

# **Finding the needle in the haystack**

**System software debugging at the right  
level of abstraction**

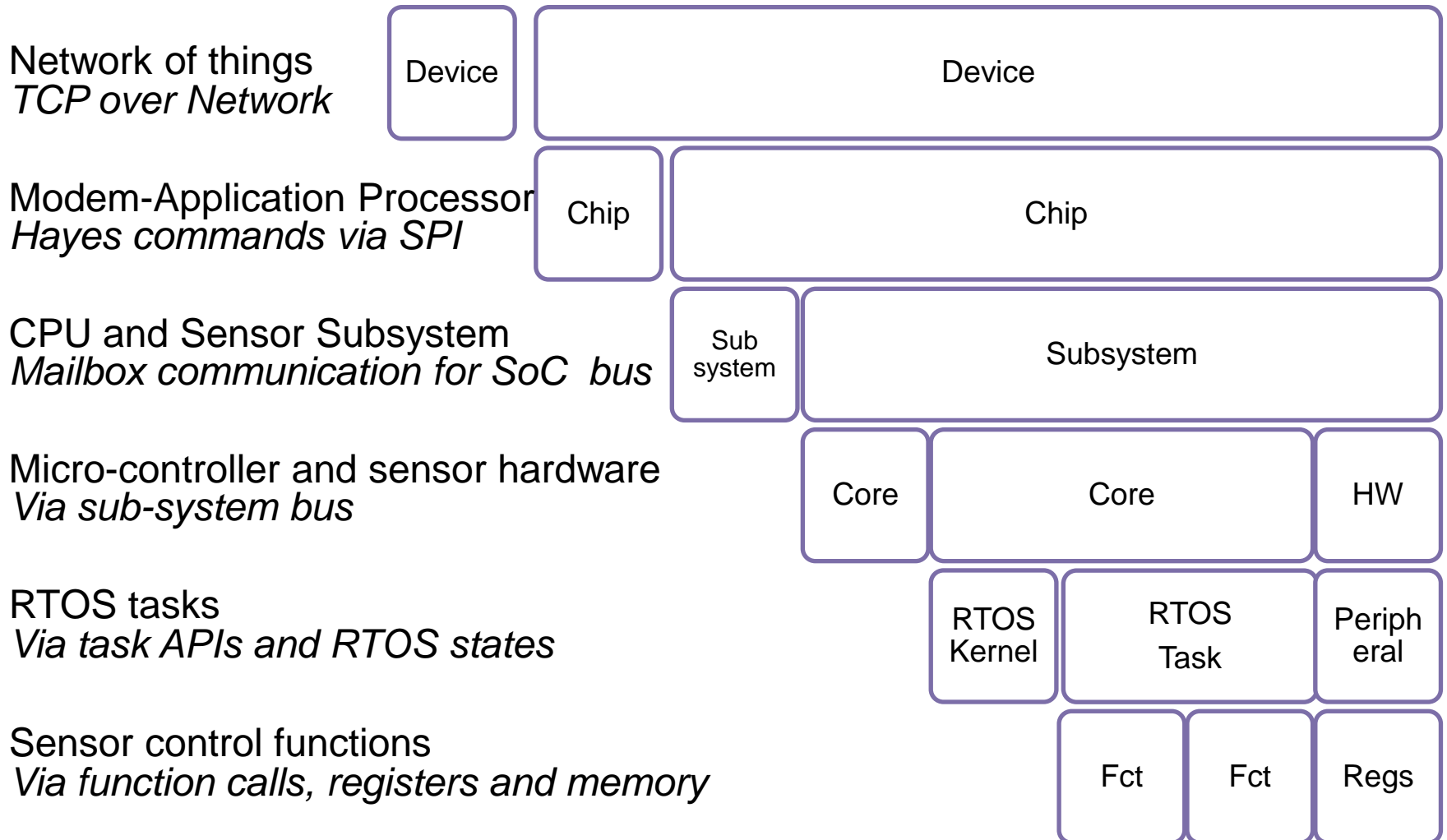
1st International Workshop on  
Multicore Application Debugging  
(MAD 2013)

Achim Nohl, Synopsys Inc.

11/14/2013

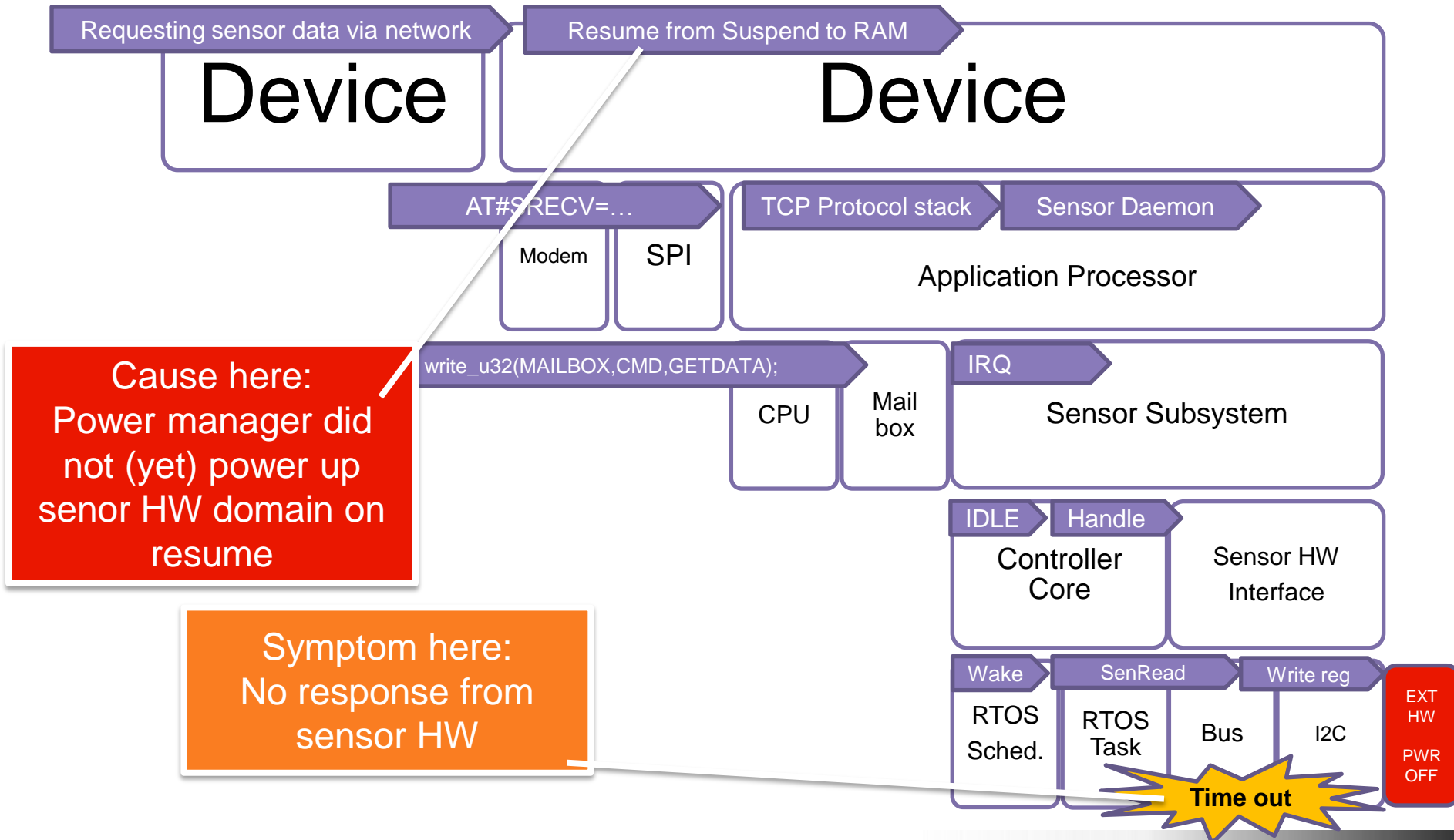
# System Integration

*Example: Mobile hand-set, modem and sensor*



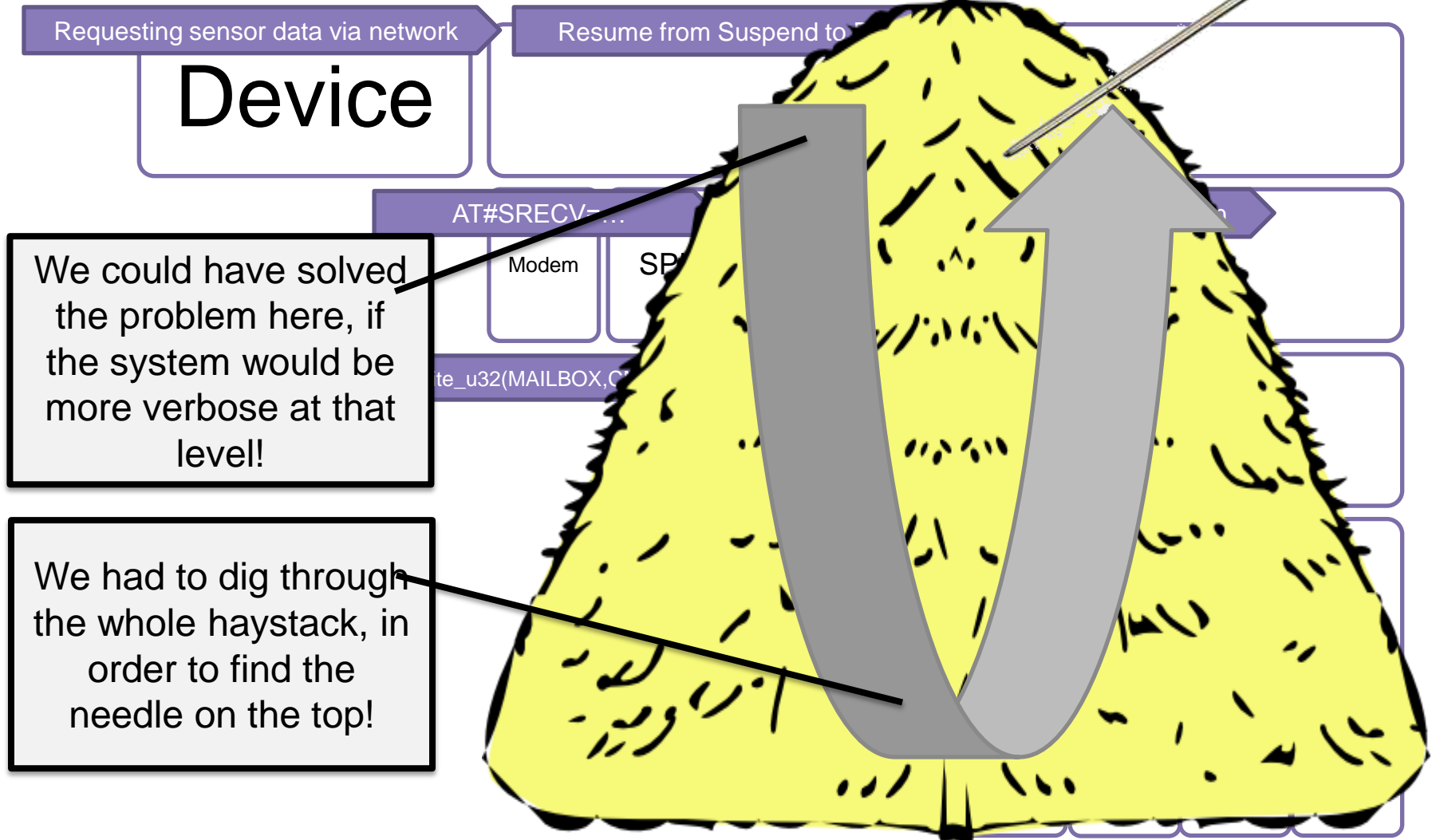
# Top-down debugging

*In an ideal world*



# Top-down debugging

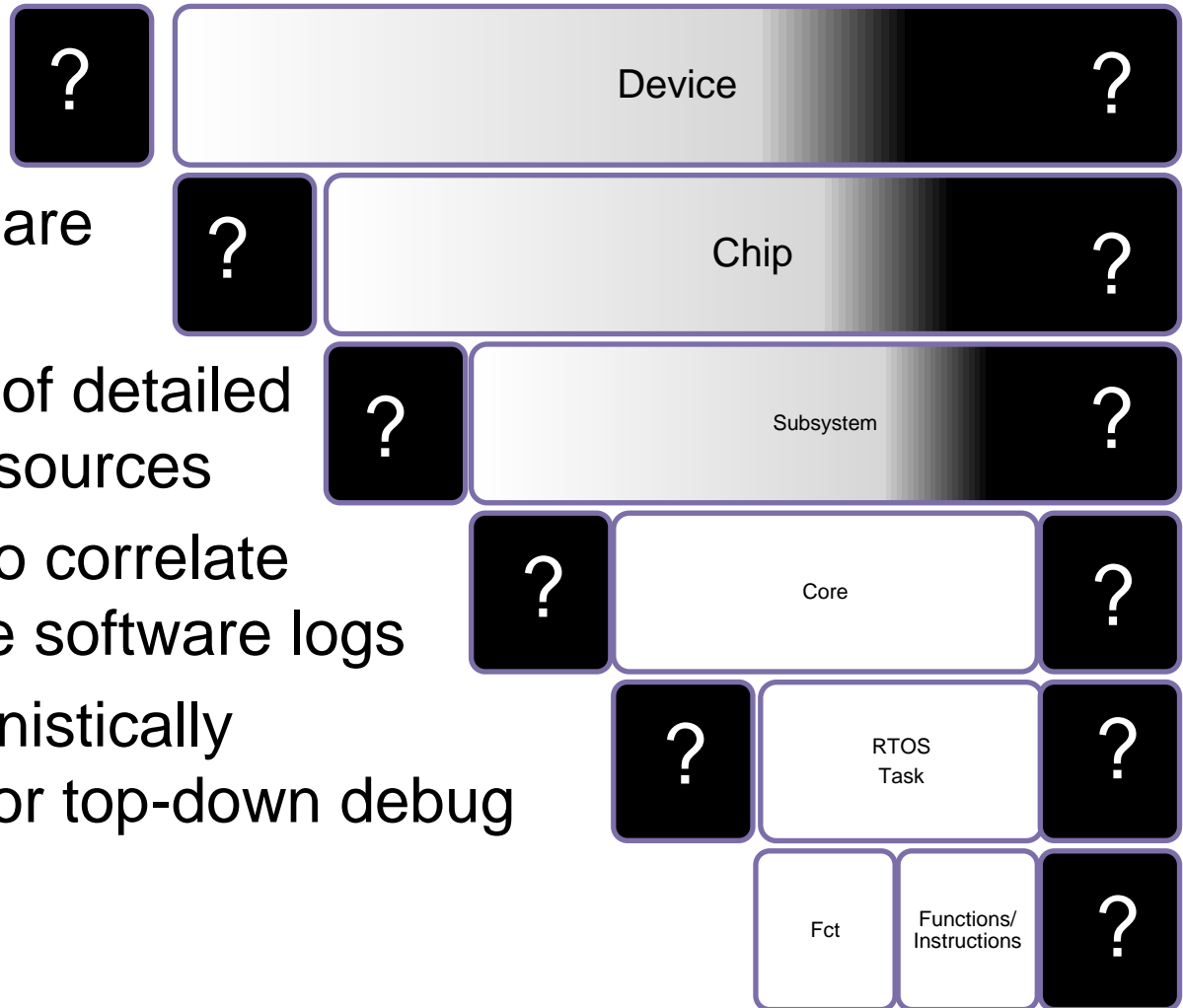
*In an ideal world*



# Top-down debugging

*Impractical in the real world*

- No info about high level states
- Most components are black boxes
- If traces, then lots of detailed traces from many sources
- Often impossible to correlate traces and multiple software logs
- No way to deterministically repeat scenarios for top-down debug refinement



# Top-down debugging

## *Wish list*

### Expose high level component state

- E.g. Domain powered off, sensor subsystem idle

### Increase debugging scope to the maximum

- Under consideration of constraints such as IP protection etc.
- Whitebox debugging, where possible

### Interface tracing with protocol-awareness

- TCP packets vs. Ethernet frames
- SMBus vs. I2C packets

### Synchronized, concurrent debugging of SW on multi-cores

- Stop-mode debugging

### Correlation of component traces and logs

### Repeatable, deterministic debug scenarios

- For top-down iterations

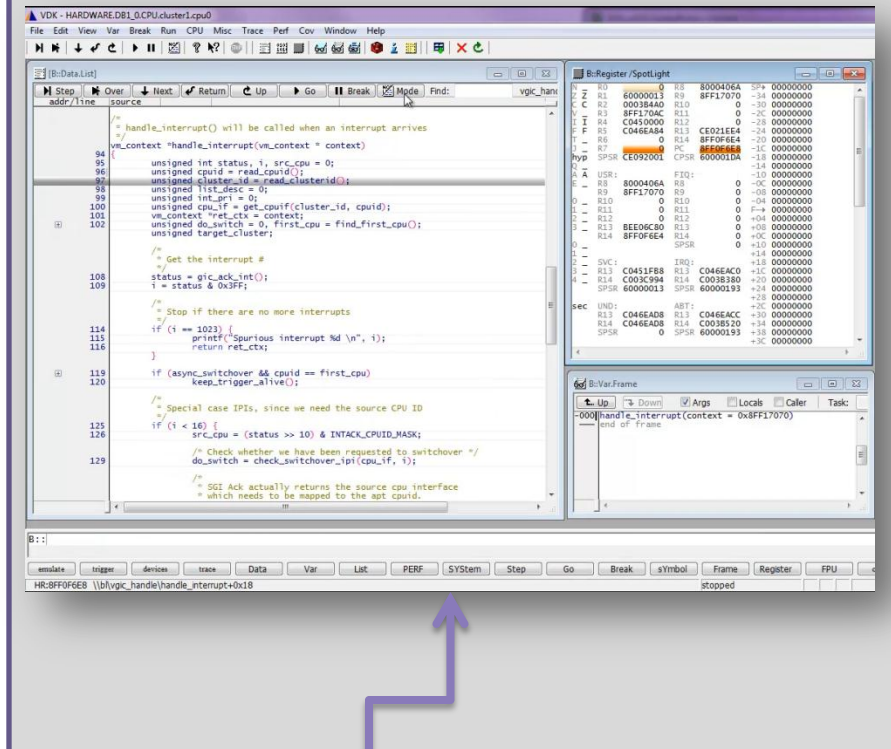
# Addressing the debug challenge

## Using Virtual Prototypes

# Software Developer's View

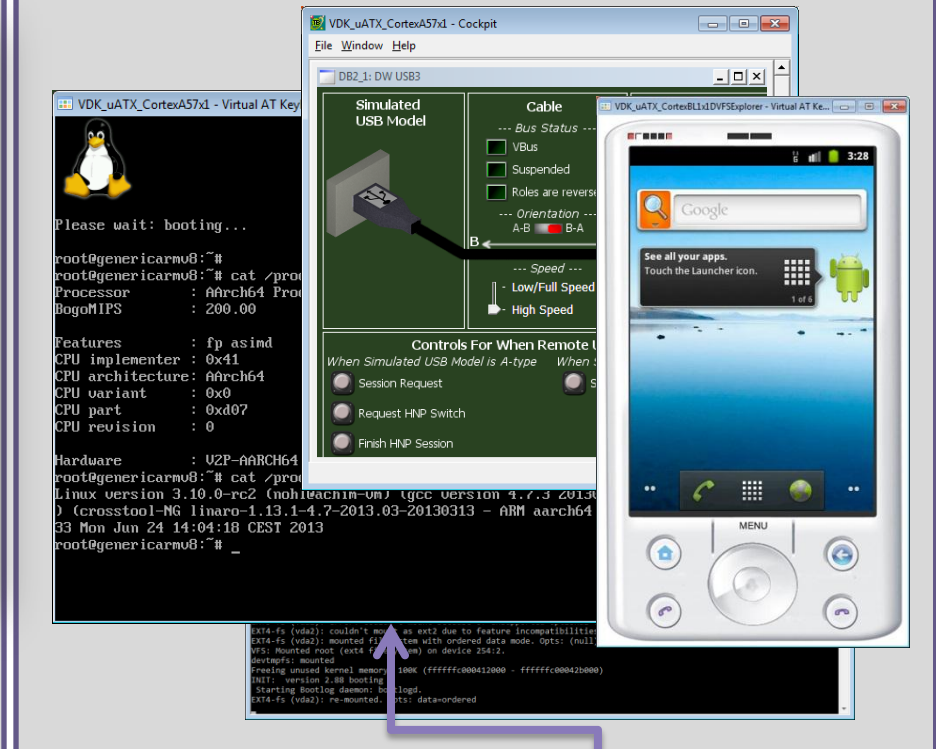
No change of habits required – It can be the same as with hardware

## Standard 3<sup>rd</sup> party Software Debugger



Debugger Server

## Virtual and physical IO



Virtual IO

Virtual Prototype



# System level software debugging

*Visibility beyond traditional software debugging*

The screenshot shows the Virtual Prototype Analyzer (VPA) interface. The top menu bar includes File, Simulation, Debug, Analysis, View, Windows, Other, Script Examples, Power Analysis, Monitors, Linux, File Systems, Connectivity, Trace32, and Help. The main workspace displays a hierarchical tree of hardware components (DB1\_0, DB2\_0, DB2\_1, etc.) and a list of kernel modules (idCC, idW\_USB3, WireOrIrq, ADP\_IRQ, ADPCFG, ADPCTL, ADPEVT, ADPEVTEN, BC\_IRQ, BCEVT, etc.). A context menu is open over the 'Attach' module, showing options like 'Choose kernel image...', 'Choose kernel symbols...', 'Kernel Modules', 'Switching', 'Add .ko directory...', 'Enable symbol auto loading', and 'Disable symbol auto loading'. The bottom panel shows a command window with simulation logs.

**Explore platform**

**Break on signals, registers, SW, screen contents**

**Inspect registers & signals**

**Script everything**

**Standalone or as an Eclipse plug-in**

**Extend through scripting**

**Simulated USB Model**

**Cable**

**Remote USB: Physical**

**Controls For When Remote USB Is Physical**

When Simulated USB Model is A-type: Session Request, Request HNP Switch, Finish HNP Session

When Simulated USB Model is B-type: Suspend the bus (allow HNP)

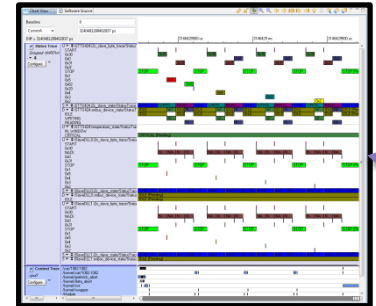
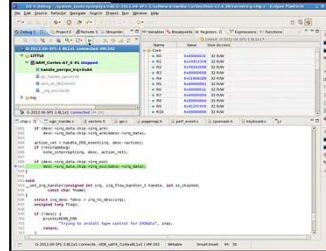
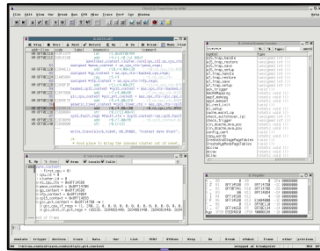
# Using a VDK

Lauterbach

ARM DS-5/RVDS

System Debug

Tracing



*Non-intrusive, stop mode debugging*

*Virtualizer Multi-core Debugger Server*

**Virtualizer Developer Kit (VDK)**

*Simulation of a hardware device/SoC\**

ARM Cortex A

ARM Cortex R

ARM Cortex M

USB

MMC

I2C/SPI

GMAC

LCD

**Full HW visibility**

**Registers**

**Internal Registers**

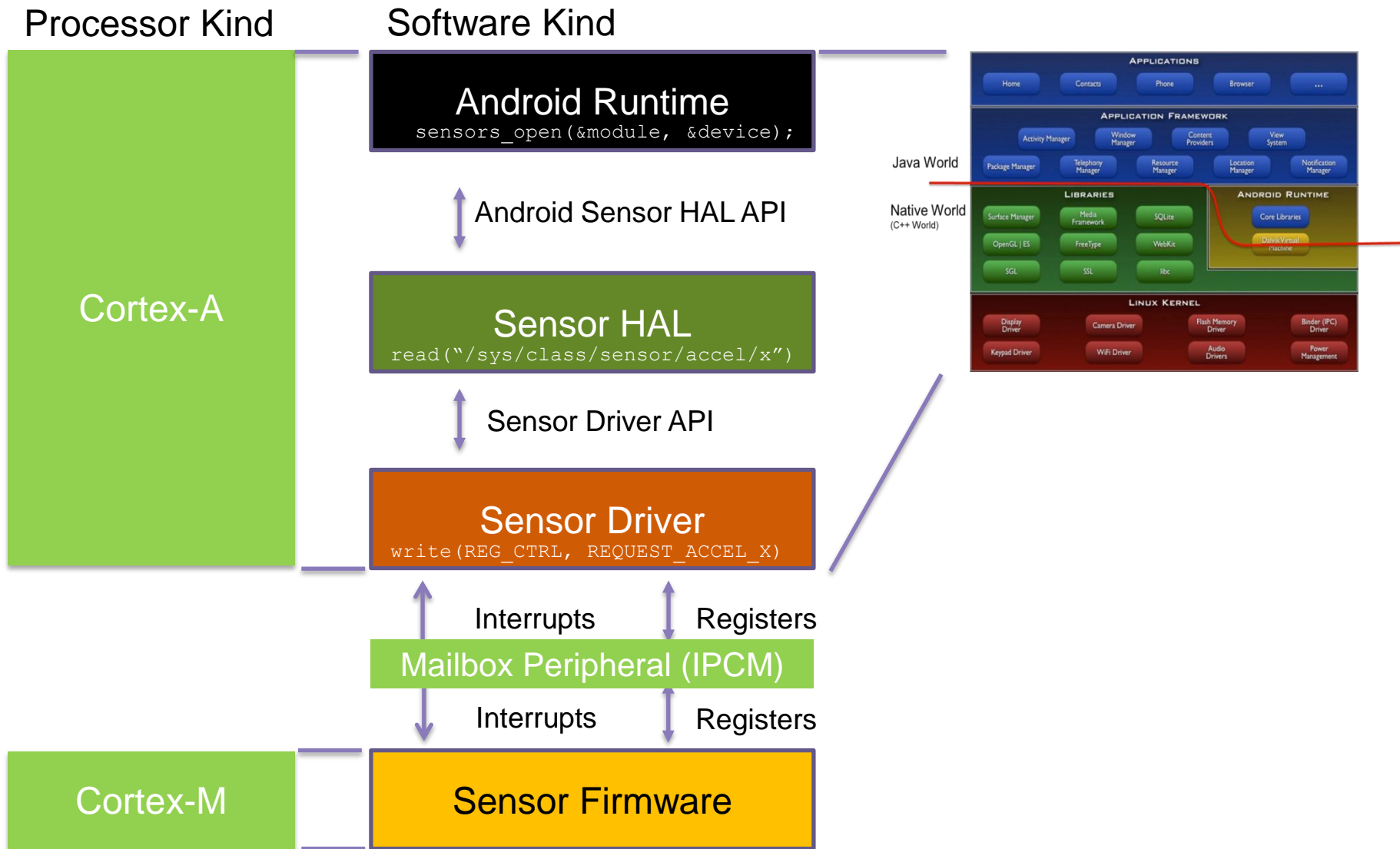
**Bus Port**

**Script everything**

*Unmodified binary SW stack images  
E.g. bootROM + Linux kernel + Linux filesystem*

\*Simulation using industry standard based Transaction Level Models (TLM)

# Sensor HW/SW Integration



# Multi-Core Software Development

## Cortex-A Linux Device Driver – Code Excerpt

```
printk("-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox source register.\n");
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0SOURCE,(1<<0));
printk("-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt mask register.\n");
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0MSET, 0x3);
printk("-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox destination register.\n");
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0DSET , (1<<2));
printk("-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox data 0 register to %.8x.\n",0);
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0DR0,0);
printk("-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox data 1 register to %.8x.\n",sensor);
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0DR1,sensor);

printk("-- Send IPCM PL320 Mailbox message.\n");
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0SEND , (1<<0));
printk("-- Waiting for acknowledge\n");
m4sensor_device_control.ack=false;
interruptible_sleep_on_timeout(&m4sensor_queue, 1000 /* jiffies */);
if(m4sensor_device_control.ack==0) {
    printk("-- Error: Timeout while waiting for acknowledge\n");
    return 0;
}

printk("-- Acknowledge received. Command completed. Data ready.\n");
value= IPCM_READ(IPCM0DR2);
printk("-- Reading sensor data from mailbox: %d\n",value);
```

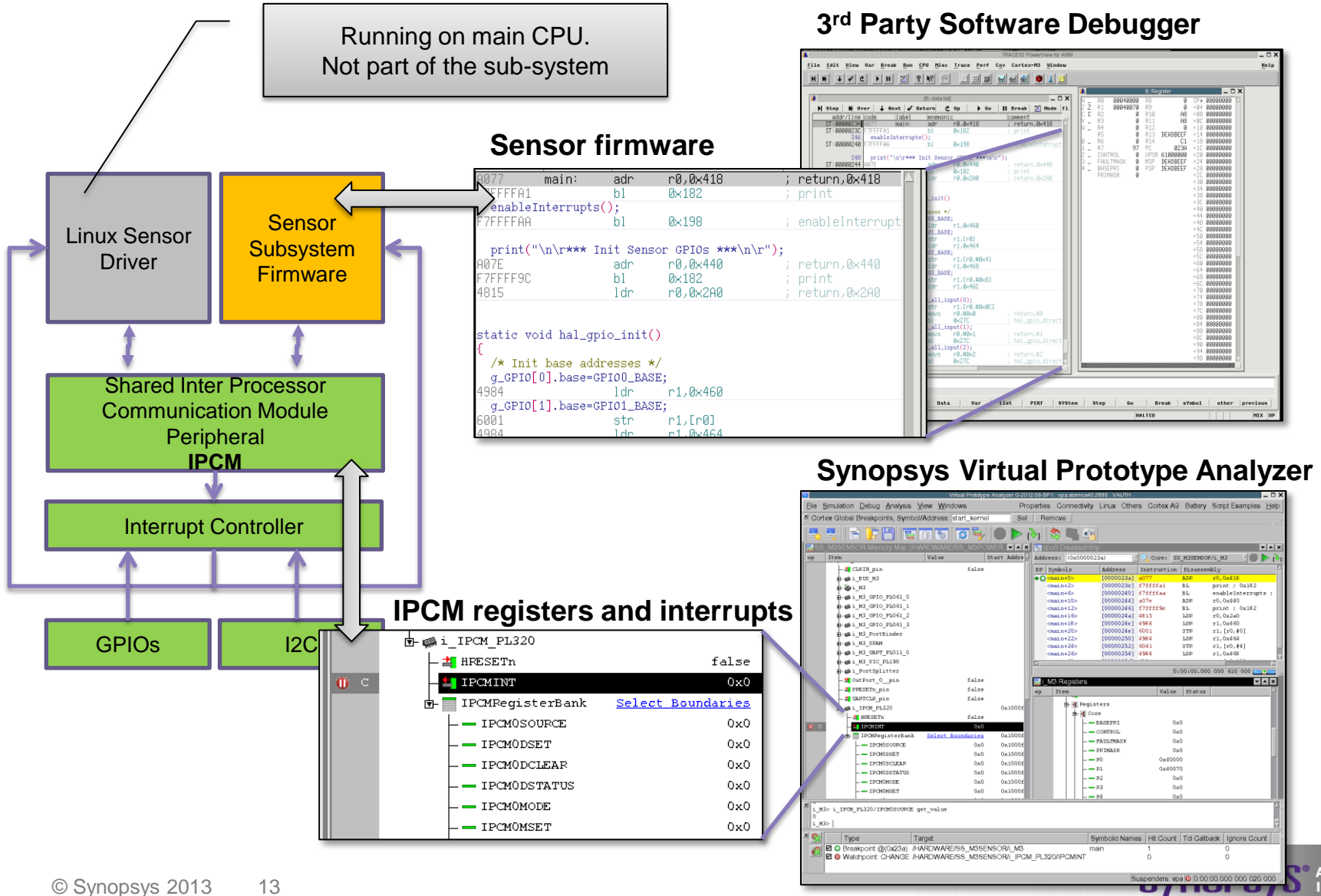
Cortex-A Linux  
Kernel debug  
messages

Cortex-M Firmware  
Debug messages

## Cortex-M Firmware Code Excerpt

```
print(" Handle IPCM interrupt\n\r");
print(" Reading IPCM mailbox message\n\r");
task=IPCM_READ(IPCM0DR0);
switch(task){
case 0:
    print(" Reading sensor from GPIO\n\r");
    sensor=IPCM_READ(IPCM0DR1);
    value=hal_gpio_get_value_word8(sensor);
    print(" Writing to mailbox\n\r");
    IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0DR2,value);
    break;
    ...
}
print(" Clearing ipcm interrupt, acknowledge\n\r");
IPCM_WRITE(IPCM0SEND , (1<<1));
```

# Subsystem Firmware Debugging



# MultiCore Logging & Tracing

## Linux VGA Console

```
Synopsys Virtual AT Keyboard, PS/2 Mouse/Touchscreen and LCD Panel
Welcome to the Erik's uClib development environment.
cmwareup login: root
# cat /sys/kernel/sensors/sensor
/sys/kernel/sensors/sensor0 /sys/kernel/sensors/sensor2
/sys/kernel/sensors/sensor1 /sys/kernel/sensors/sensor3
# cat /sys/kernel/sensors/sensor0
```

User I/O

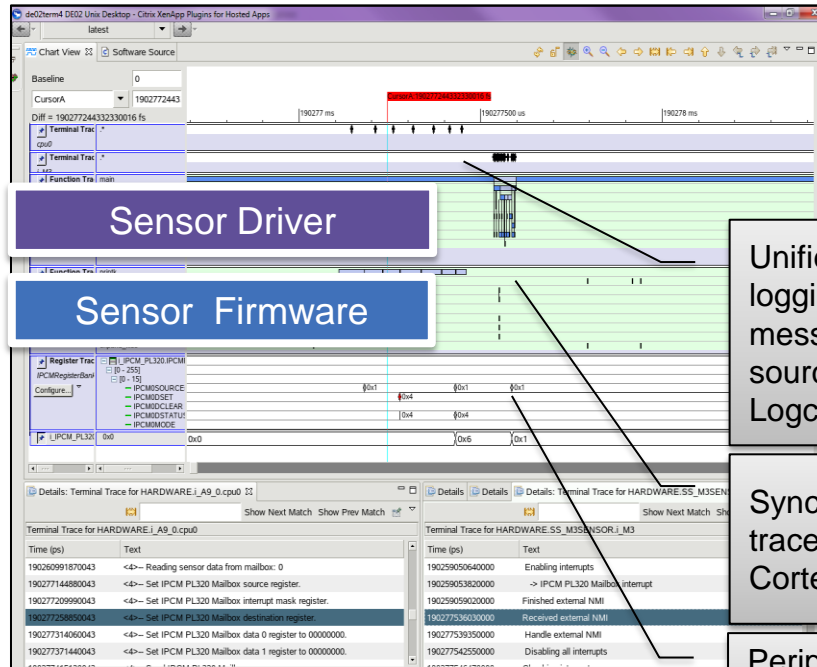
## Linux UART Console

```
ed
VFS: Mounted root (ext2 filesystem) on device 31:0.
Freeing init memory: 116K
Initializing random number generator... done.
Starting system message bus: done
Starting network...
ip: RTNETLINK answers: File exists
Starting sshd: OK
-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox source register.
-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt mask register.
-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox destination register.
-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox data 0 register to 00000000.
-- Set IPCM PL320 Mailbox data 1 register to 00000000.
-- Send IPCM PL320 Mailbox message.
-- Waiting for acknowledge
-- Receiving IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt.
-- Clearing IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt.
-- Acknowledge received. Command completed. Data ready.
-- Reading sensor data from mailbox: 0
```

## Sensor UART

```
*** Init Sensor GPIOs ***
Ready!
Waiting for interrupts...
Received external NMI
Handle external NMI
Disabling all interrupts
Checking interrupt
-> IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt
Handle ipcm interrupt
Reading ipcm mailbox message
Reading sensor GPIO
Reading sensor GPIO done. Writing value to mailbox.
Clearing ipcm interrupt, acknowledge command complete to main CPU via interrupt.
Enabling interrupts
-> IPCM PL320 Mailbox interrupt
Finished external NMI
```

## Virtual Prototype Tracing



Sensor Driver

Sensor Firmware

Unified and synchronized logging of debug messages from multiple sources (UARTs, Android Logcat etc.)

Synchronized software traces for Cortex-A and Cortex-M

Peripheral access and signal traces. Here: shared IPCM

Cortex-A Linux Kernel debug messages

Cortex-M Firmware Debug messages

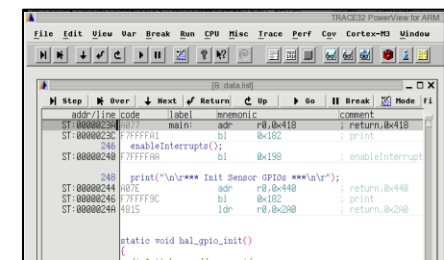
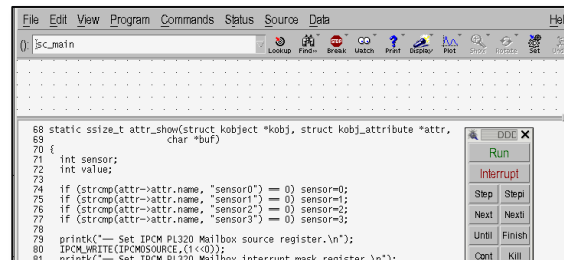
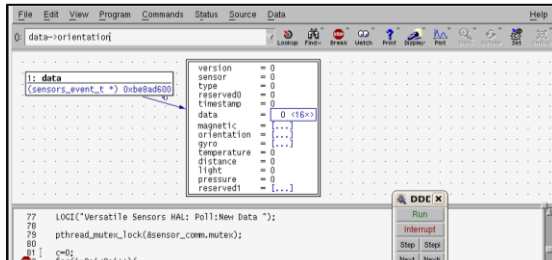
# Vertical HW/SW integration: Middleware & Drivers

## *Multi-layer, multi-core, multi-tool SW debugging*

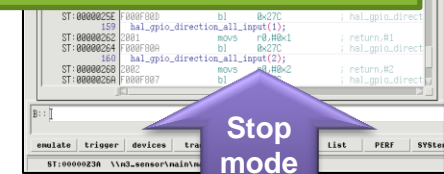
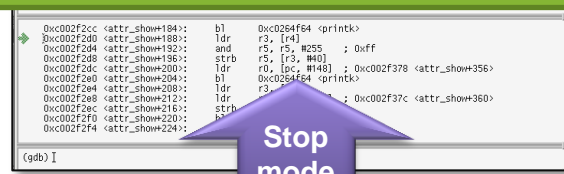
**GDB:**  
**Sensor middleware – Cortex A**

**GDB:**  
**Sensor driver – Cortex A**

**Lauterbach:**  
**Sensor firmware– Cortex M**



One click connection of a debugger to any thread, on any core, in any SW layer, in non-intrusive stop-mode !



**Virtualizer Multi-core Debugger Server**  
**VP Linux awareness plugin**

**Dynamically loaded**

**Statically loaded**

**Statically loaded**

Symbols libsensors.so

Kernel Symbols -  
vmlinux

Firmware symbols

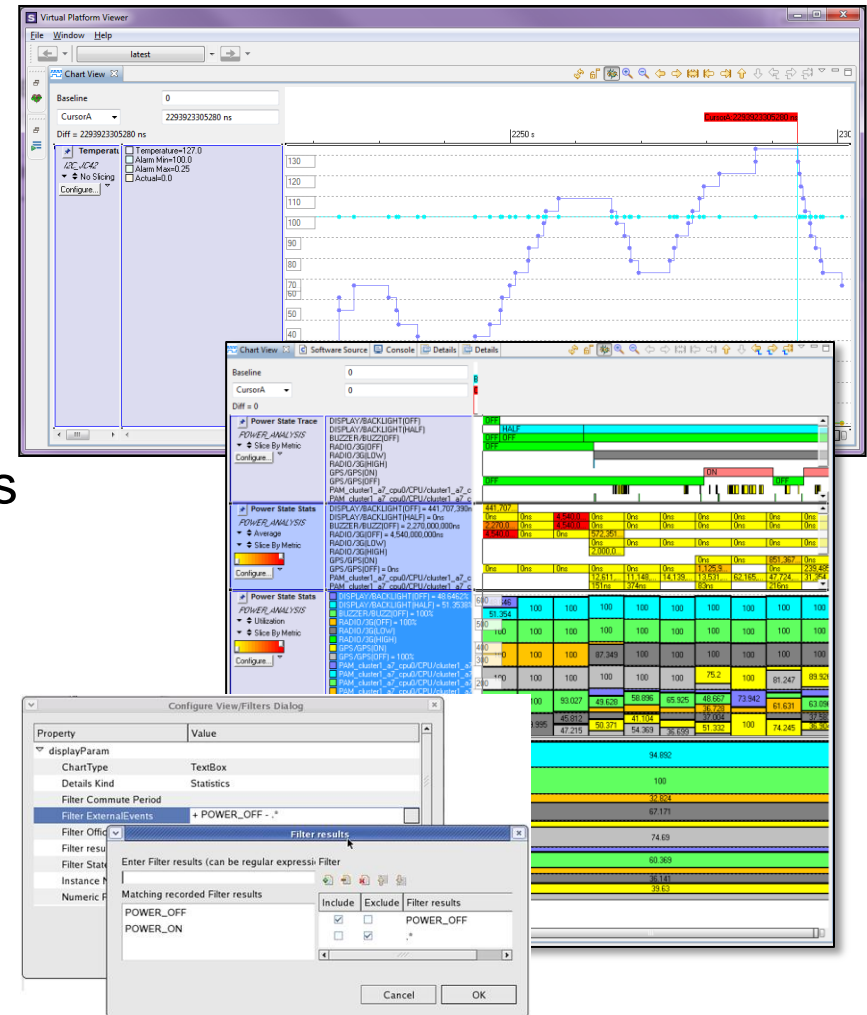
See article: **Android hardware/software design using virtual prototypes**  
<http://www.embedded.com/design/prototyping-and-development/4399520>



# Enabling analysis

## *Analysis infrastructure for Virtual Prototype TLM (models)*

- Simple APIs for Models
  - Message logging
  - Data tracing
  - State tracing
- SW awareness plugins
  - (RT)OS threads and processes
  - Exceptions
- Out-of-the-box analysis
  - Traces
  - Configurable statistics
  - Filters/Regular Expressions





# Summary

## Virtual Prototypes

- Can enable top-down debug process

## Needs:

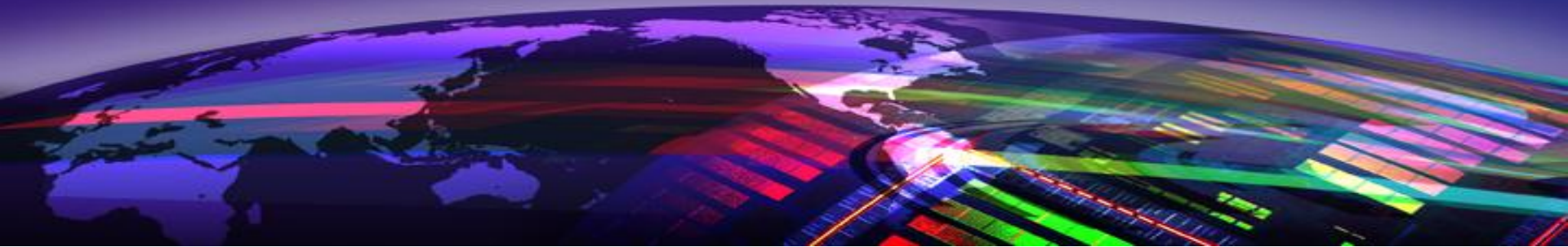
- Models needs to be instrumented, delivering traces at the right level of abstraction

## Challenges:

- Tracing and logging APIs not part of the IEEE 1666 SystemC TLM-2.0 standard

# Thank You

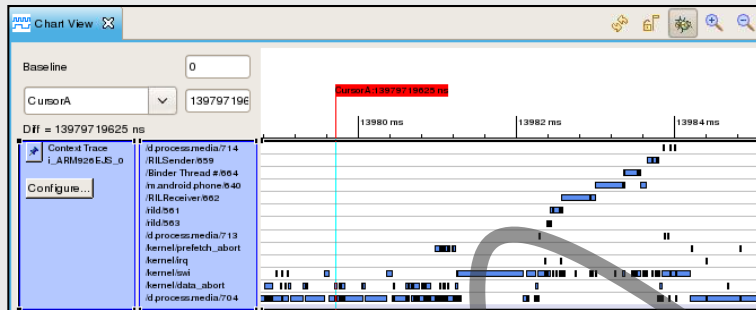
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Accelerating Innovation



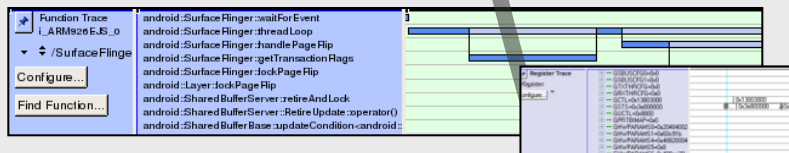
# Backup

# System Level Software Debug & Analysis

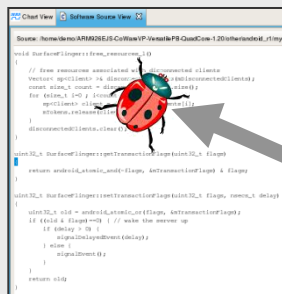
## Multi-core OS Level Process Trace: Global system SW root-cause analysis



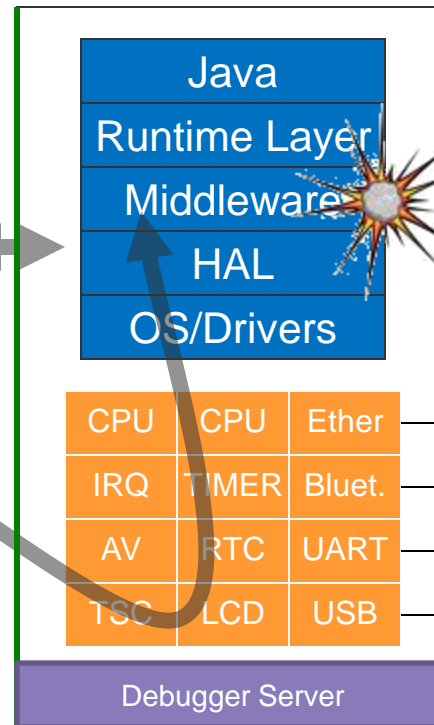
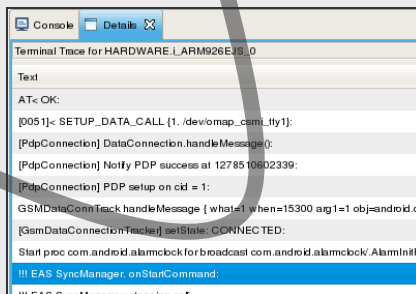
## Function Trace/ Register Trace Local function level root-cause analysis



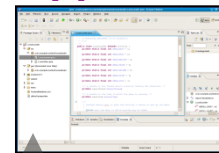
## Source Code Detailed analysis



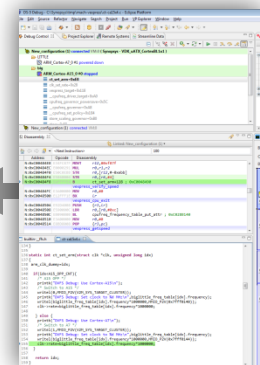
## Software Logging Kernel log, printf's etc.



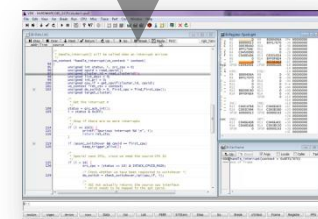
## Application IDE



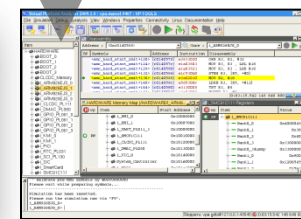
## SW Debugger Run Mode



## SW Debugger Stop Mode



## System HW/SW Debug Registers, Signals, Memory, Code



Consistent top-down analysis