Introduction to FreeRTOS

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Characteristics of freeRTOS (Operating System)

- FreeRTOS is a "Embedded Operating System" for Embedded MicroController Software that provides multitasking facilities.
- Open Source
- Introduces minimum overhead (1%-4% CPU Time)
- Takes up little memory space (~6KB Flash)

FreeRTOS features:

- Dynamic Task creation
- Priority-based multitasking capability
- Queues to communicate between multiple tasks
- Semaphores mutex to manage shared resource between multiple tasks
- Utilities to view CPU utilization, stack utilization etc.

Supported CPUs (Ports):

http://www.freertos.org/RTOS_ports.html

Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

FreeRTOS is supplied as a set of C source files. Some of the source files are common to all ports, while others are specific to a port.

FreeRTOS

-Source Directory containing the FreeRTOS source files \mathbf{S}_{S}

- Demo Directory containing pre-configured and port specific FreeRTOS demo projects

FreeRTOS-Plus

-Source Directory containing source code for some FreeRTOS+ ecosystem components

-Demo Directory containing demo projects for FreeRTOS+ ecosystem components

FreeRTOS is supplied as a set of C source files. Some of the source files are common to all ports, while others are specific to a port.

FreeRTOSConfig.h: configure FreeRTOS.



Building FreeRTOS

tasks.c and list.c: FreeRTOS source code common to all the FreeRTOS ports and they are located directly in the FreeRTOS/Source directory

In addition to these two files, the following source files are located in the same directory: **queue.c and timer.c**

queue.c provides both queue and semaphore services. queue.c is nearly always required.

timers.c provides software timer functionality. It need only be included in the build if software timers are actually going to be used

Data Types

two port specific data types: **TickType_t** and **BaseType_t** (both in portmacro.h).

TickType_t: FreeRTOS configures a periodic interrupt called the tick interrupt. The time between two tick interrupts is called the tick period. Times are specified as multiples of tick periods.

BaseType_t: is generally used for return types that can take only a very limited range of values, and for pdTRUE/pdFALSE type Booleans.

Function Names

Functions are prefixed with both the type they return, and the file they are defined within. For example:

- **v**TaskPrioritySet() returns a **void** and is defined within task.c.
- xQueueReceive() returns a variable of type BaseType_t and is defined within queue.c.
- **pv**TimerGetTimerID() returns a **pointer to void** and is defined within timers.c.

Repository (Library) for freeRTOS

• A stand-alone board support package (BSP) is a library generated by the Xilinx SDK that is specific to a hardware design.

• It contains initialization code for bringing up the ARM CPUs in ZYNQ and also contains software drivers for all available ZYNQ peripherals.

The freeRTOS Repository

- The FreeRTOS port extends the stand-alone BSP to also include FreeRTOS source files
- After using this port in a Xilinx SDK environment, the user gets all the FreeRTOS source files in a FreeRTOS BSP library.
- This library uses the Xilinx SDK generated stand-alone BSP library.

Header Files

A source file that uses the FreeRTOS API must include 'FreeRTOS.h', followed by the header file that contains the prototype for the API function being used —

'task.h', 'queue.h', 'semphr.h', 'timers.h' or 'event_groups.h'.

TASKS

UNSL – San Luis 2021

A Task

- Simple C Function
- A pointer to parameters (void*) as input
- Creates a forever loop (while (1))
- The tasks are controlled by the Scheduler (freeRTOS internal function)

Each task has his own Stack:

- Every variable you declare or memory allocate uses memory on the stack.
- The stack size of a task depends on the memory consumed by its local variables and function call depth.
- Please note that if your task (or function) uses printf, it consumes around 1024 bytes of stack.
- At minimum however, you would need at least 256 bytes + your estimated stack space above.
- If you don't allocate enough stack space, your CPU will run to an exception and/or freeze

A Task

```
void myTask (void *pvParameters){
```

```
/* variables declaration */
Int iVariableExample = 0;
```

```
/* Task implemented as a infinite loop */
for ( ;; )
{
    /* Task Code here */
}
```

/* Function vTaskDelete () delete itself passing NULL parameter */ vTaskDelete (NULL);

}

Top Level Task States



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

Creating a Task

The Task function itself:

```
void ATaskFunction( void *pvParameters)
{
    // do initilisation
    while (1)
    {
    // Task execution code
    }
}
```

Install the Task (in main.c):

Return **pdPASS** or **pdFAIL** (when insufficient heap memory)

Example

```
void hello_world_task (void* p)
{
    while(1)
    {
        Printf(" Hello World!");
        vTaskDelay(1000);
    }
}
void main(void )
{
    XtaskCreate (hello_world_task, "TestTask", 512, NULL, 1, NULL);
    vTaskStartScheduler();
    // never comes here
}
```

The main function in FreeRTOS based projects creates tasks. FreeRTOS will let you multi-task based on your tasks and their priority.

Task running with the same priority

```
void vTaskFunction( void *pvParameters )
{
    char *pcTaskName;
    volatile uint32 t ul;
/*The string to print out is passed in via the parameter.*/
    pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
/* As per most tasks, this task is implemented in an infiniteloop. */
    For( ;; )
         vPrintString (pcTaskName); /* Print out the name of this task. */
         for( ul = 0; ul < mainDELAY LOOP COUNT; ul++ )/*Delay for a period. */</pre>
/* main function */
Static const char *pcTextForTask1 ="Task 1 is running\r\n";
static const char *pcTextForTask2 ="Task 2 is running\r\n";
int main(void)
/* Create one of the two tasks. */
    xTaskCreate(vTaskFunction, "Task 1", 1000, (void*)pcTextForTask1, 1, NULL);
/* Create the second task from the SAME task implementation (vTaskFunction). Only the value
passed in the parameter is different. */
    xTaskCreate(vTaskFunction, "Task 2", 1000, (void*)pcTextForTask2, 1, NULL);
/* Start the scheduler so the tasks start executing. */
    vTaskStartScheduler();
    for( ;; );
```

Task running with the same priority



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Task running with the same priority



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

_

Task running with different priorities

```
void vTaskFunction( void *pvParameters )
{
    char *pcTaskName;
    volatile uint32 t ul;
/*The string to print out is passed in via the parameter.*/
    pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
/* As per most tasks, this task is implemented in an infiniteloop. */
    For( ;; )
         vPrintString (pcTaskName); /* Print out the name of this task. */
         for( ul = 0; ul < mainDELAY LOOP COUNT; ul++ )/*Delay for a period. */</pre>
/* main function */
Static const char *pcTextForTask1 ="Task 1 is running\r\n";
static const char *pcTextForTask2 ="Task 2 is running\r\n";
int main(void)
/* Create one of the two tasks. */
    xTaskCreate(vTaskFunction, "Task 1", 1000, (void*)pcTextForTask1, 1, NULL);
/* Create the second task with higher priority*/
    xTaskCreate(vTaskFunction, "Task 2", 1000, (void*)pcTextForTask2, 2, NULL);
/* Start the scheduler so the tasks start executing. */
    vTaskStartScheduler();
    for( ;; );
}
```

Task running with different priorities



Task 2 with higher priority than task 1

Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Task running with different priorities



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS[™] Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021



Expanding the 'Not Running' State

To make the tasks useful they must be re-written to be **event-driven**.

A task is triggered when an event occurs, and is not able to enter the Running state before that event has occurred.

Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021



Expanding the 'Not Running' State

When a task is waiting for an event is Blocked

To types of events

Temporal - Delays

Synchronization – Waiting for data in a queue

Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Expanding the 'Not Running' State

```
void vTaskFunction( void *pvParameters )
{
    char *pcTaskName;
    const TickType_t xDelay250ms = pdMS_TO_TICKS( 250 );
    volatile uint32_t ul;
/*The string to print out is passed in via the parameter.*/
    pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
/* As per most tasks, this task is implemented in an infiniteloop. */
    For( ;; )
    {
        vPrintString( pcTaskName );/* Print out the name of this task. */
        vTaskDelay(xDelay250ms);
    }
}
```

vTaskDelay() places the task into the Blocked state until the delay period has expired.

void vTaskDelay(portTickType xTicksToDelay);

Expanding the 'Not Running' State

UNSL – San Luis 2021



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

Expanding the 'Not Running' State



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Expanding the 'Not Running' State



Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS[™] Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Expanding the 'Not Running' State

The Suspended State is also a sub-state of Not Running.

Tasks in the Suspended state are not available to the scheduler.

vTaskSuspend()API

vTaskResume() or xTaskResumeFromISR() API functions.

Most applications do not use the Suspended state.

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Executing periodic tasks

Using vTaskDelay() does not guarantee that the frequency at which they run is fixed,

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Executing periodic tasks

```
void vTaskFunction( void *pvParameters ){
    char *pcTaskName;
    TickType_t xLastWakeTime;
    pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
    xLastWakeTime = xTaskGetTickCount();/* current tickcount.*/
    for( ;; ){/* Print out the name of this task. */
        vPrintString( pcTaskName );
    /*This task should execute every 250 milliseconds exactly.*/
        vTaskDelayUntil( &xLastWakeTime, pdMS_TO_TICKS( 250 ));
}
```


Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS[™] Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Combining blocking and non-blocking tasks

```
void vContinuousFunction( void *pvParameters )
{
     char *pcTaskName;
     volatile uint32_t ul;
    pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
     For(;;)
          vPrintString( pcTaskName ); /* Print out the name of this task. */
void vPeriodicFunction( void *pvParameters ) {
     char *pcTaskName;
     TickType_t xLastWakeTime;
     pcTaskName = ( char * ) pvParameters;
     xLastWakeTime = xTaskGetTickCount();/* current tickcount.*/
     for( ;; ) {/* Print out the name of this task. */
          vPrintString( pcTaskName );
         vTaskDelayUntil( &xLastWakeTime, pdMS_TO_TICKS( 250 ));
/* main function */
Static const char *pcTextForTask1 ="Continuous task 1 running\r\n";
static const char *pcTextForTask2 ="Continuous task 2 running\r\n";
static const char *pcTextforperiodic ="Periodic task is running\r\n";
int main(void)
    xTaskCreate(vContinuousFunction, "Task 1",1000, (void*)pcTextForTask1,1,NULL);
     xTaskCreate(vContinuousFunction, "Task 2", 1000, (void*)pcTextForTask2, 1, NULL);
     xTaskCreate(vPeriodicFunction, "Task periodic", 1000, (void*)pcTextforperiodic, 2, NULL);
     vTaskStartScheduler();
     for( ;; );
}
```

Combining blocking and non-blocking tasks

Source:Mastering the FreeRTOS™ Real Time Kernel A Hands-On Tutorial Guide- Richard Barry

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Other task related functions

- void vTaskPrioritySet(TaskHandle_t pxTask, UbaseType_t uxNewPriority);
 - pxTask: The handler of the task (last parameter of taskCreate function)
 - uxNewPriority: New priority to be set
- UbaseType_t uxTaskPriorityGet(TaskHandle_t pxTask);
- void vTaskDelete(TaskHandle_t pxTaskToDelete);
 - pxTaskToDelete: The handler of the task
 - Have to Select INCLUDE_VtaskDelete in FreeRtosConfig.h file
- void vTaskSuspend(TaskHandle_t pxTaskToSuspend);
 - PxTaskToSuspend: Handler of the task. With NULL means the task itself

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
 - Fixed priority: Do not change priorities assigned to tasks
 - Pre-emptive: Pre-empt immediately the running task if a task of higher priority enters to Ready state
 - Time slicing: is used to share processing time between tasks of equal priority Time between two RTOS tick interrupts

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 1
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING 1

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
 - Fixed priority: Do not change priorities assigned to tasks
 - Pre-emptive: Pre-empt immediately the running task if a task of higher priority enters to Ready state
 - Time slicing: is used to share processing time between tasks of equal priority Time between two RTOS tick interrupts

Configured in FreeRTOSConfig.h

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 1
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING 1

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
 - Fixed priority: Do not change prorities assigned to tasks
 - Pre-emptive: Pre-empt immediately the running task if a task of hgher priority enters to Ready state
 - Time slicing: is used to share processing time between tasks of equal priority Time between two RTOS tick interrupts

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 1
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING 1

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
 - Fixed priority: Do not change prorities assigned to tasks
 - Pre-emptive: Pre-empt immediately the running task if a task of hgher priority enters to Ready state
 - Time slicing: is used to share processing time between tasks of equal priority Time between two RTOS tick interrupts

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 1
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING 1
- configIDLE_SHOULD_YIELD 1

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling without Time Slicing

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 1
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING 0

Scheduling Algorithms

- Round Robin Scheduling
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling with Time Slicing
- Fixed Priority Pre-emptive Scheduling without Time Slicing
- Co-operative Scheduling

Configured in FreeRTOSConfig.h

- configUSE_PREEMPTION 0
- configUSE_TIME_SLICING any

Running state call **taskYIELD()** function to re-schedule

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Synchronization and Communications between tasks

UNSL – San Luis 2021

FreeRtos provides with different mechanisms to share information between tasks and to control the access to shared resources

- Queues.
- Binary Semaphores
- Counting Semaphores
- Mutexes
- Recursive Mutexes
- Interrupts

Queues

'Queues' provide a task-to-task, task-to-interrupt, and interrupt-to-task communication mechanism.

- Queues hold a finite number of fixed size data items
- Queues are normally used as First In First Out (FIFO) buffers

FreeRTOS use queue by copy method.

- Stack variable can be sent directly to a queue.
- Data can be sent to a queue without first allocating a buffer.
- The sending task and the receiving task are completely decoupled.
- The RTOS takes complete responsibility for allocating the memory used to store data.

Queue Management

Task A Oueue Task B int x; int y; Int y; A queue is created to allow Task A and Task B to communicate. The queue can hold a maximum of 5 integers. When the queue is created it does not contain any values so is empty.
Task A Oueue 10 Int y; int x; send Int y; Int y; Task A writes (sends) the value of a local variable to the back of the queue. As the queue was previously empty the value written is now the only item in the queue, and is therefore both the value at the back of the queue.
Task A Oueue Task B int x; 20 10 x = 20; Send Int y; Task A changes the value of its local variable before writing it to the queue again. The queue now contains copies of both values written to the queue. The first value written remains at the front of the queue, the new value is inserted at the end of the queue. The queue has three empty spaces remaining.
Task A Oueue Task B int x; 20 10 x = 20; Receive // y now equals 10 Task B reads (receives) from the queue into a different variable. The value received by Task B is the value from the head of the queue, which is the first value Task A wrote to the queue (10 in this illustration).
Task A Oueue Task B int x; 20 // y now equals 10 Task B has removed one item, leaving only the second value written by Task A remaining in the queue. This is the value Task B would receive next if it read from the queue again. The queue now has four empty spaces remaining.

_

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Queue Management

Creating a queue

A queue must be explicitly created before it can be used.

QueueHandle_t xQueueCreate(UBaseType_t uxQueueLength, UbaseType_t uxItemSize);

- UxQueueLength: The maximum number of items that the queue being created can hold at any one time.
- UxItemSize: The size in bytes of each data item that can be stored in the queue.

Queue Management

Writing in a queue

BaseType_t xQueueSend(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvltemToQueue, TickType_t xTicksToWait);)

BaseType_t xQueueSendToFront(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvltemToQueue, TickType_t xTicksToWait); Acts as a LIFO

BaseType_t xQueueSendToBack(QueueHandle_t xQueue, ≡ xQueueSend const void * pvItemToQueue, TickType_t xTicksToWait);

- xQueue:
- pvltemToQueue:
- xTicksToWait:

The handle of the queue

A pointer to the data to be copied into the queue The maximum amount of time the task should remain in the Blocked state to wait for space to become available on the queue

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_FULL Error, queue full

UNSL – San Luis 2021

_

Queue Management

Reading in a queue

BaseType_t xQueueReceive(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvBuffer, TickType_t xTicksToWait);)

- xQueue:
- pvBuffer:
- xTicksToWait:

The handle of the queue

A pointer to the buffer where the read value will be copied to. The maximum amount of time the task should wait for available data.

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_EMPTY Error, queue empty

Queue Management

Reading in a queue

BaseType_t xQueueReceive(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvBuffer, TickType_t xTicksToWait);)

• xQueue:

The handle of the queue

- pvBuffer:
- xTicksToWait:

A pointer to the buffer where the read value will be copied to. The maximum amount of time the task should wait for available data.

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_EMPTY Error, queue empty

Example

if (xQueueReceive (MyQueue, &valueFromQueue, portMAX_DELAY) ==pdPASS) {
 Serial.println (valueFromQueue);

Queue Management

Reading in a queue

BaseType_t xQueueReceive(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvBuffer, TickType_t xTicksToWait);)

• xQueue:

The handle of the queue

- pvBuffer:
- xTicksToWait:

A pointer to the buffer where the read value will be copied to. The maximum amount of time the task should wait for available data.

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_EMPTY Error, queue empty

After reading an element in a queue, this element is normally removed from it; however, an other read function given in allows to read an element without having it to be deleted from the queue.

BaseType_t xQueuePeek(QueueHandle_t xQueue, const void * pvBuffer, TickType_t xTicksToWait);)

Queue Management

- **xQueueCreate**
- xQueueCreateStatic
- vQueueDelete
- xQueueSend
- xQueueSendFromISR
- xQueueSendToBack
- xQueueSendToBackFromISR
- xQueueSendToFront
- xQueueSendToFrontFromISR
- **QueueReceive**
- xQueueReceiveFromISR
- uxQueueMessagesWaiting
- uxQueueMessagesWaitingFromISR
- uxQueueSpacesAvailable

- xQueueReset
- xQueuePeek
- xQueuePeekFromISR
- vQueueAddToRegistry
- pcQueueGetName
- vQueueUnregisterQueue
- xQueueIsQueueEmptyFromISR
- **xQueueIsQueueFullFromISR**
- xQueueOverwrite
- xQueueOverwriteFromISR

Binary Semaphores

- Used to control the access of shared resources
- Can be seen as a queue of one element
- A semaphore can be taken by only one task. If another task try to take the semaphore it will be blocked until the owner or the semaphore gives them.

Binary Semaphores

API Functions for managing semaphores

Creating a semaphore

SemaphoreHandle_t xSemaphoreCreateBinary(void);

Take

BaseType_t xSemaphoreTake(SemaphoreHandle_t xSemaphore, TickType_t xTicksToWait);

Give

BaseType_t **xSemaphoreGive(**SemaphoreHandle_t **xSemaphore**);

Give asemaphore from ISR

BaseType_t xSemaphoreGiveFromISR(SemaphoreHandle_t xSemaphore,

BaseType_t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Mutex

The Mutex es un special kind of binary semaphore to control the access to the same resource for two of more tasks.

It Includes a priority inheritance mechanism.

While the binary semaphores are the best option for synchronization between tasks or between tasks and interruptions, mutexes are the best option for simple **mut**ual **ex**clusion implementation.

Mutex

Mutex

Mutex

Interrupt Manangement

Events

Embedded real-time systems have to take actions in response to events that originate from the environment.

How should they be detected? Interrupts, polling What kind of processing needs to be done? Inside ISR, outside ISR

Interrupt priority vs task priority

Lowest priority interrupt pre-empt highest priority task

Interrupt Safe APIFunction

FreeRTOS provides two versions of some API functions: one for use from tasks, and one for use from ISRs ("FromISR" appended to their name).

Interrupts should be deferred to a task

Interrupt Manangement

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Interrupt Manangement

Binary Semaphores Used for Synchronization

The deferred processing task can be controlled using a ISR

- The ISR "gives" a semaphore to unblock the deferred task
- The deferred task "takes" the semaphore to enter in the blocked state

Interrupt Manangement

Using a queue (writing) from an interrupt

BaseType_t **xQueueSendToFrontFromISR**(QueueHandle_t xQueue, void *pvltemToQueue, BaseType_t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

BaseType_t **xQueueSendToBackFromISR**(QueueHandle_t xQueue, void *pvItemToQueue, BaseType_t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

xQueue: The handle of the queue
pvItemToQueue: A pointer to the data to be copied into the queue
pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken : a variable to inform the application writer that a context switch should be performed

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_FULL Error, queue full

Interrupt Manangement

Using a queue (reading) from an ISR

BaseType_t **xQueueReceiveFromISR**(QueueHandle_t xQueue, void *pvBuffer, BaseType t *pxHigherPriorityTaskWoken);

- xQueue: The handle of the queue
 pBuffer: A pointer to the memory into which the data will be copied
- PxHigherPriorityTaskWoken: a variable to inform the application writer that a context switch should be performed

Return:

- pdPASS OK
- errQUEUE_EMPTY Error, queue full

Interrupt Manangement

Nested interrupts

UNSL – San Luis 2021

Any Question?

THANKS AND GOOD LUCK!!

_

UNSL – San Luis 2021