

µC/OS-II, The Real-Time Kernels

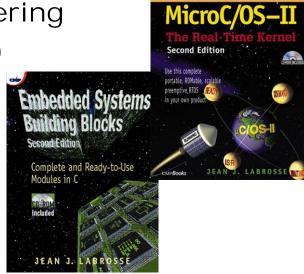
and the ARM7 / ARM9

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#### My Background

- Master's Degree in Electrical Engineering
- Wrote two books (µC/OS-II and ESBB)
- Wrote many papers for magazines
  - Embedded Systems Programming
  - Electronic Design
  - C/C++ User's Journal
  - ASME
  - Xcell Journal
- Have designed Embedded Systems for over 20 years
- President of Micriµm
  - Provider of Embedded Software Solutions

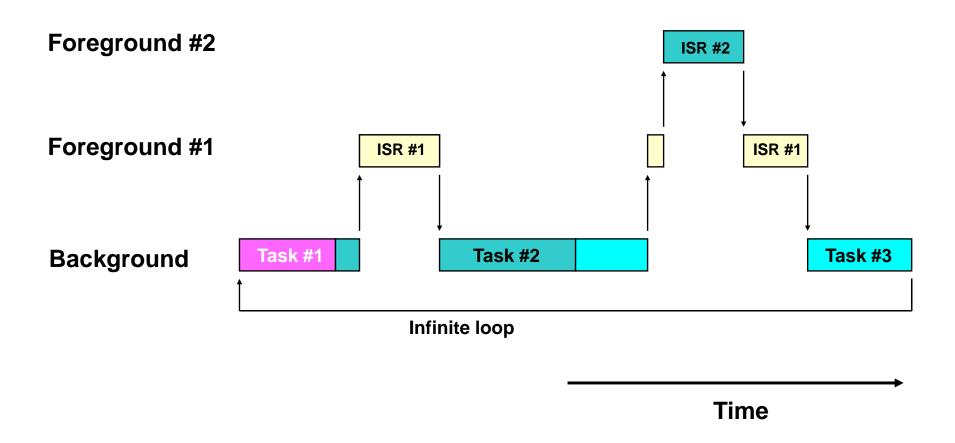


#### Part I

#### Foreground/Background Systems

μC/OS-II, The Real-Time Kernels Task Management

# Products without Kernels (Foreground/Background Systems)



#### Foreground/Background

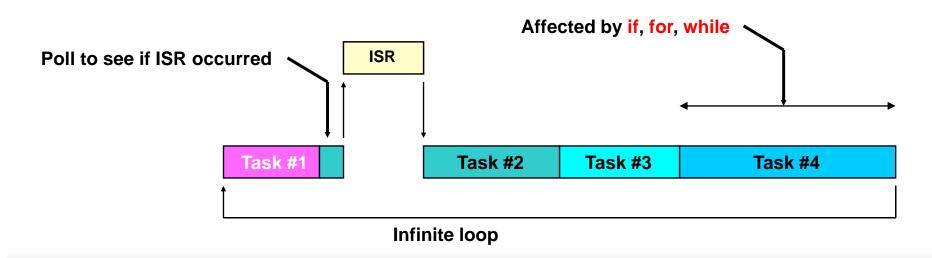
```
/* Foreground */
/* Background */
void main (void)
                                    ISR (void)
                                        Handle asynchronous event;
  Initialization:
  FOREVER {
    Read analog inputs;
    Read discrete inputs;
    Perform monitoring functions;
    Perform control functions:
    Update analog outputs;
    Update discrete outputs;
    Scan keyboard;
    Handle user interface;
    Update display;
    Handle communication requests;
    Other...
```

## Foreground/Background Advantages

- Used in low cost Embedded Applications
- Memory requirements only depends on your application
- Single stack area for:
  - Function nesting
  - Local variables
  - ISR nesting
- Minimal interrupt latency
- Low Cost
  - No royalties to pay to vendors

## Foreground/Background Disadvantages

- Background response time is the background execution time
  - Non-deterministic
    - Affected by if, for, while ...
  - May not be responsive enough
  - Changes as you change your code



## Foreground/Background Disadvantages

- All 'tasks' have the same priority!
  - Code executes in sequence
  - If an important event occurs it's handled at the same priority as everything else!
  - You may need to execute the same code often to avoid missing an event.

Task #1	Task #2	Task #3	Task #4

Infinite loop

- You have to implement all services:
  - Time delays and timeouts
  - Timers
  - Message passing
  - Resource management
- Code is harder to maintain and can become messy!

#### Part I

Foreground/Background Systems

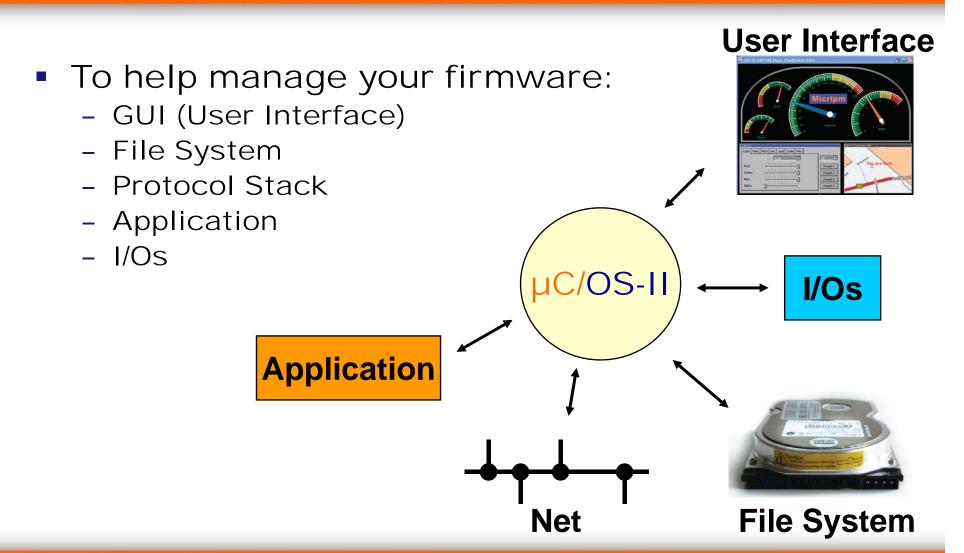
#### μC/OS-II, The Real-Time Kernels

Task Management

#### What is µC/OS-II?

- Software that manages the time of a microprocessor or microcontroller.
  - Ensures that the most important code runs first!
- Allows Multitasking:
  - Do more than one thing at the same time.
  - Application is broken down into multiple tasks each handling one aspect of your application
  - It's like having multiple CPUs!
- Provides valuable services to your application:
  - Time delays
  - Resource sharing
  - Intertask communication and synchronization

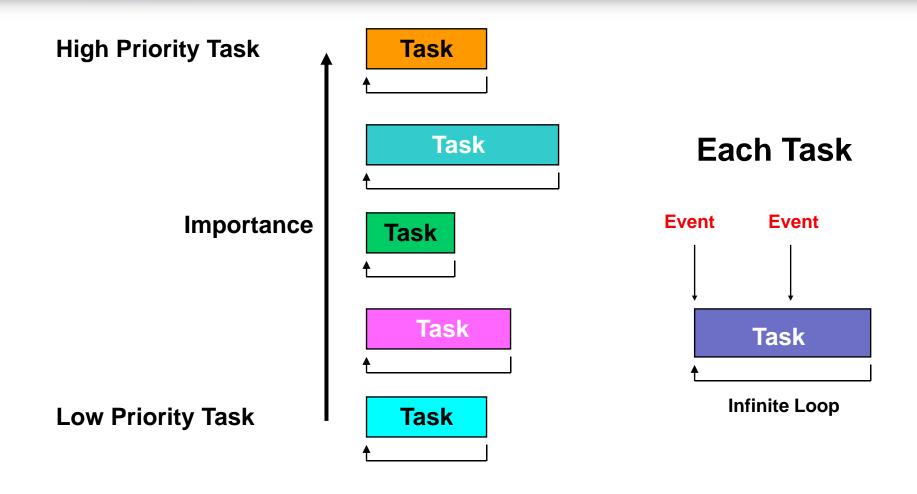
### Why use µC/OS-II?



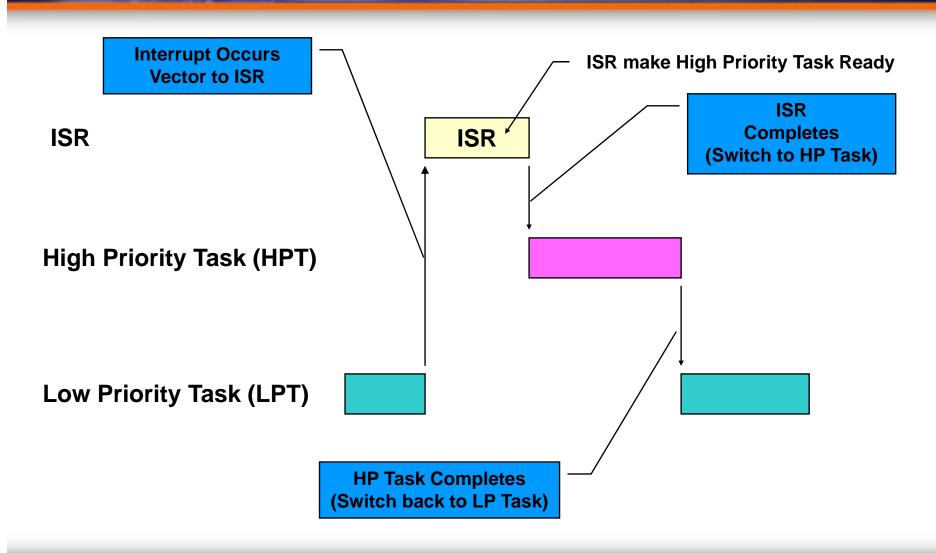
#### Why use µC/OS-II?

- To be more responsive to real-time events
- To prioritize the work to be done by the CPU
- To simplify system expansion
  - Adding low-priority tasks generally does not change the responsiveness to higher priority tasks!
- To reduce development time
- To easily split the application between programmers
  - Can simplify debugging
- To get useful services from the kernel
  - Services that you would want to provide to your application code

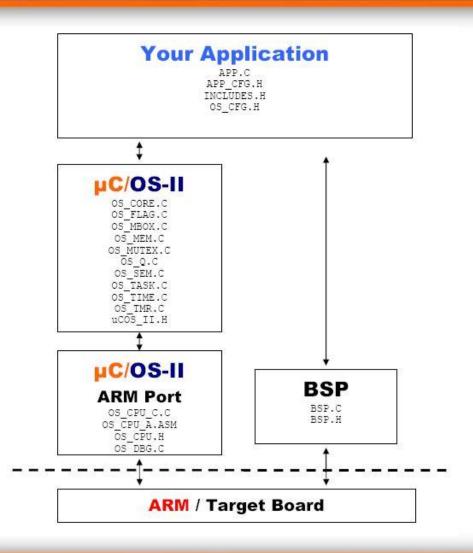
# Designing with $\mu C/OS-II$ (Splitting an application into Tasks)



#### μC/OS-II is a Preemptive Kernel



## μC/OS-II and the Cortex-M3 Source Files



#### Part I

Foreground/Background Systems µC/OS-II, The Real-Time Kernels

Task Management

#### What are Tasks?

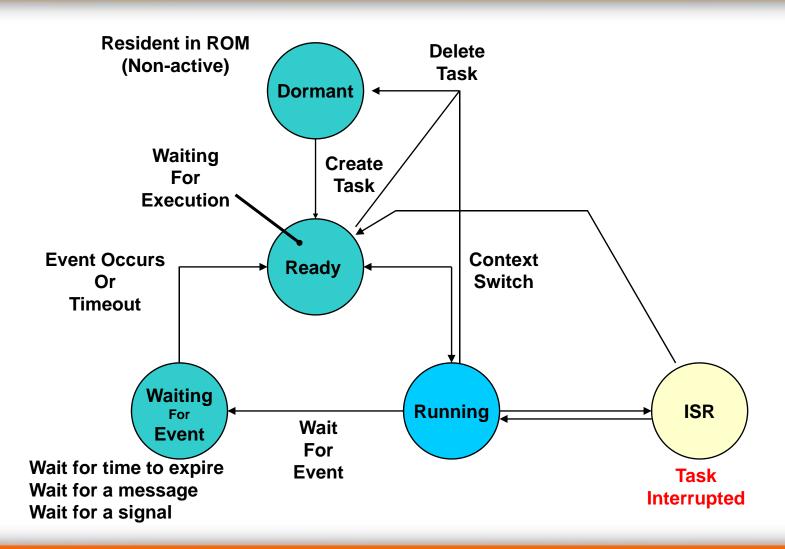
- A task is a simple program that thinks it has the CPU all to itself.
- Each Task has:
  - Its own stack space
  - A priority based on its importance
- A task contains YOUR application code!

#### What are Tasks?

A task is an infinite loop:

A task can be in one of 5 states...

#### Task States



#### Tasks needs to be 'Created'

- To make them ready for multitasking!
- The kernel needs to have information about your task:
  - Its starting address
  - Its top-of-stack (TOS)
  - Its priority
  - Arguments passed to the task

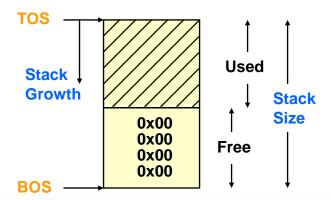
#### 'Creating' a Task

You create a task by calling a service provided by the kernel:

- You can create a task:
  - before you start multitasking (at init-time) or,
  - during (at run-time).

#### Stack Checking

- Stacks can be checked at run-time to see if you allocated sufficient RAM
- Allows you to know the 'worst case' stack growth of your task(s)
- Stack is cleared when task is created
  - Optional



#### Deleting a Task

- Tasks can be deleted (return to the 'dormant' state) at run-time
  - Task can no longer be scheduled
- Code is NOT actually deleted
- Can be used to 'abort' (or 'kill') a task
- TCB freed and task stack could be reused.

#### μC/OS-II Task APIs

INT8U	OSTaskChangePrio	(INT8U INT8U	oldprio, newprio);	INT8U	OSTaskResume	(INT8U	prio);
				INT8U	OSTaskSuspend	(INT8U	prio);
INT8U	OSTaskCreate	( <b>void</b> <b>void</b> OS_STK INT8U	(*task)( <b>void</b> *p_arg), *p_arg, *ptos, prio);	INT8U	OSTaskStkChk	(INT8U	prio,
				INT8U	OSTaskQuery	(INT8U	prio,
INT8U	OSTaskCreateExt	( <b>void</b> <b>void</b> OS_STK	(*task)( <b>void</b> *p_arg), *p_arg, *ptos,	INT32U	OSTaskRegGet	(INT8U INT8U	prio, id,
		INT8U INT16U	prio, id,			INT8U	*perr);
		OS_STK INT32U <b>void</b> INT16U	*pbos, stk_size, *pext, opt);	void	OSTaskRegSet	(INT8U INT8U INT32U INT8U	<pre>prio, id, value, *perr);</pre>
INT8U	OSTaskDel	(INT8U	prio);				
INT8U	OSTaskDelReq	(INT8U	prio);				
INT8U	OSTaskNameGet	(INT8U INT8U INT8U	<pre>prio, *pname, *perr);</pre>				
void	OSTaskNameSet	(INT8U INT8U INT8U	<pre>prio, *pname, *perr);</pre>				

#### Part II

#### Task Scheduling

Context Switching
Servicing Interrupts
Time delays and Timeouts

#### What is Scheduling?

 Deciding whether there is a more important task to run.

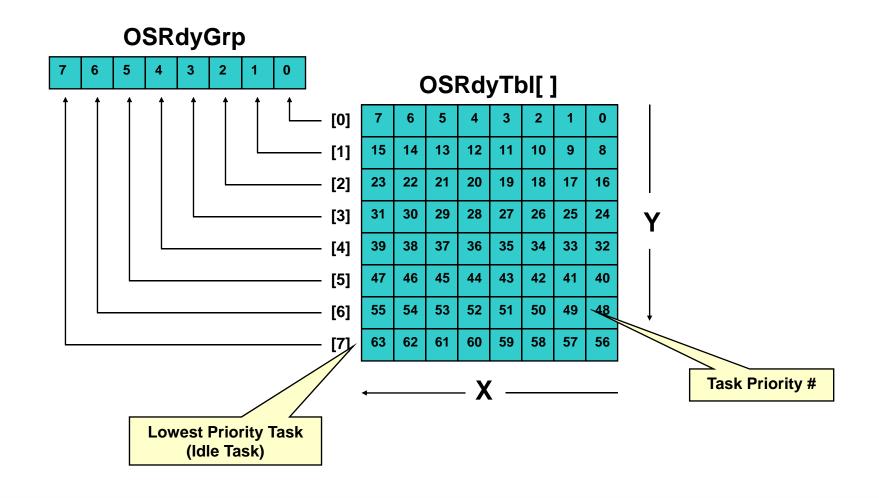
#### Occurs:

- When a task decides to wait for time to expire
- When a task sends a message or a signal to another task
- When an ISR sends a message or a signal to a task
  - Occurs at the end of all nested ISRs

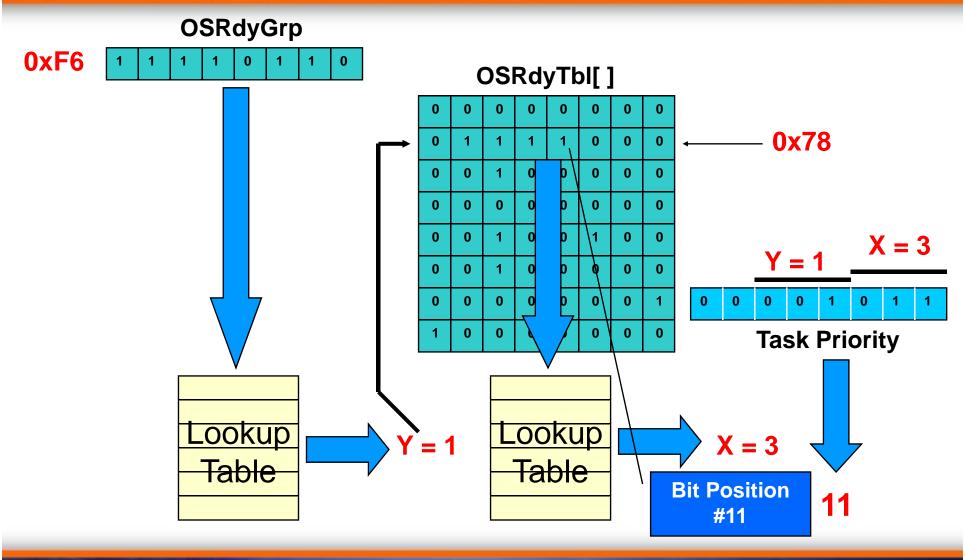
#### Outcome:

 Context Switch if a more important task has been made ready-to-run or returns to the caller or the interrupted task

#### The µC/OS-II Ready List



# Finding the Highest Priority Task Ready



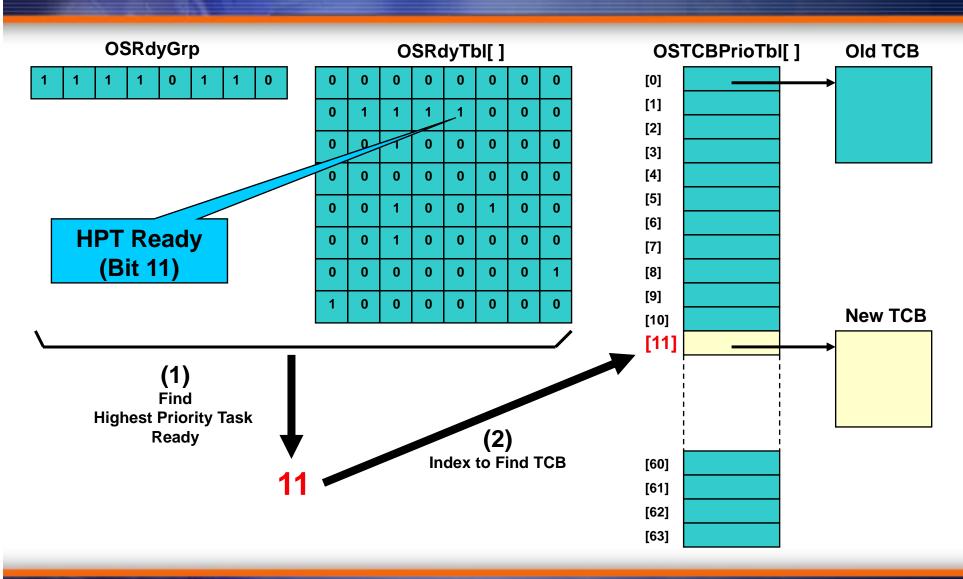
#### Priority Resolution Table

```
PRIORITY RESOLUTION TABLE
 Note(s): 1) Index into table is bit pattern to resolve
              highest priority.
           2) Indexed value corresponds to highest priority
              bit position (i.e. 0..7)
                                                                       (Step #2)
INT8U const OSUnMapTbl[] = {
  0, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x00-0x0F
                                                                       X = @ [0x78]
   4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                         0x10 - 0x1F
                                                                       (i.e. 0x78 = OSRdvTbl[1])
                                                      // 0x20-0x2F
   5, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, \sigma
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x30-0x3F
  6, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x40-0x4F
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x50-0x5F
   5, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x60-0x6F
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x70-0x7F
  7. 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0x80-0x8F
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0 \times 90 - 0 \times 9F
                                                                       (Step #1)
   5, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0xA0 - 0xAF
                                                         0xB0-0xBF
   4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0
                                                                       Y = @ [0xF6]
  6, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0
                                                      // 0xC0-0xCF
                                                                       (i.e. 0xF6 = OSRdyGrp)
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0xD0-0xDF
  5, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0,
                                                      // 0xE0-0xEF
  4, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0, 3, 0, 1, 0, 2, 0, 1, 0
                                                      // 0xF0-0xFF
};
```

## Scheduling (Delaying a Task)

```
void TaskAtPrio0 (void *p_arg)
                                       Task at Priority 0 runs
    while (TRUE)
         OSTimeDlyHMSM(0, 0, 1, 0);
                                         Task needs to suspend for 1 second
                               OSRdyGrp
                                                        OSRdyTbl[]
                                            0
                                                          0
                                                                     0
                                                          0
                                                                     0
                µC/OS-II clears the Ready bit
                                                                     0
```

## Scheduling



#### Part II

Task Scheduling

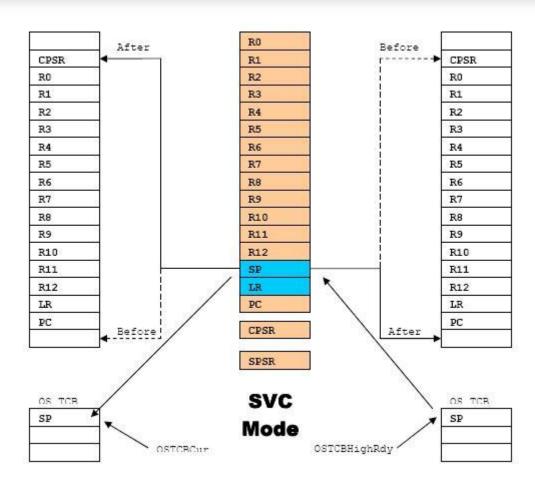
#### Context Switching

Servicing Interrupts
Time delays and Timeouts

## Context Switch (or Task Switch)

- Once the µC/OS-II finds a NEW 'High-Priority-Task', µC/OS-II performs a Context Switch.
- The context is the 'volatile' state of a CPU
  - Generally the CPU registers

## Context Switch (or Task Switch)



#### Part II

Task Scheduling Context Switching

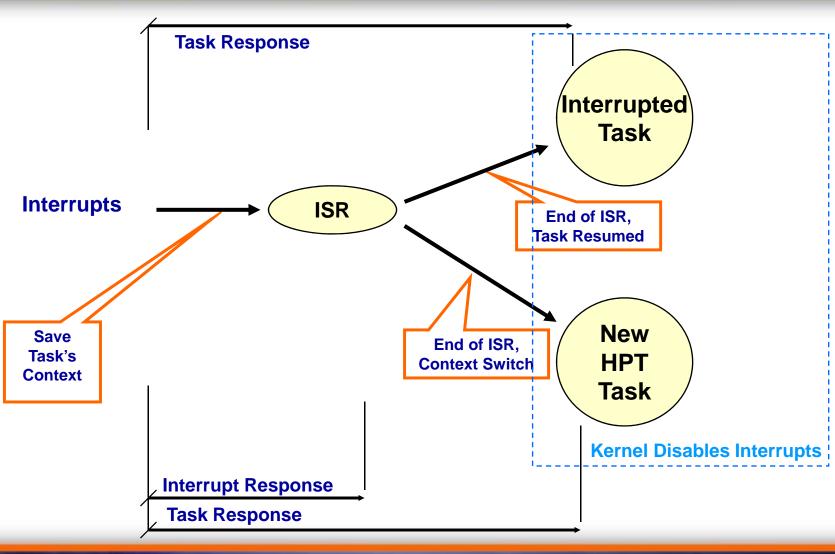
#### Servicing Interrupts

Time delays and Timeouts

#### Interrupts

- Interrupts are always more important than tasks!
- Interrupts are always recognized
  - Except when they are disabled by µC/OS-II or your application
  - Your application can disable interrupts for as much time as µC/OS-II does without affecting latency
- You should keep ISRs (Interrupt Service Routines) as short as possible.
  - Acknowledge the device
  - Signal a task to process the device

## Servicing Interrupts



### The Clock Tick ISR

- µC/OS-II requires a periodic interrupt source
  - Through a hardware timer
    - Between 10 and 1000 ticks/sec. (Hz)
  - Could be the power line frequency
    - 50 or 60 Hz
  - Called a 'Clock Tick' or 'System Tick'
  - Higher the rate, the more the overhead!
- The tick ISR calls a service provided by µC/OS-II to signal a 'tick'

### Why keep track of Clock Ticks?

- To allow tasks to suspend execution for a certain amount of time
  - In integral number of 'ticks'
    - OSTimeDly(ticks)
  - In Hours, Minutes, Seconds and Milliseconds
    - OSTimeDlyHMSM(hr, min, sec, ms)
- To provide timeouts for other services (more on this later)
  - Avoids waiting forever for events to occur
  - Eliminates deadlocks

## Part II

Task Scheduling
Context Switching
Servicing Interrupts

Time delays and Timeouts

### μC/OS-II Time Delays

- µC/OS-II allows for a task to be delayed:
  - OSTimeDly(ticks)
  - OSTimeDlyHMSM(hr, min, sec, ms)
  - Always forces a context switch
  - Suspended task uses little or no CPU time
- If the tick rate is 100 Hz (10 mS), a keyboard scan every 100 mS requires 10 ticks:

```
void Keyboard_Scan_Task (void *p_arg)
{
    for (;;) {
        OSTimeDly(10); /* Every 100 mS */
        Scan keyboard;
    }
}
```

### μC/OS-II Timeouts

- Pending on events allow for timeouts
  - To prevent waiting forever for events
- To avoid deadlocks
- Example:
  - Read 'slow' ADC
  - Timeout indicates that conversion didn't occur within the expected time.

## μC/OS-II Time and Timer APIs

#### **Time Delays**

void	OSTimeDly	(INT16U	ticks);
INT8U	OSTimeDlyHMSM	(INT8U	hours,
		INT8U	minutes,
		INT8U	seconds,
		INT16U	milli);
INT8U	OSTimeDlyResume	(INT8U	prio);
INT32U	OSTimeGet	(void);	
void	OSTimeSet	(INT32U	ticks);

#### **Timers**

OS_TMR	*OSTmrCreate	(INT32U INT32U INT8U OS_TMR_CALLBACK <b>void</b> INT8U INT8U	<pre>dly, period, opt, callback, *callback_arg, *pname, *perr);</pre>
BOOLEAN	OSTmrDel	(OS_TMR INT8U	*ptmr, *perr);
INT8U	OSTmrNameGet	(OS_TMR INT8U	*ptmr, *pdest,
INT32U	OSTmrRemainGet	INT8U (OS_TMR INT8U	<pre>*perr); *ptmr, *perr);</pre>
INT8U	OSTmrStateGet	(OS_TMR INT8U	*ptmr, *perr);
BOOLEAN	OSTmrStart	(OS_TMR INT8U	*ptmr, *perr);
BOOLEAN	OSTmrStop	(OS_TMR INT8U <b>void</b> INT8U	<pre>*ptmr,   opt, *callback_arg, *perr);</pre>

## Part III

### Resource Sharing and Mutual Exclusion

Task Synchronization

Task Communication

## Resource Sharing

- YOU MUST ensure that access to common resources is protected!
  - μC/OS-II only gives you mechanisms
- You protect access to common resources by:
  - Disabling/Enabling interrupts
  - Lock/Unlock
  - MUTEX (Mutual Exclusion Semaphores)

## Resource Sharing (Disable and Enable Interrupts)

- When access to resource is done quickly
  - Must be less than µC/OS-II's interrupt disable time!
  - Be careful with Floating-point!
- Disable/Enable interrupts is the fastest way!

```
rpm = 60.0 / time;
CPU_CRITICAL_ENTER();
Global RPM = rpm;
CPU_CRITICAL_EXIT();
```

## Resource Sharing (Lock/Unlock the Scheduler)

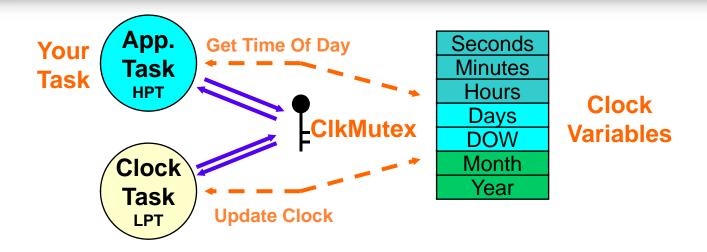
- 'Lock' prevents the scheduler from changing tasks
  - Interrupts are still enabled
  - Can be used to access non-reentrant functions
  - Can be used to reduce priority inversion
  - Same effect as making the current task the Highest Priority Task
  - Don't Lock for too long
    - Defeats the purpose of having µC/OS-II.
- 'Unlock' invokes the scheduler to see if a High-Priority Task has been made ready while locked

```
OSSchedLock();
Code with scheduler disabled;
OSSchedUnlock();
```

## Mutual Exclusion Mutexes

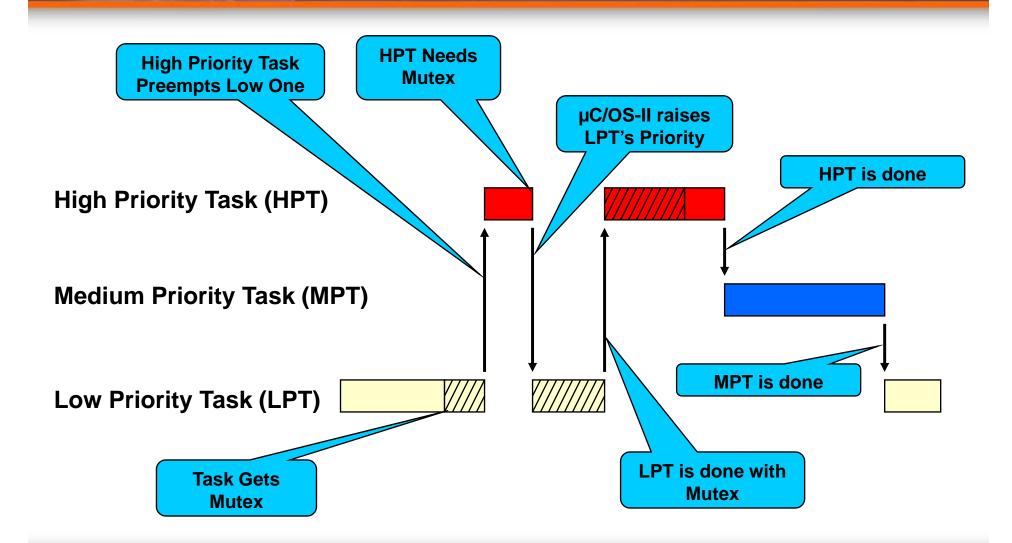
- Used when time to access a resource is longer than µC/OS-II's interrupt disable time!
- Mutexes are binary semaphores and are used to access a shared resource
- Mutexes reduce unbounded 'priority inversions'

## Using a Mutex (Time-of-Day Clock)



```
ClockTask(void)
{
    while (TRUE) {
        OSTimeDlyHMSM(0, 0, 1, 0);
        OSMutexPend(&ClkMutex, 0);
        OSMutexPend(&ClkMutex, 0);
        Update clock;
        OSMutexPost(&ClkMutex);
        OSMutexPost(&ClkMutex);
        }
}
```

# µC/OS-II's Mutexes Priority Ceiling



### μC/OS-II Resource Sharing APIs

#### **Mutual Exclusion Semaphores**

#### Scheduler Lock/Unlock

BOOLEAN	OSMutexAccept	(OS_EVENT INT8U	*pevent, *perr);
OS_EVENT	*OSMutexCreate	(INT8U INT8U	prio, *perr);
OS_EVENT	*OSMutexDel	(OS_EVENT INT8U INT8U	<pre>*pevent,   opt, *perr);</pre>
void	OSMutexPend	(OS_EVENT INT16U INT8U	<pre>*pevent,   timeout, *perr);</pre>
INT8U	OSMutexPost	(OS_EVENT	*pevent);
INT8U	OSMutexQuery	(OS_EVENT OS_MUTEX_DATA	<pre>*pevent, *p_mutex_data);</pre>

void OSSchedLock (void);
void OSSchedUnlock (void);

## Part III

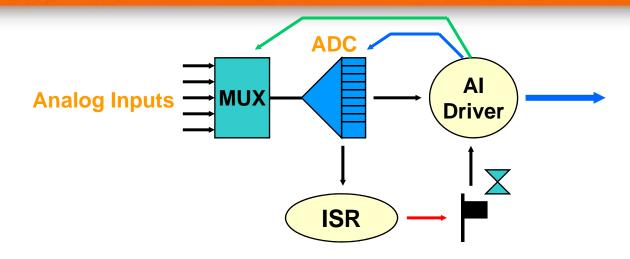
Resource Sharing and Mutual Exclusion

## Task Synchronization

Task Communication

## Semaphores to signal tasks

(Analog-Digital Conversion)



```
Read_Analog_Input_Channel_Cnts(channel#, *adc_counts)
{
    Select the desired analog input channel
    Wait for MUX output to stabilize
    Start the ADC Conversion
    Wait for signal from ADC ISR (with timeout)
    if (timed out)
        Return error code to caller
    else
        Read ADC counts
        Return ADC counts to caller

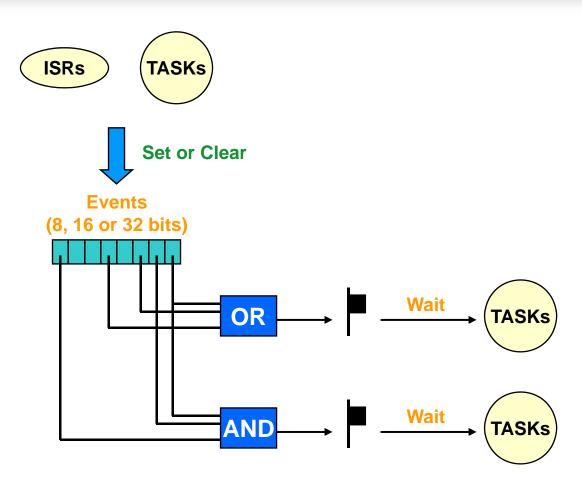
    Read ADC counts to caller

    Read ADC counts to caller
```

## **Event Flags**

- Synchronization of tasks with the occurrence of multiple events
- Events are grouped
  - 8, 16 or 32 bits per group (compile-time configurable)
- Types of synchronization:
  - Disjunctive (OR): Any event occurred
  - Conjunctive (AND): All events occurred
- Task(s) or ISR(s) can either Set or Clear event flags
- Only tasks can Wait for events

## **Event Flags**



## μC/OS-II Task Synchronization APIs

#### **Event Flags**

#### OS\_FLAGS OSFlagAccept (OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*pgrp, OS\_FLAGS flags, INT8U wait\_type, INT8U \*perr); OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*OSFlagCreate (OS\_FLAGS flags, INT8U \*perr); OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*OSFlagDel (OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*pgrp, INT8U opt, INT8U \*perr); INT8U OSFlagNameGet (OS FLAG GRP \*pgrp, INT8U \*pname, INT8U \*perr); void OSFlagNameSet (OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*pgrp, INT8U \*pname, INT8U \*perr); OSFlagPend (OS\_FLAG\_GRP OS\_FLAGS \*pgrp, OS\_FLAGS flags, INT8U wait\_type, INT16U timeout, INT8U \*perr); OS\_FLAGS OSFlagPendGetFlagsRdy (void); OS\_FLAGS OSFlagPost (OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*pgrp, OS\_FLAGS flags, INT8U opt, INT8U \*perr); OS\_FLAGS OSFlagQuery (OS\_FLAG\_GRP \*pgrp, INT8U \*perr);

#### **Counting Semaphores**

INT16U	OSSemAccept	(OS_EVENT	*pevent);
OS_EVENT	*OSSemCreate	(INT16U	cnt);
OS_EVENT	*OSSemDel	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
void	OSSemPend	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT16U	timeout,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSSemPendAbort	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSSemPost	(OS_EVENT	*pevent);
INT8U	OSSemQuery	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
void	OSSemSet	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT16U	cnt,
		INT8U	*perr);

## Part III

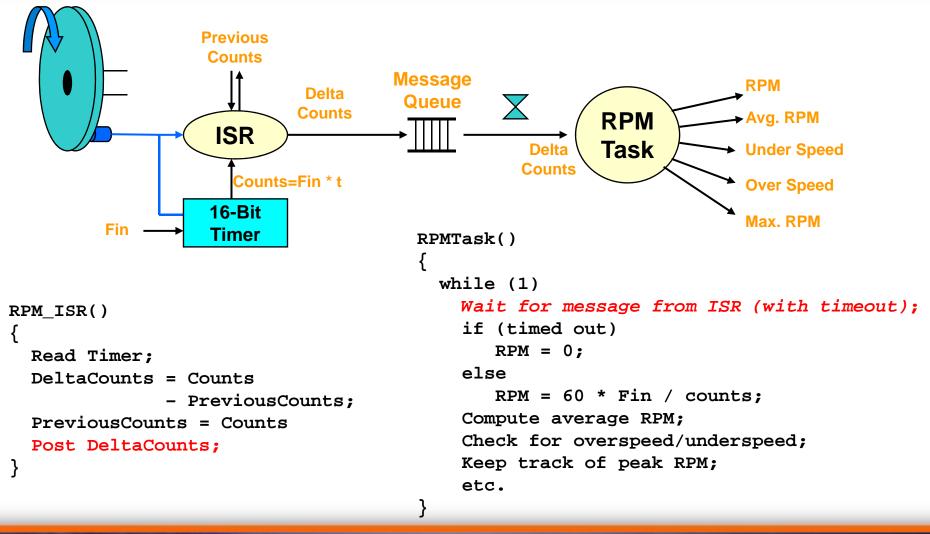
Resource Sharing and Mutual Exclusion
Task Synchronization

Task Communication

## Message Queues

- Message passing
  - Message is a pointer
  - Pointer can point to a variable or a data structure
- FIFO (First-In-First-Out) type queue
  - Size of each queue can be specified to the kernel
- LIFO (Last-In-First-Out) also possible
- Tasks or ISR can 'send' messages
- Only tasks can 'receive' a message
  - Highest-priority task waiting on queue will get the message
- Receiving task can timeout if no message is received within a certain amount of time

## Message Mailbox (RPM Measurement)



## μC/OS-II Task Communication APIs

#### **Message Mailboxes**

void	*OSMboxAccept	(OS_EVENT	*pevent);
OS_EVENT	*OSMboxCreate	(void	*pmsg);
OS_EVENT	*OSMboxDel	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
void	*OSMboxPend	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT16U	timeout,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSMboxPendAbort	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSMboxPost	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		void	*pmsg);
INT8U	OSMboxPostOpt	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		void	*pmsg,
		INT8U	opt);
INT8U	OSMboxQuery	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		OS_MBOX_DATA	*p mbox data);

#### **Message Queues**

void	*OSQAccept	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	*perr);
OS_EVENT	*OSQCreate	(void	**start,
		INT16U	size);
OS_EVENT	*OSQDel	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSQFlush	(OS_EVENT	*pevent);
void	*OSQPend	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT16U	timeout,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSQPendAbort	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		INT8U	opt,
		INT8U	*perr);
INT8U	OSQPost	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		void	*pmsg);
INT8U	OSQPostFront	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		void	*pmsg);
INT8U	OSQPostOpt	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		void	*pmsg,
		INT8U	opt);
INT8U	OSQQuery	(OS_EVENT	*pevent,
		OS_Q_DATA	<b>*</b> p_q_data);

## Part IV

### Configuration and Initialization

Debugging with Kernels

## µC/OS-II Configuration

- Allows you to specify which services are available
  - Done through #defines in application specific file:
     os\_CFG.H
- Memory footprint depends on configuration
  - On ARM, 6K to 24K of code space
  - RAM depends on kernel objects used

#### Initialization

### Initialization

- µC/OS-II creates 1 to 3 internal tasks:
  - OS\_TaskIdle()
    - Runs when no other task runs
    - Always the lowest priority task
    - Cannot be deleted
  - OS\_TaskStat()
    - Computes run-time statistics
      - CPU Usage
      - Check stack usage of other tasks
  - OS\_TmrTask()
    - If you enabled the 'timer' services
- Initializes other data structures

## Part IV

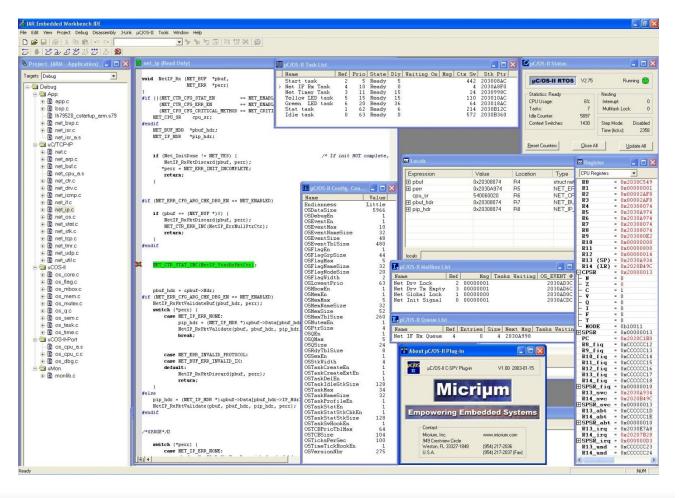
Configuration and Initialization

Debugging with Kernels

### Debugging

### IAR's µC/OS-II Kernel Awareness

- Free with IAR's EWARM
- Static Tool
- Shows value of kernel structures:
  - Task list
  - Kernel objects



## Debugging µC/Probe, Run-Time Data Monitor



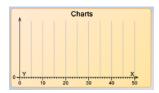








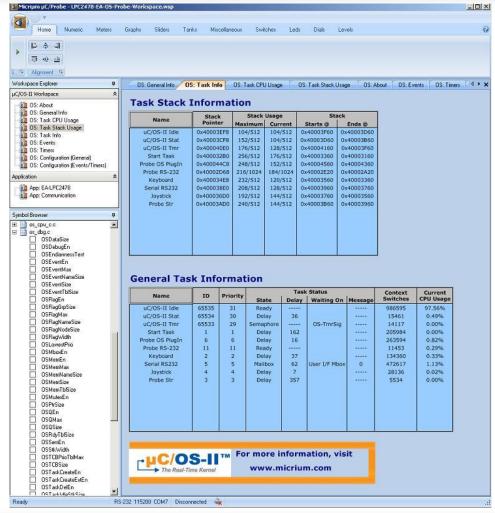








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## Debugging Other Techniques

- Use a DAC (Digital to Analog Converter)
  - Output a value based on which task or ISR is running
    - Shows execution profile of each task/ISR running (oscilloscope)
    - Can be used to measure task execution time
- Use output ports for time measurements
- Use TRACE tools
  - Some processors allow you to capture execution traces
  - Some debugger captures and display run-time history

### References

"A Practitioner's Handbook for Real-Time Analysis: Guide to RMA for Real-Time Systems"

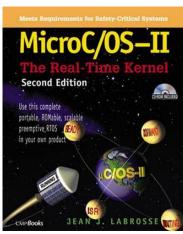
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"µC/OS-II, The Real-Time Kernel, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition"

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"Embedded Systems Building Blocks, Complete and Ready-to-Use Modules in C"

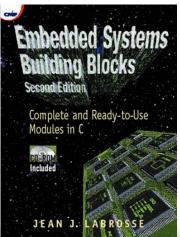
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