

This course covers the Cortex-R4 ARM core

Objectives

- This course is split into 3 important parts:
 - Cortex-R4 architecture
 - Cortex-R4 software implementation and debug
 - Cortex-R4 hardware implementation.
- Interaction between level 1 caches, TCM and main memory is studied through sequences.
- The course explains how to assign access permissions and attributes to regions by using the MPU.
- The exception mechanism is detailed, indicating how the VIC port can contribute to reduce interrupt latency.
- The course also details the hardware implementation and provides some guidelines to design a SoC based on Cortex-R4.
- An overview of the Coresight specification is provided prior to describing the debug related units.

Labs are run under RVDS

A more detailed course description is available on request at formation@ac6-formation.com

Prerequisites

- Knowledge of ARM7/9.
- This course does not include chapters on low level programming.
 - ACSYS offers a large set of tutorials to become familiar with RVDS, assembly level programming, compiler hints and tips.
- More than 12 correct answers to Cortex-R prerequisites questionnaire.

Environnement du cours

- Cours théorique
 - Support de cours au format PDF (en anglais) et une version imprimée lors des sessions en présentiel
 - Cours dispensé via le système de visioconférence Teams (si à distance)
 - Le formateur répond aux questions des stagiaires en direct pendant la formation et fournit une assistance technique et pédagogique
- Au début de chaque demi-journée une période est réservée à une interaction avec les stagiaires pour s'assurer que le cours répond à leurs attentes et l'adapter si nécessaire

Audience visée

- Tout ingénieur ou technicien en systèmes embarqués possédant les prérequis ci-dessus.

Modalités d'évaluation

- Les prérequis indiqués ci-dessus sont évalués avant la formation par l'encadrement technique du stagiaire dans son entreprise, ou par le stagiaire lui-même dans le cas exceptionnel d'un stagiaire individuel.
- Les progrès des stagiaires sont évalués par des quizz proposés en fin des sections pour vérifier que les stagiaires ont assimilé les points présentés
- En fin de formation, une attestation et un certificat attestant que le stagiaire a suivi le cours avec succès.
 - En cas de problème dû à un manque de prérequis de la part du stagiaire, constaté lors de la formation, une formation différente ou complémentaire lui est proposée, en général pour conforter ses prérequis, en accord avec son responsable en entreprise le cas échéant.

Plan

First day

ARM BASICS

- States and modes
- Benefit of register banking
- Exception mechanism
- Instruction sets
- Purpose of CP15

INTRODUCTION TO CORTEX-R4

- Block diagram
- ARMv7-R architecture
- Supported instruction sets
- Exceptions
- System control coprocessor
- Configurable options

INSTRUCTION PIPELINE

- Prefetch unit
- Instruction cycle timing
- Dynamic branch prediction mechanism
- Data Processing Unit
- Dual issue conditions
- Return stack
- Instruction Memory Barrier

MEMORY TYPES

- Device and normal memory ordering
- Memory type access restrictions
- Access order
- Memory barriers, self-modifying code

MEMORY PROTECTION UNIT

- ARM v7 PMSA
- Cortex-R4 MPU and bus faults
- Region overview, memory type and access control, sub-regions
- Region overlapping
- Setting up the MPU

EXCEPTION MANAGEMENT

- Low Interrupt Latency
- Primecell VICs
- VIC basic signal timing
- Interrupt priority and masking
- Abort exception
- Precise vs imprecise faults

Second day

LEVEL 1 MEMORY SYSTEM

- Cache basics
- Write with allocate policy
- Debugging when caches are active
- Accessing the cache RAM from AXI slave interface
- Tightly Coupled Memories
- ECC/parity protection
- Store buffer, merging data
- L1 caches software read for debug purposes

AXI PROTOCOL

- PL301 AXI interconnect
- Separate address/control and data phases
- AXI channels, channel handshake
- Support for unaligned data transfers
- Cortex-R4 external memory interface, ID encoding

HARDWARE IMPLEMENTATION

- Clock domains, CLKIN, FREECLKIN and PCLKDBG
- Reset domains, power-on reset and debug reset
- Power control, dynamic power management
- Wait For Interrupt architecture
- Debugging the processor while powered down

Third day

LEVEL 2 MEMORY SYSTEM

- AXI master interface
- Controlling an external cache
- AXI transaction splitting
- AXI slave interface
- Using the AXI slave interface to perform built-in self tests
- Understanding the error recovery mechanisms
- Exclusive accesses
- Local monitor

APB - ADVANCED PERIPHERAL BUS

- Pinout
- Read timing diagram
- Write timing diagram
- APB3.0 new features

PERFORMANCE MONITOR

- Event counting
- Selecting the event to be counted for the 3 counters
- Debugging a multi-core system with the assistance of the PMU

LOW POWER MODES

- Voltage domains
- Run mode, standby mode, dormant mode
- Studying the sequence required to enter and exit dormant mode
- Standby and wait for event signals

CORESIGHT DEBUG UNITS

- Invasive debug, non-invasive debug
- APBv3 debug interface
- Debug facilities offered by Cortex-R4
- Process related breakpoint and watchpoint
- Program counter sampling
- Event catching
- Debug Communication Channel
- ETM interface, connection to funnel
- Cross-Trigger Interface, debugging a multi-core SoC

APB - ADVANCED PERIPHERAL BUS

- Second-level address decoding
- Read timing diagram
- Write timing diagram
- APB3.0 new features

DEBUG UNIT

- Performance monitor, event counting
- Coresight specification overview
- CP14 and memory-mapped registers
- Embedded core debug
- Invasive debug
- Debug exception
- Debug Communication Channel
- External debug interface
- Understanding how the Debug unit, the Embedded Trace Macrocell and the Cross-Triggering Interface interact

Renseignements pratiques

Renseignements : 3 jours