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**Booting the ARM systems**

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# Booting the ARM Systems



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# Reminder from last lecture



To start the system we need:

- A boot loader
- A Linux kernel
- A Linux root file system

You find all ARM software in:

`/opt/ICTP/micros/armputer-vmax`

# Boot possibilities



- Boot from SD cards (looks for boot.bin file)
- Boot from Nand flash (looks for valid reset vectors)
- Boot from dataflash (looks for valid reset vectors)

We will use the dataflash option (I do not have 15 SD cards and there is no Nand flash on the boards).

# The boot loader



- Atmel delivers the boot loader in Open Source
- Atmel delivers sam-ba, the at91sam boot assistant.
- Sam-ba uses serial over USB and driver must be installed
- `lsmod | grep usbserial`  
if usbserial is loaded, remove everybody using it as well as usbserial itself using `rmmmod usbserial`

# Check, who is on USB

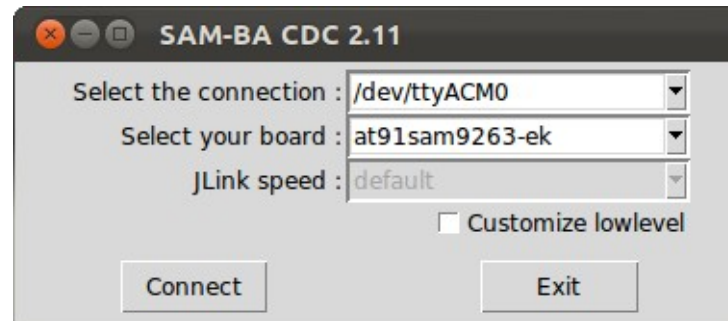


- Take off the jumper near the console port
- Power the ARM with USB cable connected
- Check USB devices with  
`lsusb`
- Find the vendor and product ID of the Arm (Atmel) board  
`0xvvvv:0xpppp`
- `modprobe cdc_acm`
- `lsmod`
- `ls /dev/ttyACM*`

# SAM-BA



- If everything is ok:



# The SAM-BA window



SAM-BA CDC 2.11 - at91sam9263-ek

File Script File Link Help

at91sam9263 Memory Display

Start Address : 0x300000 Refresh

Size in byte(s) : 0x100

Display format  
 ascii  8-bit  16-bit  32-bit

Applet traces on DBGU  
infos Apply

0x00300000	0xEA000020	0xFFFFFFFF	0x00000000	0x04000000
0x00300010	0x0030122C	0x00000000	0x00000000	0x00000020
0x00300020	0x00000000	0x00000000	0x00000000	0x00000000
0x00300030	0x00000000	0x00000000	0x00000000	0x00000000

DataFlash AT45DB/DCB EEPROM AT24 NandFlash NorFlash SDRAM SRAM SerialFlash AT25/AT26

Download / Upload File

Send File Name :

Receive File Name :

Address : 0x0 Size (For Receive File) : 0x1000 byte(s)

Send File

Receive File

Compare sent file with memory

Scripts

Enable Dataflash (SPI0 CS0) Execute

loading history file ... 8 events added  
SAM-BA CDC console display active (Tcl8.5.9 / Tk8.5.9)  
(uli) 9 %  
(uli) 9 %

/dev/ttyACM0 Board : at91sam9263-ek



# Getting started



- Use Atmel's *getting started* procedure
- Enable the SDRAM clicking on the TAB
- Define the environment variable ARMDIR to point to /opt/ICTP/micros/arm/armputer-vmax and put it into your .bash\_profile file
- Define the file \$ARMDIR/blinkingleDs/at91sam9263\_getting\_started.bin
- Send File (to the ARM)
- Execute the program on the ARM:  
go 0x2000000

# Load boot loaders



- Put back the jumper
- Enable Dataflash (SPI0 CS0)
- Send Boot File

This file goes onto address zero of the dataflash and contains reset vectors recognized by the at91sam9263

- Once this file is programmed it will automatically be executed at power up

The primary boot loader is in  
`$ARMDIR/Bootstrapv1.13/board/at91sam9263ek/dataflash/dataflash_at91sam9263ek.bin`

This program is delivered by Atmel

# Secondary Bootloader



- “Das u-boot” is supplied by Denx, a german company
- It contains drivers for flash memories and Ethernet and allows to download the kernel
- We burn \$ARMDIR/u-boot-1.3.4-u-boot.bin into the dataflash at address 0x8400
- Send File and Execute

# U-boot



- We have a command interpreter now
- This gives access to the at91sam9263 hardware
- Test the network with ping
- Configure u-boot through environment variable
- Configure bootcmd and bootargs
- Configure kernel filename

# Boot the machine



- Save the environment (saveenv)
- dhcp downloads the kernel
- bootm starts it

The kernel must have the network driver and nfs compiled in

The NFS server must give access to the root file system

# Possible Problems



- Badly configured dhcpd.conf
- Network on the PC badly configured
- /etc/exports file not ok
- dhcp and/or have not been restarted after modification of configuration files

# First steps with arm linux



- Log in with  
root/openICTP
- Have a look if you see things different from the  
PC system

# Compile a program for the ARM



- Buildroot: a collection of Makefiles to build an arm system

## Builds

- A cross compiler toolchain
- Builds all the libraries needed
- Builds the root file system
- Builds the Linux kernel
- Builds the boot loaders



# Build helloworld for ARM



- Must use the cross compiler tools  
arm-linux-gcc to cross compile the program
- Use *file* to see the file type
- Cannot execute on the PC but must be copied  
to a directory seen by the ARM
- For testing you can use qemu

# Scratchbox



- A sandbox to compile and run arm program
- Allows to log into an arm environment
- Now gcc becomes arm-linux-gcc
- Running works through qemu