

# Kernel Course: Lecture 16

## Communicating with Hardware (part 1)

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# Agenda

1. Architecture Design
2. Hardware Overview
3. Kernel Driver: Naïve Approach
4. Assignments

# Architecture Design

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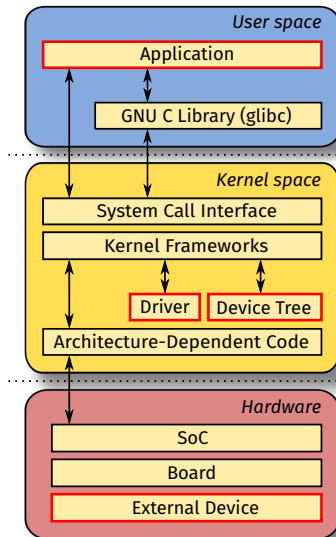
# Objectives

1. Learn how to communicate with hardware  
(Hardware = SoC + Board + External)
2. Grasp the whole development chain: **Hardware** → **Kernel** → **User space**
3. Learn how to develop **upstreamable** and **production ready** driver
4. Structure previously obtained knowledge:
  - Get deeper understanding
  - Learn missing parts
5. Prepare base for further development

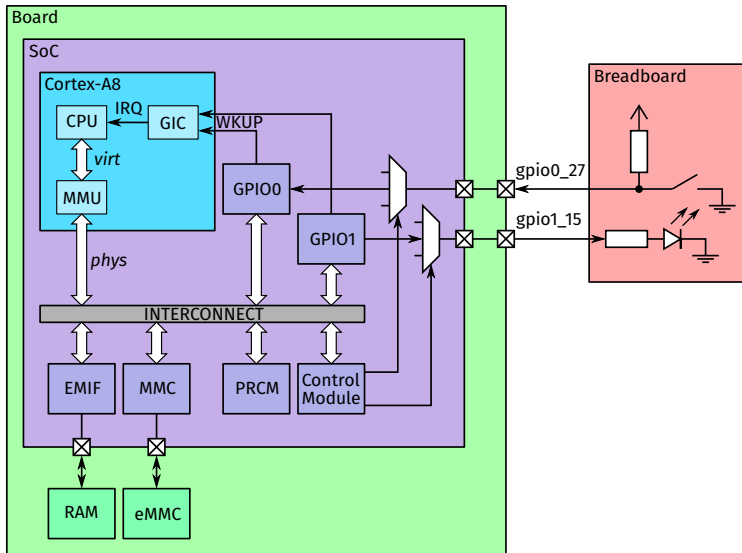
# Design Requirements

- Hardware:
  - Prototyping on breadboard
  - External LED and button
  - Make it accessible via GPIOs
  - Prepare HW info for development
- Kernel:
  - Device Tree (definition in dts; obtain in module)
  - Control the LED and button (GPIO, interrupt)
  - User-space interface (char dev, file ops)
  - Power management
- User space:
  - Test the driver via **echo** and **cat**
  - Develop application for testing the driver

# Software Architecture



# Device Functional Block Diagram



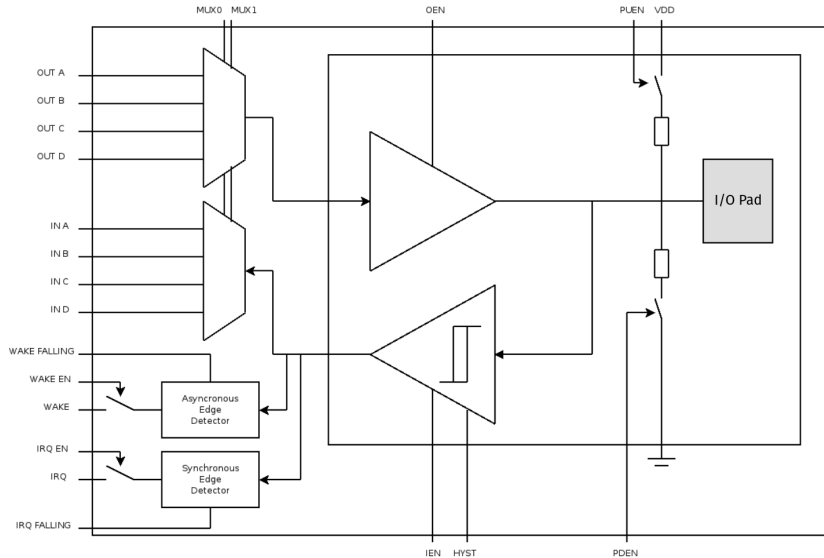
# Hardware Overview

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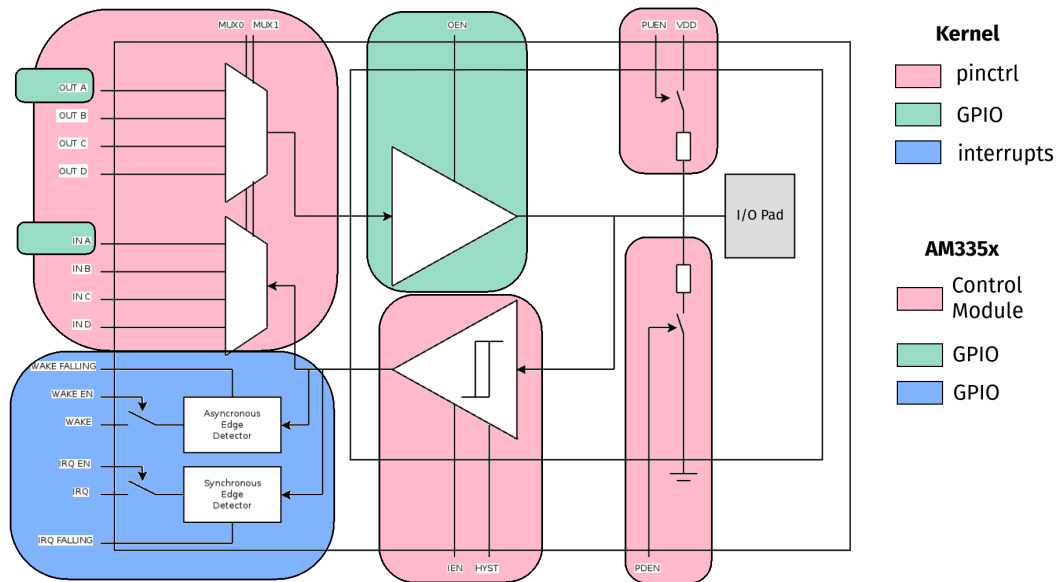


## GPIO Module

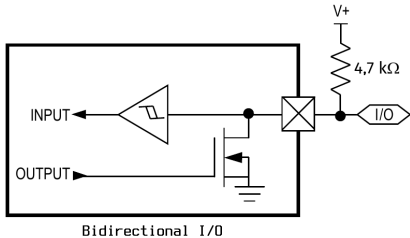
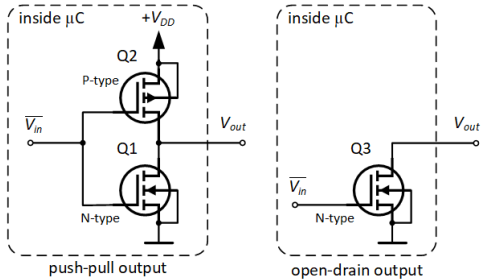
## Generic GPIO Block



# Generic GPIO Block



# Output Buffers



- Push-pull states: **0** and **1**
- Open-drain states: **0** and **Hi-Z**

Open drain features:

- Can be bidirectional
- External **pull-up** is usually used
- Allows line sharing (**wired-AND**)
- Often used for 1-wire, I2C
- Different voltage can be used

## Open-Drain Outputs in AM335x

- In AM335x we don't have **open-drain outputs**
- All GPIO output buffers are push-pull
- But we can emulate open-drain output behavior by **switching input/output modes**

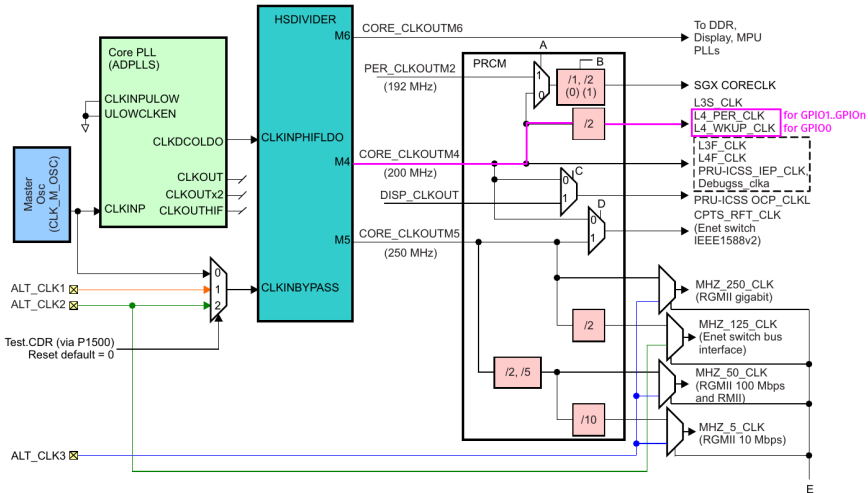
### Push-Pull Output:

- $\text{GPIO\_OE}[n] = 0$  (fixed, output)
- $\text{GPIO\_DATAOUT}[n]$ :
  - 0: low state
  - 1: high state

### Open-Drain Output:

- $\text{GPIO\_DATAOUT}[n] = 0$  (fixed)
- $\text{GPIO\_OE}[n]$ :
  - 0 (output): low state
  - 1 (input): Hi-Z state

## PRCM: Clock for GPIO



### Figure 1: GPIO interface clock derivation

# Clock Handling inside GPIO

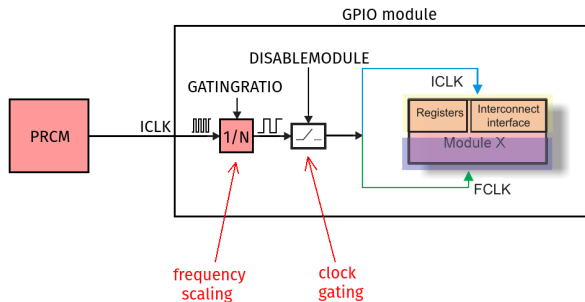


Figure 2: Clock path inside of GPIO module

$$P \approx P_{dyn} = C \cdot f \cdot V^2$$

# Power Management Consideration

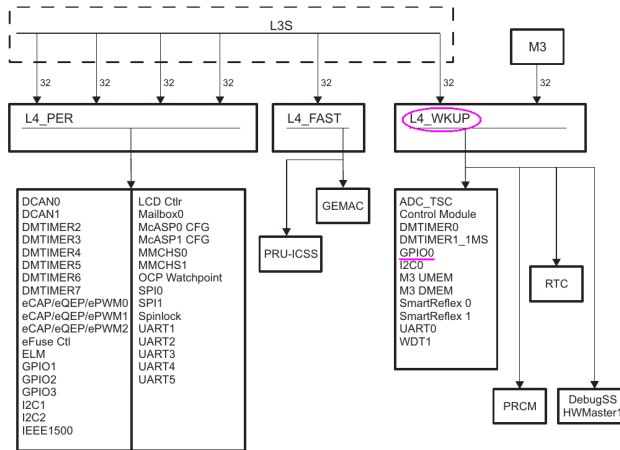


Figure 3: L4 Topology (Figure 10-2 in TRM)



# Power Management Consideration

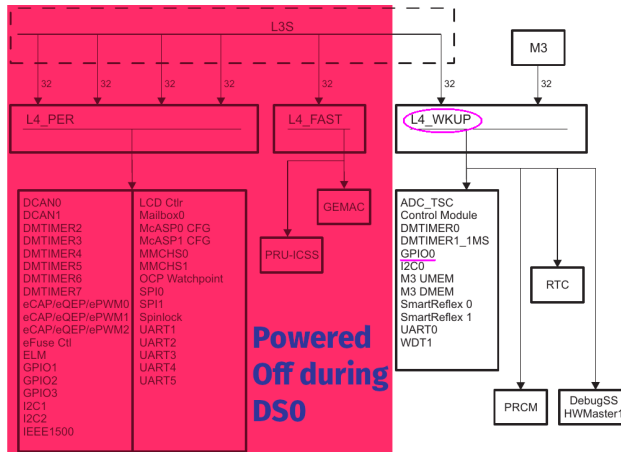


Figure 3: L4 Topology (Figure 10-2 in TRM)

# Debouncing

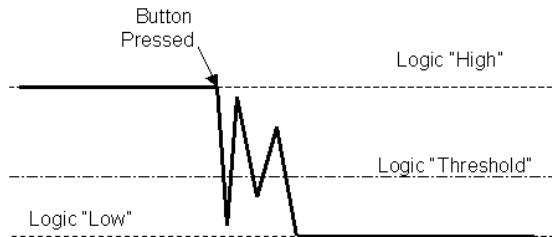


Figure 4: Button Debouncing

# Debouncing

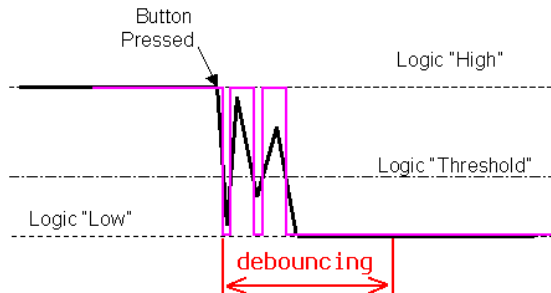


Figure 4: Button Debouncing

## Debouncing (cont'd)

- Debouncing: software or hardware
- AM335x has GPIO debouncing capability:
  - `GPIO_DEBOUNCEENABLE[31:0]`
  - `GPIO_DEBOUNCINGTIME[7:0]`
- Kernel API:
  - Old: `gpio_set_debounce()`
  - New: `gpiod_set_debounce()`

## Choosing Pins

# BBB Expansion Headers

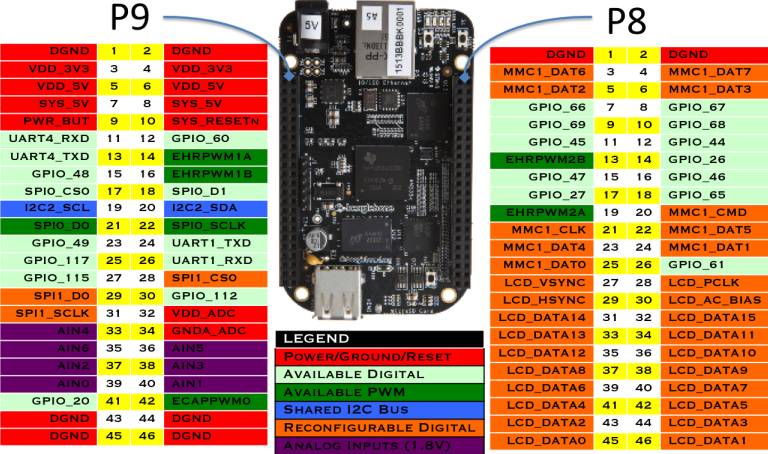


Figure 5: BBB Cape Expansion Headers

# Choosing GPIO Pins

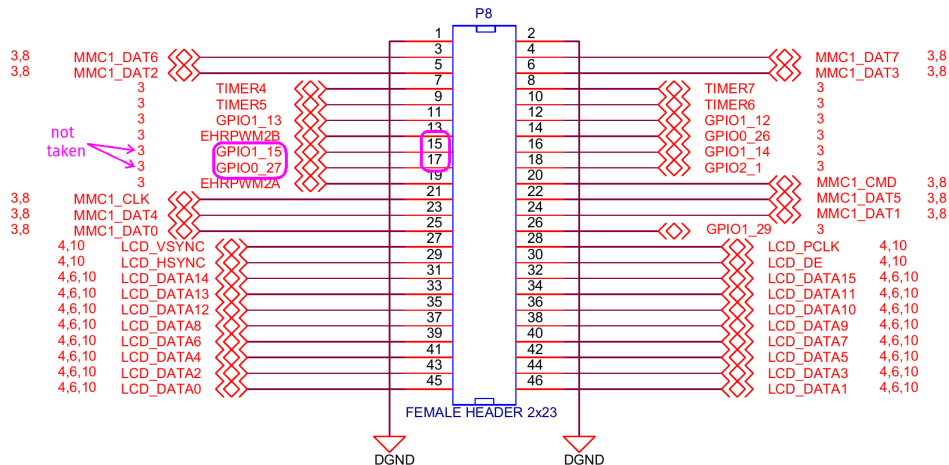


Figure 6: P8 Expansion Header

## Choosing GPIO Pins (cont'd)

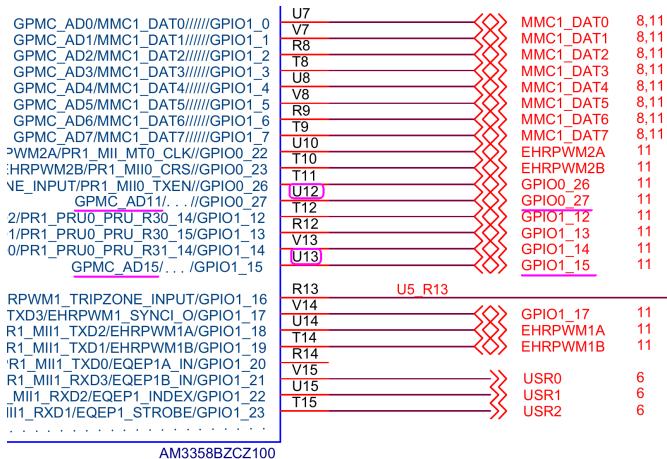


Figure 7: AM3358 pins



## Registers and Values

# Pin Multiplexing

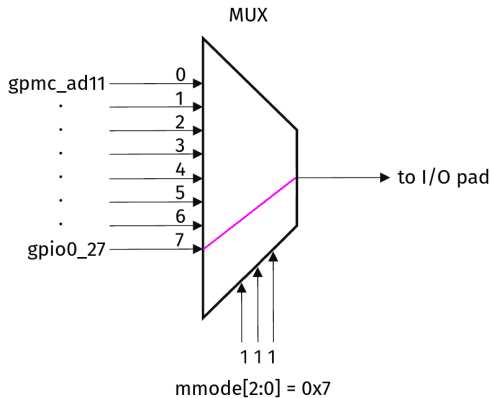


Figure 8: Pin mux example

# Pin Modes

ZCZ BALL NUMBER [1]	PIN NAME [2]	SIGNAL NAME [3]	MODE [4]	TYPE [5]	BALL RESET STATE [6] <sup>(25)</sup>	BALL RESET REL. STATE [7]	RESET REL. MODE [8]
U12	GPMC_AD11	gpmc_ad11	0	I/O	L	L	7
		lcd_data20	1	O			
		mmc1_dat3	2	I/O			
		mmc2_dat7	3	I/O			
		ehrpwm0_synco	4	O			
		pr1_mii0_txd3	5	O			
		gpio0_27	7	I/O			
U13	GPMC_AD15	gpmc_ad15	0	I/O	L	L	7
		lcd_data16	1	O			
		mmc1_dat7	2	I/O			
		mmc2_dat3	3	I/O			
		eQEP2_strobe	4	I/O			
		pr1_ecap0_ecap_capin_apwm_o	5	I/O			
		pr1_pru0_pru_r31_15	6	I			
		gpio1_15	7	I/O			

Figure 9: Pin attributes (Table 4-2 in datasheet)

**Table 2-2. L4\_WKUP Peripheral Memory Map**

Region Name	Start Address (hex)	End Address (hex)	Size	Description
GPIO0	<u>0x44E0_7000</u>	0x44E0_7FFF	4KB	GPIO Registers
	0x44E0_8000	0x44E0_8FFF	4KB	Reserved
Control Module	<u>0x44E1_0000</u>	0x44E1_1FFF	128KB	Control Module Registers

**Table 2-3. L4\_PER Peripheral Memory Map**

Device Name	Start_address (hex)	End_address (hex)	Size	Description
GPIO1	<u>0x4804_C000</u>	0x4804_CFFF	4KB	GPIO1 Registers
	0x4804_D000	0x4804_DFFF	4KB	Reserved

Figure 10: Base addresses of registers (“Memory Map” section)

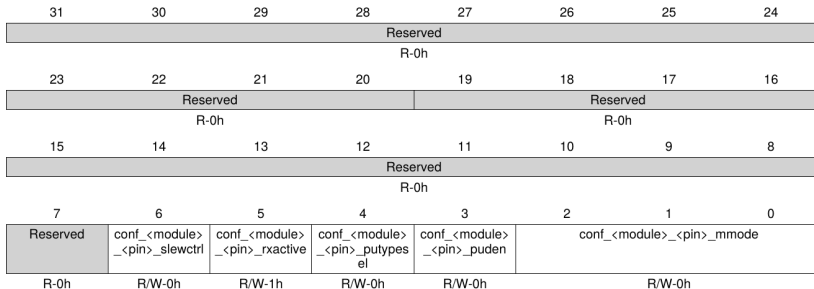
# Pin Control Registers

## 9.3.1.50 conf\_<module>\_<pin> Register (offset = 800h–A34h)

See the device [datasheet](#) for information on default pin mux configurations.

See [Table 9-10](#), *Control Module Registers Table*, for the full list of [offsets](#) for each module/pin configuration.

**Figure 9-51. conf\_<module>\_<pin> Register**



**Figure 11:** Pin mux registers description (“Control Module” section)

## Pin Control Registers (cont'd)

Offset	Acronym
<u>82Ch</u>	conf_gpmc_ad11
<u>83Ch</u>	conf_gpmc_ad15

Figure 12: Pin mux registers offsets (“Control Module” section)

## GPIO Registers Offset

<u>Offset</u>	Acronym	Section
130h	GPIO_CTRL	<a href="#">Section 25.4.1.15</a>
134h	GPIO_OE	<a href="#">Section 25.4.1.16</a>
138h	GPIO_DATAIN	<a href="#">Section 25.4.1.17</a>
13Ch	GPIO_DATAOUT	<a href="#">Section 25.4.1.18</a>

Figure 13: Address offset for GPIO registers

# GPIO\_CTRL Register

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24
RESERVED							
R-0h							
23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16
RESERVED							
R-0h							
15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
RESERVED							
R-0h							
7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
RESERVED				GATINGRATIO		DISABLEMODULE	
R-0h				R/W-0h		R/W-0h	

Figure 14: GPIO\_CTRL register



## Rest of GPIO Registers

**Figure 25-23. GPIO\_OE Register**

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
OUTPUTEN[n]																															
R/W-FFFFFFFFh																															

**Figure 25-24. GPIO\_DATAIN Register**

31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
DATAIN																															
R-0h																															

**Figure 25-25. GPIO\_DATAOUT Register**

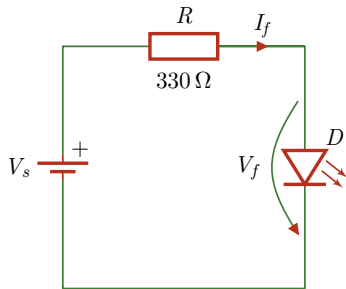
31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
DATAOUT																															
R/W-0h																															

Figure 15: GPIO common registers

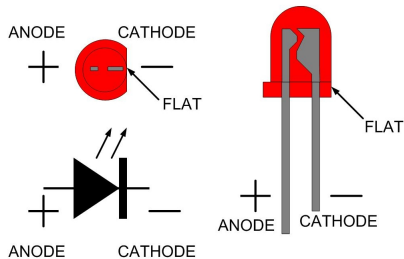
Take five

## Building the Device

# Interfacing LED

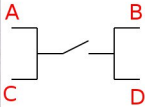
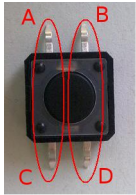
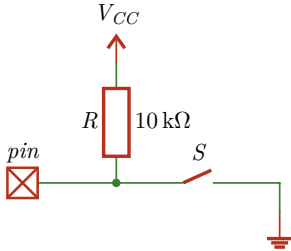


$V_s = 3.3\text{ V}$  (BBB GPIO voltage)  
 $V_f = 2.0\text{ V}$  (for red LED)  
 $I_{LED} = 20\text{ mA}$  (nominal LED current)  
 $I_{GPIO} = 4\text{ mA}$  (max BBB GPIO)



$$R = \frac{V_s - V_f}{I_f}$$
$$R = \frac{3.3 - 2.0}{0.004} \approx 330\ \Omega$$

# Interfacing Button



Logic:

- Button pressed:  $V_{pin} = 0\text{ V}$
- Button not pressed:  $V_{pin} = V_{CC} = 3.3\text{ V}$

Pull-up resistor:

- Current must be strong enough to eliminate noise
- But we don't want too much power to be drawn either
- Pull-up resistor is usually 10 kΩ

# Breadboard

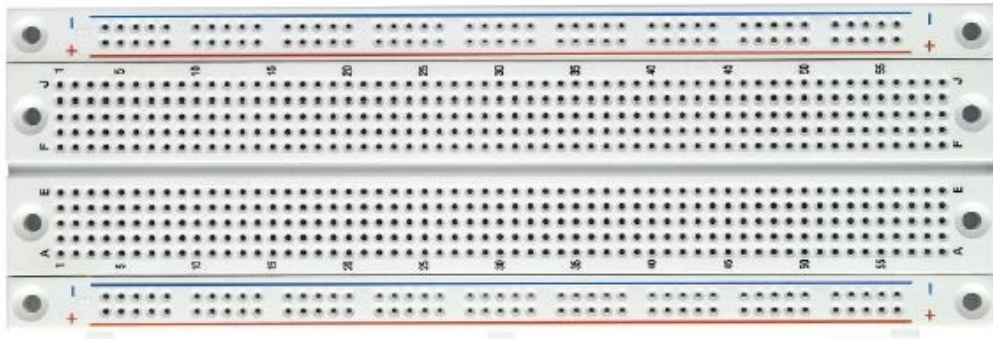


Figure 16: EIC-20020 Breadboard

# Breadboard

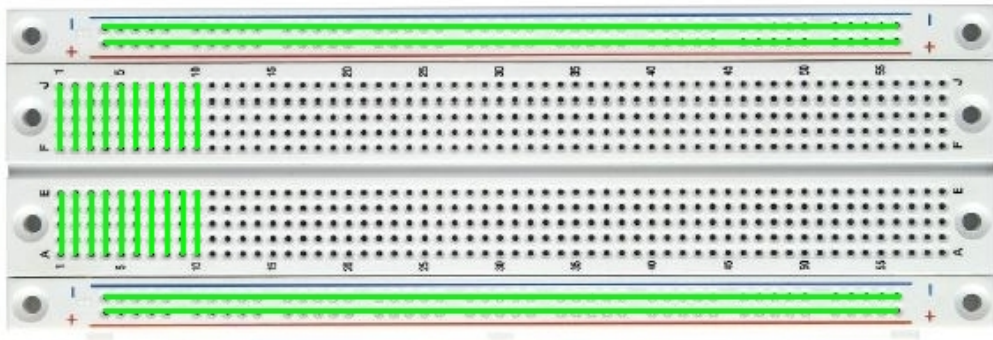


Figure 16: EIC-20020 Breadboard

# Device: Schematics

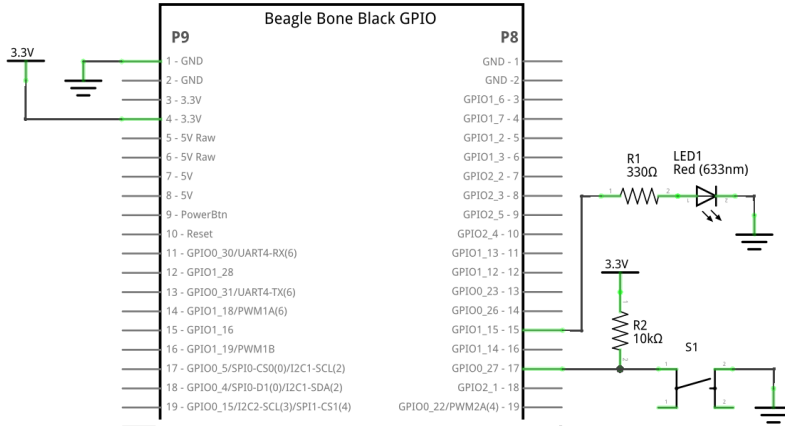


Figure 17: Schematics of device



## Device: Prototyping

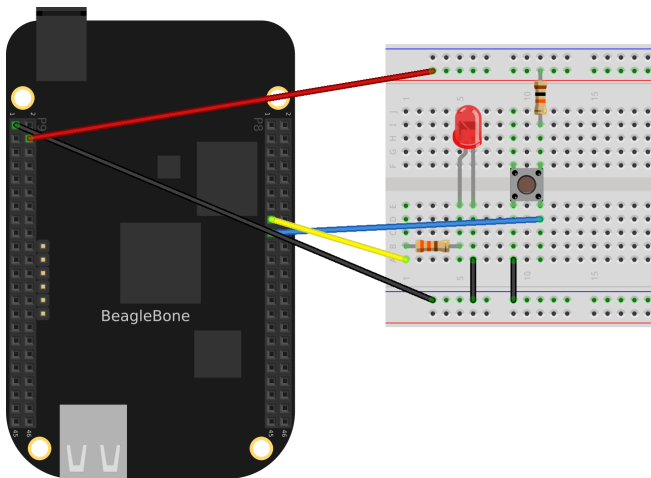


Figure 18: Breadboard connections

## Kernel Driver: Naïve Approach

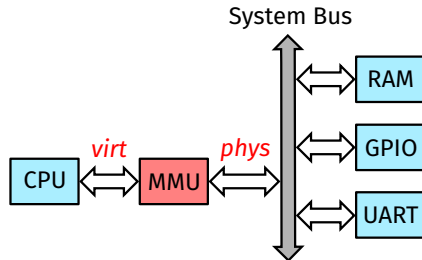
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## Attempt #1

Direct access to registers

DO NOT USE IN REAL LIFE!

## API: ioremap



---

```
virt_addr = ioremap(phys_addr, size);
```

---

## API: ioremap (cont'd)

---

```
#include <asm/io.h>

/* Create/remove the mapping to virtual address space for I/O region */
void __iomem *ioremap(resource_size_t res_cookie, size_t size);
void iounmap(volatile void __iomem *iomem_cookie);

/* Read/write primitives: handle memory barriers, endianness, volatile */
void iowrite32(u32 value, volatile void __iomem *addr);
u32 ioread32(const volatile void __iomem *addr);
```

---

Read LDD3 chapter 9 for details.

## Listing 1: hw1.c

---

```
1 #include <linux/module.h>
2 #include <linux/kthread.h>
3 #include <linux/delay.h>
4 #include <asm/io.h>
5
6 /* Modules base addresses and registers offsets */
7 #define CTRL_MODULE_BASE      0x44e1000
8 #define GPIO0_BASE           0x44e07000
9 #define GPIO1_BASE           0x4804c000
10 #define CONF_GPMC_AD11_OFFSET 0x82c
11 #define CONF_GPMC_AD15_OFFSET 0x83c
12 #define GPIO_CTRL_OFFSET     0x130
13 #define GPIO_OE_OFFSET       0x134
14 #define GPIO_DATAIN_OFFSET    0x138
15 #define GPIO_DATAOUT_OFFSET   0x13c
16
17 /* Registers addresses */
18 #define CONF_GPMC_AD11        (CTRL_MODULE_BASE + CONF_GPMC_AD11_OFFSET)
19 #define CONF_GPMC_AD15        (CTRL_MODULE_BASE + CONF_GPMC_AD15_OFFSET)
20 #define GPIO0_CTRL            (GPIO0_BASE + GPIO_CTRL_OFFSET)
```

## First Attempt: Code (2/7)

```
21 #define GPIO1_CTRL          (GPIO1_BASE + GPIO_CTRL_OFFSET)
22 #define GPIO0_OE            (GPIO0_BASE + GPIO_OE_OFFSET)
23 #define GPIO1_OE            (GPIO1_BASE + GPIO_OE_OFFSET)
24 #define GPIO0_DATAIN        (GPIO0_BASE + GPIO_DATAIN_OFFSET)
25 #define GPIO1_DATAOUT       (GPIO1_BASE + GPIO_DATAOUT_OFFSET)
26
27 /* conf_<module>_<pin> registers flags */
28 #define MUX_MODE7            0x7
29 #define PULL_DISABLE         BIT(3)
30 #define INPUT_EN             BIT(5)
31 #define BTN_CONF             (MUX_MODE7 | PULL_DISABLE | INPUT_EN)
32 #define LED_CONF             (MUX_MODE7 | PULL_DISABLE)
33
34 /* GPIO line numbers for button and LED */
35 #define BTN_LINE              BIT(27)          /* gpmc_ad11.gpio0_27 */
36 #define LED_LINE              BIT(15)          /* gpmc_ad15.gpio1_15 */
37
38 static struct task_struct *thread;
39 static void __iomem *btn_gpio, *led_gpio;
40
41 static void hw1_mux_pins(void)
42 {
43     void __iomem *reg;
```

## First Attempt: Code (3/7)

```
44
45     /* BTN: mux the pin */
46     reg = ioremap(CONF_GPMC_AD11, 4);
47     iowrite32(BTN_CONF, reg);
48     iounmap(reg);
49
50     /* LED: mux the pin */
51     reg = ioremap(CONF_GPMC_AD15, 4);
52     iowrite32(LED_CONF, reg);
53     iounmap(reg);
54 }
55
56 static void hw1_setup_gpio(void)
57 {
58     void __iomem *reg;
59     u32 val;
60
61     /* BTN: enable modules, clock = functional */
62     reg = ioremap(GPIO0_CTRL, 4);
63     iowrite32(0x0, reg);
64     iounmap(reg);
65
66     /* LED: enable modules, clock = functional */
```



## First Attempt: Code (4/7)

```
67     reg = ioremap(GPIO1_CTRL, 4);
68     iowrite32(0x0, reg);
69     iounmap(reg);
70
71     /* BTN: configure input/output mode */
72     reg = ioremap(GPIO0_OE, 4);
73     val = ioread32(reg);
74     val |= BTN_LINE;           /* 1 = input */
75     iowrite32(val, reg);
76     iounmap(reg);
77
78     /* LED: configure input/output mode */
79     reg = ioremap(GPIO1_OE, 4);
80     val = ioread32(reg);
81     val &= ~LED_LINE;         /* 0 = output */
82     iowrite32(val, reg);
83     iounmap(reg);
84 }
85
86 static int hw1_thread_func(void *data)
87 {
88     /* Poll the button */
89     while (!kthread_should_stop()) {
```

## First Attempt: Code (5/7)

```
90         u32 btn_val, led_val;
91
92         btn_val = ioread32(btn_gpio);
93         led_val = ioread32(led_gpio);
94         if (btn_val & BTN_LINE) {
95             /* not pressed (pull-up): LED off */
96             led_val &= ~LED_LINE;
97         } else {
98             /* pressed (GND): LED on */
99             led_val |= LED_LINE;
100        }
101
102        iowrite32(led_val, led_gpio);
103        msleep(100);
104    }
105
106    return 0;
107 }
108
109 static int __init hw1_init(void)
110 {
111     int ret;
112
```

## First Attempt: Code (6/7)

```
113     hw1_mux_pins();
114     hw1_setup_gpio();
115
116     btn_gpio = ioremap(GPIOD0_DATAIN, 4);
117     led_gpio = ioremap(GPIOD1_DATAOUT, 4);
118
119     thread = kthread_run(hw1_thread_func, NULL, "hw1_thread");
120     if (IS_ERR(thread)) {
121         pr_err("kthread_run() failed\n");
122         ret = PTR_ERR(thread);
123         goto err1;
124     }
125
126     return 0;
127
128 err1:
129     iounmap(led_gpio);
130     iounmap(btn_gpio);
131     return ret;
132 }
133
134 static void __exit hw1_exit(void)
135 {
```

## First Attempt: Code (7/7)

```
136         if (thread)
137             kthread_stop(thread);
138         iounmap(led_gpio);
139         iounmap(btn_gpio);
140     }
141
142     module_init(hw1_init);
143     module_exit(hw1_exit);
144
145     MODULE_AUTHOR("Sam Protsenko <joe.skb7@gmail.com>");
146     MODULE_DESCRIPTION("Test module 1");
147     MODULE_LICENSE("GPL");
```

---

This approach is just plain wrong:

- Will work only on BBB
- Possible conflicts for GPIO (lines) and pinctrl (muxes)
- Possible race-condition due to **GPIO\_DATAOUT** usage (can be solved by using **GPIO\_SETDATAOUT** instead)
- Too much code
- Polling vs interrupts
- No user space interface

## Use Device Tree, Luke!



**IOREMAP**

**DEVICE  
TREE**

## Attempt #2

Legacy GPIO API + pinctrl in device tree

DO NOT USE IN REAL LIFE!

- Your kernel already has GPIO driver for SoC's GPIO module
  - It's platform-dependent: aware of platform-specific data (registers, interrupts, etc)
  - You can't use the driver directly (it's only setting callbacks)
  - Device Tree definition: `arch/arm/boot/dts/am33xx.dtsi`
  - Driver's code: `drivers/gpio/gpio-omap.c`



## GPIO Kernel Frameworks

- Your kernel already has GPIO driver for SoC's GPIO module
  - It's platform-dependent: aware of platform-specific data (registers, interrupts, etc)
  - You can't use the driver directly (it's only setting callbacks)
  - Device Tree definition: `arch/arm/boot/dts/am33xx.dtsi`
  - Driver's code: `drivers/gpio/gpio-omap.c`
- Kernel has GPIO frameworks to access GPIO driver functions
  - Platform-independent API: the same usage for all possible boards
  - All API calls lead to GPIO driver calls
  - Legacy GPIO API: `include/linux/gpio.h`
  - New GPIO API: `include/linux/gpio/consumer.h`

# API: Legacy GPIO Kernel API

---

```
#include <linux/gpio.h>

int gpio_request(unsigned gpio, const char *label);
void gpio_free(unsigned gpio);
int gpio_to_irq(unsigned gpio);
int gpio_direction_output(unsigned gpio, int value);
int gpio_direction_input(unsigned gpio);
void gpio_set_value(unsigned gpio, int value);
int gpio_get_value(unsigned gpio);
```

---

Read `Documentation/driver-api/gpio/legacy.rst` for details.

## Second Attempt: Device Tree

Listing 2: am335x-boneblack.dts

```
1 &am33xx_pinmux {
2     hw_pins: hw_pins {
3         pinctrl-single,pins = <
4             AM33XX_IOPAD(0x82c, PIN_INPUT | MUX_MODE7)      /* gpmc_ad11.gpio0_27 */
5             AM33XX_IOPAD(0x83c, PIN_OUTPUT | MUX_MODE7)     /* gpmc_ad15.gpio1_15 */
6         >;
7     };
8 };
9
10 / {
11     soc {
12         pinctrl-names = "default";
13         pinctrl-0 = <&hw_pins>;
14     };
15 };
```

### Listing 3: hw2.c

---

```
1 #include <linux/module.h>
2 #include <linux/gpio.h>
3 #include <linux/interrupt.h>
4
5 #define AM335_GPIO(bank,line)    (32 * bank + line)
6 #define LED_GPIO                 AM335_GPIO(1, 15)
7 #define BTN_GPIO                 AM335_GPIO(0, 27)
8
9 static int irq;
10 static int led_on;
11
12 static irqreturn_t hw2_btn_isr(int num, void *priv)
13 {
14     led_on ^= 0x1;
15     gpio_set_value(LED_GPIO, led_on);
16     pr_info("interrupt!\n");
17     return IRQ_HANDLED;
18 }
19
20 static int __init hw2_init(void)
```

## Second Attempt: Code (2/3)

```
21 {
22     int err;
23
24     err = gpio_request(BTN_GPIO, "my_button");
25     if (err) {
26         pr_err("Unable to request button GPIO\n");
27         return -EINVAL;
28     }
29     gpio_direction_input(BTN_GPIO);
30     irq = gpio_to_irq(BTN_GPIO);
31     err = request_threaded_irq(irq, NULL, hw2_btn_isr,
32                               IRQF_TRIGGER_FALLING | IRQF_ONESHOT,
33                               "my button key", NULL);
34     if (err) {
35         pr_err("Unable to request interrupt for button\n");
36         return -EINVAL;
37     }
38
39     err = gpio_request(LED_GPIO, "my_led");
40     if (err) {
41         pr_err("Unable to request LED GPIO\n");
42         return -EINVAL;
43     }
```

## Second Attempt: Code (3/3)

```
44     gpio_direction_output(LED_GPIO, led_on);
45
46     return 0;
47 }
48
49 static void __exit hw2_exit(void)
50 {
51     free_irq(irq, NULL);
52     gpio_free(BTN_GPIO);
53     gpio_free(LED_GPIO);
54 }
55
56 module_init(hw2_init);
57 module_exit(hw2_exit);
58
59 MODULE_AUTHOR("Sam Protsenko <joe.skb7@gmail.com>");
60 MODULE_DESCRIPTION("Test module 2");
61 MODULE_LICENSE("GPL");
```

---

# Shortcomings

Somewhat better, but still has its pitfalls:

- GPIO lines are still hard-coded in driver
- Obsolete legacy GPIO API
- Referencing pinctrl from **soc** node is hacky
- Still no user space interface

Those two examples can still be useful:

- To check some idea fast (experiments)
- When implementing some low-level driver (like GPIO platform driver)
- It shows how to use TRM and schematics
- It's useful to see the evolution (how frameworks appeared)
- To know what to avoid in production

# Assignments

---



# Assignment 1 (mandatory)

Try out everything we discussed today:

- Assemble “LED + button” device on the breadboard
- Build and run provided module #1 (make sure the device works)
- Build and run provided module #2 (make sure the device works)
  - Apply provided patch for **.dts** file (in kernel)
  - Rebuild **.dtb** file for BBB
  - Boot kernel with new **dtb** and load **hw2.ko**
- Think about how mentioned problems can be solved

## Assignment 2

Find out and use existing drivers in the kernel:

- Look for **gpio-leds** and **gpio-keys** drivers in **Documentation/devicetree/bindings/**
- Try to use those drivers instead of **hw1.ko** / **hw2.ko** from this lecture
- Manage to handle button and LED in user space
- How to use PWM module to control LED brightness?
  - Which pin to connect LED to?
  - How to mux that pin for PWM mode?
  - How to enable PWM module in device tree?
  - Now how to control the LED brightness from user space? (sysfs)
  - Which existing driver can be used to control the LED brightness via PWM from device tree? Try to use it.

## Assignment 3

Figure out how `ioremap()` actually works:

- Examine `Documentation/arm/memory.rst`:
  - At which addresses `ioremap()` mappings are stored?
  - Which function is used to prepare *static mappings*?
- Figure out how static mappings are being set up (hint: look where the function mentioned in Documentation is being called from (from `arch/` code)? what's passed to that function from there?)
- Which physical addresses are being statically mapped?
- What are the corresponding virtual addresses (calculate manually)?
- Look at AM335x TRM, section 2 “Memory Map”: which hardware modules can be accessed via those statically mapped addresses in kernel?

## Assignment 3 (cont'd)

- Where is that function (from **arch/**) used? It's set to some callback field in some struct. Provide the file path (it's actually a *board file*).
- What does “static mapping” mean? Use **git blame** on the function mentioned in Documentation and read commit messages for found commits to get more info. Also Google for it.
- Does **ioremap( )** actually creates new MMU mapping in page table when you call it, passing some GPIO register address?
- Can we avoid using **ioremap( )** in **hw1.ko**? Why is that possible?
- Why it's incorrect to use **ioremap( )** for system memory (regular RAM)?
- Trace **ioremap( )** function call as deep as possible, using your IDE capabilities (for BBB architecture)

## Assignment 4

### Implement user space GPIO driver for our device

- Create minimal user space driver (in C) using `/dev/gpiochip*` char devs
  - Toggle the LED on button press while your app is running
- Look here for insights:
  - Syscall interface: `Documentation/ABI/testing/gpio-cdev`
  - Examples: `tools/gpio/*`
- It's even better to use `libgpiod` (you'll have to cross-compile it for ARM)
- Don't use GPIO sysfs interface, it's obsolete
- Send me all source files
- **NOTE:** User-space GPIO interface is useful for makers, but usually it's a poor substitute for real kernel drivers

Thank you!