Finding the needle in the haystack

System software debugging at the right level of abstraction

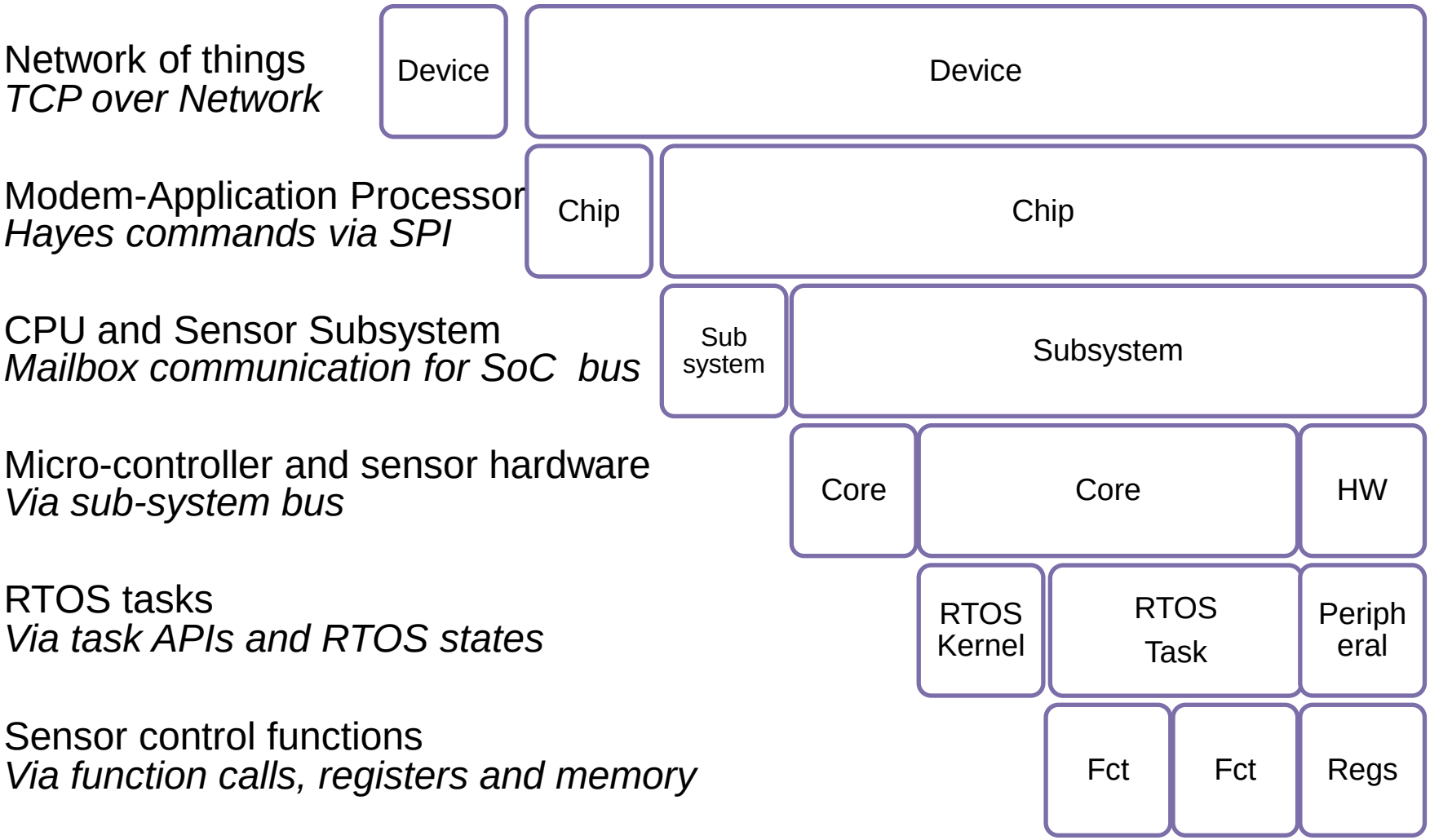
1st International Workshop on
Multicore Application Debugging
(MAD 2013)

Achim Nohl, Synopsys Inc.

11/14/2013

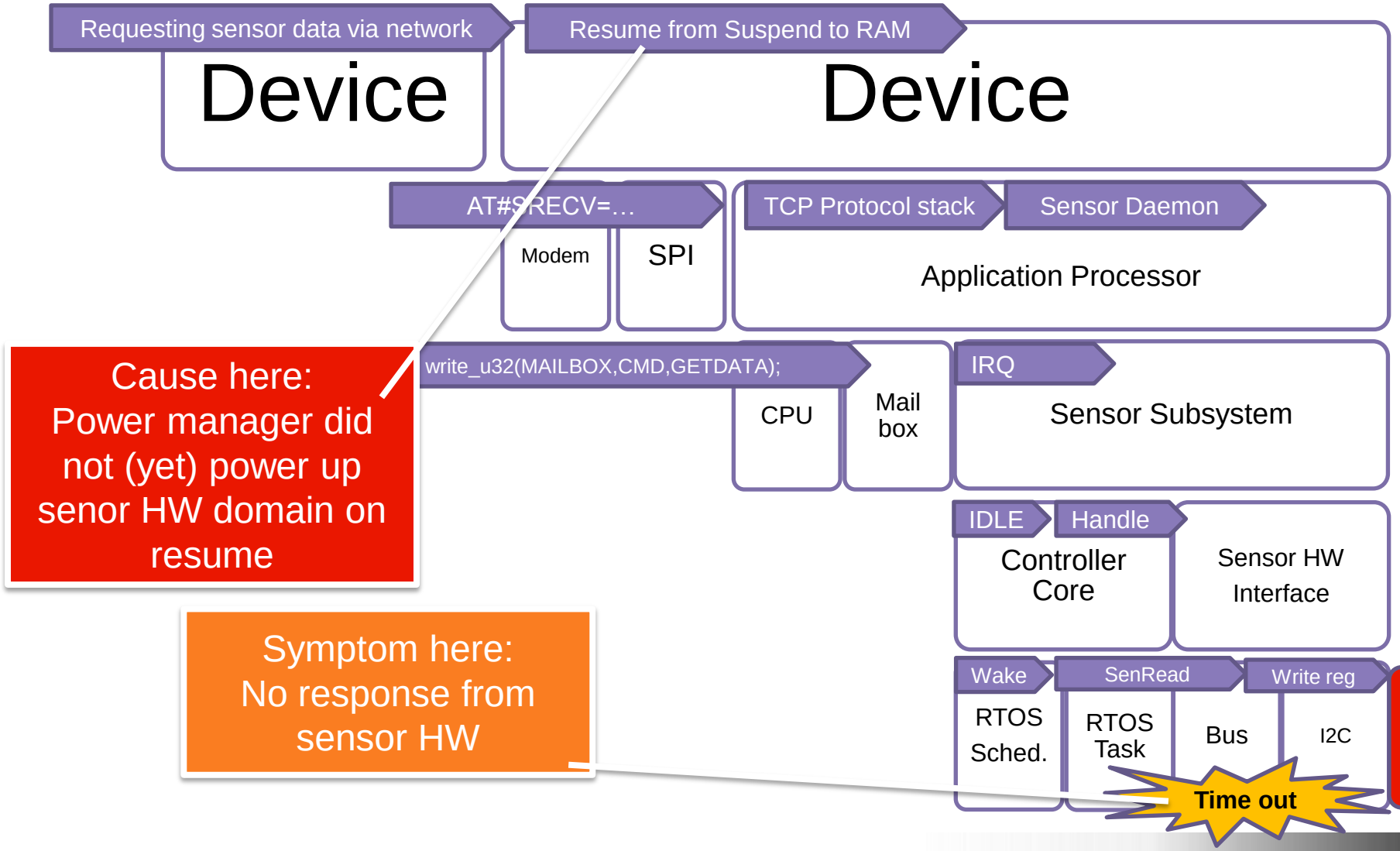
System Integration

Example: Mobile hand-set, modem and sensor



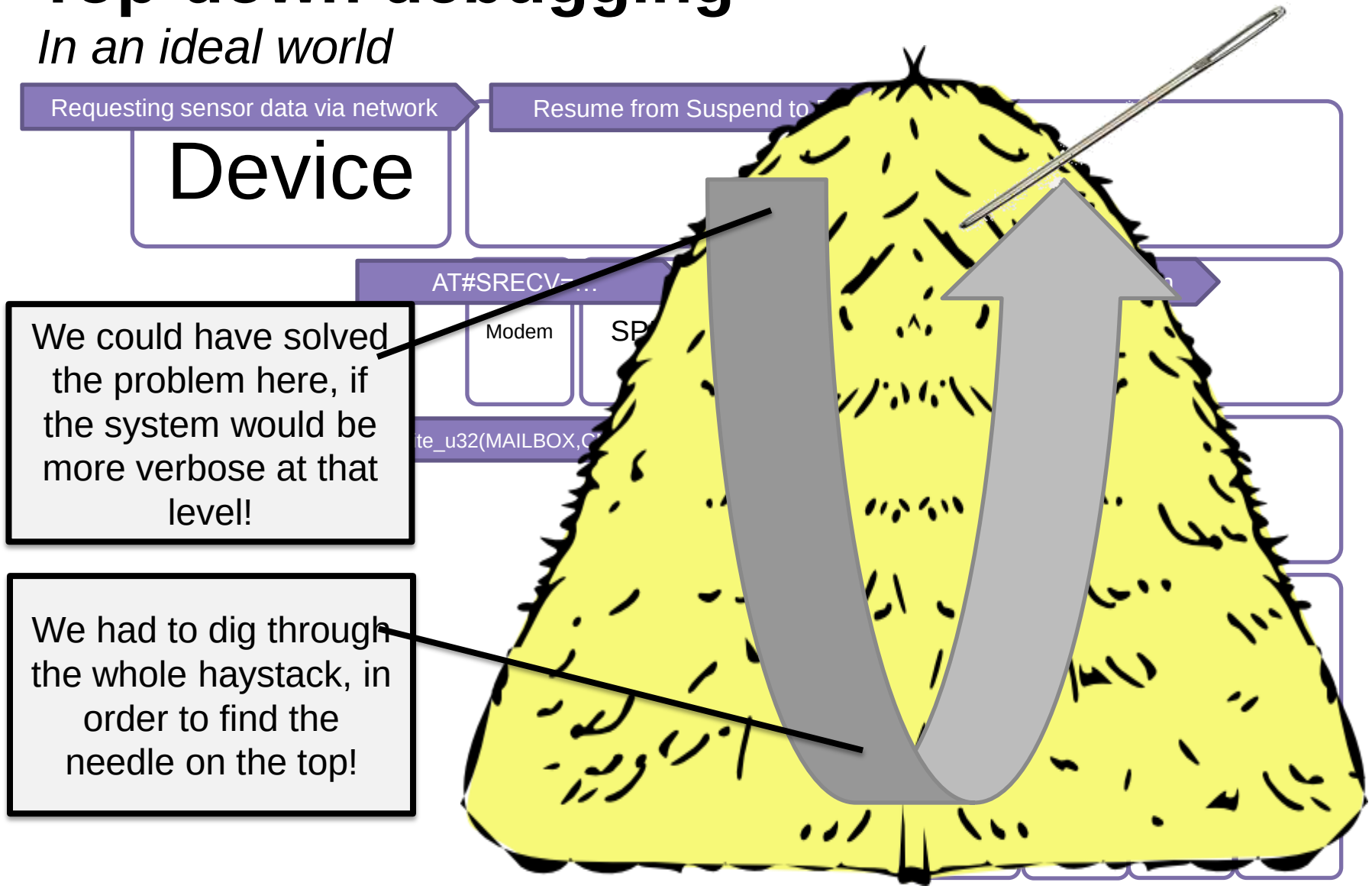
Top-down debugging

In an ideal world



Top-down debugging

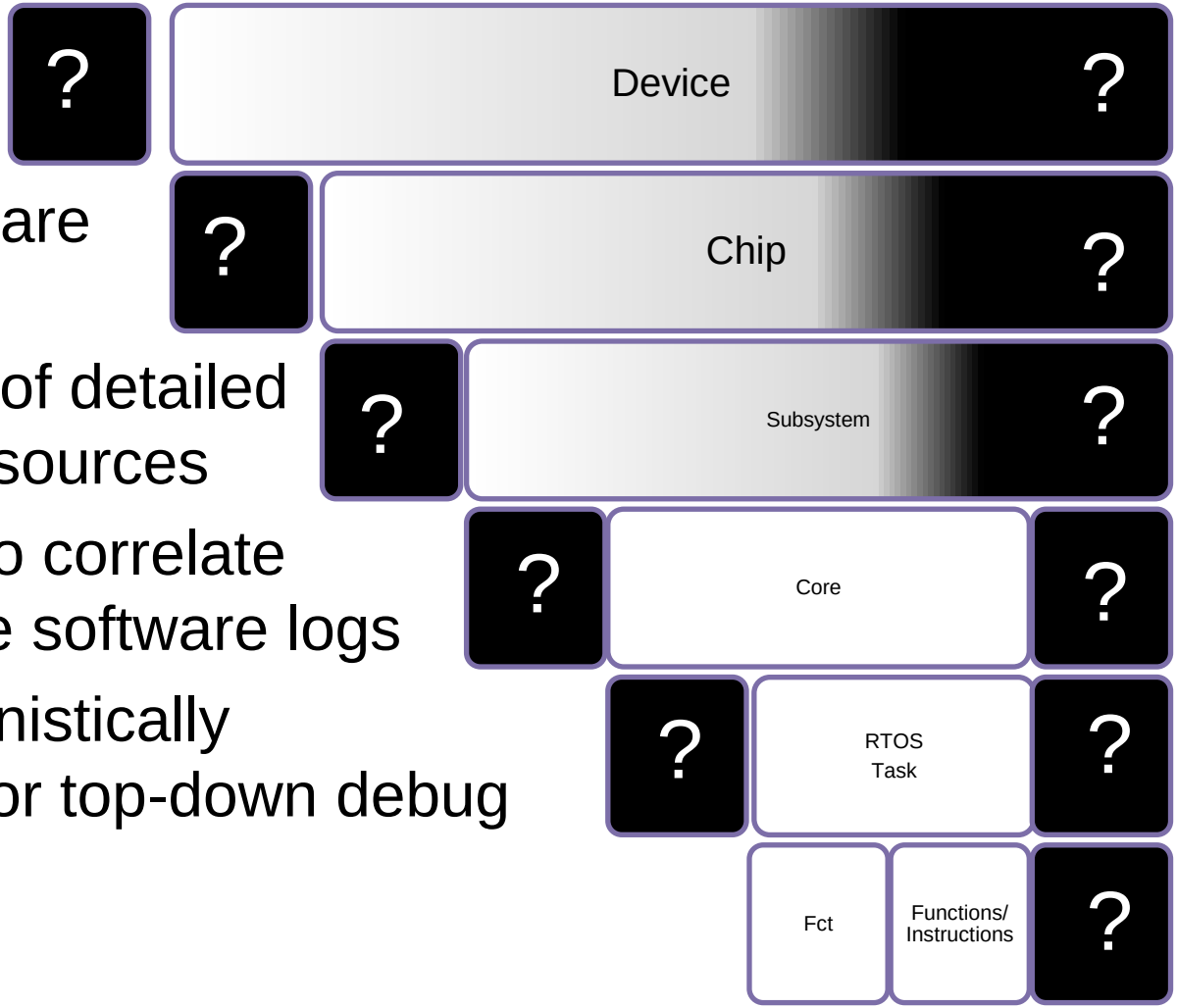
In an ideal world



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

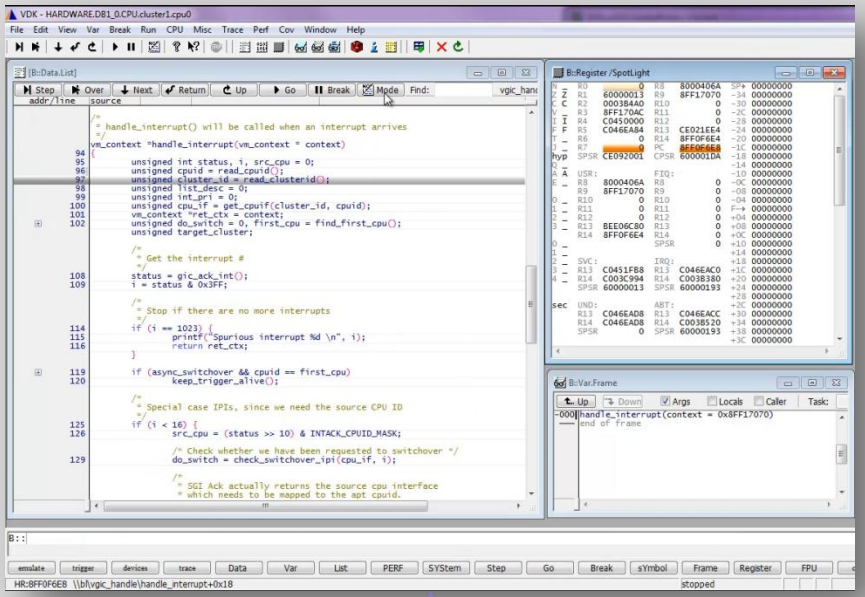
Addressing the debug challenger

Using Virtual Prototypes

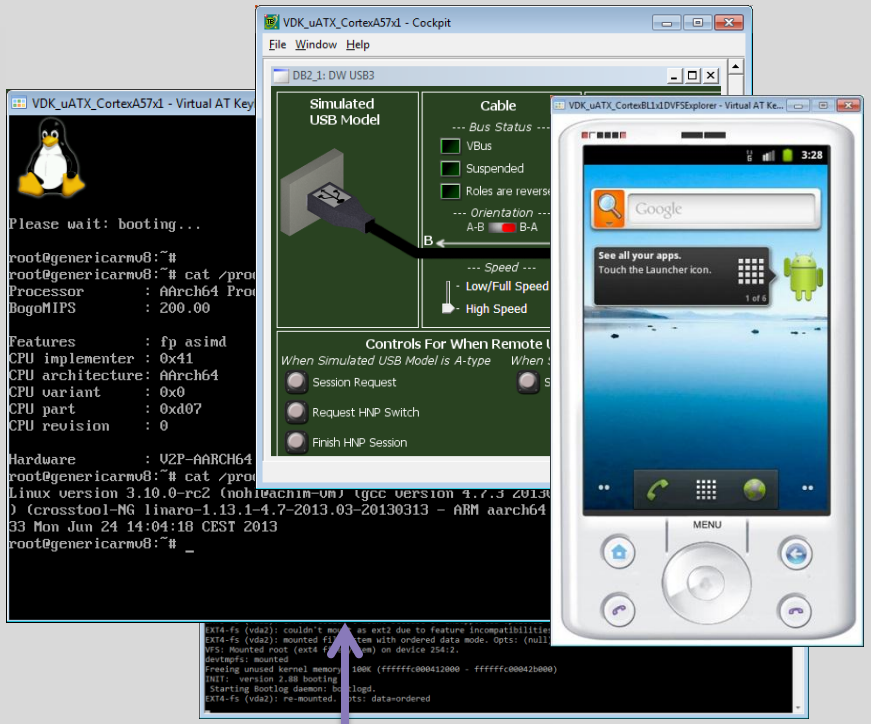
Software Developer's View

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

Standard 3rd party Software Debugger



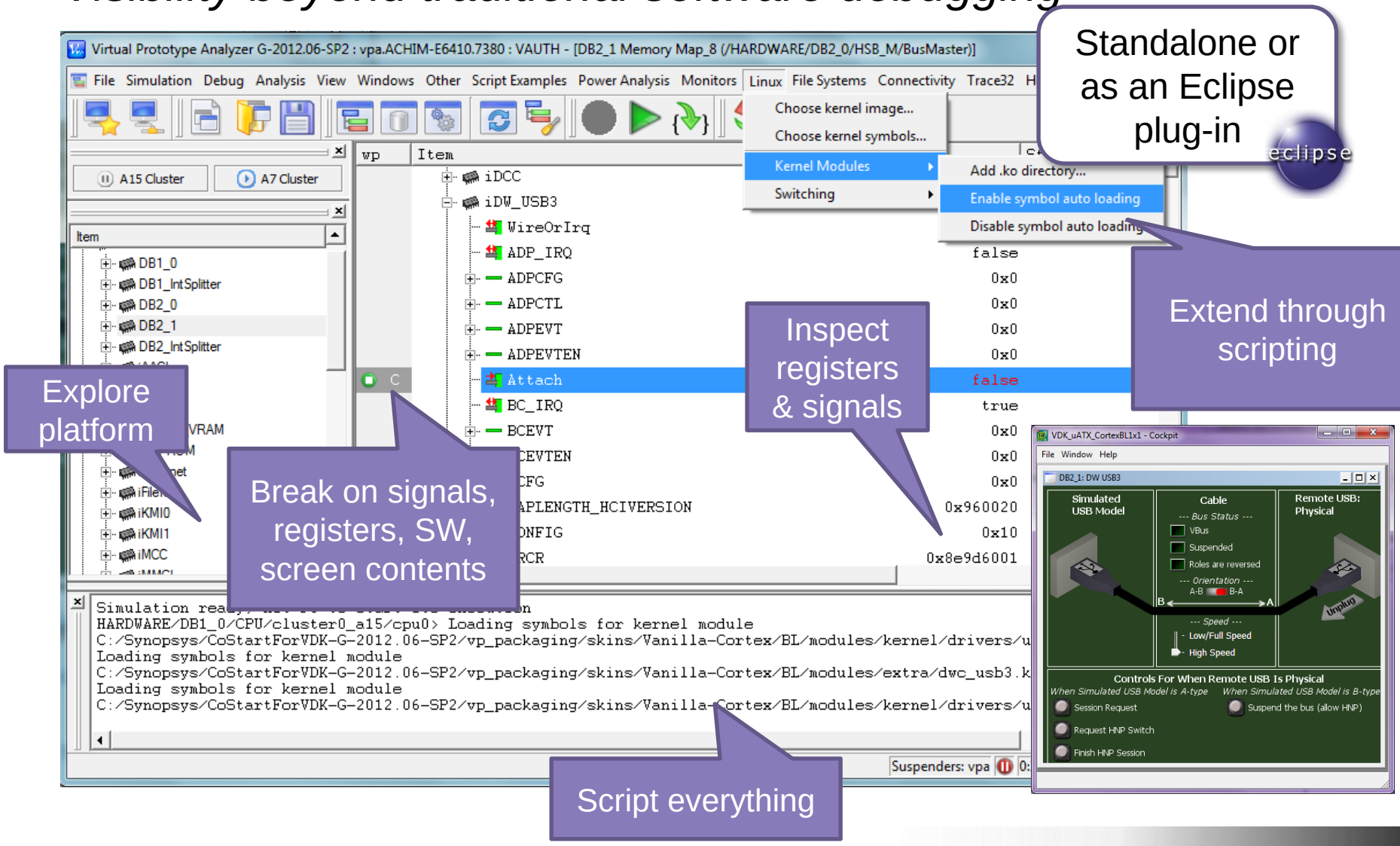
Virtual and physical IO



Debugger Server | Virtual Prototype | Virtual IO

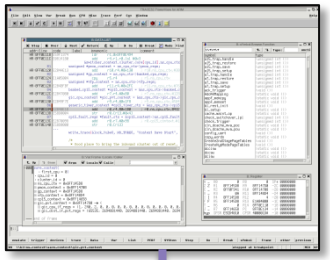
System level software debugging

Visibility beyond traditional software debugging

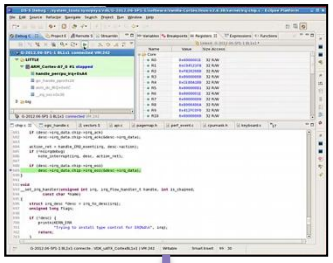


Using a VDK

Lauterbach

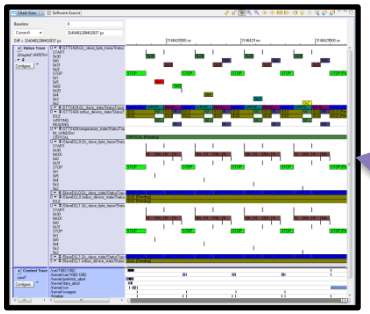


ARM DS-5/RVDS



System Debug

Tracing



Non-intrusive, stop mode debugging

Virtualizer Multi-core Debugger Server

Virtualizer Developer Kit (VDK)

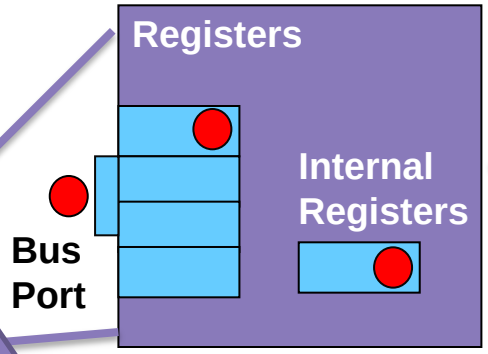
*Simulation of a hardware device/SoC**

- ARM Cortex A
- ARM Cortex R
- ARM Cortex M

- USB
- MMC
- I2C/SPI
- GMAC
- LCD

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

Full HW visibility



Script everything

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

Sensor HW/SW Integration

Processor Kind

Software Kind

Cortex-A

Android Runtime

```
sensors_open(&module, &device);
```

Android Sensor HAL API

Sensor HAL

```
read("/sys/class/sensor/accel/x")
```

Sensor Driver API

Sensor Driver

```
write(REG_CTRL, REQUEST_ACCEL_X)
```

Interrupts

Registers

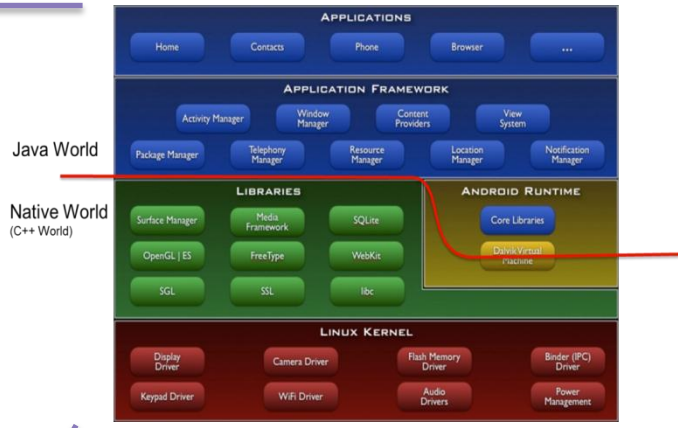
Mailbox Peripheral (IPCM)

Interrupts

Registers

Cortex-M

Sensor Firmware



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.
value= IPCM_READ(IPCM0DR2);
printk("-- Reading sensor data from mailbox: %d\n",value);
```

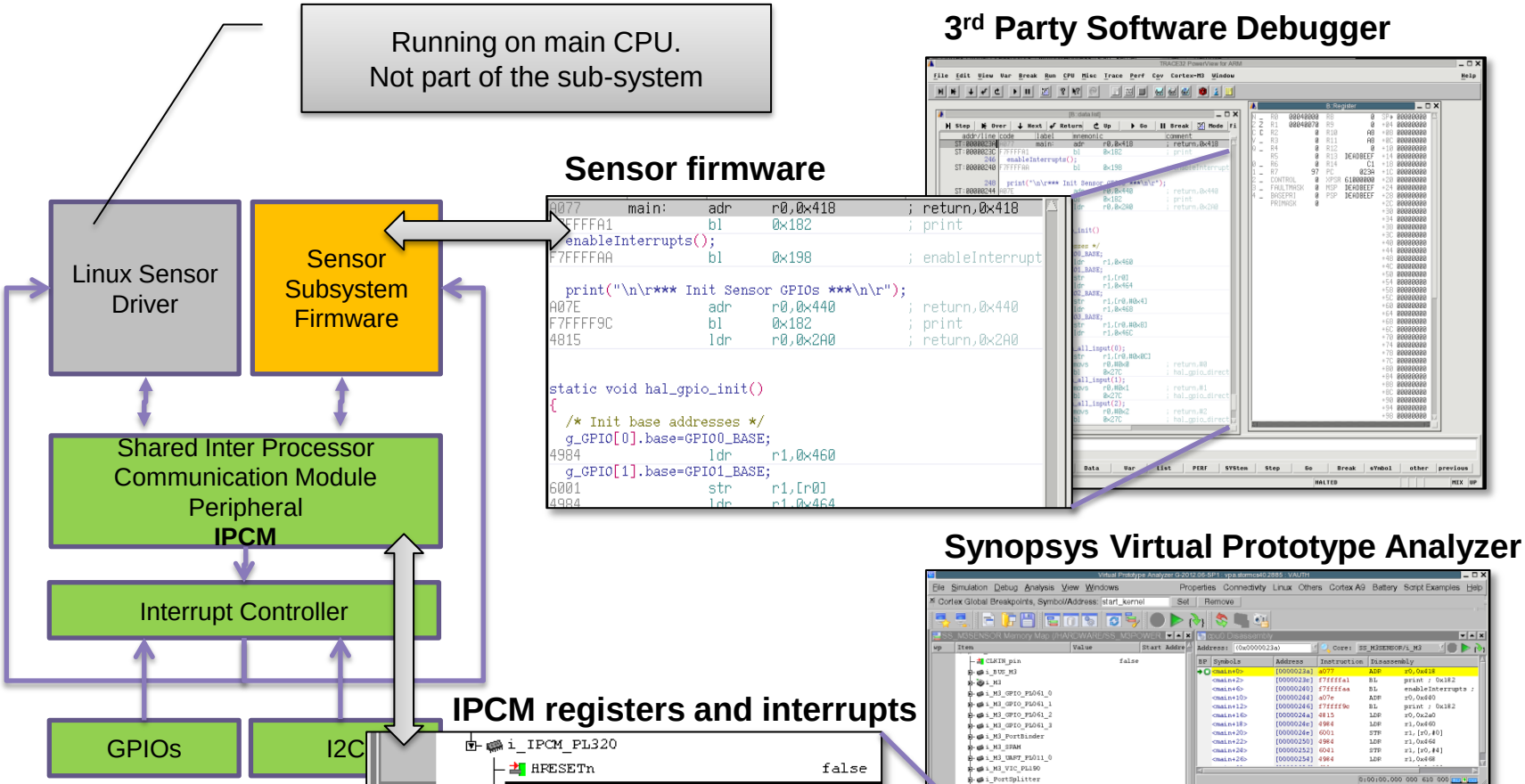
Cortex-A Linux Kernel debug messages

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

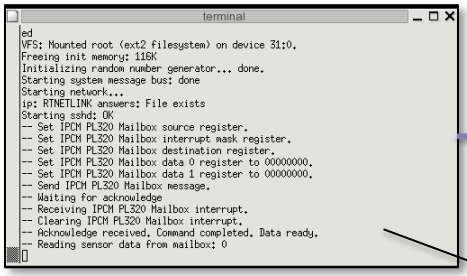


MultiCore Logging & Tracing

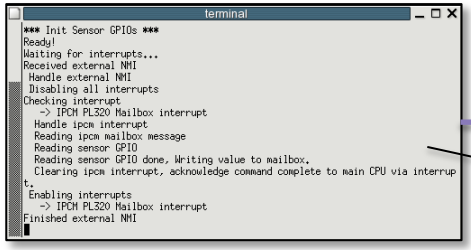
Linux VGA Console

User I/O

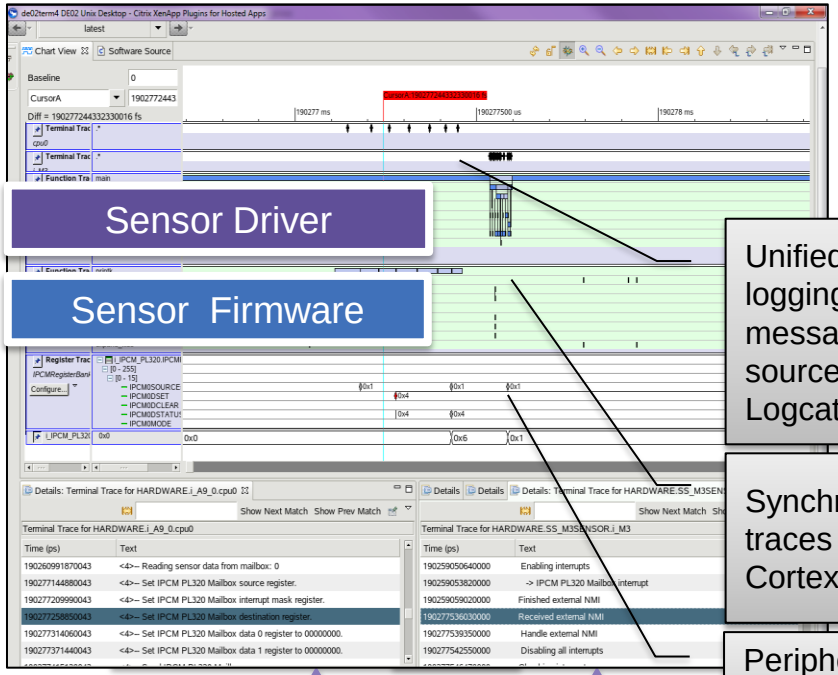
Linux UART Console



Sensor UART



Virtual Prototype Tracing



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

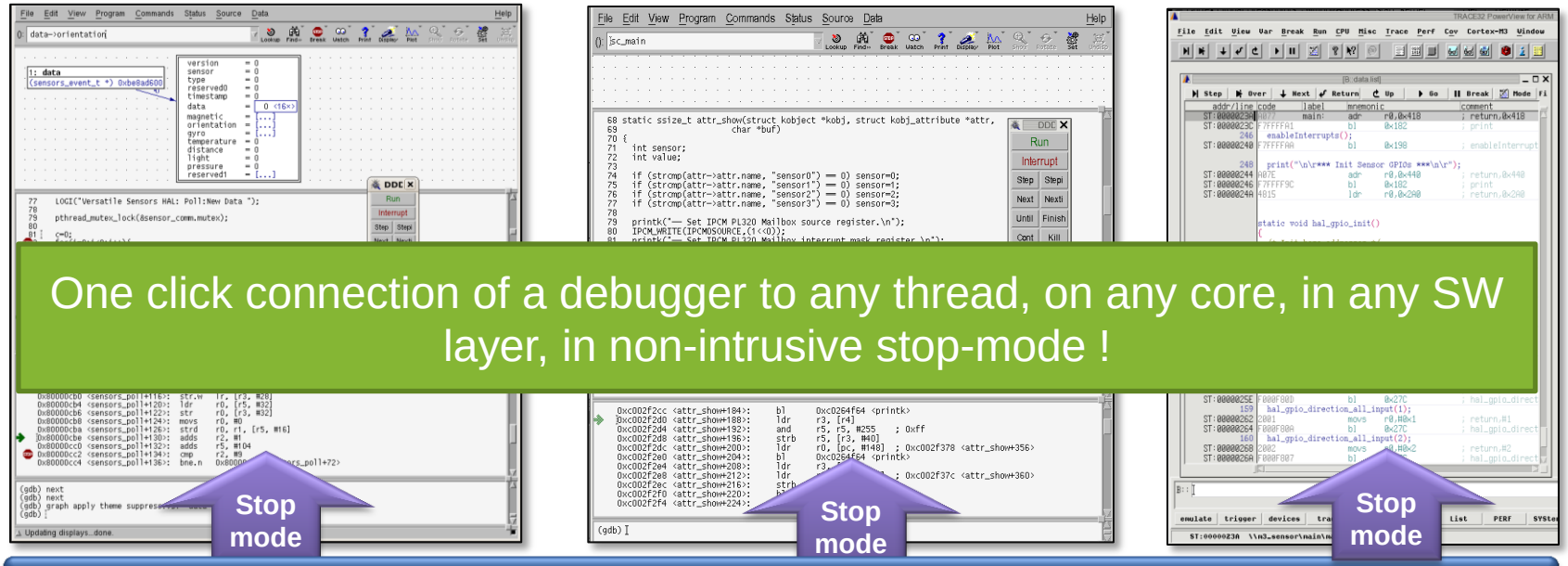
Vertical HW/SW integration: Middleware & Drivers

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

GDB:
Sensor middleware – Cortex A

GDB:
Sensor driver – Cortex A

Lauterbach:
Sensor firmware– Cortex M

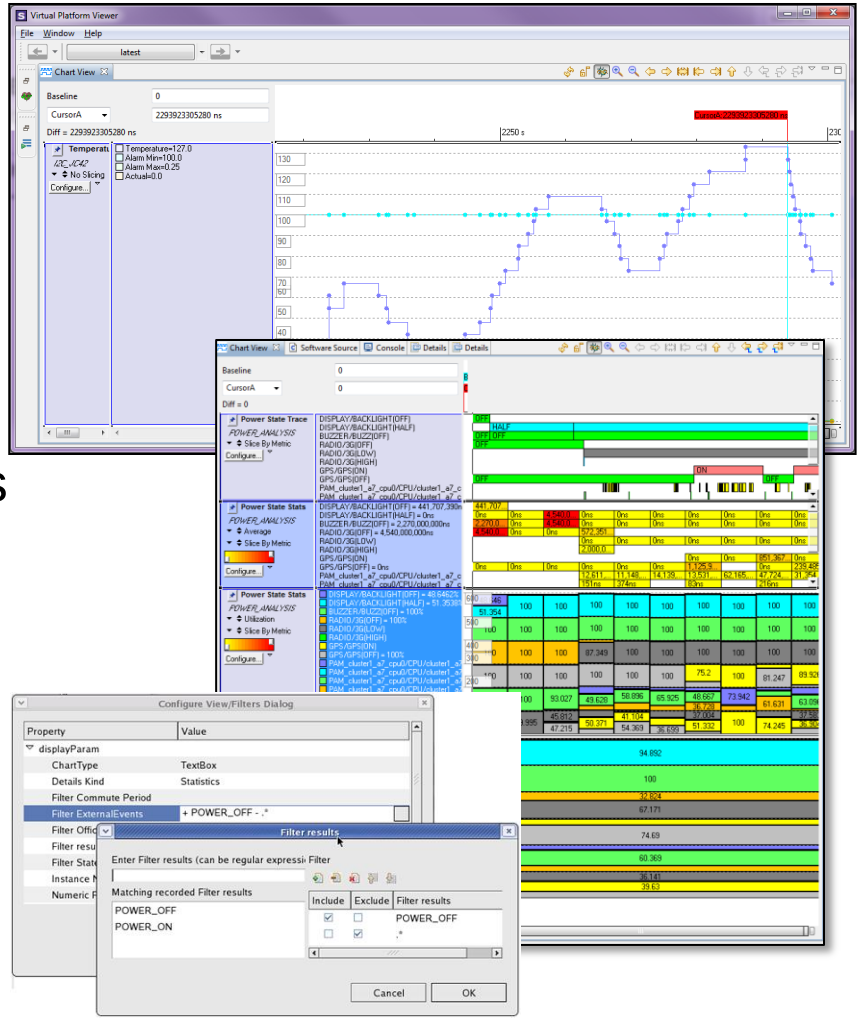


See article: **Android hardware/software design using virtual prototypes**
http://www.embedded.com/design/prototyping-and-development/4399520

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

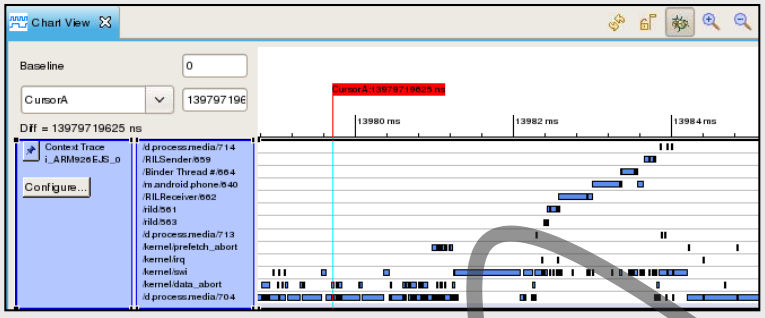

Thank You
SYNOPSYS®
Accelerating Innovation

Backup

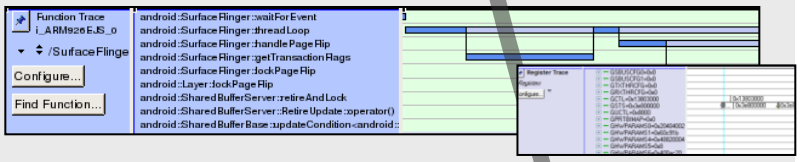
System Level Software Debug & Analysis

Consistent top-down anaylsis

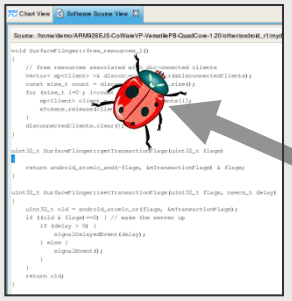
Multi-core OS Level Process Trace:
Global system SW root-cause analysis



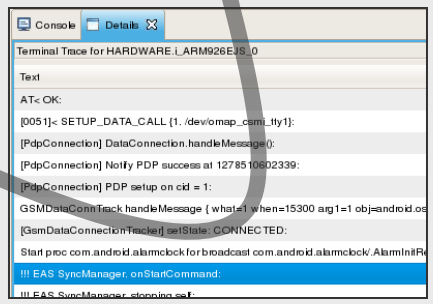
Function Trace/ Register Trace
Local function level root-cause analysis

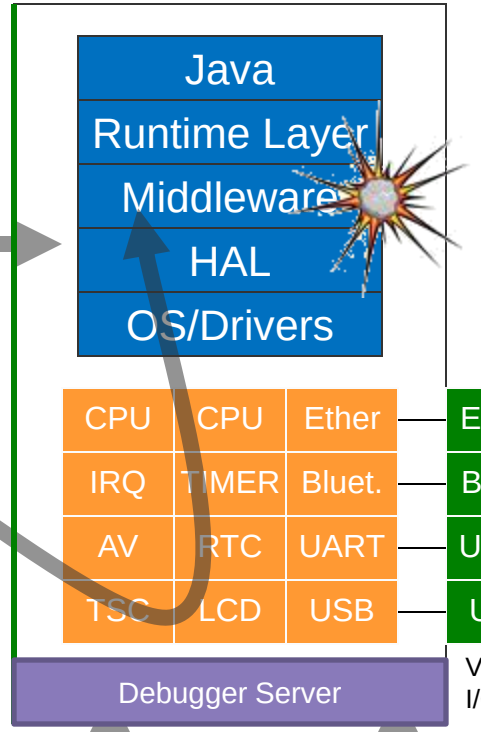


Source Code
Detailed analysis

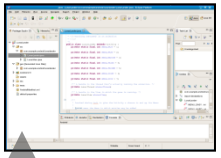


Software Logging
Kernel log, printfs etc.

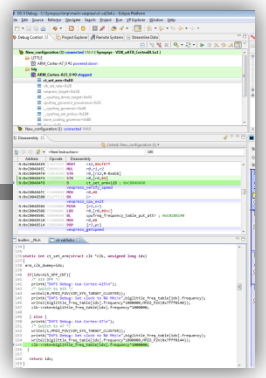


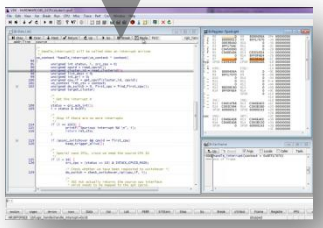


Application IDE

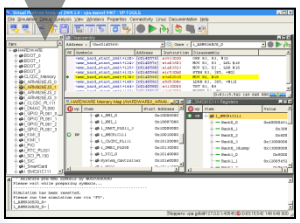


SW Debugger
Run Mode





SW Debugger
Stop Mode



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