About

PAWS is a project to occupy my time in retirement, with the aim of teaching myself about FPGA programming. It is based upon the idea of the 8-bit computers and consoles from the 1980s, but using a modern CPU.

It is a development from the work I did on the J1 CPU, which is a 16-bit CPU designed to run Forth natively, to which I added a display via HDMI, plus various input/out facilities such as a UART, button input, LED output and basic audio.

The J1 CPU has been swapped out for a Risc-V RV32 processor, as this can easily be programmed via C using GCC, in addition to being relatively straightforward to being implemented on an FPGA.

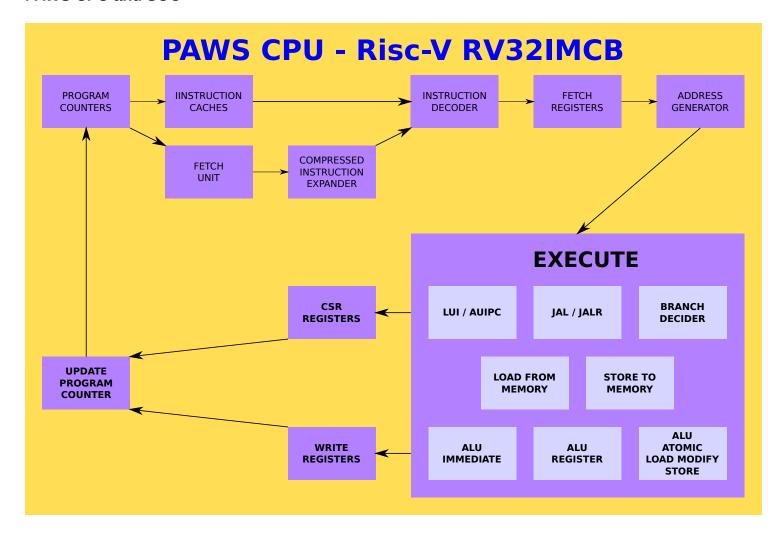
A support library, libPAWS, for easy access to the hardware is provided. This documentation details libPAWS and describes the hardware.

Silice

PAWS is coded in Silice, a hardware description language developed by @sylefeb. Details can be found here <u>GitHub</u> (<u>https://github.com/sylefeb/Silice</u>).

My coding style may not result in the *best* design, the aim was to create a design that could be easily understood.

PAWS CPU and SOC



The PAWS CPU is a Risc-V RV32IMCB that implements only the features needed to run GCC compiled code.

- No interrupts.
- Machine mode only.

The PAWS CPU has two modes:

- Single thread all available cycles.
- Dual thread
 - Execute an instruction from each thread alternatively.
 - Second thread can be stopped/started as required.

SDRAM Cache

The SDRAM has a 32k directly mapped cache. A directly mapped cache was used to simplify the cache logic.

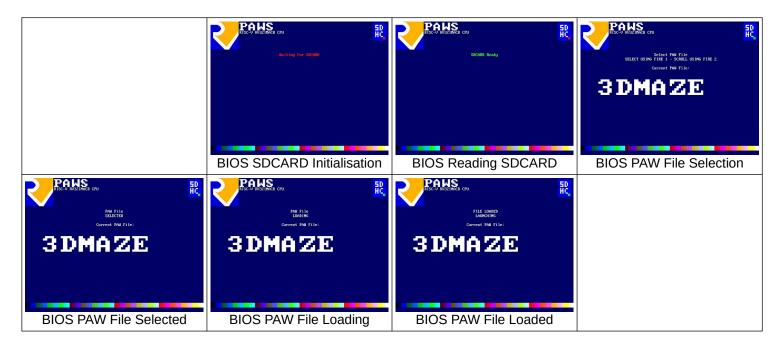
Memory access are organised as 16 bit, the bus width of the SDRAM chip on the ULX3S. 16-bit compressed instructions are preferred as due to latency during instruction fetching these will be fetched, decoded and executed quicker than 32-bit instructions.

The bit manipulation extension was implemented to increase code density, as when output by the compiler they will replace multiple RV32I instructions, again leading to quicker code execution due to reduced memory access. Presently maintained to draft 0.92, which is compatible with LLVM 11.1.0.

Instruction Set Listings

| Risc-V | Implemented | Not Implemented | Notes |
|---|--|-----------------|--|
| BASE | ADD[I] SUB SLT[I][U] AND[I] OR[I] XOR[I] SLL[I] SRL[I] SRA[I] AUIPC/LUI | | |
| BASE unconditional jumps | JAL[R] | | |
| BASE conditional brnaches | BEQ/BNE BLT[U] BGE[U] | | |
| BASE load and store | LB[U] LH[U] LW SB SH SW | | |
| BASE | | FENCE FENCE.I | |
| BASE CSR | RDCYCLE[H] RDTIME[H] RDINSTRET[H] | | READ ONLY |
| BASE SYSTEM | | ECALL EBREAK | |
| M EXTENSION | DIV[U] REM[U] MUL MULH[[S]U] | | |
| A EXTENSION | AMOADD AMOSWAP AMOAND AMOOR AMOXOR AMOMAX[U] AMOMIN[U] | | AQ / RL flags are ignored. The AMO instructions do operate as a complete READ-MODIFY_WRITE operation, as intended. The other thread will not execute an instruction until this has completed. |
| B EXTENSION Zba Zbb Zbc Zbe Zbf Zbp Zbs | ANDN ORN XNOR BEXT BDEP BFP CLMUL[[H]R] CLZ CTZ PCNT GREV[I] GORC[I] MIN[U] MAX[U] ORC.B PACK[H][U] REV8 ROL ROR[I] SBCLR[I] SBINV[I] SBSET[I] SBEXT[I] SEXT.B SEXT.H SH[[1][2][3]]ADD SHFL[I] UNSHFL[I] XPERM.B XPERN.H XPERM CRC32 CRC32C CMOV CMIX FSL FSR[I] | | |

Using PAWS



Upon startup PAWS runs the BIOS, initialises the display, clears the input/output buffers, and reads the ROOT DIRECTORY from PARTITION 0 of a FAT16 formatted SDCARD.

PAW (compiled programs) files are display for selection. Scroll through the available files using "LEFT" and "RIGHT", then select a file for loading and executing using "FIRE 1".

Upon selection, the BIOS will load the selected PAW into SDRAM, reset the display, and launch the selected PAW program.

Compiling Programs For PAWS

The default language for PAWS is C, specifically GCC, with some limited support for LLVM and CLANG.

To create a program for PAWS, create a C file in the SOFTWARE/c directory. It is advised to use the SOFTWARE/template.c as a starting point.

```
Contents of template.c Explanation

#include "PAWSlibrary.h"

void main( void ) {
    INITIALISEMEMORY();
    while(1) {
    }
}

Explanation

Use libPAWS for definitions and helper functions.

MAIN program loop
Setup the memory map

Main loop.
```

Compile your code using the shell script. For example, to compile the included asteroids style arcade game, ./compile.sh c/asteroids.c PAWS/ASTROIDS.PAW or ./clang.sh c/asteroids.c PAWS/ASTROIDS.PAW. Either will compile the program to PAWS/ASTROIDS.PAW, which can be copied to the SDCARD for loading via the BIOS.

PAWS uses newlib to provide a C library, and libgcc to provide software floating-point arithmetic. The shell scripts will link to these libraries installed in their default locations on ArchLinux.

Colours

PAWS uses a 6-bit colour attribute, given as RRGGBB. This gives 64 colours, specified in hexadecimal as per the table below. Names defined in libPAWS are shown.

| BLACK | 0×01 | DKBLUE | BLUE | 0×04 | ØxØ5 | Ø×06 | LTBLUE |
|----------|----------|-----------|----------------|----------|----------|--------------|-----------|
| DEGREEN | | | | GREEN | ØxØd | 0×0e | CYAN |
| 0×10 | DKPURPLE | Ø×12 | PURPLE | 0×14 | GREY1 | 0×16 | ьлиняныя |
| 0+10 | 645 | Øxla | Øx1b | Øxic | LTGREEN | 0×1e | LTCYAN |
| DKRED | 0×21 | DKMAGENTA | Øx23 | BROWN | | | |
| DRAETTOM | 0×29 | GREY2 | 0×2b | 0×2c | Øx2d | 0×2e | Øx2f |
| RED | 0×31 | Øx32 | MAGENTA | рковансе | shmo | 0 ×36 | LTMAGENTA |
| ORANGE | LTORANGE | PEACH | PINK Gallau | AETTOM | LTYELLOW | 0 х3е | WHITE |

Display Structure

The display in PAWS is organised in layers. The arrangement of the layers can be adjusted, with the background layer always being at the bottom.

The default arrangement of layers is:

- Character (Text) Layer
- Upper Sprite Layer
- Bitmap Layer
- Lower Sprite Layer
- Upper Tile Map Layer
- Lower Tile Map Layer
- Background Layer



PAWS Asteroids, showing the background (dark blue and falling stars), the bitmap (logo, galaxy image, "GAME OVER" and the fuel bars), the tile maps (the small planets and rocket ships), the sprites (asteroids, UFO, player ship), and the character map (player score and instructions).

PAWS Asteroids runs in screen mode 2, where the bitmap is displayed below the sprites and the tile maps.

libPAWS Variables and Functions

| <pre>void await_vblank(void)</pre> | Waits for the screen vertical blank to start. |
|--|---|
| void screen_mode(unsigned char screenmode) | Changes the display layer order. 0 = default, as above. 1 = bitmap between lower sprites and the tilemaps. 2 = bitmap between the tilemaps and the background. 3 = bitmap between the upper sprites and the character map. |

Memory Management

The BIOS will initialise the memory, and allocates space at the top of fast BRAM memory for the CPU STACK, and space at the top the SDRAM for SDCARD buffers.

| Address Range | Memory Type | Usage |
|---|--|---|
| 0x00000000 - 0x00008000 | Fast BRAM | 0x0000 - 0x1000 BIOS 0x8000 - 0x4000 Main Stack 0x4000 - 0x2000 SMT Stack 0x1000 - 0x1400 printf buffer 0x1400 - 0x2000 fast storage |
| 0x00008000 - 0x0000ffff | I/O Registers | Commuincation with the PAWS hardware. No direct hardware access is required, as libPAWS provides functions for all aspects of the PAWS hardware. |
| 0x1000000 -0x1fffffff 0x1000000 - 0x10800000 0x10800000 - | SDRAM PROGRAM + LOADED DATA MALLOC ALLOCATED MEMORY | Program and data storage. Accessed via a cache. SDCARD buffers and structures are allocated at the top of this address range. |

libPAWS variables and functions

| unsigned char *MEMORYTOP | Points to the top of unallocated memory. |
|--|---|
| void INITIALISEMEMORY(void) | Sets up the memory map using parameters passed from the BIOS. Allocates the buffers used for SDCARD access and initialises malloc. |
| unsigned char *filemalloc(unsigned int size) | Allocates space for a file to be read into memory. Preferred over malloc so as to allow for clusters from the SDCARD to be read into. |

File Management

libPAWS has the ability to load files from the SDCARD directly into memory.

libPAWS variables and functions

```
unsigned short sdcard_findfilenumber( unsigned char *filename, unsigned char the number of the file in the root directory on the SDCARD, or 0xffff if the file is not found.

unsigned int sdcard_findfilesize( unsigned short filenumber )

Returns the number of the file in the root directory on the SDCARD, or 0xffff if the file is not found.

Returns the number of the file in the root directory on the SDCARD, or 0xffff if the file is not found.

Returns the number of the file in the root directory on the SDCARD, or 0xffff if the file is not found.

Returns the size of the file, in bytes.

Void sdcard_readfile( unsigned short filenumber, unsigned char * copyAddress )
```

Single Thread or Dual Thread Mode

On startup PAWS runs in single thread mode. The BIOS will switch back to single thread mode when returning to the BIOS from a program running in dual thread mode.

When dual thread mode is activated PAWS will execute one instruction from each thread alternatively. All memory is shared, with no memory protection.

The Risc-V A Extension (Atomic Instructions) are decoded and executed, but ignoring the *aq* and *rl* flags. The whole of the fetch-modify-write cycle will complete before allowing the other thread to execute. FENCE instructions from the Risc-V base are treated as no-ops.

libPAWS variables and functions

| void SMTSTOP(void)void SMTSTART(unsigned int code) | Stops the SMT thread. |
|--|---|
| | Starts the SMT thread, jumping immediately to the address of the function provided. |

Due to the way that all of the I/O operations are memory mapped there are considerations to make when writing dual threaded code. Some suggestions for best practice are listed below:

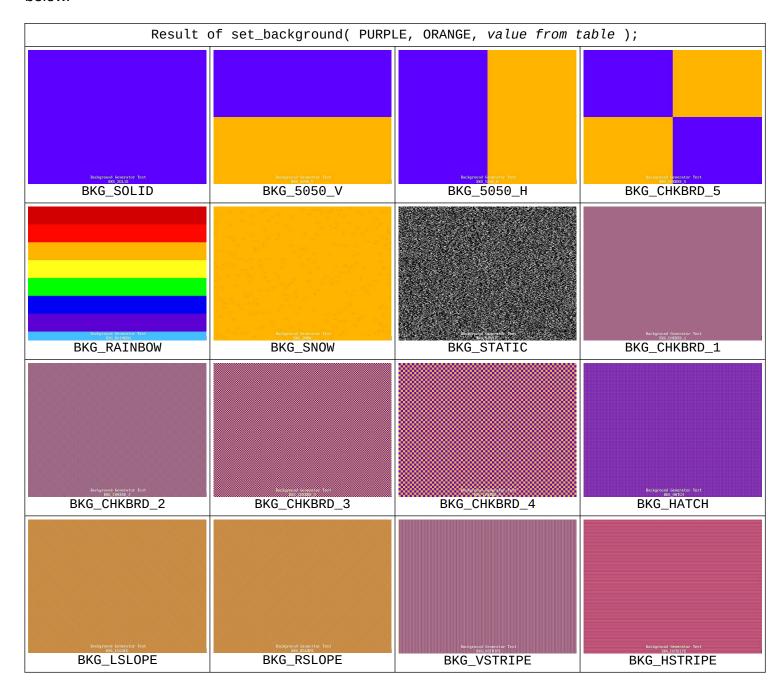
- Only one thread should access the GPU, tilemap, character map or audio. If both threads attempt
 to they will be overwriting the control registers leading to an unknown outcome.
- All timers are duplicated. The suggestion is that the main thread uses timer set 0, and the SMT thread uses timer set 1. Alternatively for synchronisation, the main thread can set a timer, and BOTH threads can wait for that same timer.
- The sprite layers have duplicated control registers to allow both threads to control the sprites (only the main thread should set the sprite bitmaps as that uses a register from the main set to select the current sprite). See the SMT version of asteroids for an example.

```
Example code for a simple dual thread program
#include "PAWSlibrary.h"
void smtthread( void ) {
    // SETUP STACKPOINTER FOR THE SMT THREAD
    asm volatile ("li sp ,0x4000");
    while(1) {
        gpu_rectangle( rng( 64 ), rng( 640 ), rng( 432 ), rng( 640 ), rng( 432 ) );
        sleep( 500, 1 );
    }
}
void main( void ) {
    INITIALISEMEMORY();
    tpu_printf_centre( 27, TRANSPARENT, GREEN, "SMT Test" );
    tpu_printf_centre( 28, TRANSPARENT, YELLOW, "I'm Just Sitting Here Doing Nothing" );
    tpu_printf_centre( 29, TRANSPARENT, BLUE, "The SMT Thread Is Drawing Rectangles!" );
    SMTSTART( (unsigned int )smtthread );
    while(1) {
        tpu_set( 1, 1, TRANSPARENT, WHITE );
tpu_printf( "Main Thread Counting Away: %d", systemclock() );
        sleep( 1000, 0 );
    }
```

| NOTE: The first line of code in the smtthread function mu | ust set the stack pointer to the reserved |
|---|--|
| memory in the fast BRAM. | |
| | |

Background Generator

The background layer shows when there is nothing to display from the layers above. There are 16 named generators in libPAWS. The result of the individual background generators are shown in the table below.



In addition, a simple co-processor, called COPPER, is available to change background generator parameters.

Background COPPER Programming

The COPPER is designed to allow the changing of the background generator parameters during the display frame.

The COPPER program storage has 64 entries, and it uses a simple command format. There is a single variable and 4 command types:

- **JUMP**
 - COPPER JUMP ALWAYS
 - COPPER JUMP IF NOT VBLANK
 - COPPER JUMP IF NOT HBLANK
 - COPPER JUMP_IF_Y_LESS
 - COPPER JUMP IF X LESS
 - COPPER JUMP IF VARIABLE LESS
- **WAIT**
 - COPPER WAIT VBLANK
 - COPPER WAIT HBLANK
 - COPPER WAIT Y
 - COPPER WAIT X
 - COPPER WAIT VARIABLE
- VARIABLE SET, ADD, SUBTRACT
- SET FROM VARIABLE

A simple COPPER program that sets the background generator to the BKG_SNOW pattern on a BLACK background, and changes the colour of the snow/stars every 64 pixels down the screen to give a rainbow effect. copper_startstop(0);

```
copper_program( 0, COPPER_WAIT_Y, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, WHITE );
copper_program( 1, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, WHITE );
copper_program( 2, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 64, 0, 0, 1 );
copper_program( 3, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, RED );
copper_program( 4, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 128, 0, 0, 3 );
copper_program( 5, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, ORANGE );
copper_program( 5, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, ORANGE );
copper_program( 6, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 160, 0, 0, 5 );
copper_program( 7, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, YELLOW );
copper_program( 8, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 192, 0, 0, 7 );
copper_program( 9, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, GREEN );
copper_program( 10, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 224, 0, 0, 9 );
copper_program( 11, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, LTBLUE );
copper_program( 12, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 256, 0, 0, 11 ); copper_program( 13, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, PURPLE ); copper_program( 14, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_Y_LESS, 288, 0, 0, 13 );
copper_program( 15, COPPER_WAIT_X, 7, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, MAGENTA );
copper_program( 16, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_NOT_VBLANK, 0, 0, 0, 15 );
copper_program( 17, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_ALWAYS, 0, 0, 0, 1 );
copper_startstop( 1 );
```

A simple COPPER program that sets the background generator to the BKG SNOW pattern on a BLACK background, and cycles through the colours for the snow/stars every frame, giving a twinkling stars effect.

```
copper_startstop( 0 );
copper_program( 0, COPPER_VARIABLE, COPPER_SET_VARIABLE, 1, 0, 0, 0 );
copper_program( 1, COPPER_WAIT_Y, 6, 0, BKG_SNOW, BLACK, 0 );
copper_program( 2, COPPER_SET_FROM_VARIABLE, 1, 0, 0, 0, 0 );
copper_program( 3, COPPER_VARIABLE, COPPER_ADD_VARIABLE, 1, 0, 0, 0 );
copper_program( 4, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_NOT_VBLANK, 0, 0, 0, 4); copper_program( 5, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_IF_VARIABLE_LESS, 64, 0, 0, 1); copper_program( 6, COPPER_JUMP, COPPER_JUMP_ALWAYS, 0, 0, 0, 0);
copper_startstop( 1 );
```

Bitmap and GPU

PAWS displays a 320x240 pixel bitmap with 64 colours, plus TRANSPARENT. To allow for tear-free animation, there are two bitmaps, and it is possible to display one, whilst drawing to the other. The default is to draw and display the same bitmap, numbered 0.

PAWS has a GPU to draw to the bitmap. The functions in libPAWS will setup the GPU, wait for the previous GPU command to complete, and then start the GPU with the required function.

libPAWS variables and functions

| void bitmap_display(unsigned char framebuffer) | Display bitmap 0 or 1. |
|---|---|
| void bitmap_draw(unsigned char framebuffer) | Draw to bitmap 0 or 1. |
| void gpu_cs(void) | Clears the bitmap to TRANSPARENT and resets the scroll/wrap. |
| void gpu_dither(unsigned char mode, unsigned char colour) | Sets the dither mode and the alternate colour used for filled rectangles, circles and triangles. |
| void gpu_pixel(unsigned char colour, short x, short y) | Plots a pixel at (x,y) in colour. |
| <pre>void gpu_line(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short x2, short y2)</pre> | Draws a line from (x1,y1) to (x2,y2) in colour. |
| <pre>void gpu_box(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short x2, short y2)</pre> | Draws an outline rectangle with corners at (x1,y1) and (x2,y2) in colour. |
| | NOTE: Drawn by breaking into 4 lines. |
| <pre>void gpu_rectangle(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short x2, short y2)</pre> | Draws a filled rectangle with corners at (x1,y1) and (x2,y2) in colour. Uses the dither mode. |
| <pre>void gpu_circle(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short radius, unsigned char filled)</pre> | Draws a circle at centre (x1,y1) of the given radius in colour, optionally filled. Uses the dither mode when filling. |
| <pre>void gpu_blit(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short tile, unsigned char blit_size)</pre> | Blit a 16x16 tile (32 user definable tiles) to (x1,y1) in colour. Will size to 16x16, 32x32, 64x64 and 128x128. |
| <pre>void gpu_character_blit(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, unsigned char tile, unsigned char blit_size)</pre> | Blit an 8x8 character (256 user definable characters, defaults to the IBM character set) to (x1,y1) in colour. Will size to 8x8, 16x16, 32x32, 64x64. |
| <pre>void gpu_colourblit(short x1, short y1, short tile, unsigned char blit_size)</pre> | Blit a 16x16 tile (32 user definable tiles) to (x1,y1). Will size to 16x16, 32x32, 64x64 and 128x128. |
| <pre>void gpu_triangle(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short x2, short y2, short x3, short y3)</pre> | Draws a filled triangle with vertices (x1,y1), (x2,y2) and (x3,y3) in colour. Uses the dither mode. |
| | NOTE: Vertices should be presented clockwise from the top. |
| <pre>void gpu_quadrilateral(unsigned char colour, short x1, short y1, short x2, short y2, short x3, short y3, short x4, short y4)</pre> | Draws a filled quadrilateral with vertices (x1,y1), (x2,y2), (x3,y3) and (x4,y4) in colour. Uses the dither mode. |
| | NOTE: Drawn by breaking into two triangles, so vertices should be presented clockwise from the top. |

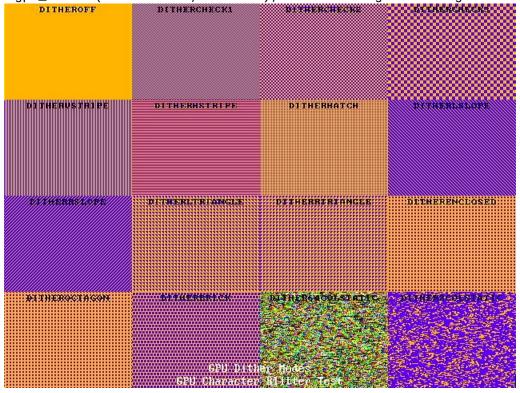
```
void gpu_printf( unsigned char colour, short x, short y, unsigned char size, const char *fmt,...)
                                                                               Outputs a string (maximum 80
                                                                               characters) by repeatedly using the
                                                                               character blitter, starting at (x,y)
                                                                               in colour. Will size the characters
                                                                               and space accordingly.
                                                                               NOTE: Escape characters are not
                                                                               processed, the corresponding
                                                                               character code is output as a
                                                                               character.
void gpu_printf_centre( unsigned char colour, short x, short y, unsigned
                                                                               Outputs a string by repeatedly using
char size, const char *fmt, ...)
                                                                               the character blitter, with the top
                                                                               centred at (x,y) in colour. Will size
                                                                               the characters and space accordingly.
                                                                               NOTE: Escape characters are not
                                                                               processed, the corresponding
                                                                               character code is output as a
                                                                               character.
void set_blitter_bitmap( unsigned char tile, unsigned short *bitmap )
                                                                               Define one of the 32 16x16 blitter
                                                                               tiles.
void set_blitter_chbitmap( unsigned char tile, unsigned char *bitmap )
                                                                               Define one of the 256 8x8 character
                                                                               blitter tiles.
void set_colourblitter_bitmap( unsigned char tile, unsigned char *bitmap )
                                                                               Define one of the 32 16x16 colour
                                                                               blitter tiles.
                                                                               Starts the drawing of one of the 32
void draw_vector_block( unsigned char block, unsigned char colour, short
xc, short yc )
                                                                               user definable vector (line drawn)
                                                                               objects, centred at (x,y) in colour.
void set_vector_vertex( unsigned char block, unsigned char vertex, unsigned
                                                                               Sets one of the 16 vertices in one of
char active, char deltax, char deltay )
                                                                               the 32 user definable vector (line
                                                                               drawn) objects.
void bitmap_scrollwrap( unsigned char action )
                                                                               action == 1 LEFT, == 2 UP, == 3
                                                                               RIGHT, == 4 DOWN, == 5 RESET
```

```
Example code for a tear-free animation
#include "PAWSlibrary.h"
void main( void ) {
    // CURRENT FRAMEBUFFER
    unsigned short framebuffer = 0;
    INITIALISEMEMORY();
    while(1) {
        // DRAW TO HIDDEN BITMAP
        bitmap_draw( !framebuffer );
        // CODE TO GENERATE THE BITMAP
        // DRAWN TO THE HIDDEN BITMAP
        // SWITCH THE FRAMEBUFFER
        await_vblank();
framebuffer = !framebuffer;
        bitmap_display( framebuffer );
    }
}
```

Dither Modes

When drawing rectangles, filled circles or filled triangles, the GPU can apply one of 16 "dither" patterns.

Result of gpu_dither(dithermode, PURPLE); Plus drawing a rectangle in ORANGE.



GPU Blitters

PAWS has 3 blitters:

- A single colour 16x16 tile blitter
 - TRANSPARENT pixels are ignored when drawing to the bitmap
- A single colour 8x8 tile blitter
 - Defaults to the IBM character set, used to draw text to the bitmap
- A colour 16x16 tile blitter
 - TRANSPARENT pixels are ignored when drawing to the bitmap

GPU Vector Blocks