EECS 388: Embedded Systems

2. Software Development

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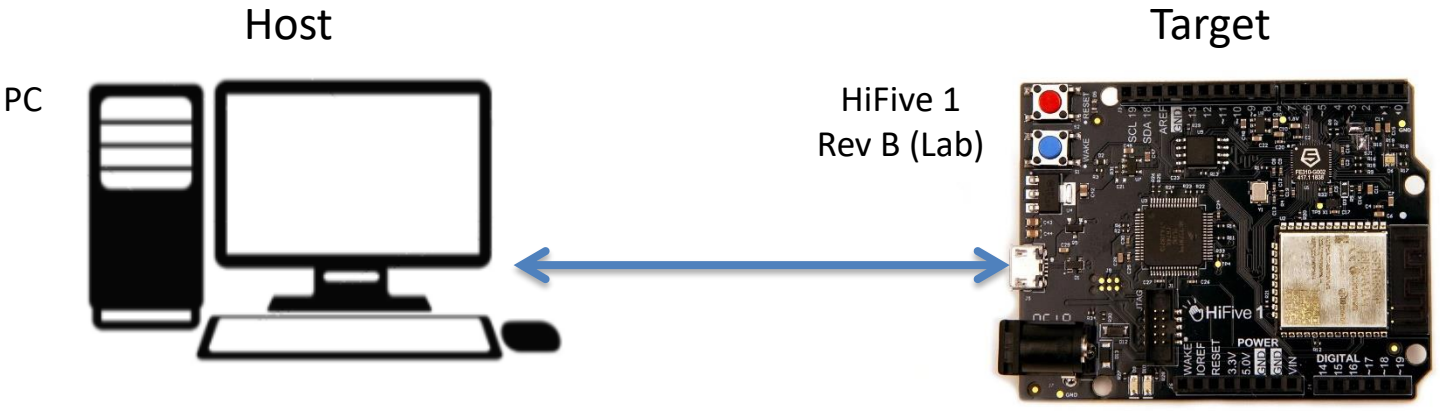
Agenda

- Embedded software development
  - Development models
  - Programming languages
  - Case study: KU AFS

Development Models

- Host/Target model
  - Edit, (cross) compile, debug, deploy on host (PC)
  - Target embedded system stores only the final compiled program image (firmware)



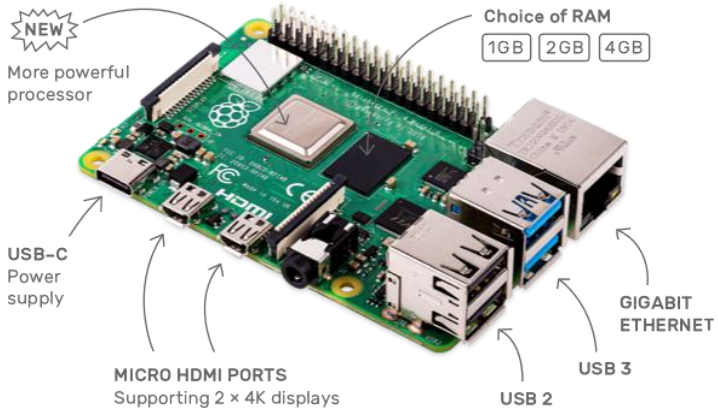
Where the software is being developed

Where the software is being run (usually resource constrained)

Development Models

- Standalone model
  - Host/Target is the same system (same ISA)
  - Native compilation, debugging

Rasbperry Pi 4
(Lab)



Develop & execute on the same platform

Embedded Software Development Challenges

- Limited resources
  - Low computing performance
  - Small amount of memory and storage
- Low-level access to hardware
  - Memory-mapped I/O
  - For efficiency, low latency
- High diversity, complexity
  - Not well standardized
  - Difficult to develop (but better than used to be)

Programming Languages

- **C**
  - (**Still**) the most popular for embedded systems
- C++
- Java
- JavaScript
- Python
- Rust
- …

C

- History
  - 1972. At AT&T Bell Labs, On PDP-11. by Dennis Richie.
  - 1978. K&R
  - 1990. C89, ANSI-C
  - 1999. C99
  - 2007. C11
  - 2018. C18

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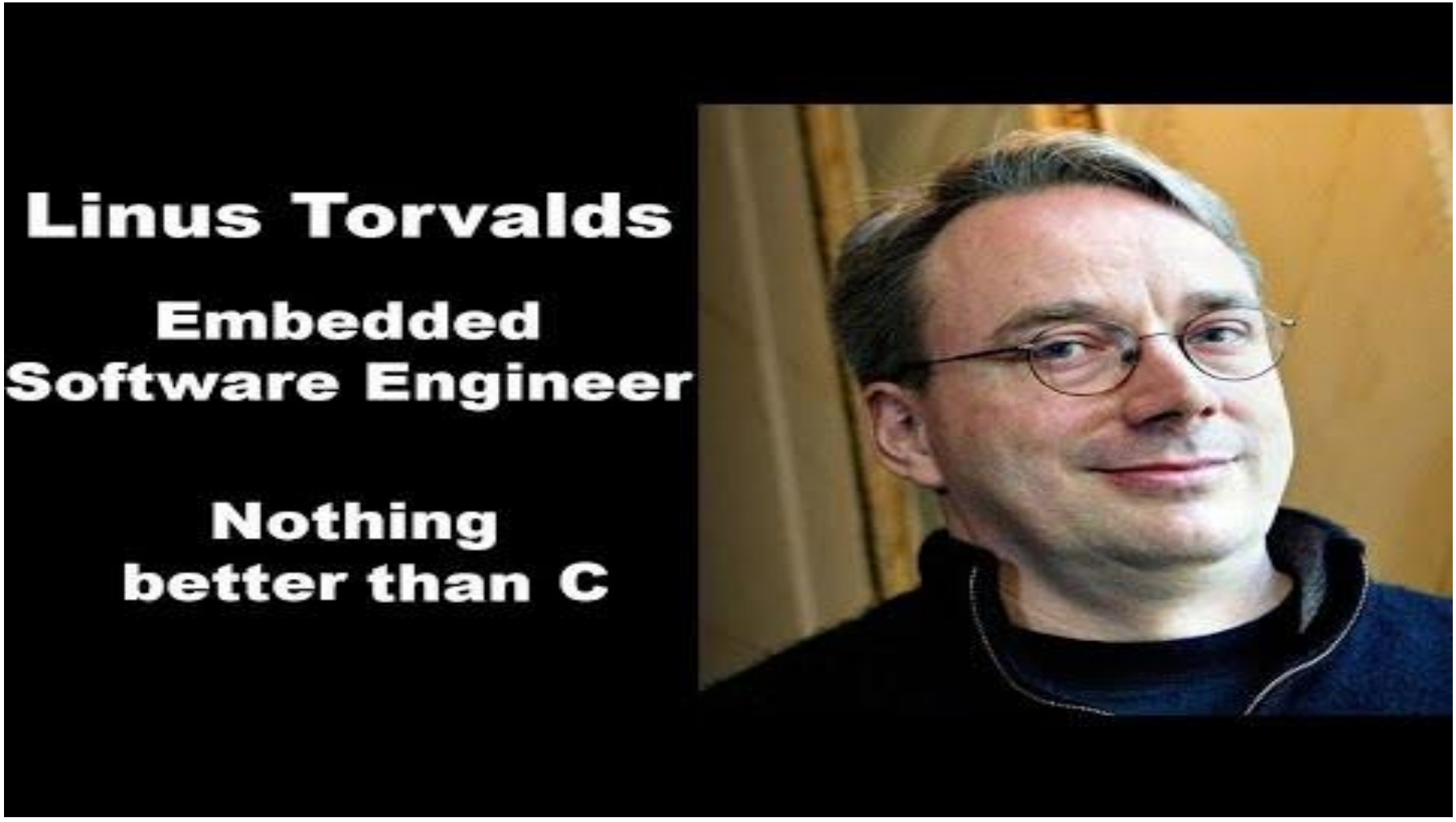
Linus Torvalds: "Nothing better than C"



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CYvJPra7Ebk

C

- Why popular?
  - Fast, efficient, and portable
  - Close to machine (assembly-like control)
  - Pointer, minimal type checking
- Problems
  - Pointer, minimal type checking
  - Require manual control of dynamic memory
  - Unsafe (memory leak, undefined behavior, ..)
  - Difficult to write correct, safe, secure code

Number Systems

- Decimal (base 10)
  - Symbols: 0,1,…,9
  - E.g., $123_{10} = 1x10^2 + 2x10^1 + 3x10^0$
- Binary (base 2)
  - Symbols: 0,1
  - E.g., 1011_2 = **0b1011** $= 1x2^3 + 0x2^2 + 1x2^1 + 1x2^0$
- Hexadecimal (base 16)
  - Symbols: 0,1,…,9,A,B,…,F
  - E.g., 123_{16} = **0x123** $= 1x16^2 + 2x16^1 + 3x16^0$

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Number Systems

- Examples

Decimal	Hexadecimal	Binary
0	0x0	0b0
2		
9		
	0xA	
	0xF	
	0x1F	
		0b1000 0000
		0b1000 0011
		0b1000 0000 0000 0000

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Number Systems

- Examples

Decimal	Hexadecimal	Binary
0	0x0	0b0
2	0x2	0b10
9	0x9	0b1001
10	0xA	0b1010
15	0xF	0b1111
31	0x1F	0b1 1111
128	0x80	0b1000 0000
131	0x83	0b1000 0011
32768	0x8000	0b1000 0000 0000 0000

Data Types

- Char (8 bit)
  - Smallest addressable unit size (8 bit) integer (%c)
- Integer (16~64 bits)
  - Integer (%d), long integer (%li)
- Float (32 bit)
  - Single precision real number. (%f)
- Double (64 bit)
  - Double precision real-number (%lf)

Data Types

- Modifiers
  - long, short, unsigned, signed
- Examples

Data type	Storage	Range
char	8 bits	[-128,+127]
unsigned char	8 bits	[0,_____]
short int	16 bits	[-32768,+32767]
unsigned short int	16 bits	[0,_____]
int	16 or 32 bits	[-2^{15}, 2^{15}-1] or _____
long int	32 or 64 bits	[-2^{31}, 2^{31}-1] or _____
long long int	64 bits	[-2^{63}, 2^{63}-1]

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Data Types

- Modifiers
  - long, short, unsigned, signed
- Examples

Data type	Storage	Range
char	8 bits	[-128,+127]
unsigned char	8 bits	[0, 255]
short int	16 bits	[-32768,+32767]
unsigned short int	16 bits	[0, 65535]
int	16 or 32 bits	$[-2^{15}, 2^{15}-1]$ or $[-2^{31}, 2^{31}-1]$
long int	32 or 64 bits	$[-2^{31}, 2^{31}-1]$ or $[-2^{63}, 2^{63}-1]$
long long int	64 bits	$[-2^{63}, 2^{63}-1]$

Variables

- <modifier> <data type> <variable name>

```
char ch = 127; // 0x7f or 0b0111 1111
unsigned char uch = 255; // 0xff or 0b1111 1111
int ivar = 1234;
long int livar = 1234567890123;
float fvar = 1.234;
double dvar = 1.23456;
long double ddvar = 1.2345678;

printf("%c %c %d %li %f %lf %Lf\n",
        ch, uch, ivar, livar, fvar, dvar, ddvar);
```

Variables

- What will be the outputs?

```
char ch = 128;
unsigned char uch = 256;
int ivar = 2147483648;

printf("%d %d %d\n", ch, uch, ivar);
```

- Results on my PC
  - -128 0 -2147483648
- Why?

Integer Overflow

"These errors can lead to serious software failures, e.g., a truncation error on a cast of a floating point value to a 16-bit integer played a crucial role in the destruction of Ariane 5 flight 501 in 1996."

"These errors are also a source of serious vulnerabilities, such as integer overflow errors in OpenSSH and Firefox, both of which allow attackers to execute arbitrary code."

W. Dietz et al., "Understanding Integer Overflow in C/C++", ICSE, 2012

Undefined Behavior

EXAMPLES OF C/C++ INTEGER OPERATIONS AND THEIR RESULTS

Expression	Result
`UINT_MAX+1`	0
`LONG_MAX+1`	undefined
`INT_MAX+1`	undefined
`SHRT_MAX+1`	`SHRT_MAX+1` if `INT_MAX>SHRT_MAX`, otherwise undefined
`char c = CHAR_MAX; c++`	varies[1]
`-INT_MIN`	undefined[2]
`(char)INT_MAX`	commonly `-1`
`1<<-1`	undefined
`1<<0`	1
`1<<31`	commonly `INT_MIN` in ANSI C and C++98; undefined in C99 and C++11[2,3]
`1<<32`	undefined[3]
`1/0`	undefined
`INT_MIN%-1`	undefined in C11, otherwise undefined in practice

W. Dietz et al., "Understanding Integer Overflow in C/C++", ICSE, 2012

Recap: C

- Why is C popular for embedded?
  - Fast, efficient, and portable
  - Close to machine (assembly-like control)
  - Pointer, minimal type checking
- What are the problems of C for embedded?
  - Pointer, minimal type checking
  - Require manual control of dynamic memory
  - Unsafe (memory leak, undefined behavior, ..)
  - **Difficult to write correct, safe, secure code**

Recap: Number Systems

- Binary
  - Symbols: 0,1
  - E.g., 1011_2 = **0b1011** = $1x2^3 + 0x2^2 + 1x2^1 + 1x2^0$
- Hexadecimal
  - Symbols: 0,1,…,9,A,B,…,F
  - E.g., 123_{16} = **0x123** = $1x16^2 + 2x16^1 + 3x16^0$
- Exercise
  - 0b1100 in hexadecimal? in decimal?
  - 0xFF in binary? in decimal?

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Recap: Integer Overflow

- Integer data types (char, int) in C use finite bits
- Must be careful about possible overflow
- Example

```
int ivar = 2147483648;

printf("%d\n", ivar);

---
-2147483648
```

Basic Operators

- Arithmetic
  +, -, *, /, %
- Conditional
  ==, >, <, >=, <=
- Logical operators
  && (AND), || (OR), ! (NOT)
- Bitwise operators
  & (AND), | (OR), ^ (XOR), ~ (complement)
- Shift operators
  <<, >>
- Assignment operators
  +=, -=, *=, /=, %=, |=, &=, …

```
int va, vb, vc;
…
vc = va % vb;

if (va == 1000) {…}

if (va && vb) {…}

vc = va ^ vb;
vc = ~vb;

1 << 31;
va >> 16;

va += 10;
va *= 2;
…
```

Basic Operators

- Examples
  - Assume: a = 0b1000, b = 0b0001

Expression	Result
`a && b`	_____
`a & b`	_____
`a || b`	_____
`a | b`	_____
`(a>>3) & b`	_____
`a & (b<<3);`	_____
`a == b`	_____
`a >= b`	_____

Basic Operators

- Examples
  - Assume: a = 0b1000, b = 0b0001

Expression	Result
`a && b`	1
`a & b`	0
`a || b`	1
`a | b`	9
`(a>>3) & b`	1
`a & (b<<3);`	8
`a == b`	0
`a >= b`	1

Control

```
if (condition) {
  // code
}

if (condition) {
  // code
} else {
  // code
}

if (condition) {
  // code
} else if (condition) {
  // code
} else {
  // code
}
```

```
switch (expression) {
  case const-exp1:
    // code
    break;
  case const-exp2:
    // code
    break;
  …
  default:
    // code
    break;
}
```

Loop

```
while ( condition ) {
  // code
}

do {
  // code
} while (condition);

for (init; condition; expression) {
  // code
}
```

Function

main.c

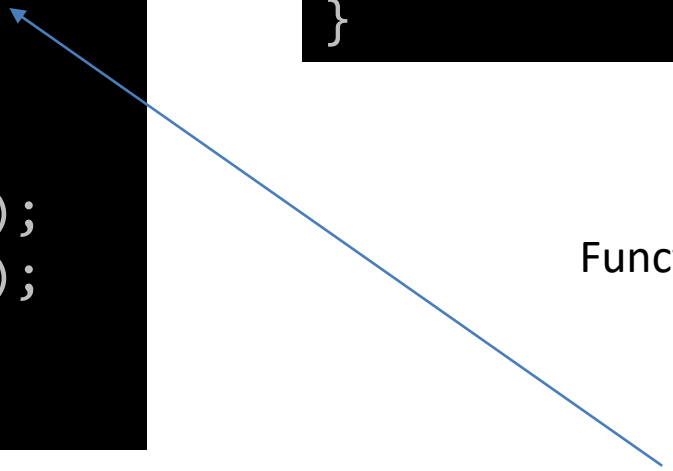
```
#include <stdio.h>

int add(int a, int b);

void main()
{
   int c = add(1, 1);
   printf("%d\n", c);
}
```

mylib.c

```
int add(int a, int b)
{
  return a + b;
}
```



Function implementation

Function declaration

func_type func_name (param_type1 param_name1, …)

Pointer

```
int x = 1;

int *p = &x;

*p = 10;
```

Declare an integer type pointer *p*, which points to x's memory address

Update an integer value of what p is pointing to.

Pointer

```
int x = 1;

int *p = &x;

*p = 10;
```

Declare an integer type pointer *p*, which points to x's memory address

Update an integer value of what p is pointing to.

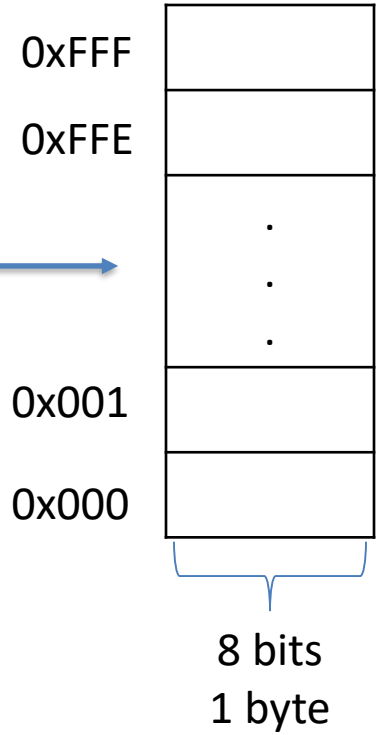
```
printf("addr(x) = %p\n", &x);
printf("addr(p) = %p\n", &p);
printf("p = %p\n", p);
printf("*p = %d\n", *p);
printf("x = %d\n", x);
```

```
addr(x) = 0x100
addr(p) = 0x104
p = 0x100
*p = 10
x = 10
```

Memory Address

- Byte addressed
  - Minimum unit = 1 byte (8 bits)

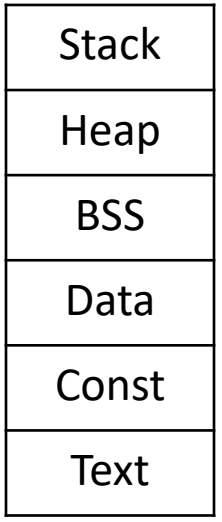
What's the size of this memory?



- Maximum addressable memory
  - Depends on the CPU architecture
    - 32 bit CPU: 2^{32} bytes
    - 16 bit CPU: ___ bytes
  - Depends on the platform
    - Some regions are mapped to ram, flash, or I/O devices
    - Some are unmapped.

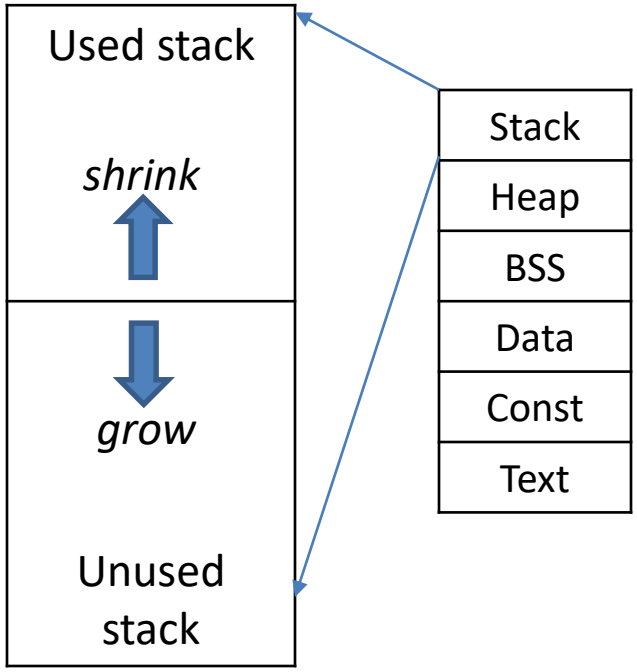
Memory Regions

- Code
  - text program binary
- Data
  - const read-only constants
  - data initialized variables
  - bss zero initialized or uninitialized variables
  - heap dynamically allocated memory (malloc)
  - stack temporary storage for functions



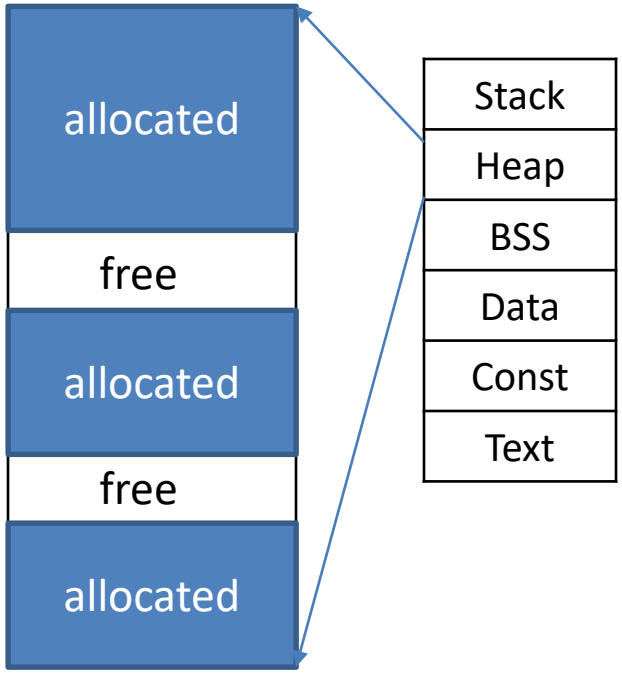
Stack

- Temporary storage
  - For functions
- Grow/shrink dynamically
  - Call a function → grow
  - Exit a function → shrink
- A stack frame
  - Local variables
  - Input parameters
  - Return address/value
  - Previous stack frame pointer
  - …



Heap

- Software managed dynamic memory
- Reserved at compile time
- Allocated/freed at runtime
  - malloc()
  - free()
- Potential issues
  - Memory leak
  - Fragmentation



Not recommended to use for critical embedded applications (e.g., automotive)

Example

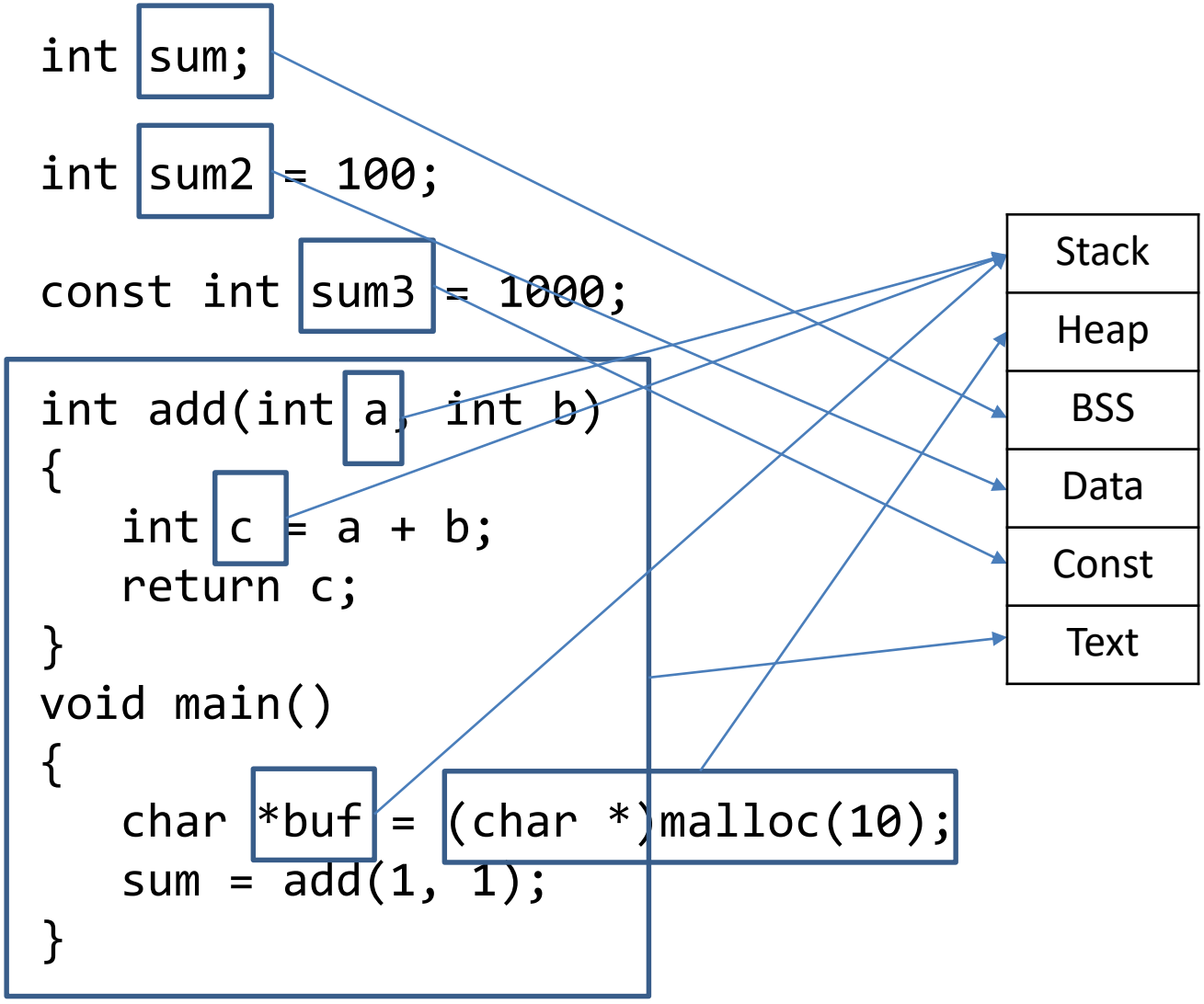
```
int sum;

int sum2 = 100;

const int sum3 = 1000;

int add(int a, int b)
{
   int c = a + b;
   return c;
}
void main()
{
   char *buf = (char *)malloc(10);
   sum = add(1, 1);
}
```

Example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}
Stack
Heap
BSS
Data
Const
Text

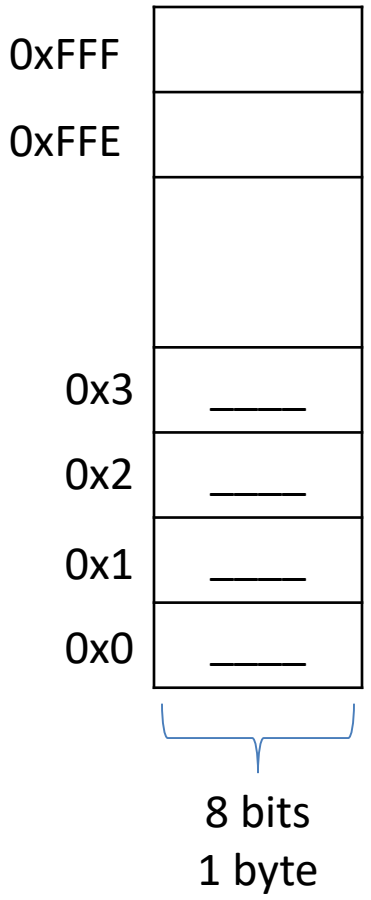
Variable Lifetime

```
int sum;

int sum2 = 100;

const int sum3 = 1000;

int add(int a, int b)
{
    int c = a + b;
    return c;
}
void main()
{
    char *buf = (char *)malloc(10);
    sum = add(1, 1);
}
```

- Program
  - Global variables
- Function
  - Local variables
  - Parameters
- Custom
  - Dynamically allocated memory

Endian

- Byte ordering
  - On storing multi-byte variables (short, int, long, etc.) on memory
- Example:
  - int x = 0x12345678;
  - assume &x = 0x0;
- Little endian: LSB first
- Big endian: MSB first



Endian

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  - On storing multi-byte variables (short, int, long, etc.) on memory
- Example:
  - int x = 0x12345678;
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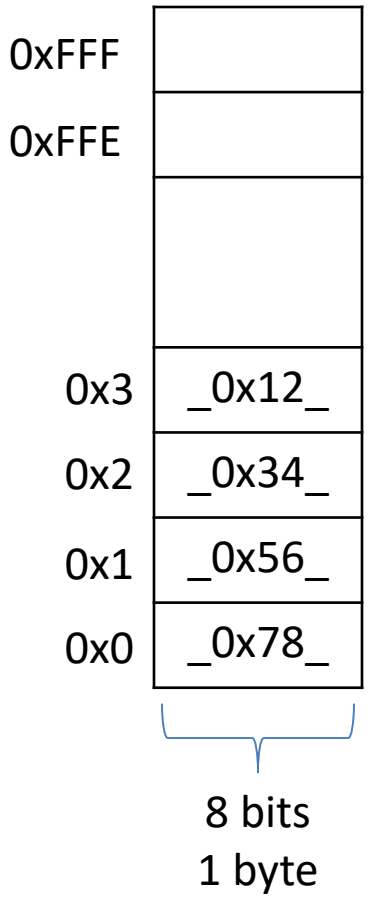
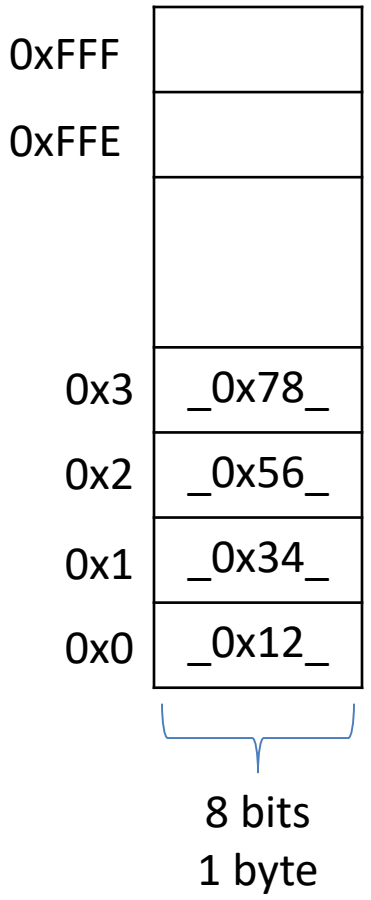
- **Little endian: LSB first**
- Big endian: MSB first



Endian

- Byte ordering
  - On storing multi-byte variables (short, int, long, etc.) on memory
- Example:
  - int x = 0x12345678;
  - assume &x = 0x0;
- Little endian: LSB first
- **Big endian: MSB first**



Recap

- C language review
- Memory regions
- Endian

C Program Example

```c
/* EECS388 Lab 1 */
#include <stdint.h>
#include "eecs388_lib.h"
int main()
{
    int gpio = GREEN_LED;
    gpio_mode(gpio, OUTPUT);
    while(1)
    {
        gpio_write(gpio, ON);
        delay(1000);
        gpio_write(gpio, OFF);
        delay(300);
    }
}
```

Compilation

- **Compiler**
  - **C source -> assembly**

    $ gcc -c eecs388_blink.c -S

- Assembler
- Linker

```c
#include <stdint.h>

#include "eecs388_lib.h"

int main()
{
    int gpio = GREEN_LED;

    gpio_mode(gpio, OUTPUT);

    while(1)
    {
        gpio_write(gpio, ON);
        delay(1000);
        gpio_write(gpio, OFF);
        delay(300);
    }
}
```

```
        .file   "eecs388_blink.c"
        .option nopic
        .text
        .align  1
        .globl  main
        .type   main, @function
main:
        addi    sp,sp,-32
        sd      ra,24(sp)
        sd      s0,16(sp)
        addi    s0,sp,32
        li      a5,19
        sw      a5,-20(s0)
        lw      a5,-20(s0)
        li      a1,1
        mv      a0,a5
        call    gpio_mode
.L2:
        lw      a5,-20(s0)
        li      a1,1
        mv      a0,a5
```

<home>/.platformio/packages/toolchain-riscv/riscv64-unknown-elf/bin/gcc

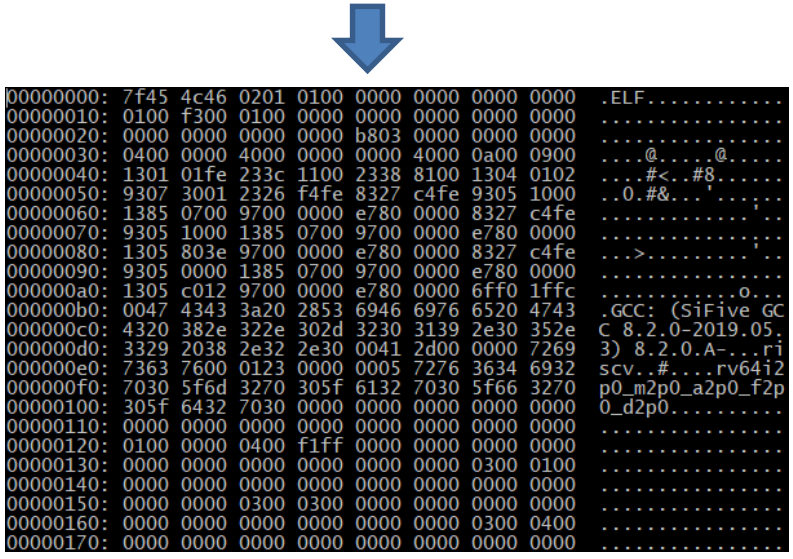
Compilation

- Compiler
  - C source -> assembly
- **Assembler**
  - **Assembly -> binary object**

    $ as eecs388_blink.s -o eecs388_blink.o
    $ as eecs388_lib.s -o eecs388_lib.o

- Linker

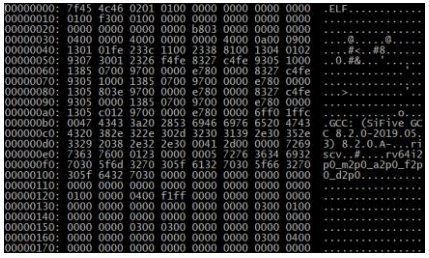
```
        .file   "eecs388_blink.c"
        .option nopic
        .text
        .align  1
        .globl  main
        .type   main, @function
main:
        addi    sp,sp,-32
        sd      ra,24(sp)
        sd      s0,16(sp)
        addi    s0,sp,32
        li      a5,19
        sw      a5,-20(s0)
        lw      a5,-20(s0)
        li      a1,1
        mv      a0,a5
        call    gpio_mode
.L2:
        lw      a5,-20(s0)
        li      a1,1
        mv      a0,a5
        call    gpio_write
```



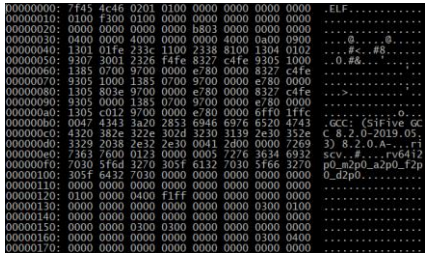
<home>/.platformio/packages/toolchain-riscv/riscv64-unknown-elf/bin/as

Compilation

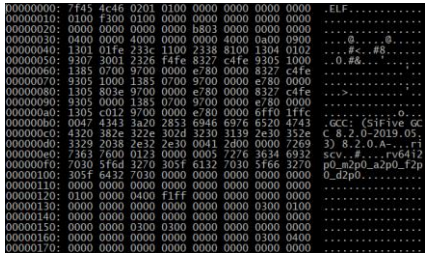
- Compiler
  - C source -> assembly
- Assembler
  - Assembly -> binary object
- **Linker**
  - **Binary objects -> executable**
  - **Resolve memory addresses**



eecs388_blink.o



eecs388_lib.o



firmware.elf

$ ld eecs388_blink.o eecs388_blink.o -o firmeware.elf -T <linker_script>

<home>/.platformio/packages/toolchain-riscv/riscv64-unknown-elf/bin/ld

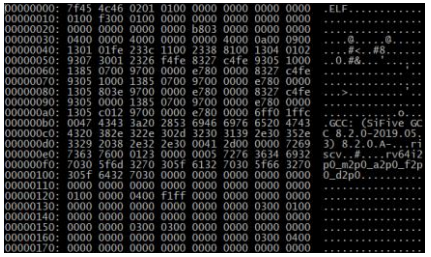
Linker Script Example

```
OUTPUT_ARCH("riscv")
ENTRY(_enter)
MEMORY
{
      flash (rxai!w) : ORIGIN = 0x20010000, LENGTH = 0x6a120
      ram (wxa!ri) : ORIGIN = 0x80000000, LENGTH = 0x4000
}
SECTIONS
{
      .init : > flash
      .text: > flash
      .rodata: > flash
      .data: > ram
      .bss: > ram
      .stack: > ram
      .heap: > ram
}
```

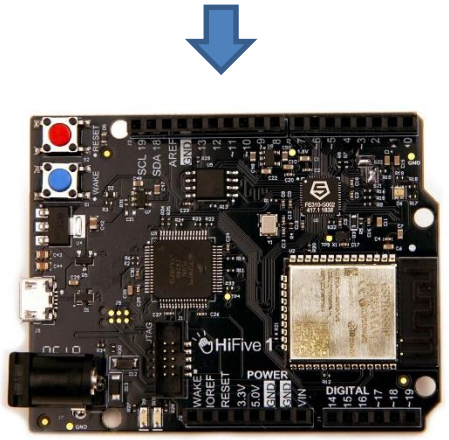
<home>/.platformio/packages/framework-freedom-e-sdk/bsp/sifive-hifive1-revb/metal.default.lds

Execution

- Compiler
  - C source -> assembly
- Assembler
  - Assembly -> binary object
- Linker
  - Binary objects -> executable
- **Flashing/Loading**
  - **Executable -> (target) memory**



firmware.elf



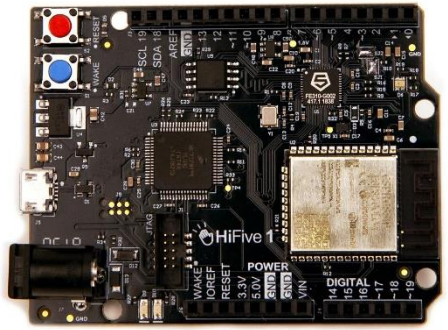
Memory Map of SiFive FE310

Base	Top	Attr.	Description	Notes
0x0000_0000	0x0000_0FFF	RWX A	Debug	Debug Address Space
0x0000_1000				
0x0000_2000				
0x0000_3000				
0x0000_4000				On-Chip Non Volatile Mem-
0x0001_0000				ory
0x0001_2000				
0x0002_0000				
0x0002_2000				
0x0200_0000				
0x0201_0000				
0x0800_0000				
0x0800_2000				
0x0C00_0000				
0x1000_0000				
0x1000_1000				
0x1000_8000				
0x1000_9000				
0x1001_0000				
0x1001_1000				
0x1001_2000				On-Chip Peripherals
0x1001_3000				
0x1001_4000				
0x1001_5000				
0x1001_6000				
0x1001_7000				
0x1002_3000				
0x1002_4000				
0x1002_5000				
0x1002_6000				
0x1003_4000				
0x1003_5000				
0x1003_6000	0x1FFF_FFFF		Reserved	
0x2000_0000				Off-Chip Non-Volatile Mem-
0x4000_0000	0x7FFF_FFFF		Reserved	ory
0x8000_0000				On-Chip Volatile Memory
0x8000_4000	0xFFFF_FFFF		Reserved	

Pheripherals

Code memory

Data memory



CPU: 32 bit RISC-V
Clock: 320 MHz
SRAM: 16 KB (D)
Flash: 4MB

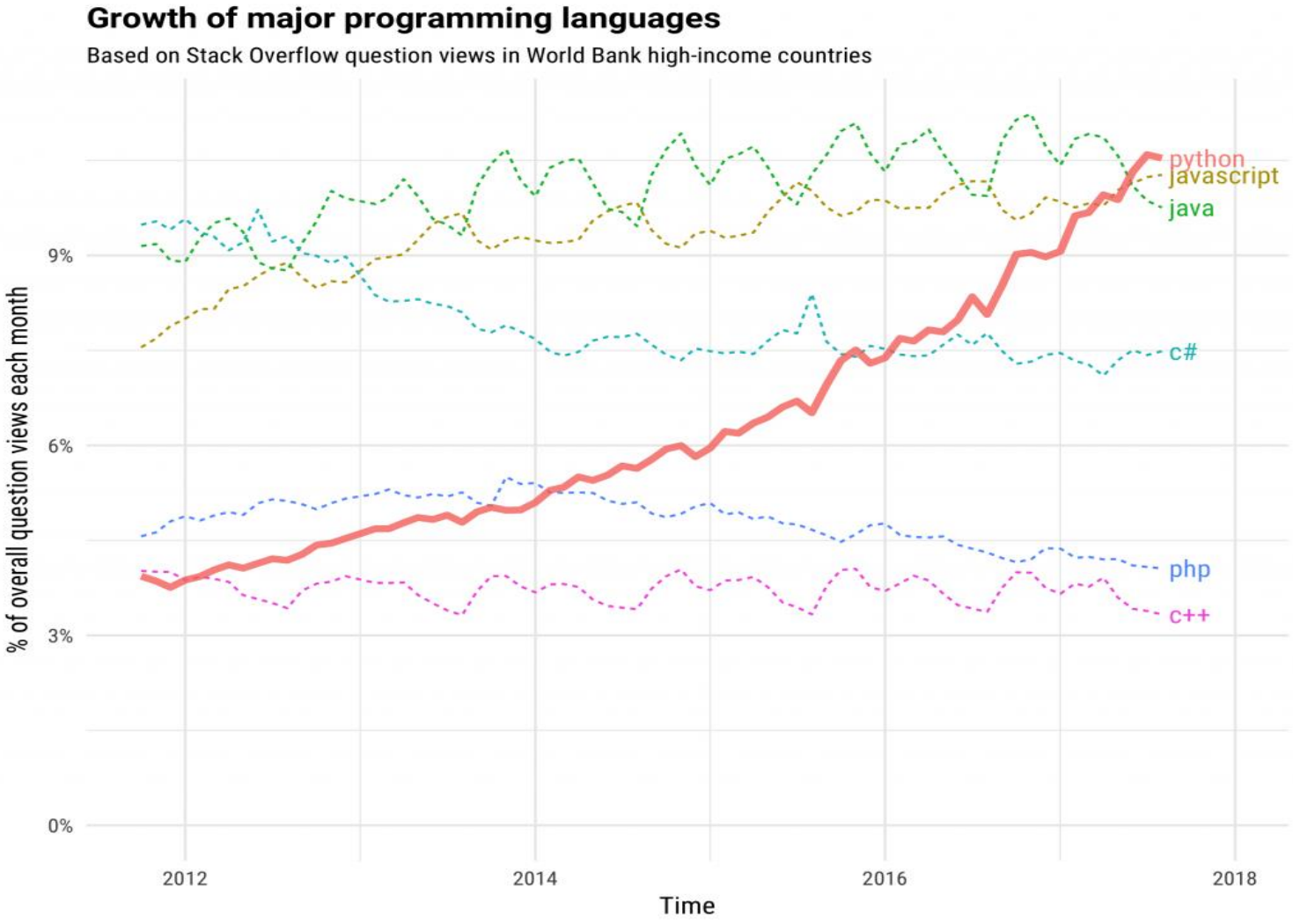
MISRA-C

- Coding guidelines for C to improve safety, security, portability, reliability in embedded C applications
- Defined by Motor Industry Software Reliability Association (MISRA)
- Widely adopted in automotive, aerospace, medical devices, defense, railways, …
- Example guidelines
  - **Use fixed width types (e.g., int32_t over int)**
  - **Avoid dynamic memory allocation**

C++

- History
  - 1979. Created as an extension of C (“C with Classes”) by Stroustrup at AT&T Bell Labs.
  - 1983. Renamed to C++
  - 1985. First commercial implementation of C++
  - 1989, C++ 2.0
  - 2011, C++11
  - 2014, C++14
  - 2017, C++17
- Comparison to C
  - Much more powerful than C, yet still fast, efficient, portable, and widely available (albeit a bit less so than C).
  - Can be quite complex (e.g., template)

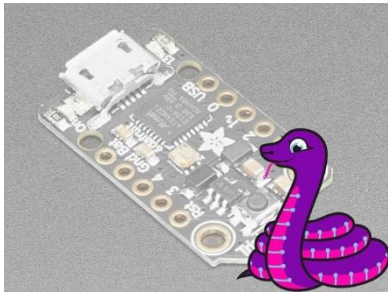
Python



Source: Stack Overflow

Python

- Why popular?
  - Easy to program
  - Powerful standard library packages
- Problems
  - Need more oomph, memory, storage
  - Not good for strict real-time applications
- Trends
  - Embedded systems are becoming more powerful
  - Many (e.g., Raspberry Pi) afford to run python
- Python for microcontrollers
  - MicroPython, CircuitPython
  - Works for 32bit ARM Cortex-M class microcontrollers



Python

- Integer types in python
  - Effectively no limit to how long an integer value can be (only constrained by system memory size)

```
>>> print(2147483648 + 1)
2147483649
>>> print(21474836482147483648 + 1)
21474836482147483649
>>> print(2147483648214748364821474836482147483648 + 1)
2147483648214748364821474836482147483649
>>> print(214748364821474836482147483648214748364821474836482147483648 + 1)
214748364821474836482147483648214748364821474836482147483649
```

Compiler vs. Interpreter

- Compiler
  - Translate the source code into machine code
  - The machine code runs directly on the machine
  - Compiled programs are usually (much) faster than interpreted ones
- Interpreter
  - Read and directly execute the source code
  - The interpreter and source code are needed to execute
  - Interpreted programs are usually (much) slower than compiled programs
- A language can be either compiled or interpreted.
  - C/C++ programs are almost always compiled
  - Python programs are mostly interpreted (can be partly compiled).

MicroPython vs. C/C++

https://github.com/micropython/micropython/wiki/Performance

On Teensy 3.1: (96Mhz ARM)

```
def performanceTest():
    millis = pyb.millis
    endTime = millis() + 10000
    count = 0
    while millis() < endTime:
        count += 1
    print("Count: ", count)
```

Count: 1,098,681

~100X slower than C!

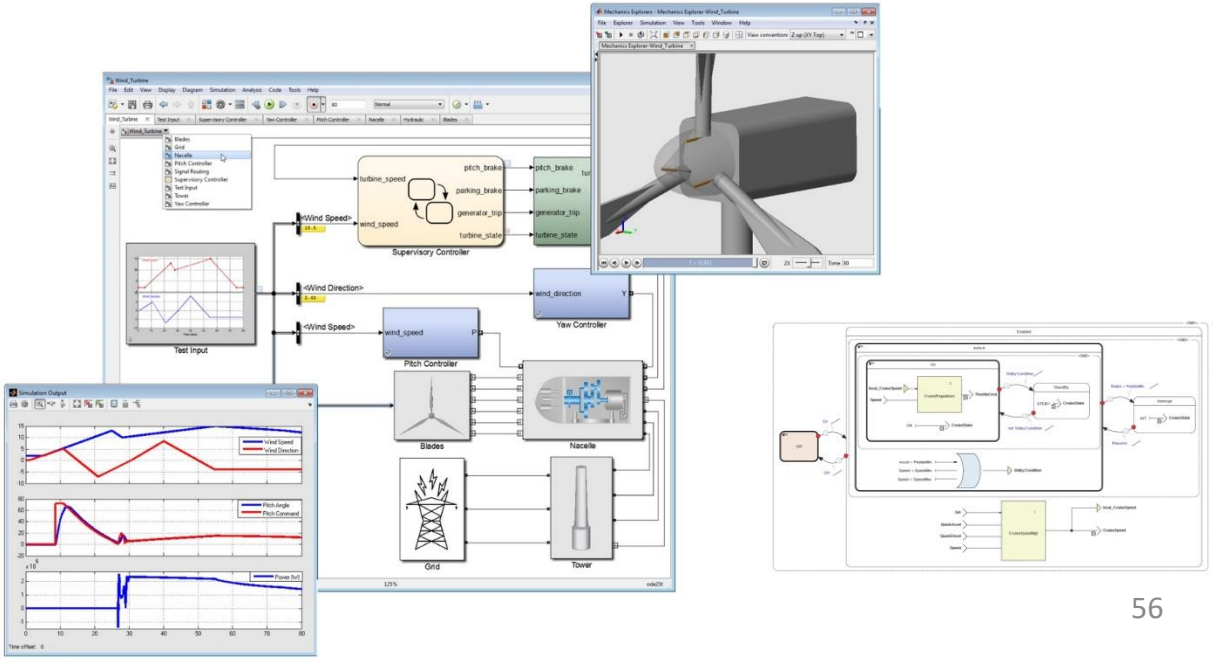
```
void setup() {
    Serial1.begin(115200);
    uint32_t endTime = millis() + 10000;
    uint32_t count = 0;
    while (millis() < endTime)
        count++;
    Serial1.print("Count: ");
    Serial1.println(count);
}
```

Count: 95,835,923

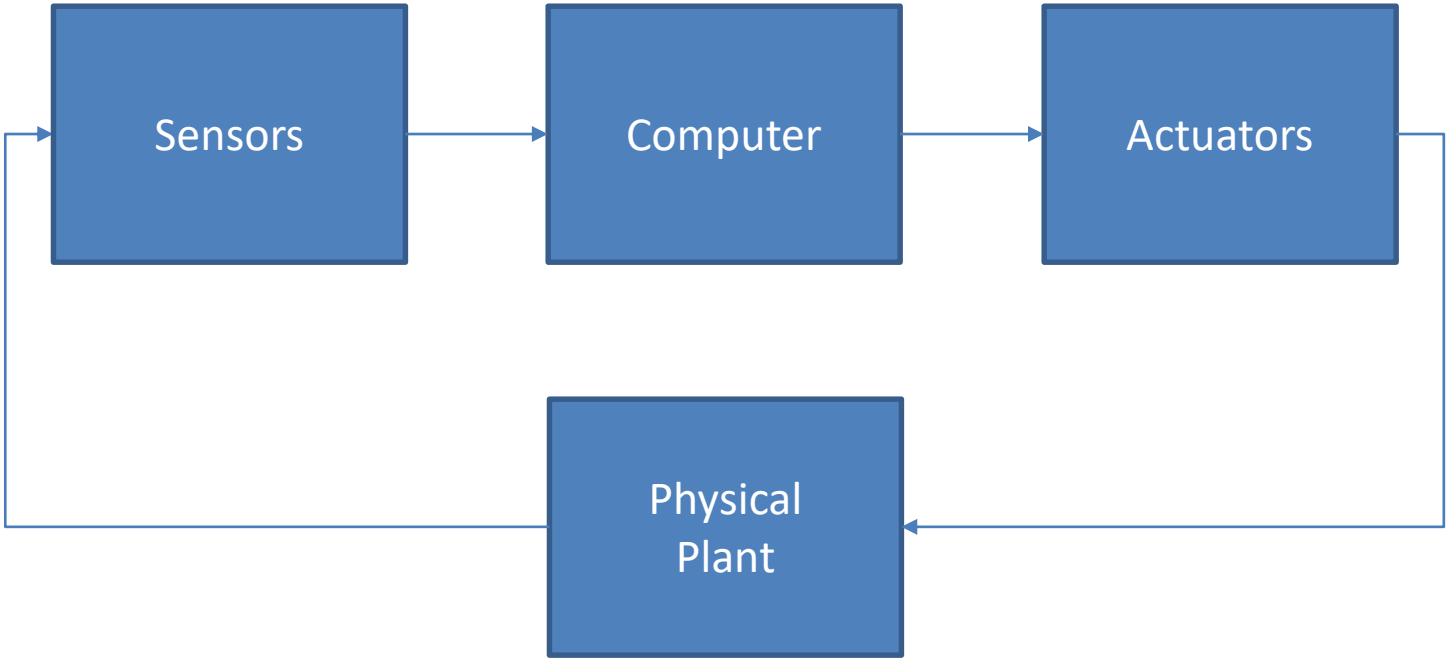
WARNING: Not a very rigorous performance comparison

Modeling Languages & Tools

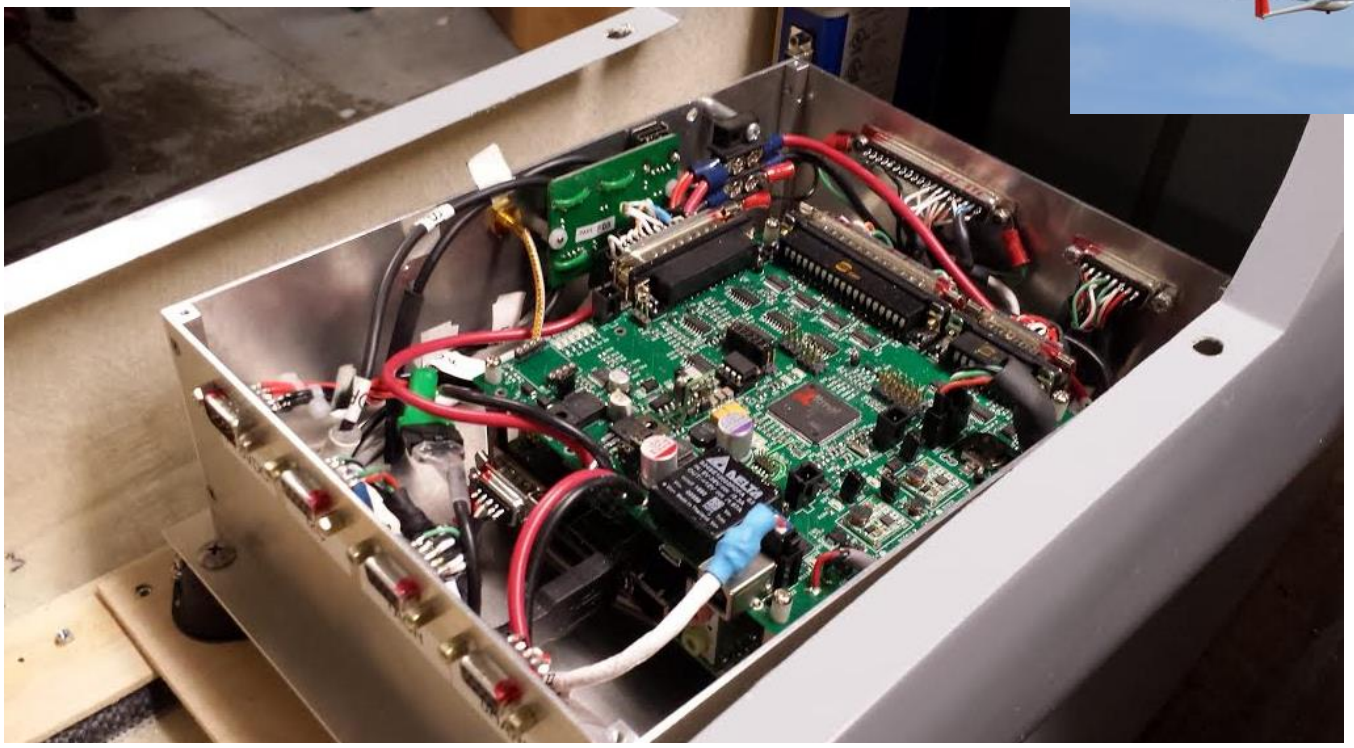
- **Matlab/Simulink**
  - Very popular for control engineers in automotive, aerospace, and other engineering domains
  - Mostly for modeling and analysis
  - Can generate C code for target deployment
- LabVIEW
- SCADE
- Modelica
- …



Embedded/Cyber-Physical System



Example: KU AFS



[C] Prasanth Vivekanandan, Gonzalo Garcia, Heechul Yun, Shawn Keshmiri. A Simplex Architecture for Intelligent and Safe Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. *IEEE International Conference on Embedded and Real-Time Computing Systems and Applications (RTCSA),* IEEE, 2016. [paper] [slides]

KU AFS

- Hardware

GPS/IMU

Radar,
Camera

Arduino Due (AT91SAM3X8E)
- 84MHz Cortex M3
- 96KB SRAM, 512KB Flash

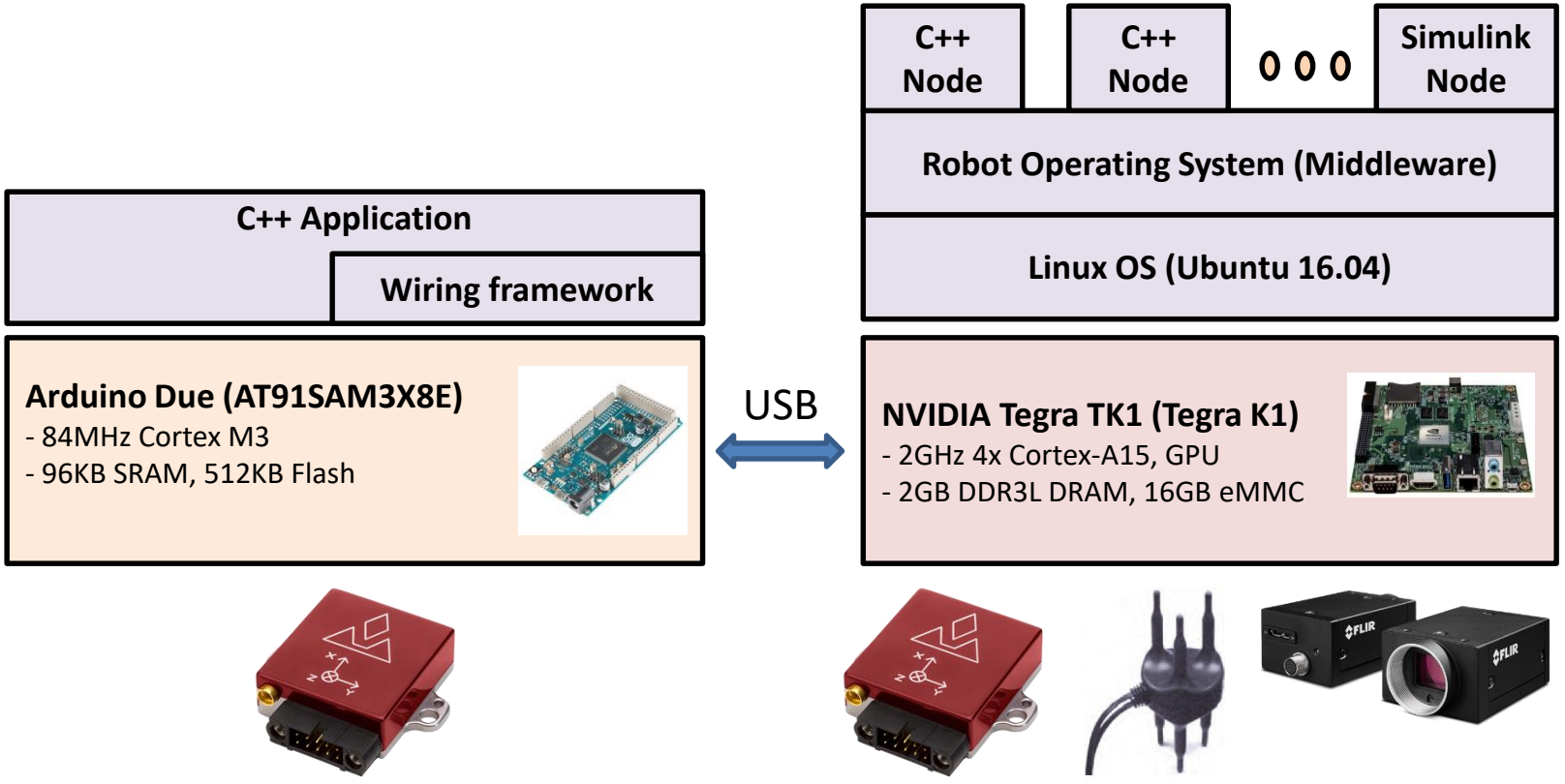
USB serial

NVIDIA Tegra TK1 (Tegra K1)
- 2GHz 4x Cortex-A15, GPU
- 2GB DDR3L DRAM, 16GB eMMC

Servo
Motors

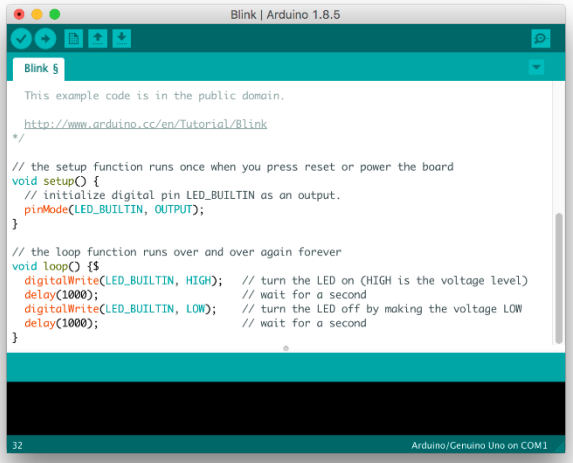
KU AFS

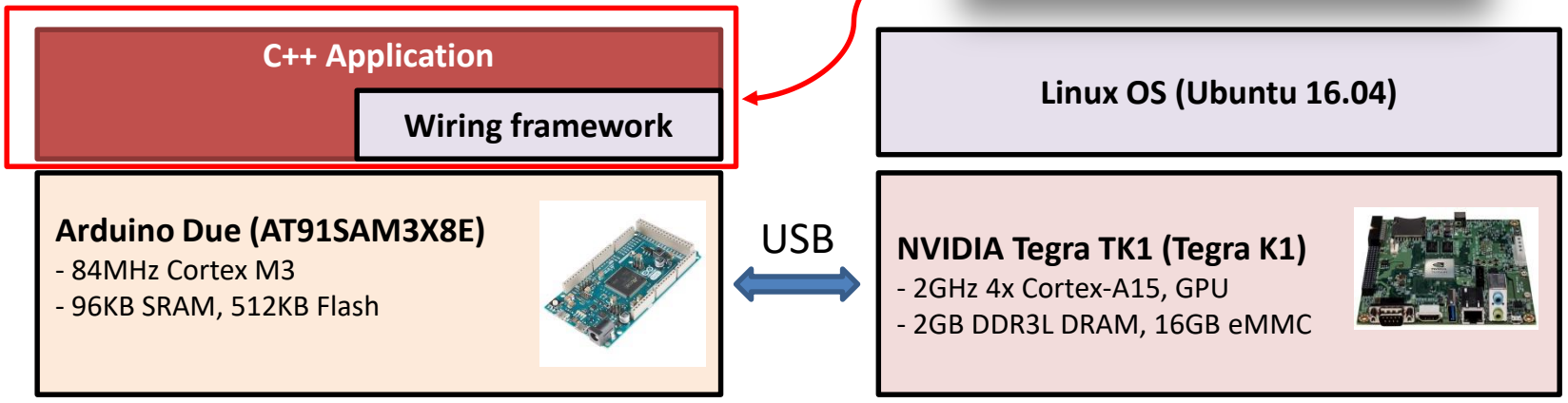
- Software



KU AFS

- Arduino Programming
  - Host/target model
  - Host: TK1
  - Target: Arduino



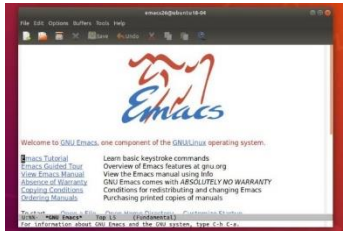


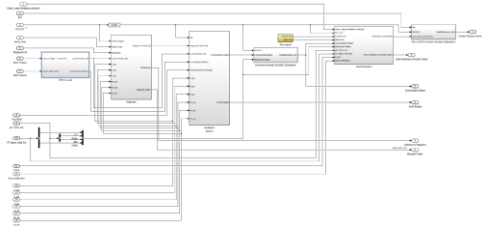
Arduino C++ Code

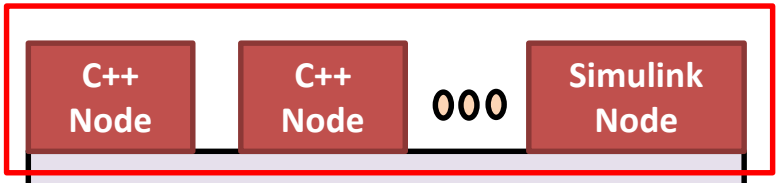
```
1  void loop()
2  {
3      // basic sensor input
4      sensor_data = read_sensors();
5      send_to_HPP(sensor_data);
6
7      // execute safety controller
8      out_hap = safety_controller(sensor_data);
9
10     // wait for the performance controller
11     out_hpp = receive_from_HPP(timeout);
12
13     // decision logic
14     if (decision_check(out_hpp));
15         run_servo(out_hpp);
16     else {
17         run_servo(out_hap);
18         // recover HPP
19         try_recover_hpp();
20     }
21
22     sleep_until_next_period();
23 }
```

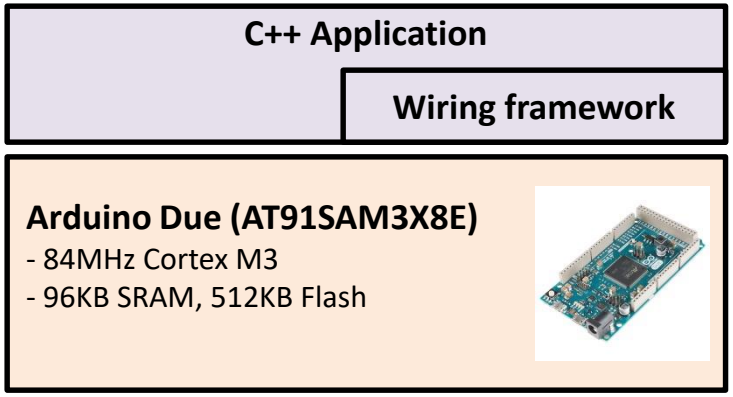
KU AFS

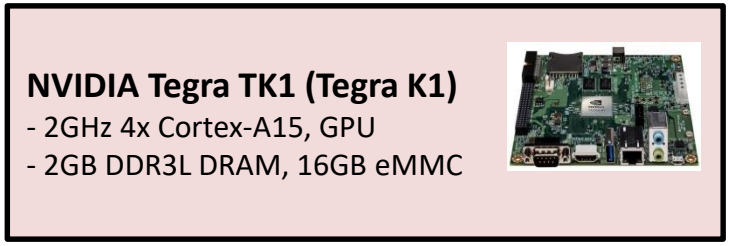
- Tegra TK1 Programming
  - Standalone model
  - C++, MATLAB Simulink





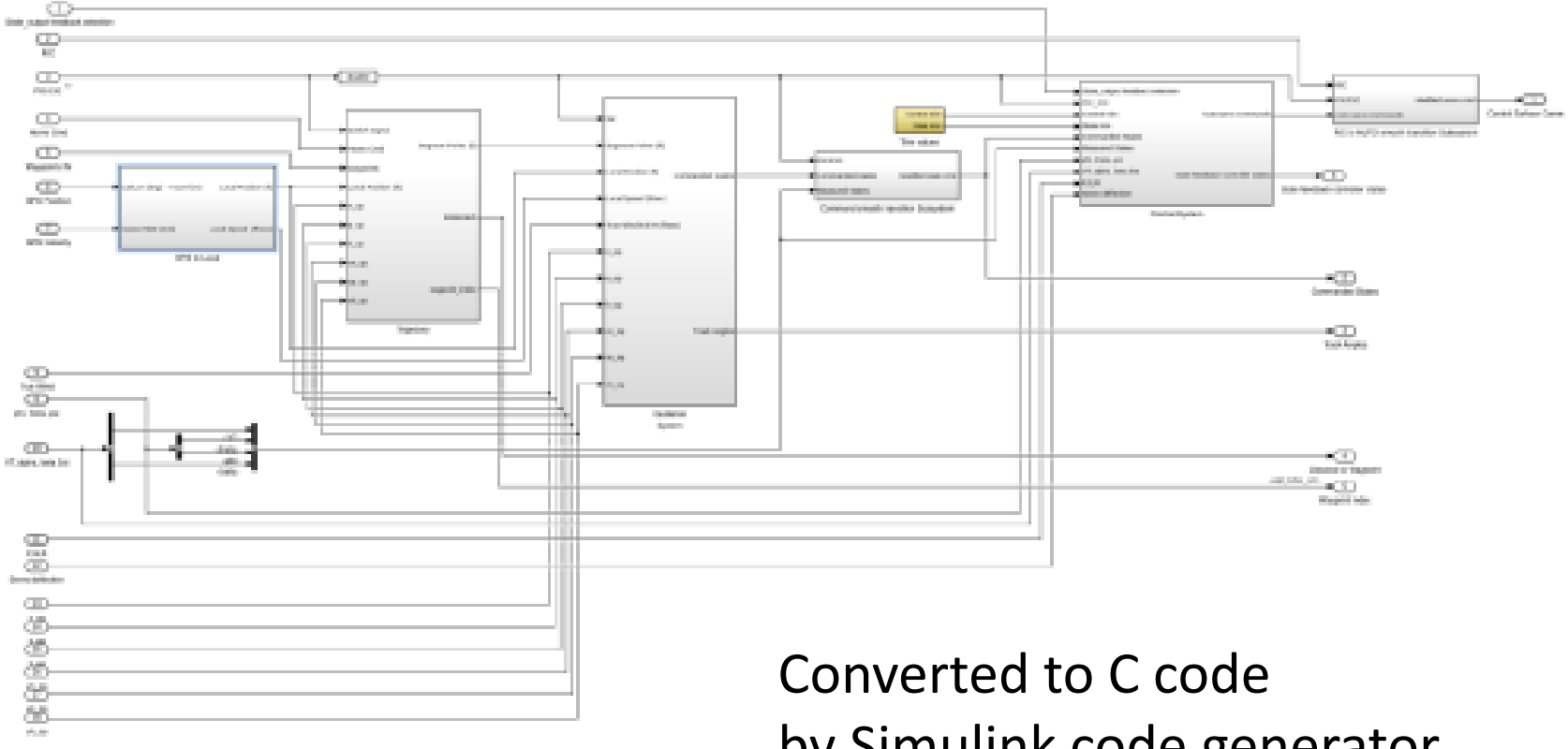






Simulink Model

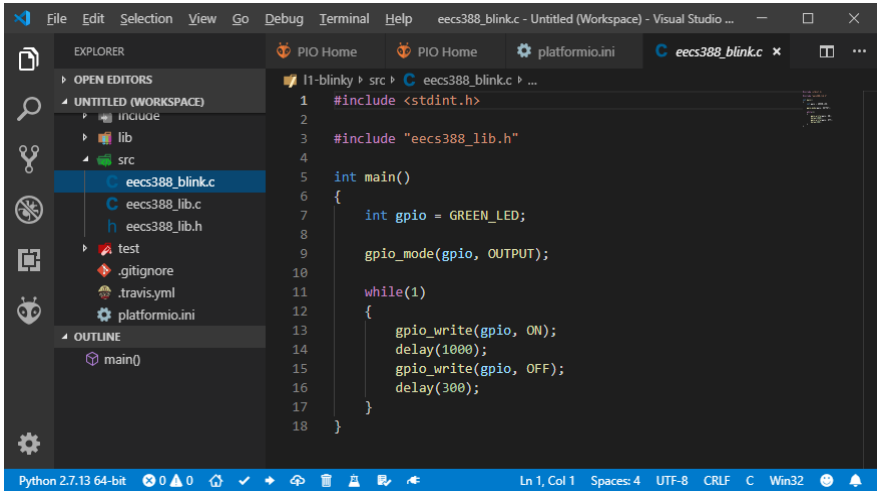
- Top-level flight control system block



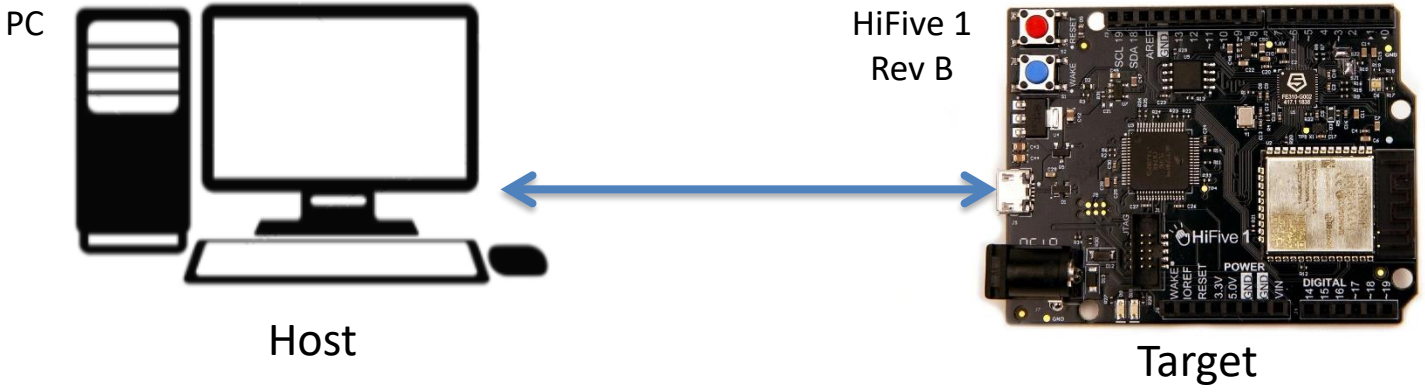
Converted to C code
by Simulink code generator

EECS388 Lab (1/2)

Visual Studio Code + PlatformIO IDE

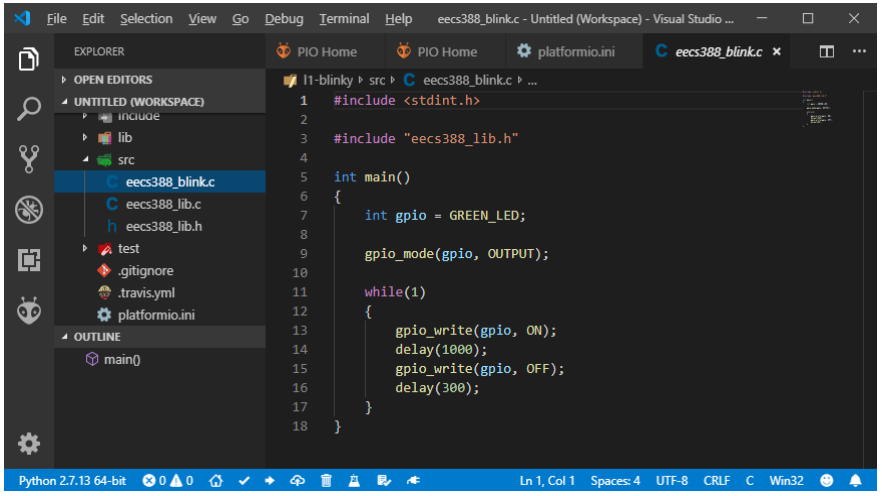


- Host/target model
- C language
- Bare metal (No OS)

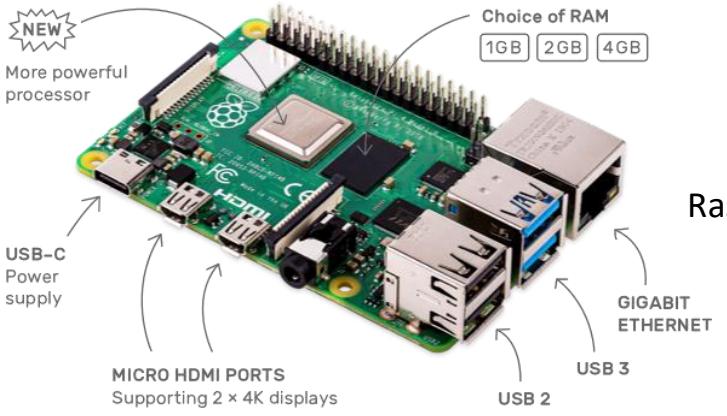


EECS388 Lab (2/2)

Visual Studio Code (or any text editor)



- Standalone model
- Python/C++
- Linux (Ubuntu)
- Native development too chain



Rasbperry Pi 4

Host/Target

Summary

- Embedded software development
  - Development models
    - Host/target, standalone development
  - Challenges
    - Resource constrained environment
    - low-level access to hardware, diversity, lack of standard
  - Programming languages
    - Pros and cons of C/C++, python, … in embedded systems development