

HD44780 LCD Linux Character Device Driver

Embedded Systems

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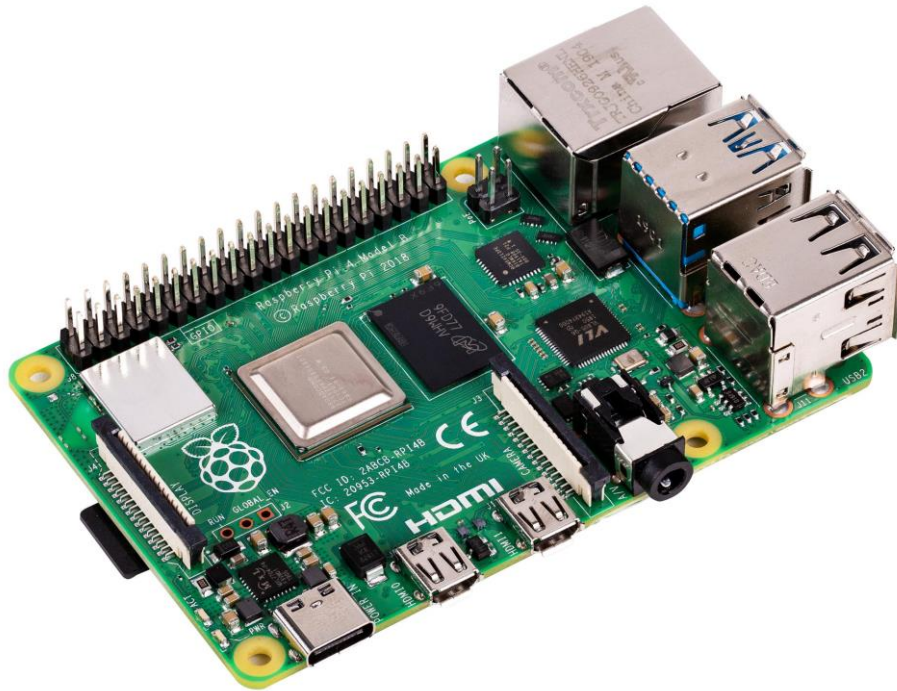
Group 18

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Outline

1. Introduction
2. Specification
3. Background
4. Implementation
5. Experiments
6. An Example Application

1. Introduction



2. Specification

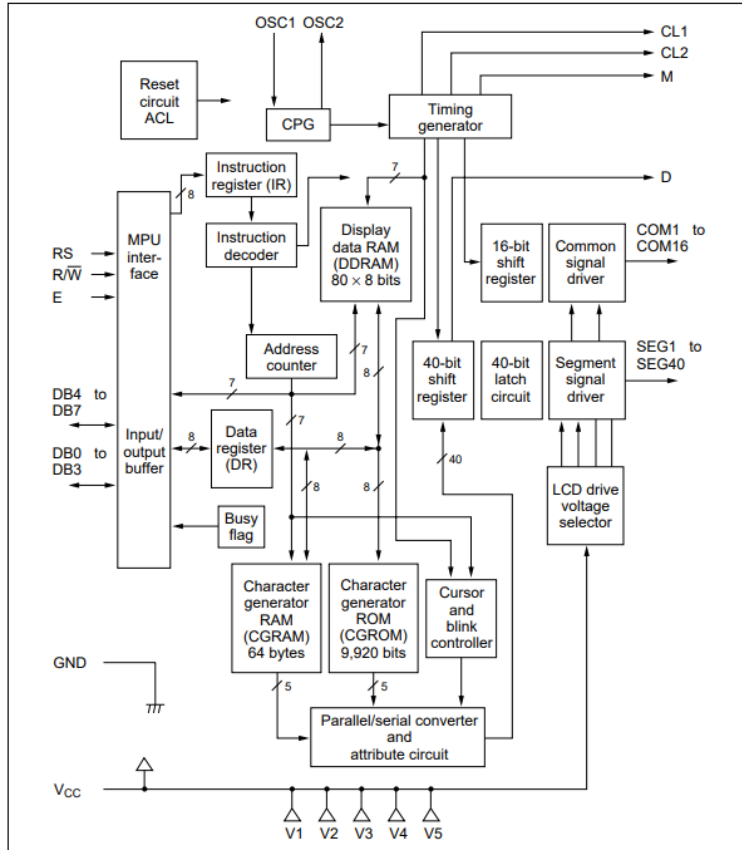
- I2C interface
- LCD Linux driver module
- Handle I/O stream
 - Send data to LCD in user program
 - `echo "message" > /dev/lcdi2c`



3. Background

Inside HD44780 Display Module

HD44780U Block Diagram



Pin Functions

Signal	No. of Lines	I/O	Device Interfaced with	Function
RS	1	I	MPU	Selects registers. 0: Instruction register (for write) Busy flag: address counter (for read) 1: Data register (for write and read)
R/W	1	I	MPU	Selects read or write. 0: Write 1: Read
E	1	I	MPU	Starts data read/write.
DB4 to DB7	4	I/O	MPU	Four high order bidirectional tristate data bus pins. Used for data transfer and receive between the MPU and the HD44780U. DB7 can be used as a busy flag.
DB0 to DB3	4	I/O	MPU	Four low order bidirectional tristate data bus pins. Used for data transfer and receive between the MPU and the HD44780U. These pins are not used during 4-bit operation.
CL1	1	O	Extension driver	Clock to latch serial data D sent to the extension driver
CL2	1	O	Extension driver	Clock to shift serial data D
M	1	O	Extension driver	Switch signal for converting the liquid crystal drive waveform to AC
D	1	O	Extension driver	Character pattern data corresponding to each segment signal
COM1 to COM16	16	O	LCD	Common signals that are not used are changed to non-selection waveforms. COM9 to COM16 are non-selection waveforms at 1/8 duty factor and COM12 to COM16 are non-selection waveforms at 1/11 duty factor.
SEG1 to SEG40	40	O	LCD	Segment signals
V1 to V5	5	—	Power supply	Power supply for LCD drive $V_{cc} - V5 = 11\text{ V (max)}$
V_{cc} , GND	2	—	Power supply	V_{cc} : 2.7V to 5.5V, GND: 0V
OSC1, OSC2	2	—	Oscillation resistor clock	When crystal oscillation is performed, a resistor must be connected externally. When the pin input is an external clock, it must be input to OSC1.

Display position

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16

DDRAM address

00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0A	0B	0C	0D	0E	0F
40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	4F

Table 4 Correspondence between Character Codes and Character Patterns (ROM Code: A00)

Lower 4 Bits	Upper 4 Bits	0000	0001	0010	0011	0100	0101	0110	0111	1000	1001	1010	1011	1100	1101	1110	1111
xxxx0000				00P`F								-9Eap					
xxxx0001	(2)			!1AQa9								。アチ4äq					
xxxx0010	(3)			"2BRbr								「イツ×pθ					
xxxx0011	(4)			#3CScs								」ウテεε					
xxxx0100	(5)			\$4DTdt								、イトμΩ					
xxxx0101	(6)			%5EUeu								・オナ1csÜ					
xxxx0110	(7)			&6FVfv								ヲカニヨρΣ					
xxxx0111	(8)			'7GWgw								アキヌラgπ					
xxxx1000	(1)			(8HXhx								イワネリJX					
xxxx1001	(2))9IYiy								ウケル'y					
xxxx1010	(3)			*:JZjz								エコハレjチ					
xxxx1011	(4)			+;K[k<								オサヒロ*π					
xxxx1100	(5)			,<L¥11								ハシフワΦπ					
xxxx1101	(6)			-=M]m}								ユズへンも÷					
xxxx1110	(7)			,>N^n÷								ヨセホ^π					
xxxx1111	(8)			/?O_o+								ッソマ"ö					

3. Background

Interfacing the HD44780

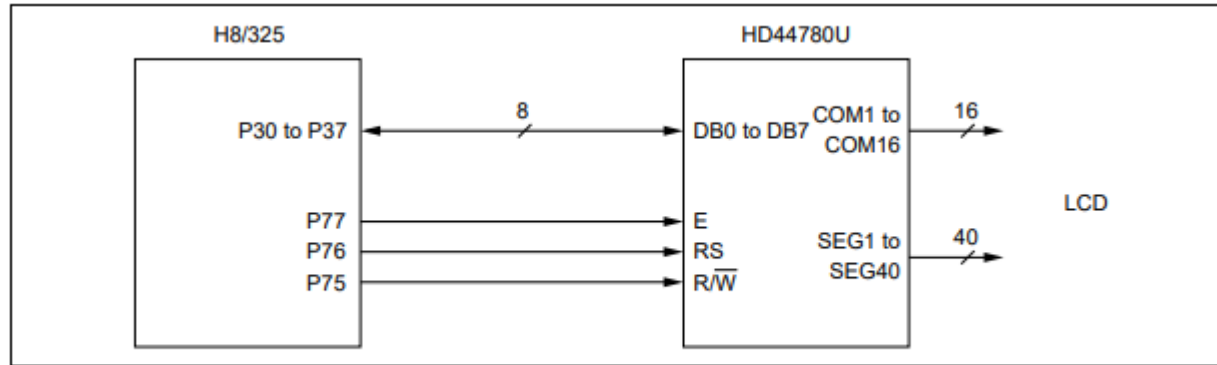


Figure 16 H8/325 Interface (Single-Chip Mode)

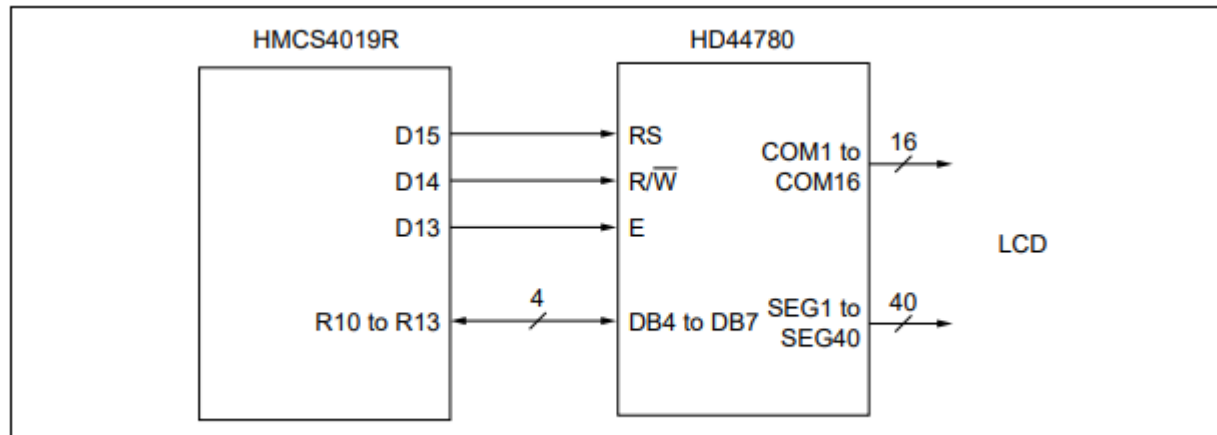


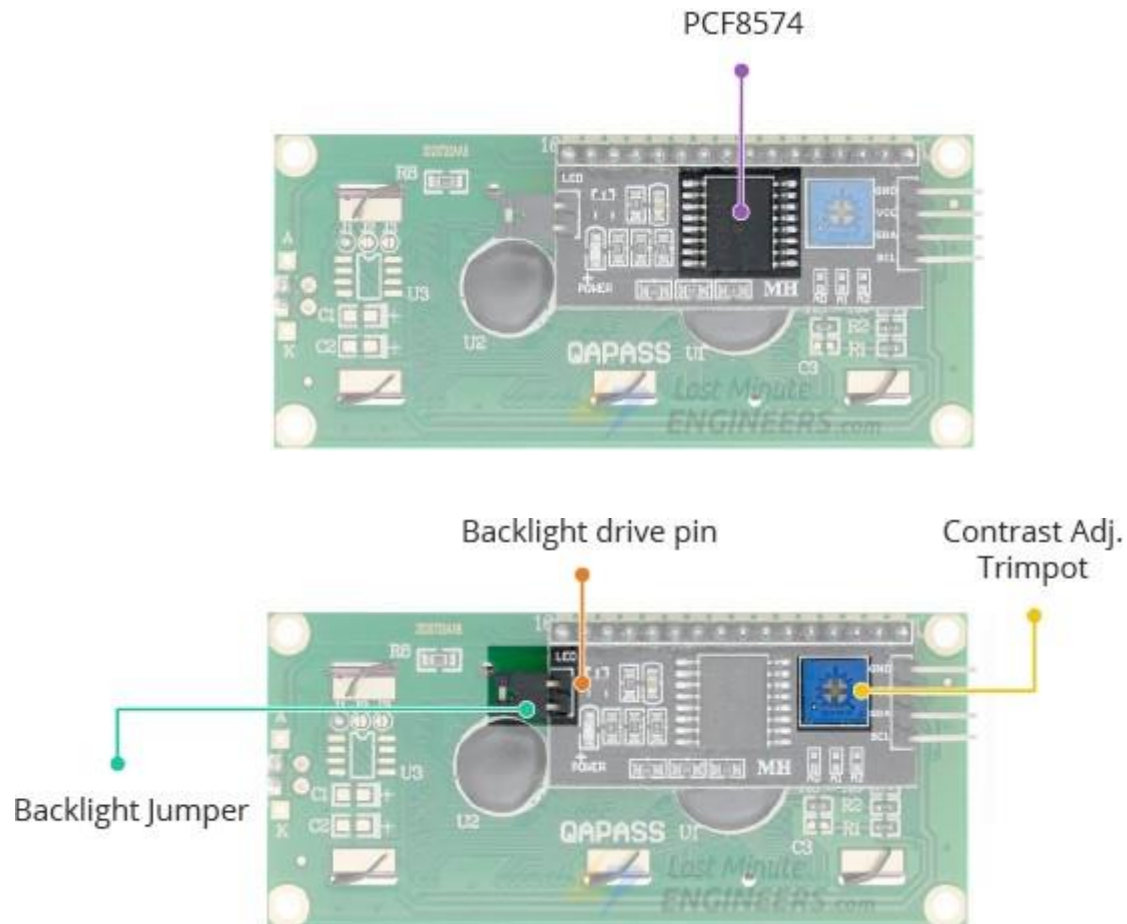
Figure 18 Example of Interface to HMCS4019R

Table 6 Instructions

Instruction	Code										Description	Execution Time (max) (when f_{cp} or f_{osc} is 270 kHz)
	RS	R/W	DB7	DB6	DB5	DB4	DB3	DB2	DB1	DB0		
Clear display	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	Clears entire display and sets DDRAM address 0 in address counter.	
Return home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	—	Sets DDRAM address 0 in address counter. Also returns display from being shifted to original position. DDRAM contents remain unchanged.	1.52 ms
Entry mode set	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	I/D	S	Sets cursor move direction and specifies display shift. These operations are performed during data write and read.	37 μ s
Display on/off control	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	D	C	B	Sets entire display (D) on/off, cursor on/off (C), and blinking of cursor position character (B).	37 μ s
Cursor or display shift	0	0	0	0	0	1	S/C	R/L	—	—	Moves cursor and shifts display without changing DDRAM contents.	37 μ s
Function set	0	0	0	0	1	DL	N	F	—	—	Sets interface data length (DL), number of display lines (N), and character font (F).	37 μ s
Set CGRAM address	0	0	0	1	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	ACG	Sets CGRAM address. CGRAM data is sent and received after this setting.	37 μ s
Set DDRAM address	0	0	1	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	ADD	Sets DDRAM address. DDRAM data is sent and received after this setting.	37 μ s
Read busy flag & address	0	1	BF	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	AC	Reads busy flag (BF) indicating internal operation is being performed and reads address counter contents.	0 μ s

3. Background

I2C LCD Adapter



I2C Address of LCD



Texas Instruments' PCF8574

0 1 0 0 A₂ A₁ A₀

MSB

LSB

= 0x27
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x26
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x25
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x24
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x23
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x22
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x21
A₀ A₁ A₂

= 0x20
A₀ A₁ A₂

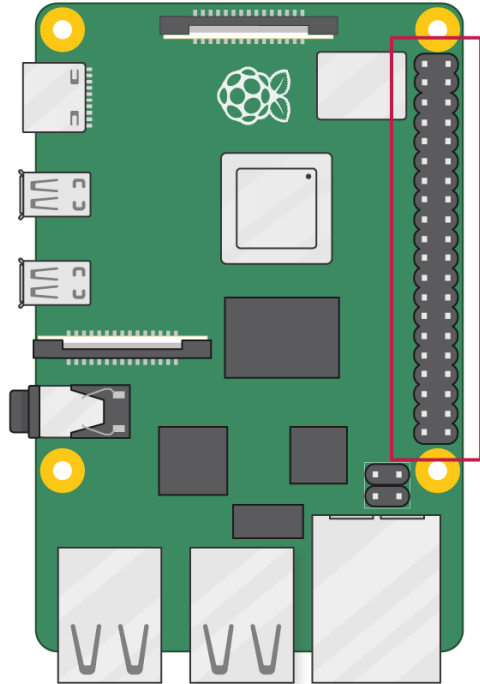
NXP's PCF8574

0 1 1 1 A₂ A₁ A₀

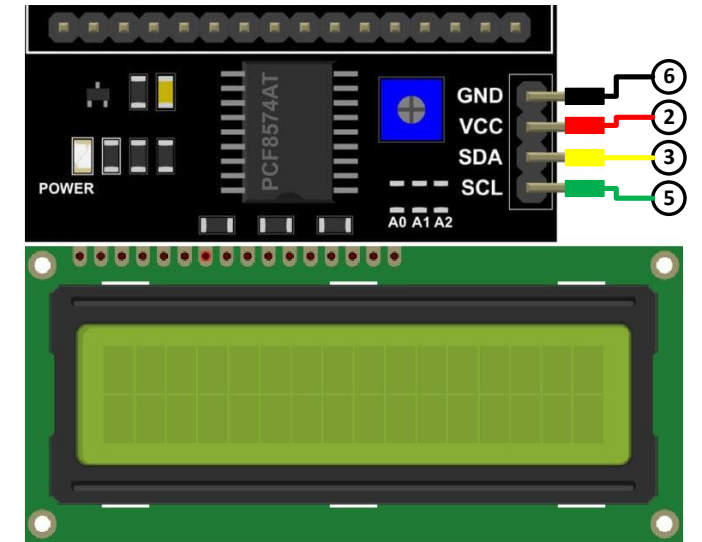
MSB

LSB

4. Implementation – Hardware Connection

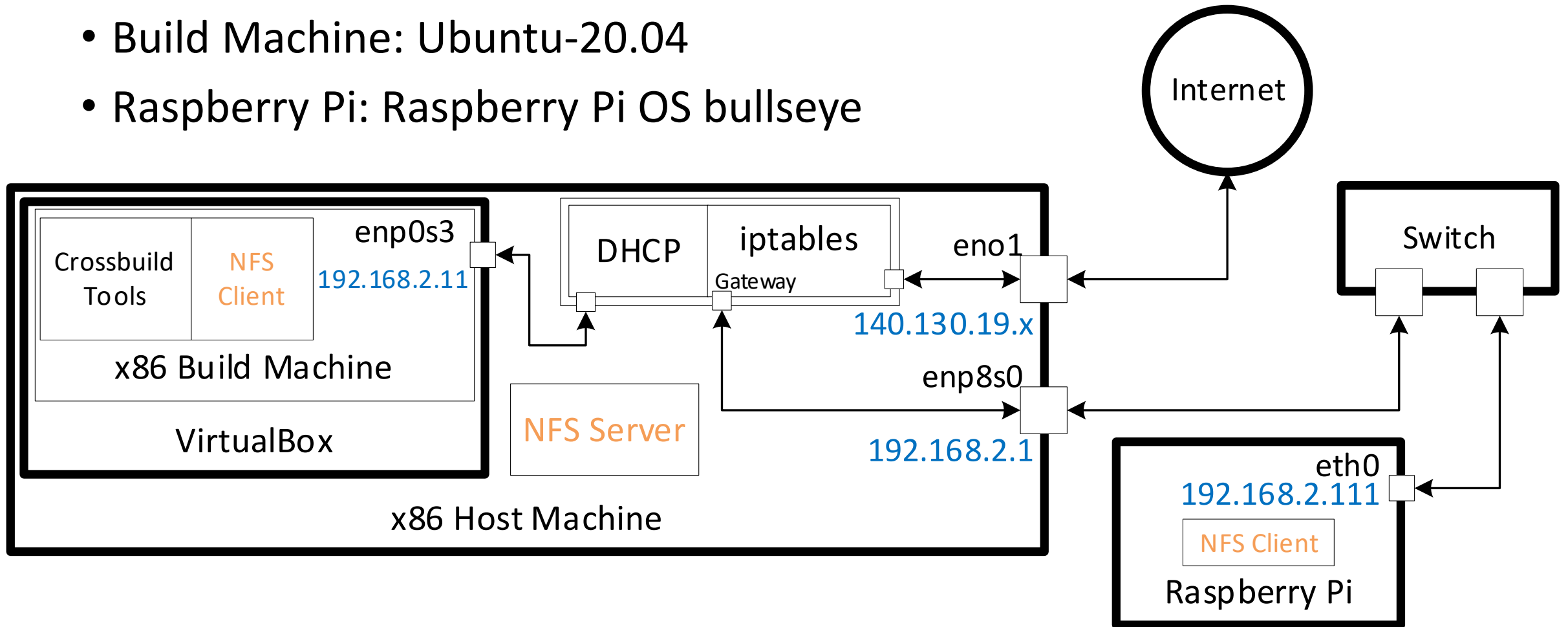


3V3 power	1	2	5V power
GPIO 2 (SDA)	3	4	5V power
GPIO 3 (SCL)	5	6	Ground
GPIO 4 (GPCLK0)	7	8	GPIO 14 (TXD)
Ground	9	10	GPIO 15 (RXD)
GPIO 17	11	12	GPIO 18 (PCM_CLK)
GPIO 27	13	14	Ground
GPIO 22	15	16	GPIO 23
3V3 power	17	18	GPIO 24
GPIO 10 (MOSI)	19	20	Ground
GPIO 9 (MISO)	21	22	GPIO 25
GPIO 11 (SCLK)	23	24	GPIO 8 (CE0)
Ground	25	26	GPIO 7 (CE1)
GPIO 0 (ID_SD)	27	28	GPIO 1 (ID_SC)
GPIO 5	29	30	Ground
GPIO 6	31	32	GPIO 12 (PWM0)
GPIO 13 (PWM1)	33	34	Ground
GPIO 19 (PCM_FS)	35	36	GPIO 16
GPIO 26	37	38	GPIO 20 (PCM_DIN)
Ground	39	40	GPIO 21 (PCM_DOUT)



4. Implementation – Dev Environment

- Host Machine: Ubuntu (any version)
- Build Machine: Ubuntu-20.04
- Raspberry Pi: Raspberry Pi OS bullseye



4. Implementation – Bringup Test

Enable I2C interface

```
$ sudo raspi-config
```

```
$ pip install smbus2 rpi-lcd
```

```
$ python
```

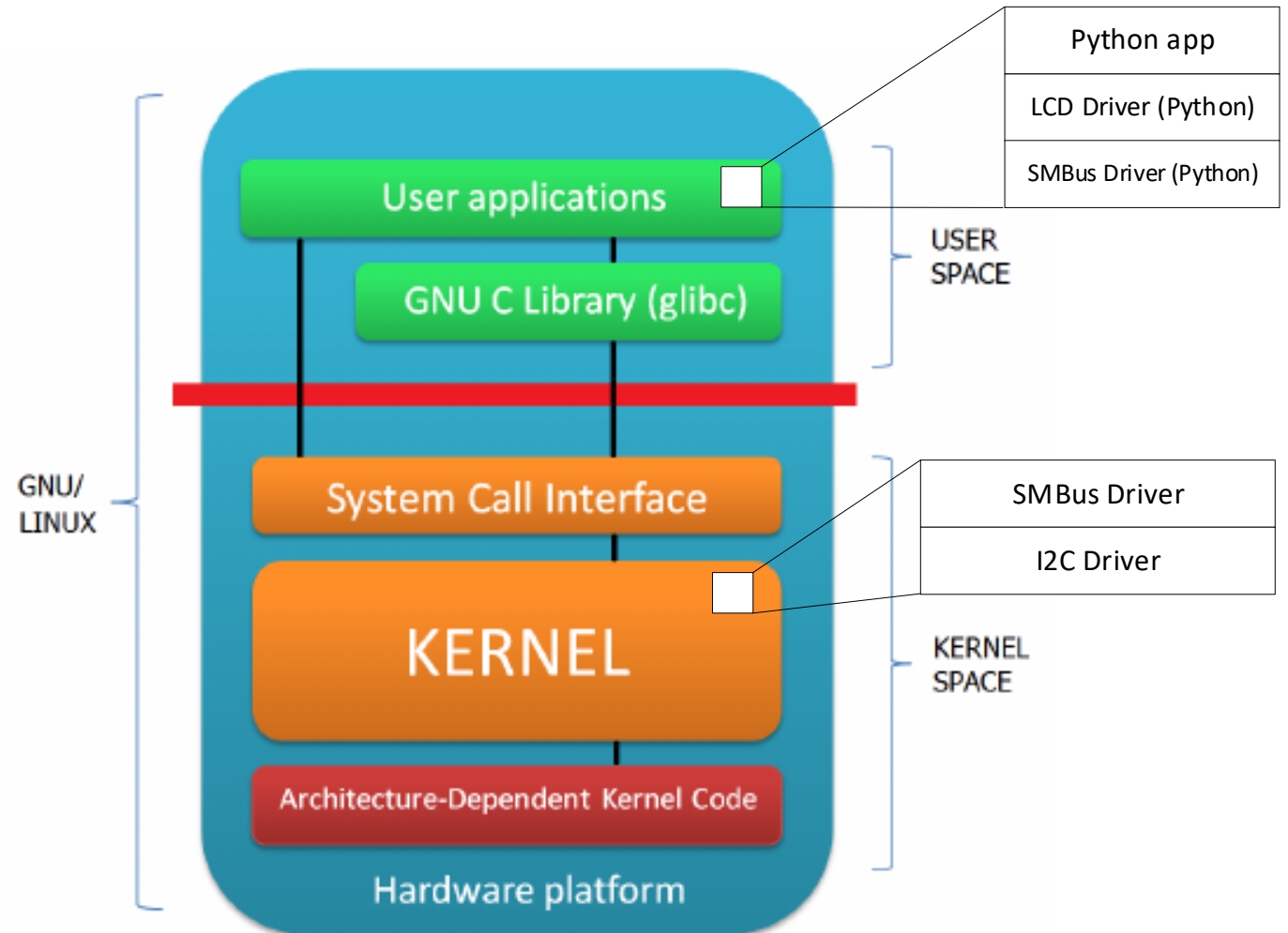
```
from rpi_lcd import LCD  
lcd = LCD()  
lcd.text('Hello World!', 1)
```



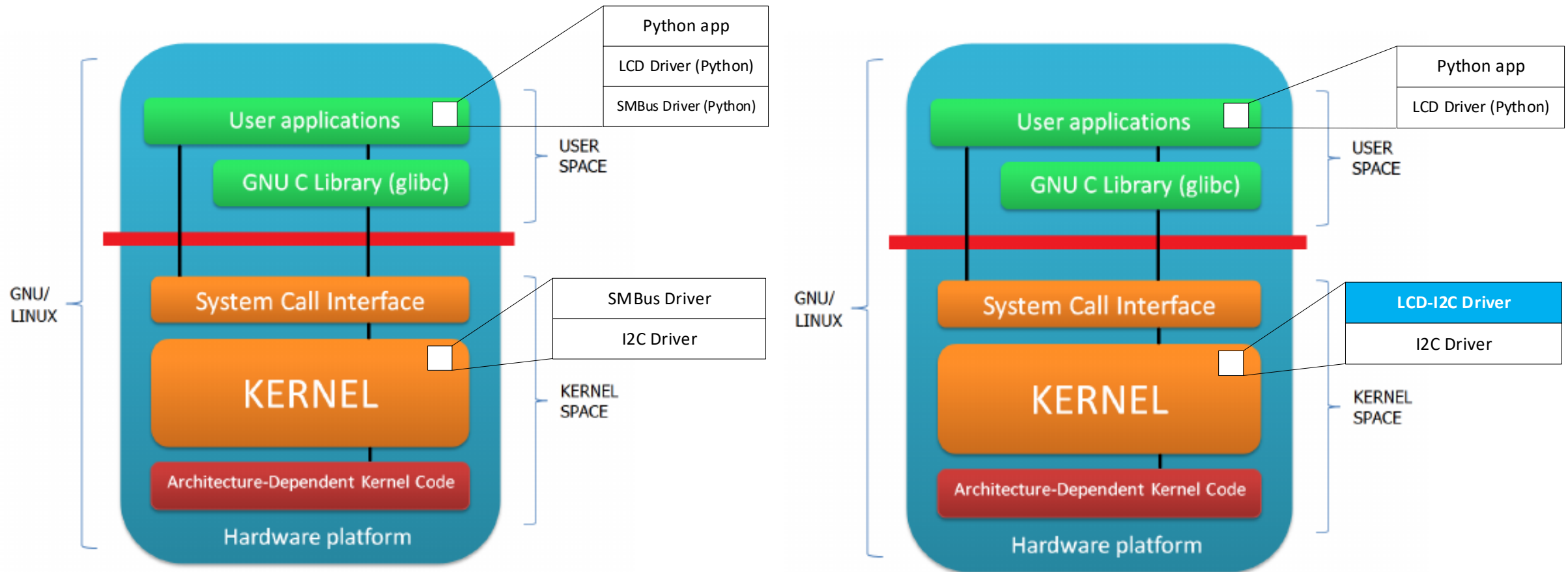
Troubleshoot: `$ sudo rpi-update`

4. Implementation – Bringup Test (cont.)

Understand the bringup test



4. Implementation – Character Driver Module



4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

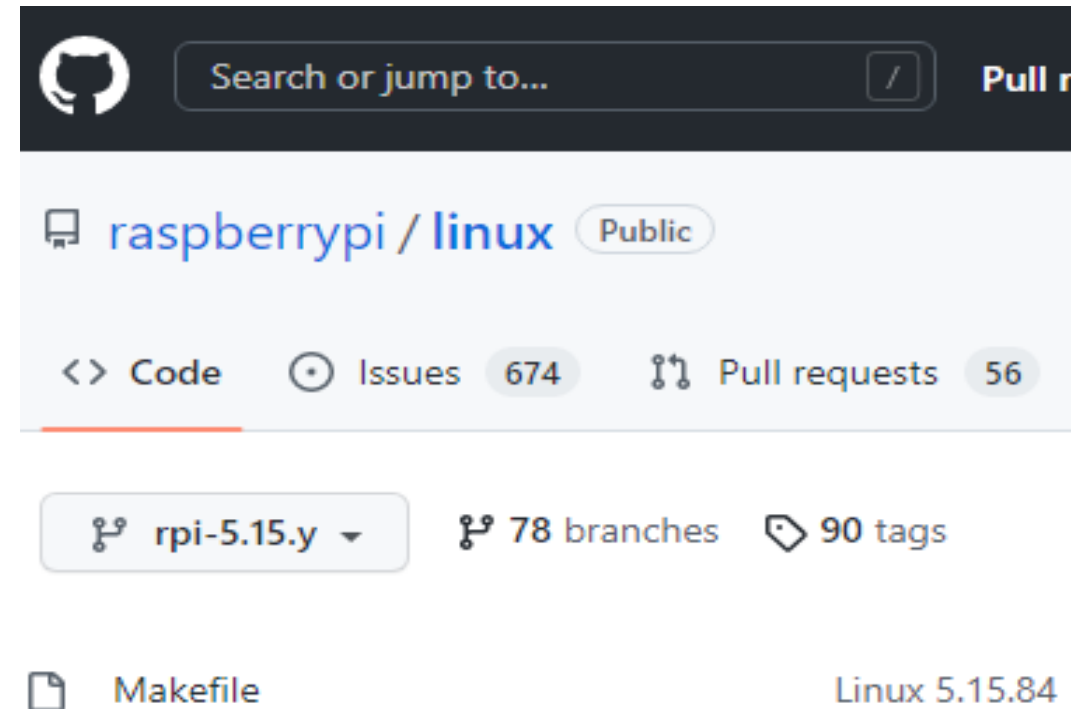
Raspberry Pi Linux kernel source code

+ Header files

+ Compiled modules

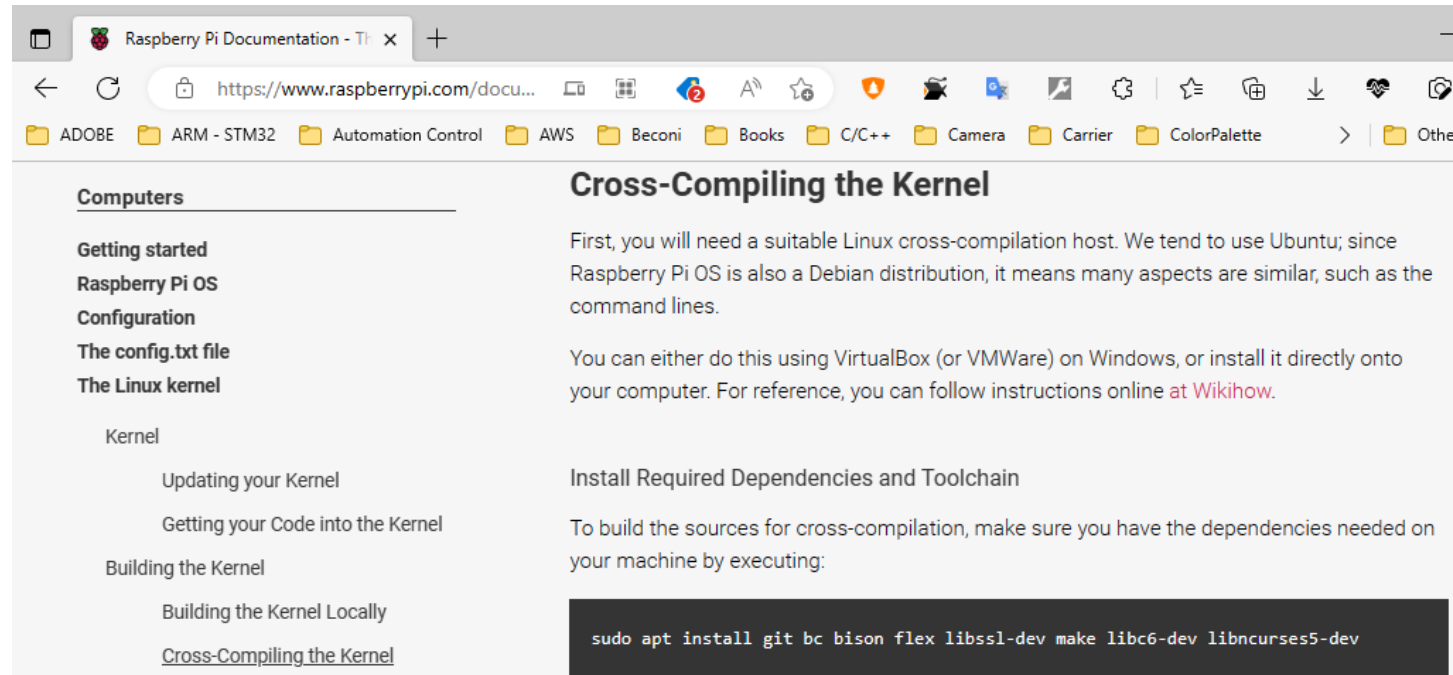
```
haipnh@raspberrypi: ~
```

```
haipnh@raspberrypi:~ $ uname -r  
5.15.84-v8+
```



4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

Cross-compile the source code



The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL `https://www.raspberrypi.com/docu...`. The page is titled "Cross-Compiling the Kernel". On the left, there is a sidebar with a "Computers" section containing links: "Getting started", "Raspberry Pi OS", "Configuration", "The config.txt file", "The Linux kernel", "Kernel", "Updating your Kernel", "Getting your Code into the Kernel", "Building the Kernel", "Building the Kernel Locally", and "Cross-Compiling the Kernel". The main content area has the heading "Cross-Compiling the Kernel" and the text: "First, you will need a suitable Linux cross-compilation host. We tend to use Ubuntu; since Raspberry Pi OS is also a Debian distribution, it means many aspects are similar, such as the command lines." Below this, it says: "You can either do this using VirtualBox (or VMWare) on Windows, or install it directly onto your computer. For reference, you can follow instructions online at [Wikihow](#)." Further down, it says "Install Required Dependencies and Toolchain" and "To build the sources for cross-compilation, make sure you have the dependencies needed on your machine by executing:". At the bottom, there is a dark box containing the command: `sudo apt install git bc bison flex libssl-dev make libc6-dev libncurses5-dev`.

```
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:~$ cd /mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:/mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84$ make ARCH=arm64
CROSS_COMPILE=aarch64-linux-gnu- modules
CALL    scripts/checksyscalls.sh
CALL    scripts/atomic/check-atomics.sh
CHK     include/generated/compile.h
```


4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

<https://github.com/lucidm/lcdi2c>

➔ **Folke**d: <https://github.com/haipnh/lcdi2c>

```
03_I2C_LCD_16x2 > C lcdi2c.c
727 static int __init i2clcd857_init(void)
728 {
729     int ret;
730     struct i2c_board_info board_info = {
731         .type = "lcdi2c",
732         .addr = address,
733     };
734 };
735
736 adapter = i2c_get_adapter(busno);
737 if (!adapter) return -EINVAL;
738
739 client = i2c_acpi_new_device(adapter, &board_info);
740 if (!client) return -EINVAL;
741
742 ret = i2c_add_driver(&lcdi2c_driver);
743 if (ret)
744 {
745     i2c_put_adapter(adapter);
746     return ret;
747 }
748
749 if (!i2c_check_functionality(adapter, I2C_FUNC_SMBUS_I2C_BLOCK))
750 {
751     i2c_put_adapter(adapter);
752     dev_err(&client->dev, "no algorithm\n");
753     return -ENODEV;
754 }
```

Update to work on v5.15

master

haipnh committed 2 days ago

Showing 1 changed file with 1 addition and 1 deletion.

2 lcdi2c.c		
@@ -736,7 +736,7 @@ static int __init i2clcd857_init(void)		
736	736	adapter = i2c_get_adapter(busno);
737	737	if (!adapter) return -EINVAL;
738	738	
739	-	client = i2c_new_device(adapter, &board_info);
	739	+ client = i2c_new_client_device(adapter, &board_info);

4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

Probing and Removing

```
243 static int lcdi2c_probe(struct i2c_client *client, const struct i2c_device_id *id)
244 {
245
246     data = (LcdData_t *) devm_kzalloc(&client->dev, sizeof(LcdData_t),
247                                     GFP_KERNEL);
248     if (!data)
249         return -ENOMEM;
250
251     i2c_set_clientdata(client, data);
252     sema_init(&data->sem, 1);
253
254     data->row = 0;
255     data->column = 0;
256     data->handle = client;
257     data->backlight = 1;
258     data->cursor = cursor;
259     data->blink = blink;
260     data->deviceopencnt = 0;
261     data->major = major;
262
263     lcdinit(data, topo);
264     lcdprint(data, "HD44780\nDriver");
265
266     dev_info(&client->dev, "%u%u LCD using bus 0x%X, at address 0x%X",
267            data->organization.columns,
268            data->organization.rows, busno, address);
269
270     return 0;
```

```
273 static int lcdi2c_remove(struct i2c_client *client)
274 {
275     LcdData_t *data = i2c_get_clientdata(client);
276
277     dev_info(&client->dev, "going to be removed");
278     if (data)
279         lcdfinalize(data);
280
281     return 0;
282 }
283
```

```
288 static const struct i2c_device_id lcdi2c_id[] = {
289     { "lcdi2c", 0 },
290     { },
291 };
292 MODULE_DEVICE_TABLE(i2c, lcdi2c_id);
293
294 static struct i2c_driver lcdi2c_driver = {
295     .driver = {
296         .owner = THIS_MODULE,
297         .name = "lcdi2c",
298     },
299     .probe = lcdi2c_probe,
300     .remove = lcdi2c_remove,
301     .id_table = lcdi2c_id,
302 };
```

4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

Supported /dev/lcdi2c device interfaces

```
1  #include "lcdi2c.h"
2
3  #define CRIT_BEG(d, error) if(down_interruptible(&d->sem)) return -error
4  #define CRIT_END(d) up(&d->sem)
5
6  static uint busno = 1;      //I2C Bus number
7  static uint address = DEFAULT_CHIP_ADDRESS; //Device address
8  static uint topo = LCD_DEFAULT_ORGANIZATION;
9  static uint cursor = 1;
10 static uint blink = 1;
11 static IOCTLDescription_t ioctls[] = {
12     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETCHAR, .name = "GETCHAR", },
13     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETCHAR, .name = "SETCHAR", },
14     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETPOSITION, .name = "GETPOSITION" },
15     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETPOSITION, .name = "SETPOSITION" },
16     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_RESET, .name = "RESET" },
17     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_HOME, .name = "HOME" },
18     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETBACKLIGHT, .name = "GETBACKLIGHT" },
19     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETBACKLIGHT, .name = "SETBACKLIGHT" },
20     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETCURSOR, .name = "GETCURSOR" },
21     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETCURSOR, .name = "SETCURSOR" },
22     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETBLINK, .name = "GETBLINK" },
23     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETBLINK, .name = "SETBLINK" },
24     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SCROLLHZ, .name = "SCROLLHZ" },
25     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_GETCUSTOMCHAR, .name = "GETCUSTOMCHAR" },
26     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_SETCUSTOMCHAR, .name = "SETCUSTOMCHAR" },
27     { .ioctlcode = LCD_IOCTL_CLEAR, .name = "CLEAR" },
28 };
```

```
147 static long lcdi2c_ioctl(struct file *file,
148                          unsigned int ioctl_num,
149                          unsigned long arg)
150 {
151
152     char *buffer = (char*)arg, ccb[10];
153     u8 memaddr, i, ch;
154     long status = SUCCESS;
155
156     CRIT_BEG(data, EAGAIN);
157
158     switch (ioctl_num)
159     {
160     case LCD_IOCTL_SETCHAR:
161         get_user(ch, buffer);
162         memaddr = (1 + data->column + (data->row * data->organization.columns)) % LCD_BUFFER_SIZE;
163         lcdwrite(data, ch);
164         data->column = (memaddr % data->organization.columns);
165         data->row = (memaddr / data->organization.columns);
166         lcdsetcursor(data, data->column, data->row);
167         break;
168     case LCD_IOCTL_GETCHAR:
169         memaddr = (data->column + (data->row * data->organization.columns)) % LCD_BUFFER_SIZE;
170         ch = data->buffer[memaddr];
171         put_user(ch, buffer);
172         break;
173     case LCD_IOCTL_GETPOSITION:
174         printk(KERN_INFO "GETPOSITION called\n");
175         put_user(data->column, buffer);
176         put_user(data->row, buffer+1);
177         break;
178     case LCD_IOCTL_SETPOSITION:
179         get_user(data->column, buffer);
180         get_user(data->row, buffer+1);
181         lcdsetcursor(data, data->column, data->row);
182         break;
183     case LCD_IOCTL_RESET:
184         get_user(ch, buffer);
185         if (ch == '1')
```

4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

Supported /sys device interfaces

```
568 static ssize_t lcdi2c_clear(struct device* dev, struct device_attribute* attr,  
569                             const char* buf, size_t count)  
570 {  
571     CRIT_BEG(data, ERESTARTSYS);  
572  
573     if (count > 0 && buf[0] == '1')  
574         lcdclear(data);  
575  
576     CRIT_END(data);  
577     return count;  
578 }
```

```
694 DEVICE_ATTR(meta, S_IRUSR | S_IRGRP, lcdi2c_meta_show, NULL);  
695 DEVICE_ATTR(cursor, S_IWUSR | S_IWGRP | S_IRUSR | S_IRGRP | S_IROTH,  
696             lcdi2c_cursor_show, lcdi2c_cursor);  
697 DEVICE_ATTR(blink, S_IWUSR | S_IWGRP | S_IRUSR | S_IRGRP | S_IROTH,  
698             lcdi2c_blink_show, lcdi2c_blink);  
699 DEVICE_ATTR(home, S_IWUSR | S_IWGRP, NULL, lcdi2c_home);  
700 DEVICE_ATTR(clear, S_IWUSR | S_IWGRP, NULL, lcdi2c_clear);
```

4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

__init() and __exit()

```
727 static int __init i2clcd857_init(void)
728 {
729     int ret;
730     struct i2c_board_info board_info = {
731         .type = "lcdi2c",
732         .addr = address,
733     };
734 };
735
736 adapter = i2c_get_adapter(busno);
737 if (!adapter) return -EINVAL;
738
739 client = i2c_new_client_device(adapter, &board_info);
740 if (!client) return -EINVAL;
741
742 ret = i2c_add_driver(&lcdi2c_driver);
743 if (ret)
744 {
745     i2c_put_adapter(adapter);
746     return ret;
747 }
748
749 if (!i2c_check_functionality(adapter, I2C_FUNC_I2C))
750 {
751     i2c_put_adapter(adapter);
752     dev_err(&client->dev, "no algorithms associated to i2c bus\n");
753     return -ENODEV;
754 }
```

```
804 static void __exit i2clcd857_exit(void)
805 {
806
807     unregister_chrdev(major, DEVICE_NAME);
808
809     sysfs_remove_group(&lcdi2c_device->kobj, &i2clcd_device_attr_group);
810     device_destroy(lcdi2c_class, MKDEV(major, 0));
811     class_unregister(lcdi2c_class);
812     class_destroy(lcdi2c_class);
813     unregister_chrdev(major, DEVICE_NAME);
814
815     if (client)
816         i2c_unregister_device(client);
817
818     i2c_del_driver(&lcdi2c_driver);
819 }
```

4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

Compile the driver module

Makefile

```
TOOLS := /usr/bin
PREFIX := aarch64-linux-gnu-
KDIR := /mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84
PWD := $(shell pwd)

obj-m := lcdi2c.o

all:
    $(MAKE) -C $(KDIR) \
        M=$(PWD) \
        ARCH=arm64 CROSS_COMPILE=$(TOOLS)/$(PREFIX) \
        modules

clean:
    $(MAKE) -C $(KDIR) M=$(PWD) clean
```

```
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:~$ cd /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2$ ls -l
total 72
drwxrwxr-x 2 haipnh haipnh 4096 Dec 23 12:09 bringup_test
-rw-rw-r-- 1 haipnh haipnh 144 Dec 21 09:55 dkms.conf
drwxrwxr-x 5 haipnh haipnh 4096 Dec 23 12:09 examples
-rw-rw-r-- 1 haipnh haipnh 33174 Dec 23 12:09 lcdi2c.c
-rw-rw-r-- 1 haipnh haipnh 7344 Dec 21 09:55 lcdi2c.h
-rw-rw-r-- 1 haipnh haipnh 268 Dec 23 12:39 Makefile
-rw-rw-r-- 1 haipnh haipnh 11221 Dec 21 09:55 README.md
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2$ make all
make -C /mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84 \
    M=/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2 \
    ARCH=arm64 CROSS_COMPILE=/usr/bin/aarch64-linux-gnu- \
    modules
make[1]: Entering directory '/mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84'
  CC [M] /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2/lcdi2c.o
  MODPOST /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2/Module.symvers
  CC [M] /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2/lcdi2c.mod.o
  LD [M] /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2/lcdi2c.ko
make[1]: Leaving directory '/mnt/nfs_server/linux/5.15.84'
haipnh@ubuntu-s-2004:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2$ ls
bringup_test  examples  lcdi2c.h  lcdi2c.mod  lcdi2c.mod.o  Makefile  Module.symvers
dkms.conf    lcdi2c.c  lcdi2c.ko  lcdi2c.mod.c  lcdi2c.o  modules.order  README.md
```


4. Implementation – Character Driver Module

```
haipnh@raspberrypi: /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2
haipnh@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2 $ modinfo lcdi2c.ko
filename:      /mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2/lcdi2c.ko
version:       0.1.0
description:    Driver for HD44780 LCD with PCF8574 I2C extension.
author:        Jarek Zok <jarekzok@gmail.com>
license:       GPL
srcversion:    B0919DE439C0B38BE80C278
alias:         i2c:lcdi2c
depends:
name:          lcdi2c
vermagic:      5.15.84-v8 SMP preempt mod_unload modversions aarch64
parm:          busno: I2C Bus number, default 1 (uint)
parm:          address: LCD I2C Address, default 0x27 (uint)
parm:          pinout: I2C module pinout configuration, eight numbers
                    representing following LCD module pins in order: RS,RW,E,D4,D5,D6,D7,
                    default 0,1,2,3,4,5,6,7 (array of uint)
parm:          cursor: Show cursor at start 1 - Yes, 0 - No, default 1 (uint)
parm:          blink: Blink cursor 1 - Yes, 0 - No, default 1 (uint)
parm:          major: Device major number, default 0 (int)
parm:          topo: Display organization, following values are currently supported:
                   0 - 40x2
                   1 - 20x4
                   2 - 20x2
                   3 - 16x4
                   4 - 16x2
                   5 - 16x1 Type 1
                   6 - 16x1 Type 2
                   7 - 8x2
                   Default set to 16x2 (uint)
```

```
haipnh@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2 $ sudo insmod lcdi2c.ko
```

5. Experiments

System calls

```
haipnh@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2 $ sudo -s
root@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2# ls /sys/class/alpha lcd/lcdi2c
blink      character  cursor    data      home      position  reset     subsystem
brightness clear     customchar dev        meta      power     scrollhz   uevent
root@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2# echo 1 > /sys/class/alpha lcd/lcdi2c/clear
root@raspberrypi:/mnt/nfs_server/LKM_Lab/03_I2C_LCD_16x2# echo "System calls!" > /dev/lcdi2c
```



5. Experiments

/dev/lcdi2c : File I/O Manipulation with ioctl in C

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IOCTL(2)

Linux Programmer's Manual

IOCTL(2)

NAME

[top](#)

ioctl - control device

SYNOPSIS

[top](#)

```
#include <sys/ioctl.h>
```

```
int ioctl(int fd, unsigned long request, ...);
```

5. Experiments

/dev/lcdi2c : File I/O Manipulation with ioctl in Python

1

```
1 import os, fcntl
2
3 dev_filename = '/dev/lcdi2c'
4 dev_meta_filename = '/sys/class/alphalcd/lcdi2c/meta'
5
6 ioctls = dict()
7
8 f = os.open(dev_meta_filename, os.O_RDONLY)
9
10 if f:
11     print("Opened {}".format(dev_filename))
12     meta = os.read(f, 512).decode('ascii').rstrip().split("\n")
13     os.close(f)
14     try:
15         iioc = meta.index("IOCTLS:") + 1
16     except ValueError as e:
17         print("No IOCTLS section in meta file")
18         raise e
19     ioctls = dict(k.split("=") for k in [s.lstrip() for s in meta[iioc:]])
20 else:
21     print("Unable to open meta file for driver.")
22     exit(1)
```

2

```
""" Supported IOCTLS

dict_keys(['GETCHAR', 'SETCHAR', 'GETPOSITION', 'SETPOSITION', 'RESET',
'HOME', 'GETBACKLIGHT', 'SETBACKLIGHT', 'GETCURSOR', 'SETCURSOR', 'GETBLINK',
'SETBLINK', 'SCROLLHZ', 'GETCUSTOMCHAR', 'SETCUSTOMCHAR', 'CLEAR'])

"""
```

5. Experiments

/dev/lcdi2c : File I/O Manipulation with ioctl in Python (cont.)

```
""" Supported IOCTLS

dict_keys(['GETCHAR', 'SETCHAR', 'GETPOSITION', 'SETPOSITION', 'RESET',
'HOME', 'GETBACKLIGHT', 'SETBACKLIGHT', 'GETCURSOR', 'SETCURSOR', 'GETBLINK',
'SETBLINK', 'SCROLLHZ', 'GETCUSTOMCHAR', 'SETCUSTOMCHAR', 'CLEAR'])
```

```
53 def write_ioctl(cmd: str, value):
54     if cmd not in ioctls:
55         print("[ERROR] Not supported IOCTL: {}".format(cmd))
56         return 1
57     cmd_hex = ioctls[cmd]
58     s = array.array('B')
59     if isinstance(value, str):
60         value = bytes(value, encoding='ascii')
61     s.extend(value)
62     f = open(dev_filename, 'rb+')
63     fcntl.ioctl(f, int(cmd_hex, base=16), s)
64     f.close()
65     return s
66
67 def write(input: str):
68     output = bytes(input, encoding='ascii')
69     f = open(dev_filename, 'rb+')
70     f.write(output)
71     f.close()
```

```
write_ioctl('CLEAR', '1')
write_ioctl('SETBLINK', '1')
write_ioctl('SETBLINK', '1')
write_ioctl('SETPOSITION', [0,0])
```

```
def set_cursor(x, y):
    return write_ioctl('SETPOSITION', [x, y])
```

```
while True:
    event = keyboard.read_event()

    valid_char_events = [ 'a', 'b', 'c', 'd', 'e', 'f', 'g',
                           'h', 'i', 'j', 'k', 'l', 'm', 'n',
                           'o', 'p', 'q', 'r', 's', 't', 'u',
                           'v', 'w', 'x', 'y', 'z',
                           '0', '1', '2', '3', '4',
                           '5', '6', '7', '8', '9']

    if event.event_type == keyboard.KEY_DOWN:
        if event.name in valid_char_events:
            char = event.name
            x, y = get_cursor()
            if x == cols-1: y += 1
            write(char)
            set_cursor(x+1, y)
```

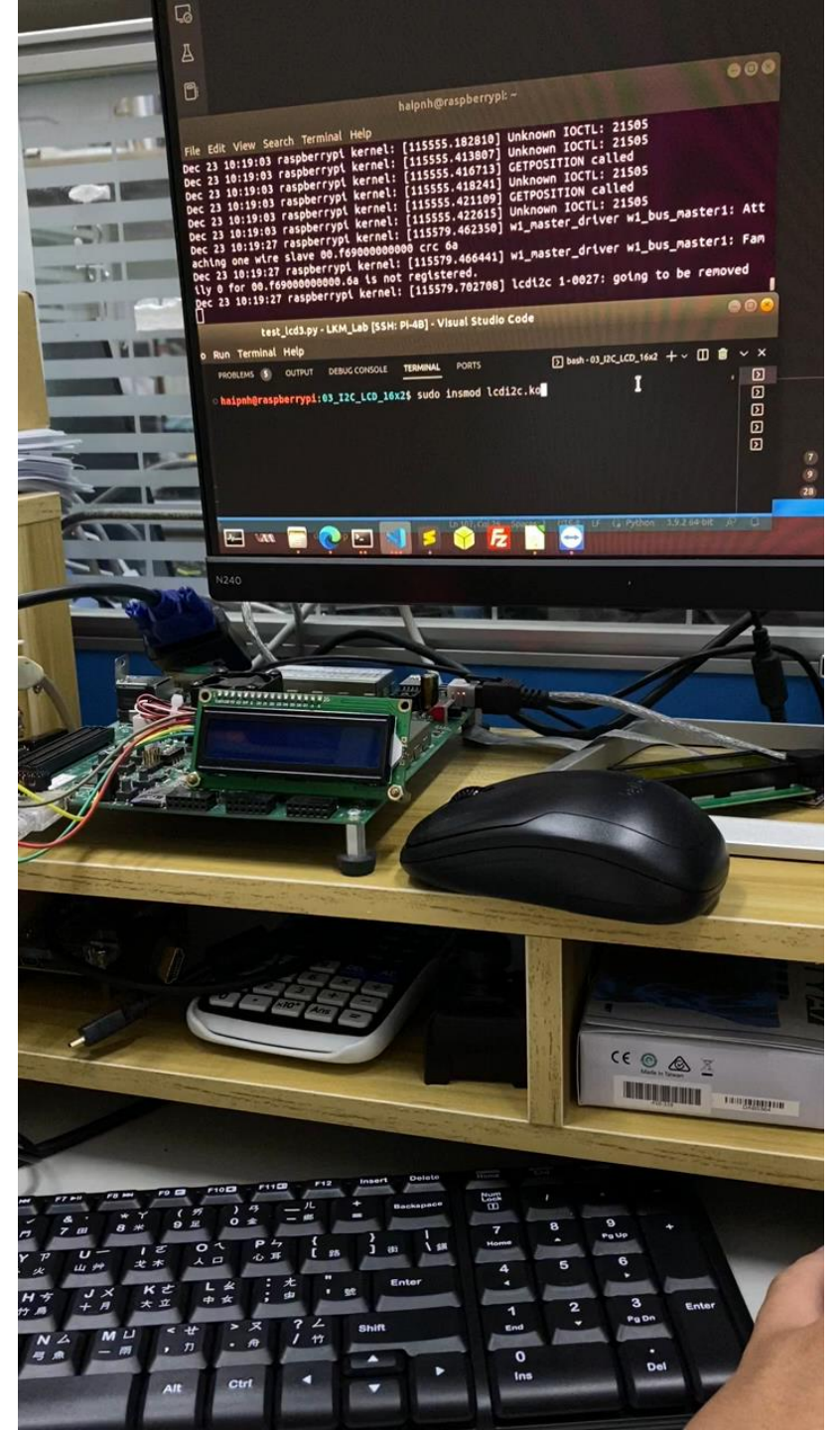
6. An Example Application

LCD On-screen Text Editor

Project source code:

<https://github.com/haipnh/lcdi2c/tree/master>

Demo video: <https://youtu.be/GQAF7vmpGsA>



References

1. https://www.raspberrypi.com/documentation/computers/linux_kernel.html
2. <https://github.com/raspberrypi/linux>
3. <http://derekmolloy.ie/writing-a-linux-kernel-module-part-2-a-character-device>
4. <https://github.com/bogdal/rpi-lcd>
5. <https://www.kernel.org/doc/html/v5.15/i2c/index.html>

Thank you for Listening