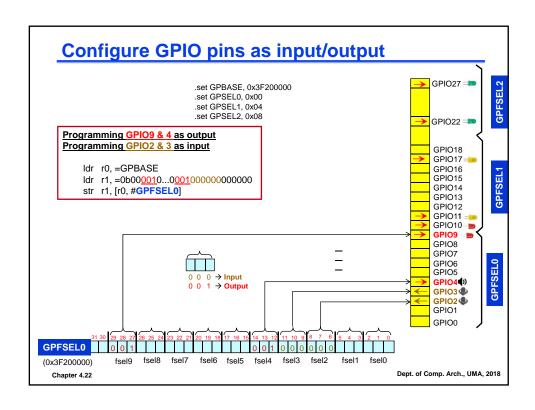
#### **GPIO** memory mapping

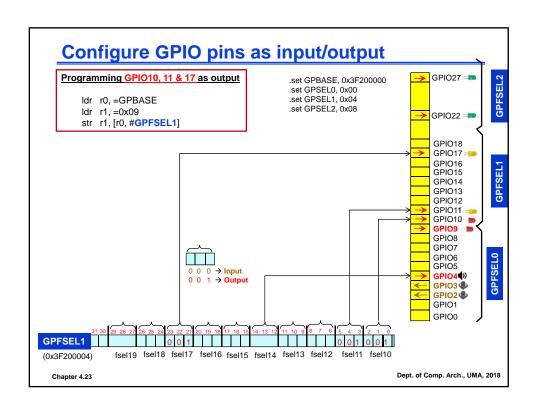
#### GPIO ports

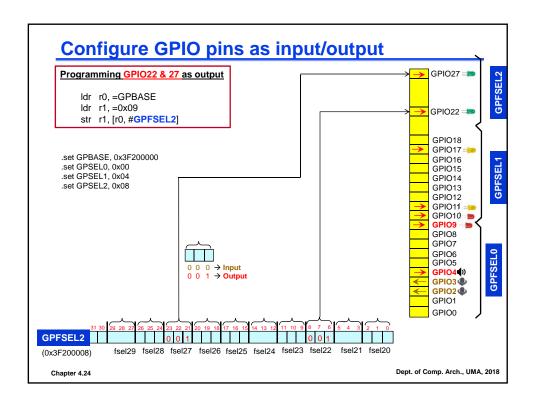
- GPFSELn: GPIO Function Select Registers
  - The 54 pins are configured through 6 memory ports, GPSEL0 to GPSEL5
  - Each port defines 10 groups named FSELx, FSEL0 to FSEL9
  - A group consists of 3 bits
  - GPFSEL0 controls GPIO0 to GPIO9, GPFSEL1 controls GPIO10 to GPIO19, ...
- GPSETn: GPIO Pin Output Set Registers
  - GPSET0 sets pins 0 to 31, and GPSET1 sets pins 32 to 53
- GPCLRn: GPIO Pin Output Clear Registers
  - GPCLR0 clears pins 0 to 31, and GPCLR1 clears pins 32 to 53
- A SET or CLR operation in any pin just needs 1 in the corresponding position and only affects that pin (0 means that the pin is not modified)

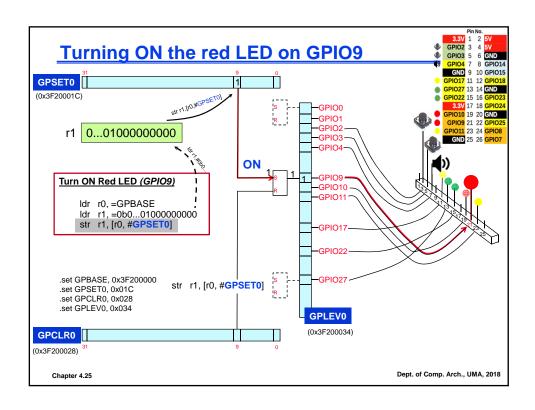
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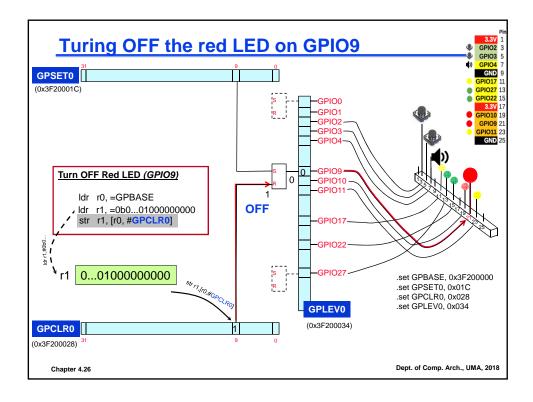




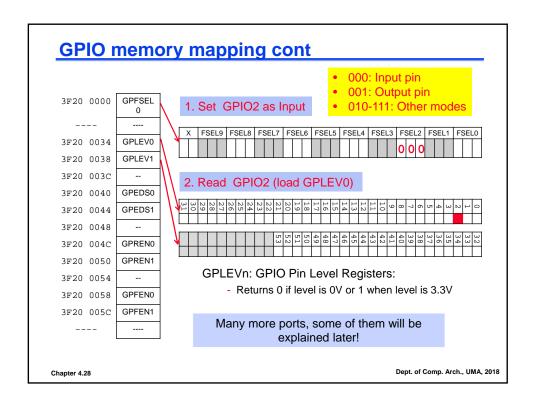








#### **Example 1** Code for turning on a red LED (GPIO9): GPBASE, 0x3F200000 .set GPFSEL0, 0x00 .set .set GPSETO, 0x1c .text ldr r0, =GPBASE /\* guia bits xx999888777666555444333222111000\*/ str r1, [r0, #GPFSEL0] @ Configura GPIO 9 10987654321098765432109876543210\*/ r1, [r0, #GPSET0] @ Enciende GPIO 9 infi infi: b Dept. of Comp. Arch., UMA, 2018 Chapter 4.27



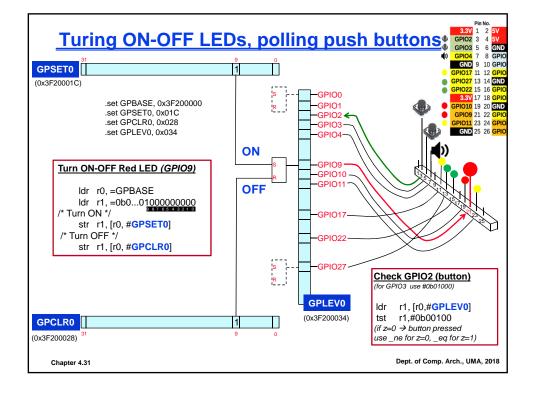
- □ How I/O devices communicate with the processor
  - Polling the processor periodically checks the status of an I/O device (through the OS) to determine its need for service
    - Processor is totally in control but does all the work
    - In real-time embedded applications:
      - I/O rates are predetermined and it makes I/O overhead predictable (helpful for real time)
    - Can waste a lot of processor time due to speed differences
  - Interrupt-driven I/O the I/O device issues an interrupt to indicate that it needs attention
    - Advantages of using interrupts
      - Relieves the processor from having to continuously poll for an I/O event; user program progress is only suspended during the actual transfer of I/O data to/from user memory space
    - Disadvantage special hardware is needed to
      - Indicate the I/O device causing the interrupt and to save the necessary information prior to servicing the interrupt and to resume normal processing after servicing the interrupt

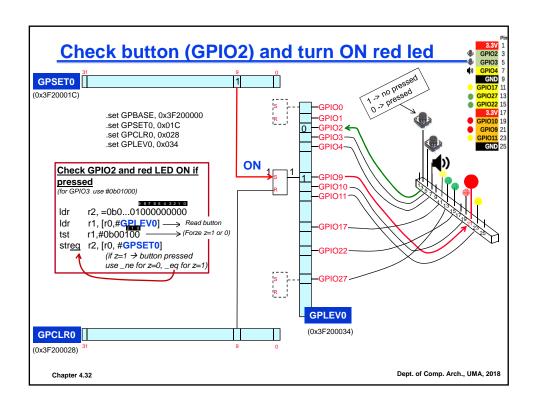
Chapter 4.29

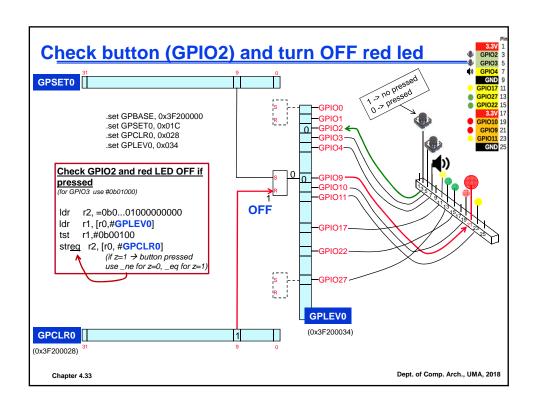
#### **Polling**

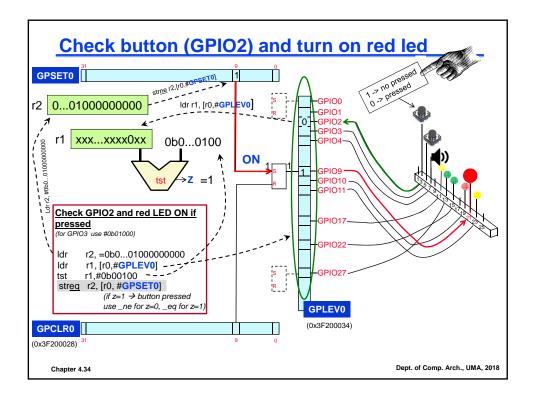
- □ Periodically check I/O status register
  - If device ready, do operation
  - If error, take action
- Common in small or low-performance real-time embedded systems
  - Predictable timing
  - Low hardware cost
- □ In other systems, wastes CPU time

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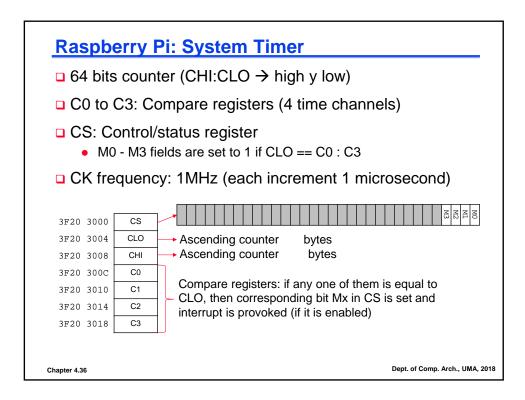


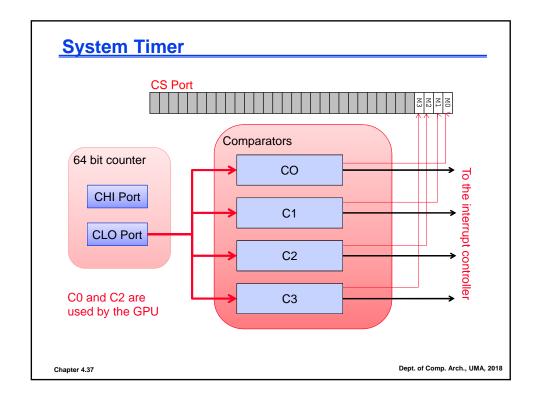


#### **Example 2**

Code for checking push button (GPIO2) and turning led on:

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# **Example 3: red LED blinking**

- We must:
  - Configure GPIO9
  - 2. Turn the led on
  - 3. Wait some time
  - 4. Turn the led off
  - 5. Wait some time
  - 6. Repeat steps 2-5 forever
- We need:
  - A routine that "waits"

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# **Example 3: red LED blinking**

```
.set GPBASE, 0x3F200000
.set GPFSEL0, 0x00
.set GPSET0, 0x1c
.set GPCLR0, 0x28
.set STBASE, 0x3F003000
.set STCLO, 0x04

GPIO9 configuration, and turning LED on and off

Timer read
```

Our "waiting" routine will:

- 1. Read waiting time (input parameter)
- 2. Repeat

Read current timer value while it is lower than waiting time

Chapter 4.39

#### **Example 3: red LED blinking**

```
.set GPEASE, 0x3F200000
.set GPFSELO, 0x00
.set GPSETO, 0x1c
.set GPCIRO, 0x28
.set SIBASE, 0x3F003000
set SICIO, 0x04
```

#### Routine implementation:

- · We can use registers r0 and r1 as input parameters
  - r0 contains the timer port address
  - · r1 contains the waiting time
- · We must preserve registers modified inside our routine
  - · r4 contains the ending time
  - r5 loads current timer value

```
@ Save r4 and r5 in the stack
espera: push {r4, r5}
       ldr r4, [r0, #STCLO]
                                  @ Load CLO timer
                                  @ Add waiting time -> this is our ending
       add r4, r1
time
ret1:
       ldr r5, [r0, #STCLO]
                                  @ Enter waiting loop: load current CLO
timer
        cmp r5, r4
                                  @ Compare current time with ending time
       blo ret1
                                  @ If lower, go back to read timer again
       pop {r4, r5}
                                  @ Restore r4 and r5
                                  @ Return from routine
```

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# **Example 3: red LED blinking**

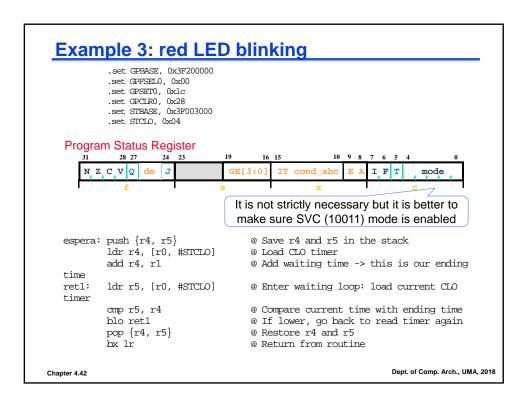
```
.set GPEASE, 0x3F200000
.set GPFSELO, 0x00
.set GPSETO, 0x1c
.set GPCLRO, 0x28
.set STEASE, 0x3F003000
.set STCLO, 0x04
```

#### Our main program must:

- · Init the stack
- Configure GPIO9
- Init timer access (r0) and waiting time (r1) parameters
- · Turn the led on and off, and call "waiting" routine between them

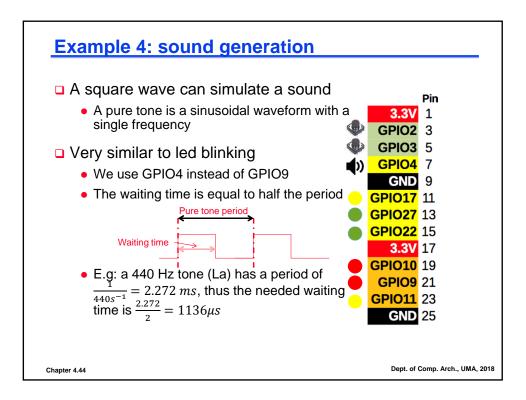
```
espera: push {r4, r5}
                                  @ Save r4 and r5 in the stack
       ldr r4, [r0, #STCLO]
                                  @ Load CLO timer
       add r4, r1
                                  @ Add waiting time -> this is our ending
time
       ldr r5, [r0, #STCLO]
                                  @ Enter waiting loop: load current CLO
ret1:
timer
        cmp r5, r4
                                  @ Compare current time with ending time
       blo ret1
                                  @ If lower, go back to read timer again
       pop {r4, r5}
                                  @ Restore r4 and r5
       bx lr
                                  @ Return from routine
```

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## **Example 3: red LED blinking**

```
.set GPBASE, 0x3F200000
            .set GPFSELO, 0x00
            .set GPSETO, Oxlc
            .set GPCLRO, 0x28
            .set STBASE, 0x3F003000
            .set STCLO, 0x04
            mov r0, #0b11010011
           msr cpsr_c, r0
                               @ SVC mode enabled
           mov sp, #0x08000000 @ Init stack in SVC mode
            ldr r4, =GPBASE
           @ Configure GPI09
            @ r0 is an input parameter (ST base address)
            ldr r0, =STBASE
           ldr r1, =500000
                               @ rl is an input parameter (waiting time in microseconds)
   bucle:
           bl espera
                               @ Call waiting routine
           str r5, [r4, #GPSET0]
                                        @ Turn LED on
                               @ Call waiting routine
           bl espera
            str r5, [r4, #GPCLR0]
                                        @ Turn LED off
           b bucle
           push {r4, r5}
                               @ Save r4 and r5 in the stack
   espera:
            ldr r4, [r0, #STCLO] @ Load CLO timer
                              @ Add waiting time -> this is our ending time
           add r4, r1
            ldr r5, [r0, #STCLO] @ Enter waiting loop: load current CLO timer
   ret1:
            cmp r5, r4
                               @ Compare current time with ending time
                               @ If lower, go back to read timer again
@ Restore r4 and r5
           blo ret1
           pop {r4, r5}
                               @ Return from routine
                                                                     Dept. of Comp. Arch., UMA, 2018
Chapter 4.43
```



# Example 4: sound generation .set GPRASE, 0x3F200000

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```
.set GPFSELO, 0x00
          .set GPSETO, 0x1c
          .set GPCLRO, 0x28
          .set STBASE, 0x3F003000
.set STCLO, 0x04
.text
         mov r0, #0b11010011
         msr cpsr_c, r0
         mov sp, #0x08000000
                                  @ Init stack in SVC mode
          ldr r4, =GPBASE
         str r5, [r4, #GPFSEL0] @ Configure GPIO4
         ldr r0, =STBASE
ldr r1, =1136
                                 @ r0 is an input parameter (ST base address)
                                  \ensuremath{\text{@}} r1 is an input parameter (waiting time in microseconds)
bucle:
                                  @ Call waiting routine
         bl espera
          str r5, [r4, #GPSET0] @ Turn LED on
         bl espera
                                  @ Call waiting routine
          str r5, [r4, #GPCLR0] @ Turn LED off
         b bucle
espera:
         push {r4, r5}
                                  @ Save r4 and r5 in the stack
          ldr r4, [r0, #STCLO] @ Load CLO timer
                                  @ Add waiting time -> this is our ending time
          add r4, r1
ret1:
          ldr r5, [r0, #STCLO]
                                 @ Enter waiting loop: load current CLO timer
                                 @ Compare current time with ending time
@ If lower, go back to read timer again
@ Restore r4 and r5
          cmp r5, r4
         blo ret1
         pop {r4, r5}
          bx lr
                                  @ Return from routine
```

# **Exceptions**

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## **Exceptions**

- "Unexpected" events requiring change in flow of instructions execution
  - Branch and Jumps are excluded (they are "expected changes)
- Two possible sources of exceptions
  - Internal exceptions
    - e.g., undefined opcode, overflow, syscall, ...
  - External exceptions → INTERRUPTS
    - From an external device (no memory)
- Dealing with them without sacrificing performance is hard

Chapter 4.47

## **Dealing with Exceptions**

- Different ISAs use the terms differently
  - Traps, exceptions, interrupts ...
    - i.e.: intel x86: exceptions and interrupt
- Convention:
  - Exception: any event (other than branches and jumps) that *changes the normal flow* of instructions
    - If it is an external event the exception is called Interrupt

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## **Dealing with Exceptions**

- Exceptions are just another form of control hazard.
   Exceptions (Interrupts) arise from
  - Arithmetic overflow (internal, exc.)
  - Trying to execute an undefined instruction (internal, exc.)
  - An OS service request (e.g., a page fault) (internal, exc.)
  - A hardware malfunction (internal or external)
  - An I/O device request (external, int)
- Invoke the OS from the user program (internal, software int. or system call)
- The software (OS) /HW looks at the cause of the exception and "deals" with it

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## **Two Types of Exceptions**

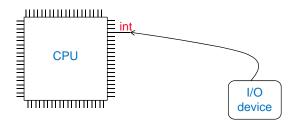
- Internal exception synchronous to program execution
  - caused by internal events
  - condition must be remedied by the trap handler:
    - stop the offending instruction midstream in the pipeline
    - pass control to the OS trap handler
  - the offending instruction may be retried (or simulated by the OS) and the program may continue or it may be aborted

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## **Two Types of Exceptions**

- External exceptions -> <u>Interrupts</u> asynchronous to program execution
  - caused by external events
  - may be handled between instructions:
    - let the prior instructions currently active in the pipeline complete
    - pass control to the OS interrupt handler
  - simply suspend and resume user program



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#### **Interrupt Driven I/O**

- □ An I/O interrupt is asynchronous wrt instruction execution
  - Is not associated with any instruction so doesn't prevent any instruction from completing
    - You can pick your own convenient point to handle the interrupt
    - Control unit needs only check for a pending I/O interrupt at the time it starts a new instruction
- With I/O interrupts
  - Need a way to identify the device generating the interrupt
    - Vectored interrupts: the device can send a vector (id.) to the processor, which uses it to address the table of the interrupt vectors, from where it gets the address of the handle.
    - Non vectored interrupts: the device places a status field in the Cause register, jumps to a handler at a fixed direction.
    - Auto-vectored interrupts: each exception has vector associated to it.
    - When the handle gets control, it knows the identity of the device and can immediately start the I/O operation
  - Can have different urgencies (so need a way to prioritize them)
    - I/O interrupts have lower priority than internal exceptions
    - UNIX OS uses four to six levels
    - Interrupt priority levels (IPLs) assigned by the OS to each process can be raised and lowered via changes to the Status's Interrupt mask field
      - · Lowest ILP: all interrupts are permitted
      - · Highest ILP: all interrupts are blocked

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#### **Exceptions in ARM**

- ARM's exception system is auto-vectorized
  - There are 8 exception types, NI=0:7
  - Each NI has an exception vector associated to it
    - The exception vector is a jump to a handler
    - NI\*4 is the offset to the exception vectors table

| Exception           | Туре         | Offset | Mode          |
|---------------------|--------------|--------|---------------|
| Reset               | Interruption | 0x00   | SVC           |
| Undefined Instruct. | Exception    | 0x04   | Undefine<br>d |
| SW interrupt        | SW Interrup. | 80x0   | SVC           |
| Prefetch abort      | Exception    | 0x0C   | Abort         |
| Data abort          | Exception    | 0x10   | Abort         |
| Reserved            | -            | 0x14   | -             |
| IRQ                 | Interruption | 0x18   | IRQ           |
| FIQ                 | Interruption | 0x1C   | FIQ           |

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# **Exceptions in ARM**

- □ Type of exceptions:
  - Reset: pins in P6 fire a bootload
  - Undefined instruction: op. code not valid
  - Software interruptions: system calls
  - Prefecth abort /data abort: memory misalignment, access privilege errors
  - IRQ: interruptions due to external devices
  - FIQ: fast interruptions

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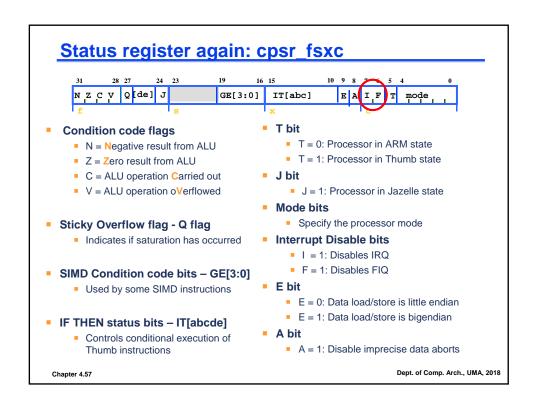
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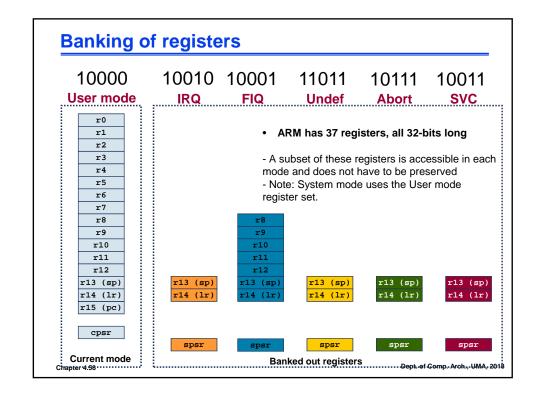
# **Exception priorities**

■ When multiple exceptions arise at the same time, a fixed priority system determines the order that they are handled:

| Priority |   | Exception                                   |  |
|----------|---|---|--|
| Higuest  | 1 | Reset                                       |  |
|          | 2 | Precise Data Abort                          |  |
|          | 3 | FIQ   |  |
|          | 4 | IRQ   |  |
|          | 5 | Prefetch Abort                              |  |
|          | 6 | Imprecise Data Abort                        |  |
| Lowest   | 7 | BKPT<br>Undefined Instruction<br>SVC<br>SMC |  |

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## **Handling exceptions**

- When an exception occurs, the core...
  - Copies CPSR into SPSR\_<mode>
  - Sets appropriate CPSR bits
    - Change to ARM state
    - Change to exception mode
    - Disable interrupts (if appropriate)
  - Stores the return address in LR\_<mode>
  - Sets PC to vector address
- To return, exception handler needs to...
  - Restore CPSR from SPSR\_<mode>
  - Restore PC from LR\_<mode>

IRQ B irq\_handler **Data Abort** 0x0C **Prefetch Abort** Supervisor Call **Undefined Instruction** 

0x1C

0x18

0x14

0x10

0x08

0x04

0x00

**Vector Table** 

Vector table can also be at 0xFFFF0000 on most cores

This can only be done in ARM state.

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## **Handling exceptions**

# Main Application dir inst Exception Χ i handler X+4 i+1 X+8

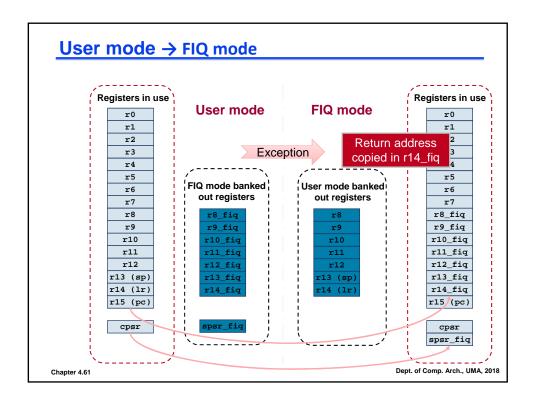
- 1. Save processor status
  - Stores PC in LR\_<mode>
    - Adjusts LR based on exception type
    - Stores X+8 → LR\_<mode>
  - Copies CPSR into SPSR\_<mode>

#### 2. Change processor status for exception

- Forces the CPSR mode bits to a value (depends on the exception)
- Sets PC to vector address
- 3. Execute exception handler
  - <user code>
- 4. Return to main application
  - Restore CPSR from SPSR\_<mode>
  - Restore PC: PC ← LR\_<mode> -4
- 1 and 2 performed automatically by the core
- 3 and 4 responsibility of software

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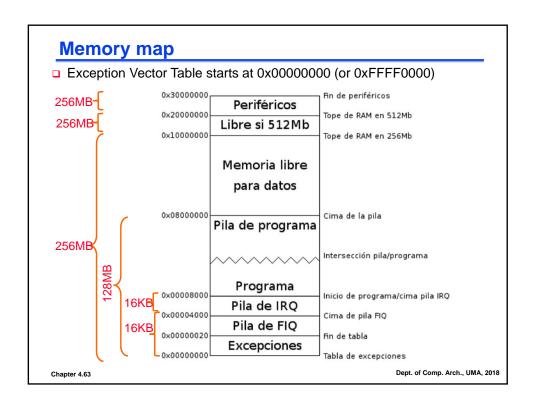
## **Exception handler**

- Basic structure of a exception handler
  - Interruption: the return is done by Ir-4
  - Internal exception (as data abort): the return is done by Ir-8
  - User must manage A, I and F flags to disable/enable nesting of new exceptions and interruptions.
    - Initially the interruptions are disabled (I=F=1).

#### irq\_handler:

- Push registers to be used
- Source of interruption?
- 3 Perform handler work depending on 2
- Clear event (notify to device IRQ/FIQ has been served)
- 6 Pop registers
- 6 Return from handler: subs pc, 1r, #4

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# Main program: steps to set up the Interruptions

- 1 Initialize Vector Table (IRQ/FIQ) in the Vector Table
- Init the stack/s for FIQ/IRQ modes

```
sp_ifq <- 0x00004000
sp_irq <- 0x00008000</pre>
```

3 Init the stack for SVC mode (SVC mode selected)

```
sp_svc <- 0x08000000
```

- 4 Configure GPIOs (I&O)
- 6 Configure peripheral interruption: timer/push-buttons
- 6 Local enabling of configured interrupts
- Global enabling of interrupts (SVC mode)
- 8 ... (main program tasks)

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#### Initialize Vector Table

■ To write in the Vector Table we can use a macro, ADDEXC, that computes the offset of the exception handler and writes the Vector in the Vector Table.

mov r0, #0 @Vector table base = 0
ADDEXC 0x18, irq\_handler

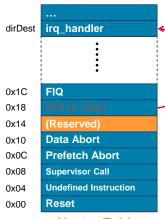
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#### macro ADDEXC offset, dirDest

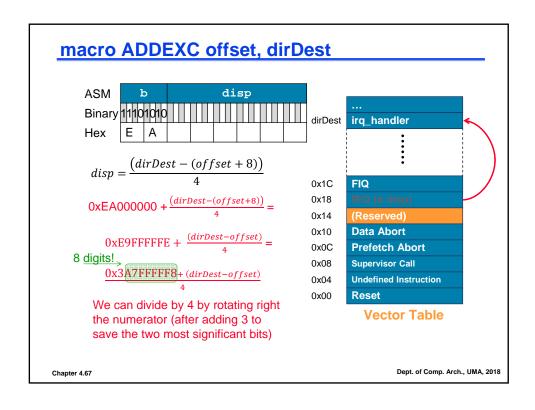
- □ The IRQ handler is located at dirDest
- Vector table stores a branch instruction to the IRQ handler, b disp, located at offset (0x18)
- disp is the number of bytes between dirDest and offset, divided by 4
- □ While executing b disp, pc is incremented twice (pc = 0x18+8)
- □ Thus, disp must store

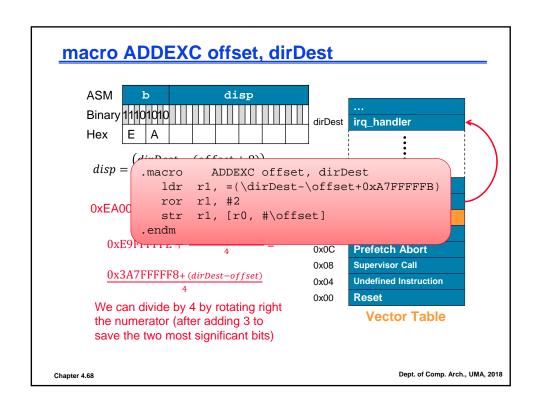
$$disp = \frac{\left(dirDest - (offset + 8)\right)}{4}$$



**Vector Table** 

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#### **28** Initialize the stack

- □ Each mode has its stack pointer (sp)
  - Change the mode (via cpsr\_c)
  - Instructions msr (sr <- reg) and mrs (reg <-sr).
  - Initialize the corresponding sp register
- Initial state in BareMetal is SVC
  - sp\_fiq=0x4000, sp\_irq=0x8000, sp\_svc=0x08000000:

```
r0, #0 @ Pointer to vector table
ADDEXC 0x18, irq_handler
ADDEXC 0x1c, fiq_handler
      r0, #0b11010001 @ FIQ mode, FIQ and IRQ disabled
mov
msr
      cpsr_c, r0
      sp, #0x4000
mov
      r0, #0bl1010010 @ IRQ mode, FIQ and IRQ disabled
mov
      sp, #0x8000
      r0, #0bl1010011 @ SVC mode, FIQ and IRQ disabled
mov
      cpsr c, r0
msr
      sp, #0x08000000
mov
```

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# **6** Configure peripheral interruption

□ GPIO interruption (push-buttons): use GPRENn, GPFENn, GPHENn, GPLENn, GPARENn y GPAFENn

System Timer: write the final count (microseconds) in STC1/STC3

```
Oconfigure timer IRQ

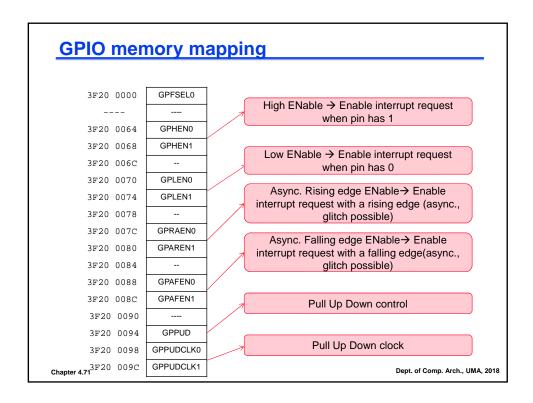
Idr r0, =STBASE

Idr r1, [r0, #STCLO]

add r1, #y @y microseconds

str r1, [r0, #STC1]
```

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# Source of interruption?

- In case of interruption, the handler must identify the source reading the IRQ pending ports
  - GPIO interruption detection: use GPEDSn.

 System Timer interrupt detection: STCS notifies interruption due to C0: C3 counters

```
© Source of timer interruption?:

Idr r0, =STBASE

Idr r2, [r0, #STCS]

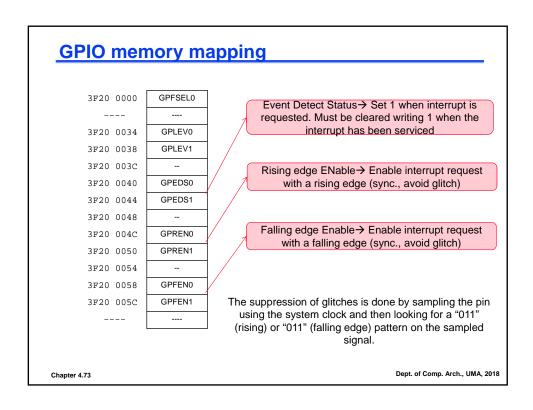
ands r2, #0b0010 @C1?

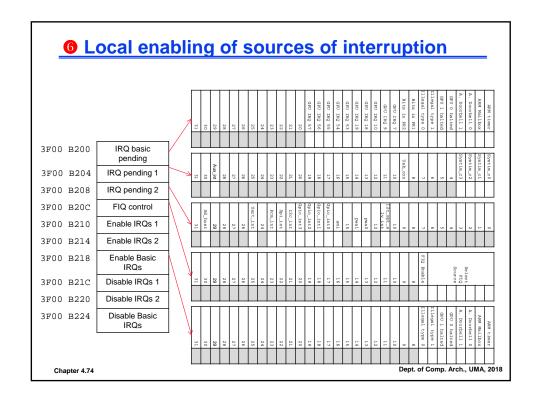
...

Idr r2, [r0, #STCS]

ands r2, #0b1000 @C3?
```

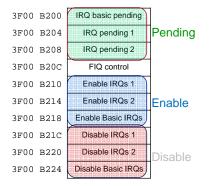
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□ Three groups: pending, enable and disable

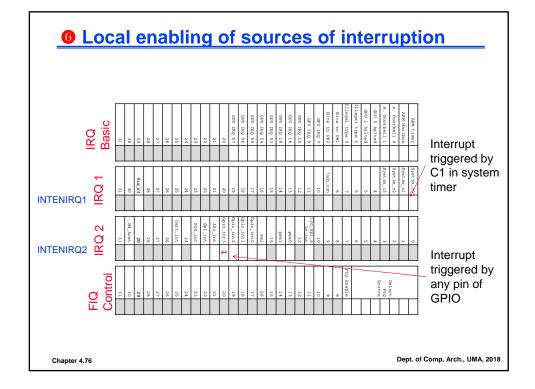


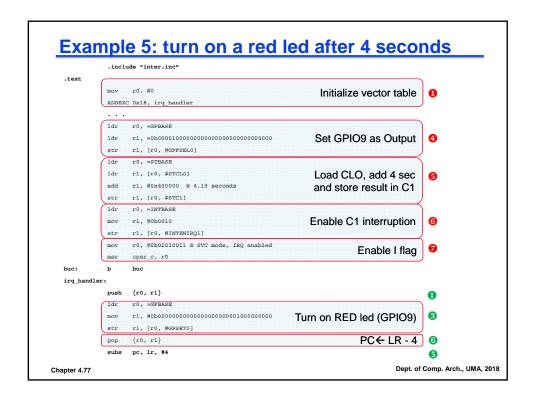
In each group:

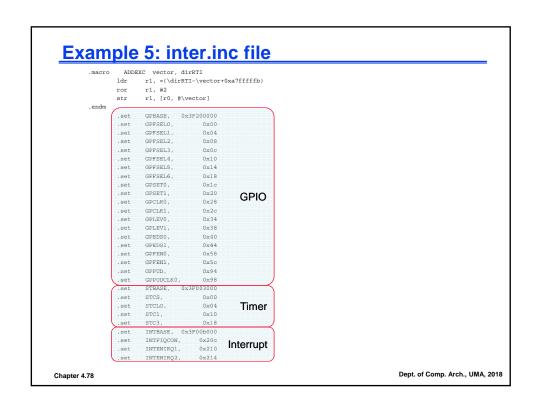
- · IRQ basic: summary
- IRQs 1 and 2: in detail

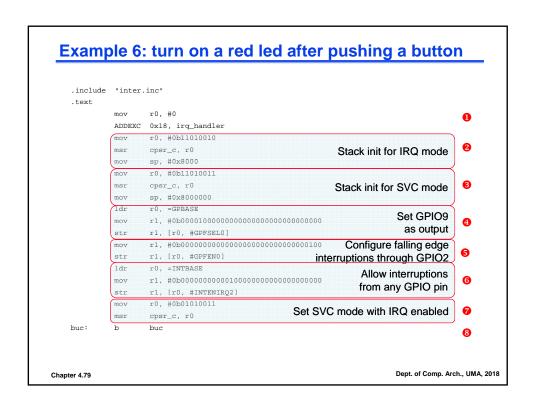
There is also one port for FIQ control

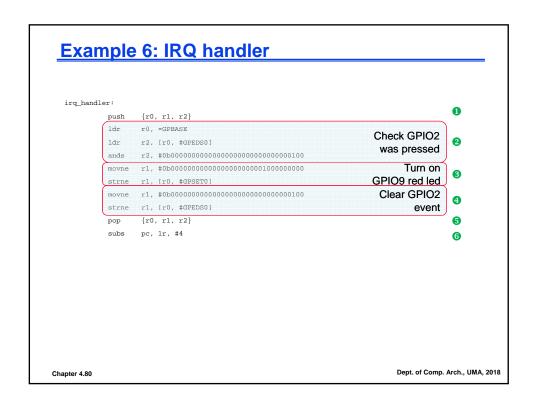
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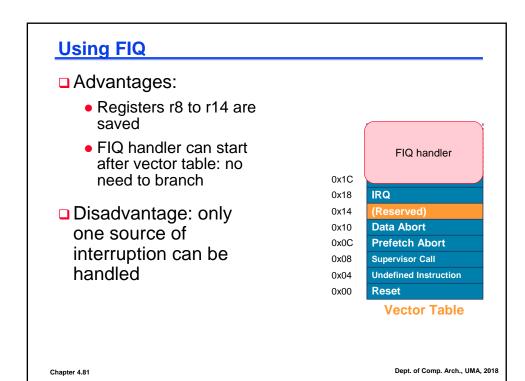


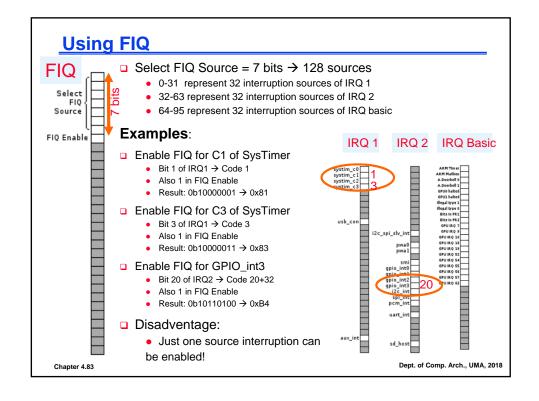










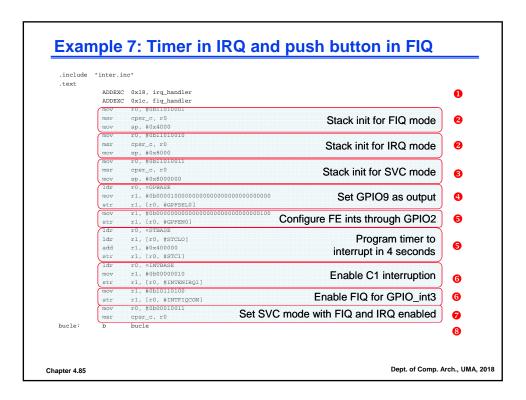


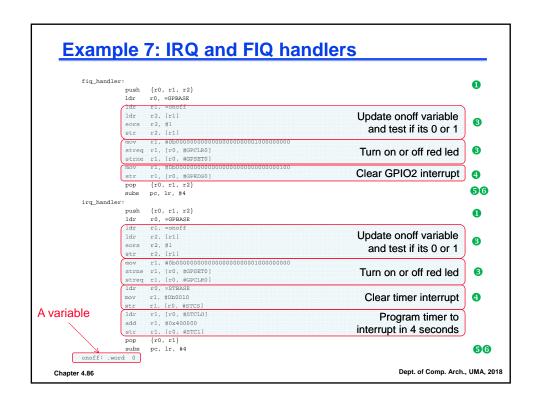
## **Example 7: Putting it all together**

- □ Turn on and off the red led at GPIO9 every 4 seconds or when the push button at GPIO2 is pressed.
- Use IRQ to handle the timer and FIQ to handle the push button.
- Use a variable in memory to control the led state (on or off)

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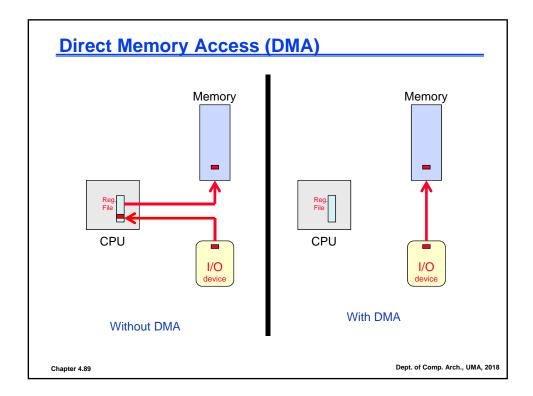
# Direct Memory Access (DMA)

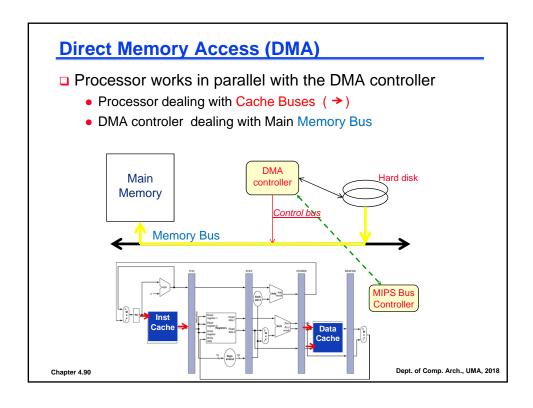
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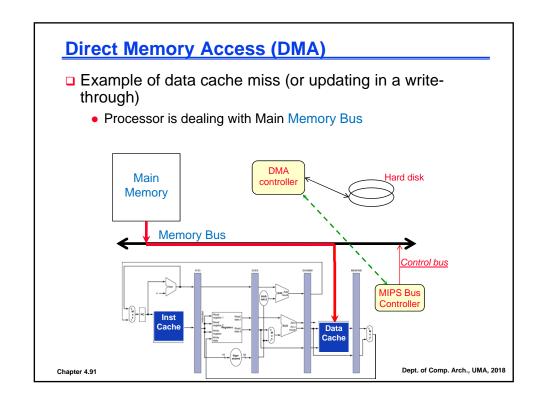
#### **Direct Memory Access (DMA)**

- □ For high-bandwidth devices (like disks) polling or interrupt-driven I/O would consume a *lot* of processor cycles
- With DMA, the DMA controller has the ability to transfer large blocks of data directly to/from the memory without involving the processor
  - The processor initiates the DMA transfer by supplying the I/O device address (identity), the operation to be performed, the memory address destination/source, the number of bytes to transfer
  - 2. The DMA controller manages the entire transfer (possibly thousand of bytes in length), arbitrating for the bus
  - When the DMA transfer is complete (or in case of error), the DMA controller interrupts the processor to let it know that the transfer is complete
- □ There may be multiple DMA devices in one system
  - E.g.: systems with a single memory bus and multiple I/O buses, each I/O bus controller will often contain a DMA
  - Processor and DMA controllers contend for bus cycles and for memory
    - The processor can be delayed when the memory is busy doing a DMA transfer

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#### The DMA Stale Data or Coherence Problem

- In systems with caches, there can be two copies of a data item, one in the cache and one in the main memory
  - For a DMA input (from disk to memory) the processor will be using stale data if that location is also in the cache
  - For a DMA output (from memory to disk) and a write-back cache – the I/O device will receive stale data if the data is in the cache and has not yet been written back to the memory
- The coherency problem can be solved by
  - Routing all I/O activity through the cache expensive and a large negative performance impact
  - Having the OS invalidate all the entries in the cache for an I/O input or force write-backs for an I/O output (called a cache flush)
  - 3. Providing hardware to *selectively* invalidate cache entries i.e., need a snooping cache controller

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#### **DMA and Virtual Memory Considerations**

- Should the DMA work with virtual addresses or physical addresses?
- If working with physical addresses
  - Must constrain all of the DMA transfers to stay within one page because if it crosses a page boundary, then it won't necessarily be contiguous in memory
  - If the transfer won't fit in a single page, it can be broken into a series of transfers (each of which fit in a page) which are handled individually and chained together
- If working with virtual addresses
  - The DMA controller will have to translate the virtual address to a physical address (i.e., will need a TLB structure)
- Whichever is used, the OS must cooperate by not remapping pages while a DMA transfer involving that page is in progress

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#### More intelligent controllers: I/O processors

- □ To further reduce the need to interrupt the processor the I/O controller can be made more intelligent: I/O processors (I/O controllers or channel controllers)
  - they execute a series of I/O operations (I/O program is stored in the I/O processor or in memory and fetched by the I/O processor) and interrupts the processor only when the entire program is completed.
  - The I/O program is setted up by the OS: I/O operations to be done, the size and transfer address for any reads or writes
- DMA processors are essentially special-purpose processors (single-chip and nonprogrammable), while I/O processors are often implemented with generalpurpose microprocessors, which run a specialized I/O program

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#### Interfacing I/O Devices to the Processor, Memory, and OS

- □ The operating system acts as the interface between the I/O hardware and the program requesting I/O
  - It provides equitable access to the shared I/O resources, protects those I/O devices/activities to which a user program doesn't have access, and schedules I/O requests to enhance system throughput
  - It handles interrupts generated by I/O devices
  - It supplies routines for low-level I/O device operations
    - OS must be able to give commands to the I/O devices
    - I/O device must be able to notify the OS about its status
    - Must be able to transfer data between the memory and the I/O device
- Software that communicates with an I/O device is called a device driver, and requires detailed knowledge about the I/O device hardware (ports list and its behavior)

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