

F28HS Hardware-Software Interface: Systems Programming

Hans-Wolfgang Loidl

School of Mathematical and Computer Sciences,
Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh



Semester 2 — 2023/24

⁰No proprietary software has been used in producing these slides



Outline

- 1 Tutorial 1: Using Python and the Linux FS for GPIO Control
- 2 Tutorial 2: Programming an LED
- 3 Tutorial 3: Programming a Button input device
- 4 Tutorial 4: Inline Assembler with gcc
- 5 Tutorial 5: Programming an LCD Display
- 6 Tutorial 6: Performance Counters on the RPi 2

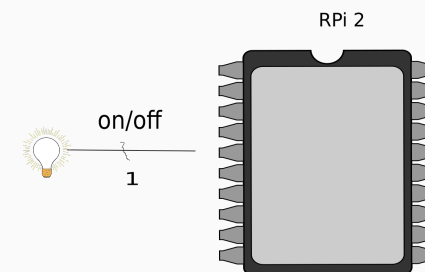


Tutorial 2: Programming an LED

- This tutorial will deal with programming an LED output device.
- This is the “hello world” program for external devices.
- It will deal with programming techniques common to other output devices.
- The **learning objective** of this exercise is to learn how to directly control an external device through C and Assembler programs.
- We will also cover easier ways of external control, however these should only be used to test your hardware/software configuration and don't replace the programming component.



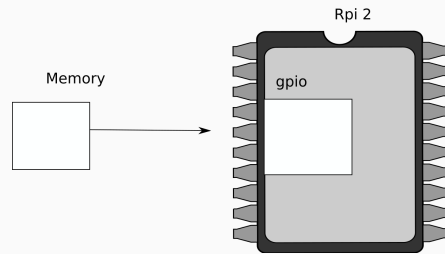
The high-level picture



- From the main chip of the RPi2 we want to control an (external) device, here an LED.
- We use one of the **GPIO** pins to connect the device.
- Logically we want to send **1 bit** to this device to turn it **on/off**.



The low-level picture



Programmatically we achieve that, by

- memory-mapping the address space of the GPIOs into user-space
- now, we can directly access the device via memory read/writes
- we need to pick-up the meaning of the peripheral registers from the BCM2835 peripherals sheet



BCM2835 GPIO Peripherals

Base address: 0x3F000000

0		Pins 0-9	(3-bits per pin)
5	GPFSEL	Pins 50-53	
7		Pins 0-31	(1-bit per pin)
8	GPSET	Pins 32-53	
10		Pins 0-31	(1-bit per pin)
11	GPCLR	Pins 32-53	
13		Pins 0-31	(1-bit per pin)
14	GPLEV	Pins 32-53	
...			

The meaning of the registers is (see p90ff of [BCM2835 ARM peripherals](#)):

- **GPFSEL**: function select registers (3 bits per pin); set it to 0 for input, 1 for output; 6 more alternate functions available
- **GPSET**: **set** the corresponding pin
- **GPCLR**: **clear** the corresponding pin
- **GPLEV**: return the **value** of the corresponding pin



GPIO Register Assignment

Address	Field Name	Description	Size	Read/Write
0x 7E20 0000	GPFSEL0	GPIO Function Select 0	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0000	GPFSEL0	GPIO Function Select 0	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0004	GPFSEL1	GPIO Function Select 1	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0008	GPFSEL2	GPIO Function Select 2	32	R/W
0x 7E20 000C	GPFSEL3	GPIO Function Select 3	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0010	GPFSEL4	GPIO Function Select 4	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0014	GPFSEL5	GPIO Function Select 5	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0018	-	Reserved	-	-
0x 7E20 001C	GPSET0	GPIO Pin Output Set 0	32	W
0x 7E20 0020	GPSET1	GPIO Pin Output Set 1	32	W
0x 7E20 0024	-	Reserved	-	-
0x 7E20 0028	GPCLR0	GPIO Pin Output Clear 0	32	W
0x 7E20 002C	GPCLR1	GPIO Pin Output Clear 1	32	W
0x 7E20 0030	-	Reserved	-	-

The GPIO has 48 32-bit registers (RPi2; 41 for RPi1).

⁰See [BCM Peripherals Manual](#), Chapter 6, Table 6.1



GPIO Register Assignment

GPIO registers (Base address: 0x3F200000)

GPFSEL0	0:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPFSEL1	1:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPFSEL2	2:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPFSEL3	3:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPFSEL4	4:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPFSEL5	5:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
—	6:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPSET0	7:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPSET1	8:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
—	9:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPCLR0	10:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
GPCLR1	11:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12
—	12:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12

⁰See [BCM Peripherals](#), Chapter 6, Table 6.1



Locating the GPFSEL register for pin 47 (ACT)

Bit(s)	Field Name	Description	Type	Reset
31-30	---	Reserved	R	0
29-27	FSEL49	FSEL49 - Function Select 49 000 = GPIO Pin 49 is an input 001 = GPIO Pin 49 is an output 100 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 0 101 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 1 110 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 2 111 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 3 011 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 4 010 = GPIO Pin 49 takes alternate function 5	R/W	0
26-24	FSEL48	FSEL48 - Function Select 48	R/W	0
23-21	FSEL47	FSEL47 - Function Select 47	R/W	0
20-18	FSEL46	FSEL46 - Function Select 46	R/W	0
17-15	FSEL45	FSEL45 - Function Select 45	R/W	0
14-12	FSEL44	FSEL44 - Function Select 44	R/W	0
11-9	FSEL43	FSEL43 - Function Select 43	R/W	0
8-6	FSEL42	FSEL42 - Function Select 42	R/W	0
5-3	FSEL41	FSEL41 - Function Select 41	R/W	0
2-0	FSEL40	FSEL40 - Function Select 40	R/W	0

Table 6-6 – GPIO Alternate function select register 4



This table explains the meaning of the bits in register GPFSEL4

Accessing a GPIO Pin

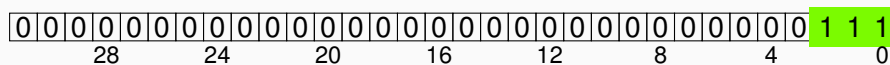
- Now we want to control the on-chip LED, called ACT, that normally indicates activity.
- The pin number of this device on the RPi2 is: **47**
- We need to calculate registers and bits corresponding to this pin
- The **GPFSEL** register for pin 47 is **4** (per docu, this register covers pins 40-49 (Tab 6-6, p. 94)
- For each register 3 bits are used to select the function of that pin: bits 0–2 for register 40 etc
- Thus, bits 21–23 cover register 47 (7×3)
- The function that we need to select is OUTPUT, which is encoded as the value **1**
- We need to write the value $0x01$ into bits 21–23 of register 4



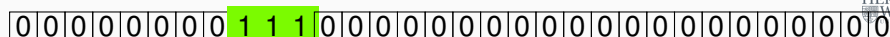
Accessing GPIO Pin 47

- We want to construct C code to write the value $0x01$ into bits 21–23 of register 4
- What's the address of register 4 relative to the base address in `gpio`? **Answer:** `gpio+4`
- How do we read the current value from this register?
Answer: `*(gpio+4)`
- How do we blank out bits 21–23 from this register?
Answer: `*(gpio + 4) & ~(7 << 21)`

C code: 7



C code: `7 << 21`



C Code: constants and memory mapping

```
// constants for RPi2
gpiobase = 0x3F200000 ;

// memory mapping
// Open the master /dev/memory device, and map it to address
gpio

if ((fd = open("/dev/mem", O_RDWR | O_SYNC | O_CLOEXEC) ) < 0)
    return failure (FALSE, "Unable_to_open_/dev/mem:_%s\n",
                    strerror(errno)) ;

// gpio is the mmap'ed device memory
gpio = (uint32_t *)mmap(0, BLOCK_SIZE, PROT_READ|PROT_WRITE,
                       MAP_SHARED, fd, gpiobase) ;
if ((int32_t)gpio == -1)
    return failure (FALSE, "_mmap_(GPIO)_failed:_%s\n",
                    strerror(errno)) ;
```

Now, `gpio` is the address of the device memory that we can access directly (if run as root!).



Registers for the GPIO peripherals: GPFSEL

Write into these bits (21–23) to set the **function** for pin 47

0:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
1:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
2:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
3:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
4:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	pin 47	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8		
5:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
6:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
7:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
8:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
9:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
10:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
11:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
12:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8

Essentials

Register no.: 4

Bits: 21–23

Function: 1 (output)

```
// setting the mode for GPIO pin 47
fprintf(stderr, "setting pin %d to %d...\n", pinACT, OUTPUT)
;
fSel = 4; // GPIO 47 lives in register 4 (GPFSEL)
shift = 21; // GPIO 47 sits in slot 7 of register 4, thus
            // shift by 7*3 (3 bits per pin)
*(gpio + fSel) = (*(gpio + fSel) & ~(7 << shift)) | (1 <<
shift); // Sets bits to one = output
// *(gpio + fSel) = (*(gpio + fSel) & ~(7 << shift));
// Sets bits to zero = input
```

Now, pin 47 (the on-board ACT LED) is set as an output device.

0:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
2:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
3:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8

GPIO Registers for Turning the LED on/off

Address	Field Name	Description	Size	Read/Write
0x 7E20 0000	GPFSEL0	GPIO Function Select 0	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0004	GPFSEL1	GPIO Function Select 1	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0008	GPFSEL2	GPIO Function Select 2	32	R/W
0x 7E20 000C	GPFSEL3	GPIO Function Select 3	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0010	GPFSEL4	GPIO Function Select 4	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0014	GPFSEL5	GPIO Function Select 5	32	R/W
0x 7E20 0018	-	Reserved	-	-
0x 7E20 001C	GPSET0	GPIO Pin Output Set 0	32	W
0x 7E20 0020	GPSET1	GPIO Pin Output Set 1	32	W
0x 7E20 0024	-	Reserved	-	-
0x 7E20 0028	GPCLR0	GPIO Pin Output Clear 0	32	W
0x 7E20 002C	GPCLR1	GPIO Pin Output Clear 1	32	W
0x 7E20 0030	-	Reserved	-	-

We now need to access the GPSET and GPCLR register for pin 47.

⁰See BCM Peripherals Manual, Chapter 6, Table 6.1

C Code: setting the mode of the pin

Turning the LED on or off

Write into this bit (15) to **set** pin 47

0:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
1:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
2:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
3:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
4:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
5:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
6:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
7:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
GPSET1	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	pin 47	13	12	11	10	9	8			
9:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
10:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8
GPCLR1	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	pin 47	13	12	11	10	9	8			
12:	31	30	29	28	27	26	25	24	23	22	21	20	19	18	17	16	15	14	13	12	11	10	9	8

Write into this bit (15) to **clear** pin 47

Code: blinking LED

```
for (j=0; j<1000; j++) {
    theValue = ((j % 2) == 0) ? HIGH : LOW;
    // write the value into the location corresp. to pin 47
    if ((pinACT & 0xFFFFFC0) == 0) // sanity check
    {
        if (theValue == LOW) { // GPCLR
            // GPCLR for GPIOs 32-53 is register 11
            clrOff = 11; // register for clearing a pin value
            *(gpio + clrOff) = 1 << (pinACT & 31) ;
        } else { // GPSET
            // GPSET for GPIOs 32-53 is register 8
            setOff = 8; // register for setting a pin value
            *(gpio + setOff) = 1 << (pinACT & 31) ;
        }
    } else { fprintf(stderr, "only_supporting_on-board_pins\n"); exit(1); }

    // delay for howLong ms, using a Linux system function
    ...
}
```

OT
WATT
UNIVERSITY

Discussion

- In each iteration of the loop, we toggle theValue between the constants HIGH and LOW
- This is **not** the value written to a register, but a flag for the control flow
- If theValue is LOW, we write a 1 into the corresponding GPCLR register, to turn the LED off
- If theValue is HIGH, we write a 1 into the corresponding GPSET register, to turn the LED off
- Note, that we determine the bit location in these registers by pinACT & 31, which is the same as taking pinACT modulo 32
- We then wait for a certain amount of time to control the blinking frequency

See sample source: `tut_led.c`

HERIOT
WATT
UNIVERSITY

The main registers that you need to know about

Address	Field Name	Description	Size	Read/Write
FctSelect				
0	GPFSSEL0	GPIO Function Select 0	32	R/W
1	GPFSSEL1	GPIO Function Select 1	32	R/W
2	GPFSSEL2	GPIO Function Select 2	32	R/W
3	GPFSSEL3	GPIO Function Select 3	32	R/W
4	GPFSSEL4	GPIO Function Select 4	32	R/W
5	GPFSSEL5	GPIO Function Select 5	32	R/W
Set Registers				
7	GPSET0	GPIO Pin Output Set 0	32	W
8	GPSET1	GPIO Pin Output Set 1	32	W
Clear Registers				
10	GPCLR0	GPIO Pin Output Clear 0	32	W
11	GPCLR1	GPIO Pin Output Clear 1	32	W
	-	Reserved	-	-

HERIOT
WATT
UNIVERSITY

Controlling the LED in Assembler

```
@ ... mmap boilerplate here
ADD    R3, R3, #4           @ add 4 for block 1
LDR    R2, [SP, #16]       @ get virtual mem addr
ADD    R2, R2, #16        @ add 16 for block 4
LDR    R2, [R2, #0]       @ load R2 with value at R2
BIC    R2, R2, #0b11<<21 @ Bitwise clear of three bits
STR    R2, [R3, #0]       @ Store result in Register
LDR    R3, [SP, #16]       @ Get virtual mem address
ADD    R3, R3, #16        @ Add 16 for block 4
LDR    R2, [SP, #16]       @ Get virtual mem addr
ADD    R2, R2, #4         @ add 16 for block 4
LDR    R2, [R2, #0]       @ Load R2 with value at R2
ORR    R2, R2, #1<<21     @ Set bit....
STR    R2, [R3, #0]       @ ...and make output
LDR    R3, [SP, #16]       @ get virt mem addr
ADD    R3, R3, #32        @ add 32 to offset for GPSET1
MOV    R4, #1             @ get 1
MOV    R2, R4, LSL#15     @ Shift by pin number
STR    R2, [R3, #0]       @ write to memory
```

See sample source: `gpio47on.s`

⁰From: Bruce Smith "Raspberry Pi Assembly Language: Raspbian", Ch 25

HERIOT
WATT
UNIVERSITY

Summary

- Controlling a simple external device means **logically** sending 1 bit of information (on/off)
- Realising this control means **physically** writing into special registers which have special meaning
- The information on the special meaning is usually in bulky hardware-description documentation
- Once uncovered, the code for direct device control is fairly short
- The [sample sources](#) show a C and an Assembler version of turning pin 47 (ACT) on/off

Thanks to **Gordon Henderson** for his sterling work on the [wiringPi library](#)!

