University of Victoria Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering ECE 455 Spring 2023 B01

Lab Project Project 2: Deadline Driven Scheduler

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Introduction

The goal of this project is to implement a deadline driven scheduler (DDS) using FreeRTOS. The deadline driven scheduler uses earliest deadline first scheduling (EDF) to dynamically change task priorities based on which has the soonest absolute deadline. A task with the soonest deadline will be given a priority of 'high' and all other tasks are given priorities of 'low'. These tasks are referred to within this project as deadline-driven tasks (DD-tasks).

FreeRTOS does not support deadline driven scheduling; therefore, the algorithm must be built on top of the existing FreeRTOS scheduler. Four FreeRTOS tasks (F-tasks) are used to implement and test the DDS: deadline-driven scheduler task, user-defined tasks, deadline-driven task generator, and the monitor task. Here is a list of F-tasks in order of priority:

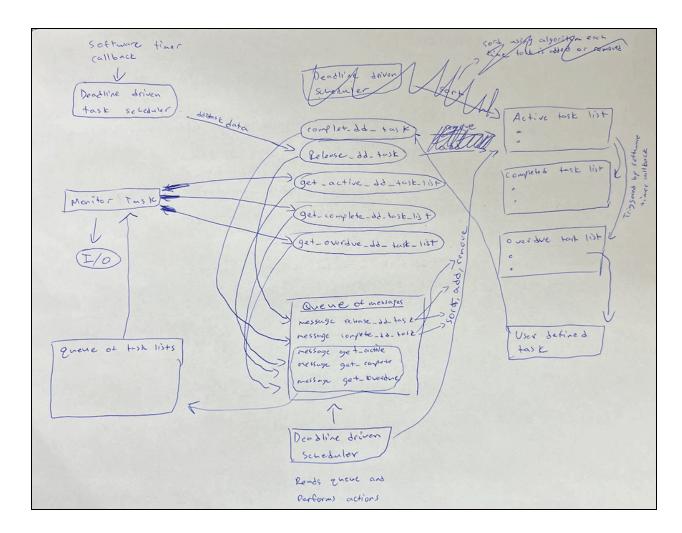
- The scheduler task has the highest priority and reads from a queue of messages sent from the other three F-tasks. It is responsible for shifting the priorities of the DD-tasks based on their deadlines, creating new DD-tasks, and removing them from the active list once they finish or become overdue. This has the highest task priority.
- The monitor task periodically reports information on active tasks, completed tasks, and overdue tasks. This has the second highest task priority.
- The task generator periodically creates new DD-tasks using a software timer. The timer will interrupt the current task.
- User-defined tasks act as a shell for DD-tasks, allowing them to be actively run. These
 have the lowest priority.

Design Solution

The scheduler makes use of a message queue read by the deadline-driven scheduler task (F-task). Different message types are sent to the queue by the other F-tasks and invoke processes within the scheduler. Our design process involved separating the functionality into their corresponding message types and implementing each scheduler functionality one by one.

Design Document

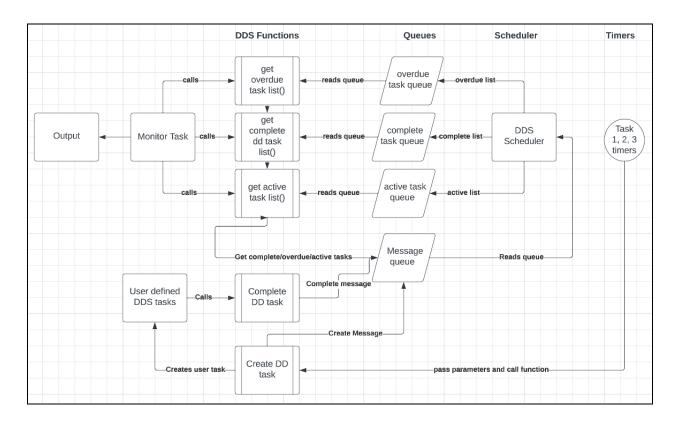
This is the initial design document that we created. It is a high level illustration of how data moves through the scheduler and the dependencies between scheduler functionality.



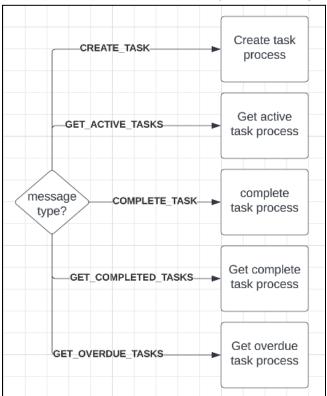
Overall, much of the design document is the same as the final design. The only difference is how we handled creating tasks. We didn't use an F-task for the functionality of creating a task, instead we used a software timer callback so it would be more accurate.

System Overview

Below is a system overview that outlines the interactions between F-tasks, queues, timers, and DDS functions.



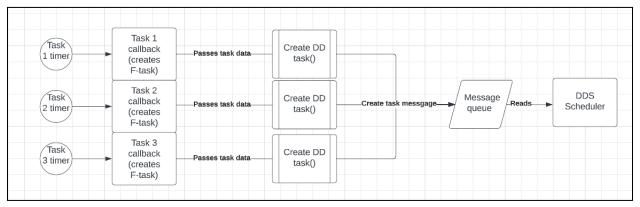
The scheduler itself at a high level is pretty simple. It reads messages from a queue and performs an action based on the type of message. This is shown in the following flow chart.



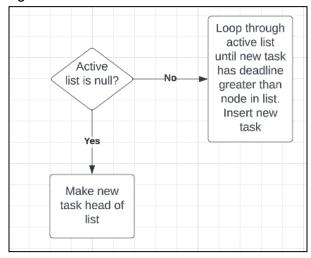
In the following sections, each of the five DDS functions are explained.

Create Task

A software timer periodically creates a new instance of a task. It then calls create_dd_task() and sends it the information about the newly created task. create_dd_task() bundles this information into a dd_task struct and sends it to the scheduler via the messenger queue. The scheduler then adds the new task to active_task_list in the correct order. Below is a diagram of how this works.



As part of creating tasks, our Scheduling task sorts the new task into the correct position. This is the only place where we need to sort the tasks. Below is a simple diagram of the sorting algorithm.



Complete task

Each DD-task internally keeps track of how long it has been executing. Since a DD-task is only able to communicate with the schedulers auxiliary functions, when the full execution time has occurred, it will call the scheduler function complete_dd_task. This function will then send a message to the scheduler through the messenger queue. Once the scheduler receives this

message, it will remove the task from the active_task_list and add it to the completed_task_list to reflect the newly completed task. It will then use vTaskDelete() to delete the F-task.

Get Active Tasks

The monitor task periodically calls get_active_tasks(). This function then sends a message requesting the head of the active_task_list to the scheduler through the messenger queue. Once the scheduler receives this message, it will send the head of the active_task_list to the active_task_queue, which will then be received by get_active_tasks(). Then, the function will return the head of the list to the monitor task.

Get Completed Tasks

The monitor task periodically calls get_completed_tasks(). This function then sends a message requesting the head of the completed_task_list to the scheduler through the messenger queue. Once the scheduler receives this message, it will send the head of the completed_task_list to the completed_task_queue, which will then be received by get_completed_tasks(). Then, the function will return the head of the list to the monitor task.

Get Overdue Tasks

The monitor task periodically calls get_overdue_tasks(). This function then sends a message requesting the head of the overdue_task_list to the scheduler through the messenger queue. Once the scheduler receives this message, it will send the head of the overdue_task_list to the overdue_task_queue, which will then be received by get_overdue_tasks(). Then, the function will return the head of the list to the monitor task.

Discussion

Overall, our scheduler matched the expected performance with an slight error of a few ms. This is likely due to the additional overhead of the monitor task. Below are the test bench results.

Test bench 1:

| Event # | Event | Measured time | Expected time |
|---------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Task 1 released | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Task 2 released | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Task 3 released | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Task 1 completed | 98 | 95 |
| 5 | Task 2 completed | 247 | 245 |
| 6 | Task 3 completed | 496 | 495 |

| 7 | Task 1 released | 500 | 500 |
|----|------------------|------|------|
| 8 | Task 2 released | 500 | 500 |
| 9 | Task 1 completed | 598 | 595 |
| 10 | Task 2 completed | 747 | 745 |
| 11 | Task 3 released | 750 | 750 |
| 12 | Task 1 released | 1000 | 1000 |
| 13 | Task 2 released | 1000 | 1000 |
| 14 | Task 3 completed | 1002 | 1000 |
| 15 | Task 1 completed | 1097 | 1095 |
| 16 | Task 2 completed | 1246 | 1245 |
| 17 | Task 1 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 18 | Task 2 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 19 | Task 3 released | 1500 | 1500 |

Test bench 2:

| Event # | Event | Measured time | Expected time |
|---------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Task 1 released | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Task 2 released | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Task 3 released | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Task 1 completed | 98 | 95 |
| 5 | Task 2 completed | 247 | 245 |
| 6 | Task 1 released | 250 | 250 |
| 7 | Task 1 completed | 343 | 340 |
| 8 | Task 2 released | 500 | 500 |
| 9 | Task 1 released | 500 | 500 |
| 10 | Task 3 completed | 594 | 590 |
| 11 | Task 1 complete | 691 | 685 |

| 12 | Task 3 released | 750 | 750 |
|----|------------------|------|------|
| 13 | Task 1 released | 750 | 750 |
| 14 | Task 2 completed | 840 | 835 |
| 15 | Task 1 completed | 934 | 930 |
| 16 | Task 2 released | 1000 | 1000 |
| 17 | Task 1 released | 1000 | 1000 |
| 18 | Task 1 completed | 1098 | 1095 |
| 19 | Task 1 released | 1250 | 1250 |
| 20 | Task 3 complete | 1284 | 1275 |
| 21 | Task 3 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 22 | Task 2 released | 1500 | 1500 |

Test bench 3:

| Event # | Event | Measured time | Expected time |
|---------|------------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1 | Task 1 released | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | Task 2 released | 0 | 0 |
| 3 | Task 3 released | 0 | 0 |
| 4 | Task 1 completed | 103 | 100 |
| 5 | Task 3 completed | 303 | 300 |
| 6 | Task 1 released | 500 | 500 |
| 7 | Task 2 released | 500 | 500 |
| 8 | Task 3 released | 500 | 500 |
| 9 | Task 2 overdue | 501 | 501 |
| 10 | Task 1 complete | 603 | 600 |
| 11 | Task 2 completed | 805 | 800 |
| 12 | Task 1 released | 1000 | 1000 |
| 13 | Task 2 released | 1000 | 1000 |

| 14 | Task 3 released | 1000 | 1000 |
|----|------------------|------|------|
| 15 | Task 3 overdue | 1001 | 1001 |
| 16 | Task 1 completed | 1108 | 1100 |
| 17 | Task 2 completed | 1308 | 1300 |
| 18 | Task 1 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 19 | Task 2 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 20 | Task 3 released | 1500 | 1500 |
| 21 | Task 3 overdue | 1501 | 1501 |

Limitations and Possible Improvements

Looking back at this project, we could have made the development process easier by gaining a better understanding of the theory and documentation behind FreeRTOS before starting development. Although we did create a design document at the start of the project, we had a poor understanding of how some FreeRTOS components worked, which made it difficult to plan properly. We did eventually learn all of the necessary documentation as we worked our way through the process, but it would have been easier to do this at the beginning.

Summary

The purpose of this project was to manually create a task scheduling system using FreeRTOS tasks, timers, and queues. The contents of this project were similar to the contents of what we learned in the lecture portion of the class. This made both sections easier, as we learned necessary information in the lecture section, and then applied the information to this lab project. We had some initial setbacks involving memory management. It was difficult to properly manage pointers as they were constantly getting passed to different functions through queues. This just took some time to figure out, and we were able to make everything functional through basic debugging techniques.

We were able to complete the project with some extra time left, which allowed us to fine tune our task scheduling system, compare our results to the theoretical results, and ensure everything was working correctly.

Appendix (with source code)

```
#include <stdint.h>
#include <stdio.h>
#include "stm32f4 discovery.h"
#include "stm32f4xx.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/include/FreeRTOS.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/include/queue.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/include/semphr.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/include/task.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/include/timers.h"
#include "../FreeRTOS Source/portable/MemMang/heap 4.c"
#define QUEUE LENGTH 100
#define CREATE TASK 0
#define COMPLETE TASK 1
#define GET ACTIVE TASKS 2
#define GET_COMPLETED_TASKS 3
#define GET OVERDUE TASKS 4
#define TASK 1 PERIOD 500
#define TASK 2 PERIOD 500
#define TASK 3 PERIOD 500
#define TASK 1 EXEC TIME 100
#define TASK 2 EXEC TIME 200
#define TASK 3 EXEC TIME 200
#define SCHEDULER PRIORITY (configMAX PRIORITIES)
#define MONITOR PRIORITY (configMAX_PRIORITIES - 1)
#define DEFAULT PRIORITY 1
#define PRINT TASKS 0
```

```
static void prvSetupHardware( void );
static void callback Task Generator 1();
static void callback Task Generator 2();
static void callback_Task_Generator_3();
static void DD Task Scheduler( void *pvParameters );
static void DD Task Monitor( void *pvParameters );
static void Task1( void *pvParameters );
static void Task2( void *pvParameters );
static void Task3( void *pvParameters );
xQueueHandle message_queue = 0;
xQueueHandle task_return_queue = 0;
xQueueHandle active tasks queue = 0;
xQueueHandle completed tasks queue = 0;
xQueueHandle overdue tasks queue = 0;
xTimerHandle task1 timer;
xTimerHandle task2 timer;
xTimerHandle task3 timer;
typedef enum {PERIODIC,APERIODIC} task type;
typedef struct dd task {
  task_type type;
  uint32_t completion_time;
typedef struct dd task list {
  uint32_t message_type;
```

```
Message;
void create dd task(TaskHandle t t handle, task type type, uint32 t task id, uint32 t
absolute deadline);
void delete dd task(uint32 t task id);
dd task list* get active dd task list(void); // removed ** before dd task list. unsure
if correct
dd task list* get complete dd task list(void);
dd task list* get overdue dd task list(void);
void print task(dd task list* task);
void Delay( void );
int main(void)
  prvSetupHardware();
  message queue = xQueueCreate(QUEUE LENGTH, sizeof(Message));
  active_tasks_queue = xQueueCreate(QUEUE_LENGTH, sizeof(dd task list));
  completed_tasks_queue = xQueueCreate(QUEUE_LENGTH, sizeof(dd_task_list));
  overdue tasks queue = xQueueCreate(QUEUE LENGTH, sizeof(dd task list));
  task return queue = xQueueCreate(QUEUE LENGTH, sizeof(dd task));
  task1 timer = xTimerCreate("timer1", pdMS TO TICKS(TASK 1 PERIOD), pdFALSE,
(void*)0, callback_Task_Generator_1);
  task2 timer = xTimerCreate("timer2", pdMS TO TICKS(TASK 2 PERIOD), pdFALSE,
(void*)0, callback Task Generator 2);
  task3 timer = xTimerCreate("timer3", pdMs TO TICKS(TASK 3 PERIOD), pdFALSE,
(void*)0, callback Task Generator 3);
SCHEDULER PRIORITY, NULL);
  xTaskCreate( DD_Task_Monitor, "Monitor", configMINIMAL_STACK_SIZE, NULL,
MONITOR PRIORITY, NULL);
```

```
vTaskStartScheduler();
      printf("Task ID: %d, Release time: %d, Absolute deadline: %d\n",
      printf("Task ID: %d, Release time: %d, Absolute deadline: %d, Completion time:
void create_dd_task(TaskHandle_t t_handle, task_type type, uint32_t task_id, uint32_t
absolute deadline){
  vTaskSuspend(t handle);
  Message message;
  task.type = type;
```

```
task.t_handle = t_handle;
  if(xQueueSend(message_queue, &message, 0)){ //send message to queue
void complete dd task(uint32 t task id){
  dd task task;
  Message message;
  message_type = COMPLETE_TASK;
  message.task_id = task_id;
  if(xQueueSend(message queue, &message, 500)){
  if(xQueueReceive(task return queue, &task, portMAX DELAY)){
      vTaskDelete(task.t handle);
dd task list* get active dd task list(void){
  message.message type = GET ACTIVE TASKS;
  if(xQueueSend(message_queue, &message, 500)){
  dd task list* head = (dd task list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd task list));
      if(xQueueReceive(active_tasks_queue, &head, 500)){
dd_task_list* get_complete_dd_task_list(void){
  message.message_type = GET_COMPLETED_TASKS;
```

```
if(xQueueSend(message_queue, &message, 500)){
  dd task list* head = (dd task list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd task list));
      if(xQueueReceive(completed tasks queue, &head, 500)){
dd task list* get overdue dd task list(void){
  Message message;
  message.message type = GET OVERDUE TASKS;
  if(xQueueSend(message queue, &message, 500)){
  dd task list* head = (dd task list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd task list));
      if(xQueueReceive(overdue tasks queue, &head, 500)){
static void Task1(void *pvParameters){
  TickType t exec time = TASK 1 EXEC TIME/portTICK PERIOD MS; //TASK 1 EXEC TIME is
```

```
complete dd task(1);
      vTaskDelay(500);
static void Task2(void *pvParameters){
  TickType t exec time = TASK 2 EXEC TIME/portTICK PERIOD MS; //TASK 1 EXEC TIME is
      vTaskDelay(500);
static void Task3(void *pvParameters){
  TickType_t exec_time = TASK_3_EXEC_TIME/portTICK_PERIOD_MS; //TASK_1_EXEC_TIME is
in ms
```

```
complete dd task(3);
   vTaskDelay(500);
vTaskDelay(50);
    dd_task_list* current = (dd_task_list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd_task_list));
       num_active++;
    current = get_complete_dd_task_list();
    printf("COMPLETED TASKS:\n");
```

```
num complete++;
    printf("Number of completed tasks: %d\n\n", num complete);
uint32_t completed_size = 0;
```

```
if(xQueueReceive(message queue, &message, 500) == pdFALSE){
      if(current != NULL) {
(dd task list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd task list));
               if(prev == current) {
```

```
switch (message.message type) {
   dd_task_list* new_task = (dd_task_list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd_task_list));
        active_tasks_head = (dd_task_list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd_task_list));
        if(message.task.absolute_deadline < current->task.absolute_deadline){
```

```
(dd task list*)pvPortMalloc(sizeof(dd task list));
                   if(prev == current) {
```

```
vTaskResume(active tasks head->task.t handle);
if(xQueueSend(task_return_queue, &new_completed_task->task, 500)){
new_completed_task->next_task = NULL;
current = completed tasks head;
completed size++;
if(xQueueSend(completed_tasks_queue, &completed_tasks_head, 500)){
```

```
task type type = PERIODIC;
  xTaskCreate(Task1, "task1", configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, DEFAULT PRIORITY,
&t handle); //create task
  vTaskSuspend(t_handle);
  create dd task(t handle, type, task id, absolute deadline);
static void callback Task Generator 2(){
&t handle); //create task
  vTaskSuspend(t_handle);
  create dd task(t handle, type, task id, absolute deadline);
```

```
static void callback Task Generator 3(){
  task type type = PERIODIC;
  xTaskCreate(Task3, "task3", configMINIMAL STACK SIZE, NULL, DEFAULT PRIORITY,
&t handle); //create task
  vTaskSuspend(t handle);
  create_dd_task(t_handle, type, task_id, absolute_deadline);
void vApplicationMallocFailedHook( void )
void vApplicationStackOverflowHook( xTaskHandle pxTask, signed char *pcTaskName )
```

```
void vApplicationIdleHook( void )
volatile size t xFreeStackSpace;
  xFreeStackSpace = xPortGetFreeHeapSize();
  if( xFreeStackSpace > 100 )
  NVIC SetPriorityGrouping( 0 );
```