Programming Real-Time Embedded systems: C/POSIX and RTEMS

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Summary

- 1. Introduction
- 2. Operating systems for Real-Time applications
- 3. Market
- 4. POSIX 1003 Standard
- 5. RTEMS operating system
 - (a) POSIX thread model of RTEMS and fixed priority scheduling
 - (b) Synchronization tools
 - (c) Clocks and timers management
- 6. Summary
- 7. References

Introduction

- Properties/constraints of embedded real-time systems:
 - 1. As any real-time systems: functions and timing behavior must be predictable.
 - 2. Extra requirements or constraints:
 - Limited resources: memory footprint, power, ...
 - Reduced accessibility for programmers.
 - High level of autonomy (predictability).
 - Interact with their environment, with sensors/actuators (predictability).
- Various kinds of execution platforms.

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Execution platform (1)

Main features/criteria

- Real-time abstractions: tasks, scheduling, interrupts, synchronization and communication tools, ...
- Portability: by the architecturen the standards (POSIX 1003, Ada 2005).
- Configurability: mandatory versus optional parts. Adaptation to application requirements. Memory footprint.
- Isolation: boundary of memory protection mechanisms.
- Support of real-time languages: mainly C, C++ and Ada.
- Ease access to hardware resources/devices.
- Level of predictability.
- Programming/compiling environment.

Execution platform (2)

Types of execution platforms

- Bare-metal runtime: no operating system (OS).
- Real-time operating systems (RTOS): OS but usually no system calls and memory protection.
- Real-time unix: OS, system calls, memory protection, spacial isolation.
- Time and space partitioned systems (TSP): both memory and time isolation (by scheduling).

Execution platform (3)

Application binary

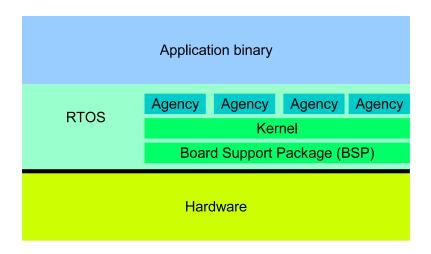
Baremetal library

Hardware

Bare-metal

- Highest level of predictability. Full access to hardware.
- No memory protection: system and application are linked alltogether
- High development cost if system re-design.
- System services; e.g. off-line scheduling, no concurrent tasks.
- Think about a library linked with your application.

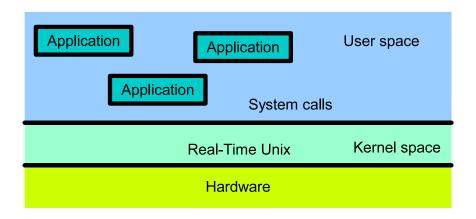
Execution platform (4)



RTOS, Real-Time operating system

- High predictability. Full access to hardware.
- Concurrent tasks and online ressource managment (scheduling).
- System needs configuration (agencies). More flexible if system re-design. Portability brought by layers: kernel and BSP.
- No memory protection. Both application tasks and kernel tasks share the same address space.

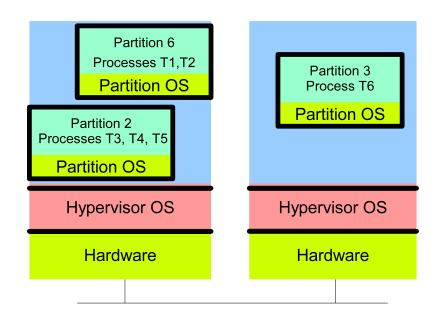
Execution platform (5)



Real-time Unix

- A Unix, but with higher preemptivity and real-time scheduling features.
- Lower level of predictibility.
- Usual programming environnment (i.e. no need to cross-compiler).
- Classical Unix Process/thread memory protection: kernel and user space + system calls.

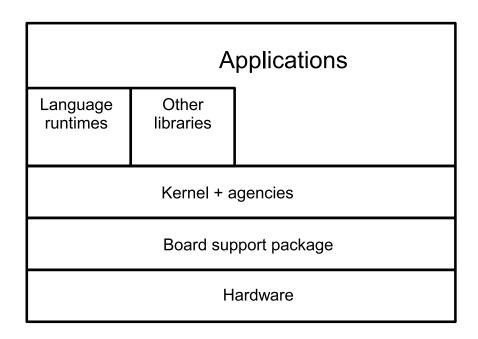
Execution platform (6)



Time and space Paritionning execution platform

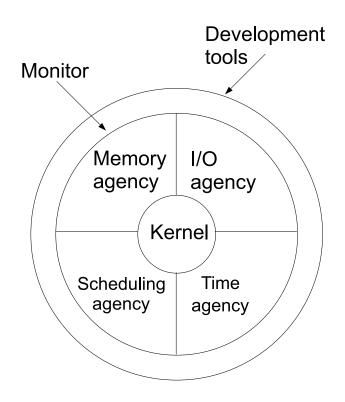
- Concepts of partitions and processes.
- Enforce both temporal and space isolation.
- 2 levels of OS, of scheduling (off-line partition scheduling + online process scheduling), of communication/synchronization (intra and inter partitions).

RTOS: Real-time operating system (1)



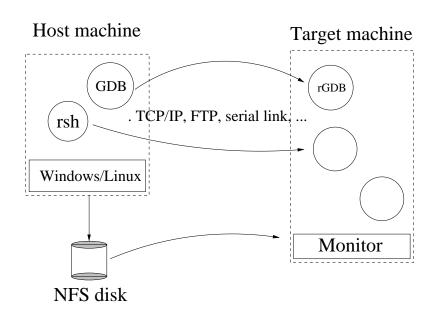
- Portability of programs: layered architecture to increase portability
 - Language runtimes: allow to run a program written with a given language (C or Ada).
 - BSP/Board support package: allows to port a system on different hardware devices/processors. Contains drivers.

RTOS: Real-time operating system (2)



- **Configurability**: required because small amount of resources : we only put into the system the mandatory agencies.
 - Kernel: mandatory part of the monitor.
 - Agencies: optional parts, depending on the hardware, on the application/system requirements.
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RTOS: Real-time operating system (3)



- Cross-compiling: because targets have a limited amount of resource (configurability) and are composed of specific hardware/software (timing behavior).
- Host: where we compile the program.
- Target: where we run the program.

RTOS: Real-time operating system (4)

Performances are a priori known and deterministic

- Allow schedulability analysis (task capacities).
- Use of benchmarks (e.g. Rhealstone, Hartstone, etc).

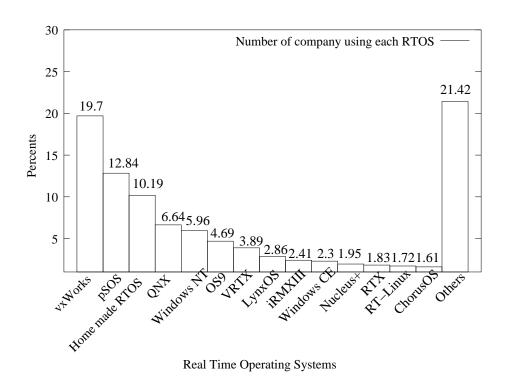
Main criteria

- Latency on interrupt.
- Latency on context switches.
- Latency on preemption.
- Semaphore shuffle (latency between the release of a semaphore and its allocation by a waiting task).
- Worst case response time of each system call, each subprogram of each library, ...
- etc

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Market (1)



• Specificities of this market [TIM 00]

- Large number of products: each product is devoted to a very few application types or domains.
- Many "home made" products.

Market (2)

Commercial

- VxWorks (RTOS, large spectrum of use e.g. Pathfinder, french satellite).
- pSOS (RTOS, mobile phone, military systems).
- VRTX (RTOS, mobile phone, military systems).
- LynxOs (real-time unix).
- PikeOS (TSP).

• Open-source

- OSEK-VDX (RTOS, automotive systems).
- RTEMS (RTOS, space and military applications).
- eCos (RTOS).
- RT-Linux, RTAI, Xenomai (real-time unix).
- POK (TSP).

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POSIX 1003 standard (1)

- Define a standardized interface of an operating system similar to UNIX [VAH 96].
- Published by ISO and IEEE. Organized in chapters:

Chapters	Meaning	
POSIX 1003.1	System Application Program Interface	
	(e.g. $fork$, $exec$)	
POSIX 1003.2	Shell and utilities (e.g. sh)	
POSIX 1003.1b [GAL 95]	Real-time extensions.	
POSIX 1003.1c [GAL 95]	Threads	
POSIX 1003.5	Ada POSIX binding	

• Each chapter provides a set of services. A service may be mandatory or optional.

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POSIX 1003 standard (2)

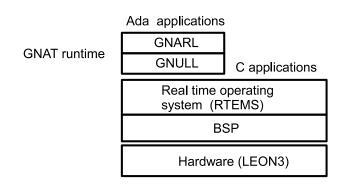
- Example of operating systems providing 1003.1b: Lynx/OS, VxWorks, Solaris, Linux, QNX, etc.. (actually, most of real-time operating systems).
- POSIX 1003.1b services :

Name	Meaning	
_POSIX_PRIORITY_SCHEDULING	Fixed priority scheduling	
_POSIX_REALTIME_SIGNALS	Real-time signals	
_POSIX_ASYNCHRONOUS_IO	Asynchronous I/O	
_POSIX_TIMERS	WatchDogs	
_POSIX_SEMAPHORES	Synchronization tools	
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Introducing RTEMS (1)



RTEMS operating system

- RTEMS: GNU GPL real-time operating system for C and Ada small hard real-time systems.
- Available for numerous BSP (included processor Leon: 32 bits, VHDL open-source, compliant with SPARC).
- RTEMS has several API: native, Itron, POSIX and Ada (GNAT/Ada 2005 compiler from AdaCore).
- Well adapted for space/aircraft applications.
- Cross-compiling: compile on Linux, run on Leon.

Introducing RTEMS (2)

RTEMS model of concurrency

- Single process/address space and multiple threads
- All flows of control (threads) share the same address space.

Why one address space only

- Simple memory model implies more deterministic behavior.
- Real-time system: only one application started when the system is switched on: no need to isolate several applications.
- Ease flows of control communication and make them efficient.

Introducing RTEMS (3)

- **Process in Unix** = execution context + private address space (i.e. not shared with the other Unix processes).
- For safety, each process has its own address space.

- What is displayed with Unix?
- And with RTEMS?

Introducing RTEMS (4)

• Simple RTEMS C program

```
#define CONFIGURE MAXIMUM POSIX THREADS 10
#define CONFIGURE MAXIMUM POSIX MUTEXES 7
#define CONFIGURE_MAXIMUM_POSIX_TIMERS
#define CONFIGURE MAXIMUM POSIX QUEUED SIGNALS 40
#define CONFIGURE APPLICATION NEEDS CLOCK DRIVER
#define CONFIGURE APPLICATION NEEDS TIMER DRIVER
#include <stdio.h>
void* POSIX_Init(void *argument) {
  printf("Hello world RTEMS\n");
  exit(0);
  return NULL:
```

Introducing RTEMS (5)

- POSIX_Init(): main entry point. High priority level flow of control that initializes the application => the application starts at POSIX_Init() completion => critical instant (real-time scheduling theory).
- exit(): stops the application. We can switch off the board!
- C macros: to select embedded agencies and resource requirements (number of threads, number of semaphores) => constraints of embedded systems. Defined in system.h in the sequel.

Introducing RTEMS (6)

Cross compiling

#make

1. Compile on Linux and generate a SPARC binary:

```
sparc-rtems4.8-gcc --pipe -B/home/singhoff/ADA/rtems-4.8//sparc-rtems
-g -Wall -O2 -g -g -mcpu=cypress -msoft-float
-o o-optimize/hello.exe o-optimize/init.o
sparc-rtems4.8-nm -g -n o-optimize/hello.exe > o-optimize/hello.num
sparc-rtems4.8-size o-optimize/hello.exe
           data
                            dec
                                    hex filename
   text
                    bss
 109840
                   5360 118852 1d044 o-optimize/hello.exe
           3652
#file o-optimize/hello.exe
o-optimize/hello.exe: ELF 32-bit MSB executable, SPARC, version 1 (S)
#file /bin/ls
/bin/ls: ELF 32-bit LSB executable, Intel 80386, version 1 (SYSV),
dynamically linked (uses shared libs), for GNU/Linux 2.6.15, stripped
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```

Introducing RTEMS (7)

Cross-compiling (cont)

- 2. Send the binary to the Board/Leon processor (TCP/IP, serial link, ...).
- 3. Run the program on the board/Leon processor. Software emulator tsim (Leon 3 processor emulator).

```
#tsim o-optimize/hello.exe
TSIM/LEON3 SPARC simulator, version 2.0.15 (evaluation version)
allocated 4096 K RAM memory, in 1 bank(s)
allocated 32 M SDRAM memory, in 1 bank
allocated 2048 K ROM memory
read 2257 symbols
tsim > run
resuming at 0x40000000
** Init start **
** Init end **
Hello world RTEMS
Program exited normally.
tsim > quit
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```

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POSIX threads with RTEMS (1)

- Compliant with chapter POSIX 1003.1c. Define both thread and synchronization tools.
- POSIX_Init(): main thread of the application
- exit(): stops all threads. We can switch off the board!
- A thread inherit scheduling parameters from its creating thread.
- system.h: configure RTEMS kernel according to the number of threads (and semaphores too) => we cannot create threads as much as we want (deterministic system).

POSIX threads with RTEMS (2)

pthread_create | Spawn a thread.

Parameters: code, attributes, arg.

Terminate a thread.

Parameters: return code.

pthread_self Return thread id

pthread_cancel Delete a thread.

Parameters: thread id.

pthread_join | Wait for

 $pthread_exit$

 $pthread_detach$

 $pthread_sigmask$

 $pthread_kill$

the completion of a son.

Delete relationship between

a son and its father.

Send a signal to a thread.

Change signal mask

of a thread. Univ. Brest/Lab-STICC Page 31/63

POSIX threads with RTEMS (3)

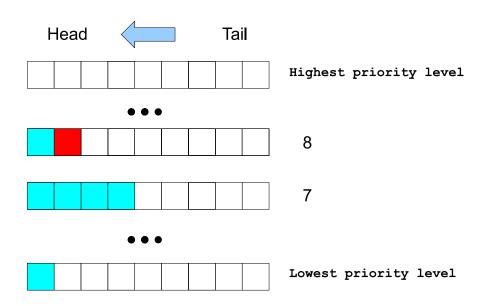
```
void* th(void* arg) {
        printf("Thread %d is running\n", pthread_self());
        pthread_exit(NULL);
}
void* POSIX_Init( void *argument) {
 pthread t id1 ,id2;
 if (pthread_create(&id1, NULL, th, NULL)!=0)
  perror("pthread_create1");
 if (pthread_create(&id2, NULL, th, NULL)!=0)
  perror("pthread_create2");
 if (pthread_join(id1,NULL)!=0)
   perror("pthread_join 1");
 if (pthread_join(id2, NULL)!=0)
   perror("pthread join 2");
 printf("End of the application\n");
 exit(0);
```

POSIX threads with RTEMS (4)

Compile and run

```
#make
sparc-rtems4.8-gcc ...
#
#tsim o-optimize/join.exe
tsim> run
Thread 184614914 is running
Thread 184614915 is running
End of application
Program exited normally.
tsim> quit
```

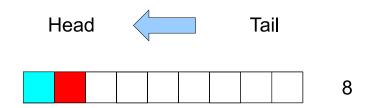
POSIX 1003 scheduling (1)



POSIX real-time scheduling model

- Preemptive fixed priority scheduling. At least 32 priority levels.
- Scheduling parameters are either inherited (PTHREAD_INHERIT_SCHED attribute) of explicitly changed (PTHREAD_EXPLICIT_SCHED attribute).
- Two-levels scheduling:
 - 1. Choose the queue which has the highest priority level with at least one ready process/thread.
 - 2. Choose a process/thread from the queue selected in (1) according to a **policy**.

POSIX 1003 scheduling (2)



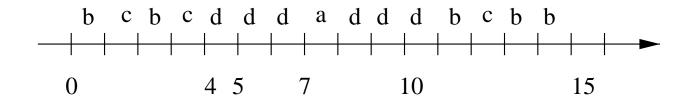
POSIX policies:

- SCHED_FIFO: when a thread becomes ready, it is inserted in the tail of its
 corresponding priority queue. Give the processor to the thread in the head of the
 queue. When blocked or terminated, a thread leaves the queue and the next
 process/thread in the queue gets the processor.
- 2. SCHED_RR: SCHED_FIFO with a time quantum. A time quantum is a maximum duration that a thread can run on the processor before preemption by an other thread of the same queue. When the quantum is exhausted, the preempted thread is moved to the tail of the queue.
- 3. $SCHED_OTHER$: implementation defined (may implement a time sharing scheduler).

POSIX 1003 scheduling (3)

Example:

Task	C_i	S_i	Priority	Policy
a	1	7	1	FIFO
b	5	0	4	RR
c	3	0	4	RR
d	6	4	2	FIFO



- Quantum SCHED_RR = 1 unit of time.
- Highest priority level 1.

POSIX 1003 scheduling (4)

POSIX policy

Scheduling parameters

```
struct sched_param
{
   int sched_priority;
   ...
};
```

We can perform scheduling parameter updates

- 1. When threads are created (with attribute or inheritance).
- 2. At any time (with specific POSIX functions).

POSIX 1003 scheduling (5)

 $sched_get_priority_max$

 $sched_get_priority_min$

 $sched_rr_get_interval$

 $sched_yield$

 $pthread_setschedparam$

 $pthread_getschedparam$

Read maximum

priority level

Read minimum

priority level

Read quantum

Release the processor

Assign priority/policy

Read priority/policy

Thread attributes (1)

- Attributes: properties of a thread that are set at thread creation.
 - Have a default value (e.g. stacksize).

Attribute name	Meaning
detachstate	$pthread_join$ possible or not
schedpolicy	scheduling policy
schedparam	fixed priority (and other parameters)
inheritsched	inheriting scheduling parameters
stacksize	thread memory requirement
stackaddr	address of the thread stack

- ⇒ Allow to customize threads for real-time systems
 - Specification of resource requirements: memory/stack.
 - Specification of scheduling parameters.

Thread attributes (2)

• pthread_attr_t type: store attribute data. Must be initialized before thread creation.

pthread_attr_init
pthread_attr_delete
pthread_attr_setATT
pthread_attr_getATT

Allocate an attribute
Remove an attribute
Set a value to an attribute
Read the value of an attribute

with ATT, the name of the attribute.

Thread attributes (3)

```
void * th (void * arg) ...
void* POSIX_Init(void *argument) {
 pthread_attr_t attr;
 pthread t id;
 struct sched_param param;
 pthread attr init(&attr);
 if (pthread_attr_setinheritsched(&attr,PTHREAD_EXPLICIT_SCHED)!=0)
  perror("pthread_attr_setinheritsched");
 if (pthread_attr_setschedpolicy(&attr,SCHED_RR)!=0)
  perror("pthread_attr_setschedpolicy");
param.sched_priority=130;
 if (pthread_attr_setschedparam(&attr,&param)!=0)
  perror("pthread_attr_setschedparam");
 if (pthread_create(&id,&attr,th,NULL)!=0)
  perror("pthread create");
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```

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Synchronization tools (1)

Different types

- 1. Mutexes
- 2. Counting semaphores
- 3. Conditional variables

Mutexes versus semaphores (1)

Mutexes

- Optimized for critical section only:
 - P() and V() of the same mutex in this order only.
 - The task who does the last P() of a mutex must be the one who will do the next V() on that mutex.
 - Inner P() of nested P() of a mutex, called by the same task, may be not blocking.
 - Cannot be used otherwise.
- Most of the time based on efficient hardware mechanisms, i.e. spinlock, test-and-set.

Mutexes versus semaphores (2)

Counting semaphores

- Less efficient than mutexes.
- No priority inheritance (no PCP like protocol).
- Can be used to build any synchronization
 - P() and V() can be called in any order.
 - P() and V() of the same semaphore can be called by different tasks.

Mutex (1)

- Semaphores that are optimized for critical section.
- Composed of a queue and a boolean.
- Semaphore queue : threads are sorted according to their priority if SCHED_FIFO or SCHED_RR.
- Behavior can be tailored with attributes:

Attribute name	Meaning
protocol	Inheritance protocol
pshared	not used with RTEMS
prioceiling	PCP/PIP priority ceiling

- protocol can have the following values:
 - ▶ PTHREAD_PRIO_NONE: blocking order is FIFO.
 - PTHREAD_PRIO_INHERIT: blocking order is priority with PIP.
 - PTHREAD_PRIO_PROTECT: blocking order is priority with PCP.

Mutex (2)

```
pthread\_mutex\_init
                              Initialize a mutex
                              Lock;
pthread\_mutex\_lock
                              may be blocking
                              Try to lock;
pthread\_mutex\_trylock
                              unblocking primitive
                              Unlock
pthread\_mutex\_unlock
                              Delete a mutex
pthread\_mutex\_destroy
                              Initialize an
pthread\_mutexattr\_init
                              attribute
                              Set an attribute
pthread\_mutexattr\_setATT
pthread\_mutexattr\_getATT
                              Read an attribute
```

with ATT, the name of the attribute.

Counting semaphore (1)

- Can be used for any synchronization, and not only critical section.
- Semaphore composed of a queue and an integer.
- No attribute.
- Semaphore queue: threads are sorted according to their priority if SCHED_FIFO or SCHED_RR.

Counting semaphore (2)

sem_init	Initialize a semaphore
sem_destroy	Delete a semaphore
sem_post	Unlock semaphore.
sem_wait	Lock a semaphore ;
	may be blocking
sem_trywait	Unblocking locking semaphore

Counting semaphore (3)

• Example:

```
sem t sem;
void* POSIX_Init( void *argument)
  pthread_t id; struct timespec delay;
  if (sem_init(\&sem,0,0)!=0)
   perror("sem_init");
  if (pthread_create(&id, NULL, th, NULL)!=0)
    perror("pthread create");
  delay.tv_sec=4; delay.tv_nsec=0;
  nanosleep(&delay, NULL);
  printf("Main thread %d : unlock thread %d\n",pthread_self(),id);
  if (sem_post(&sem)!=0)
```

Counting semaphore (4)

• Example (cont):

```
void* th(void* arg) {
  printf("thread %d is blocked\n",pthread_self());
  if(sem_wait(&sem)!=0)
    perror("sem_wait");
  printf("thread %d is released\n",pthread_self());
}
```

• Compile and run:

```
$make
sparc-rtems4.8-gcc ...
$
$tsim o-optimize/sem.exe
tsim>run
thread 184614914 is blocked
Main thread 184614913 : unlock the thread 184614914
thread 184614914 is released
```

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Clocks and Timers (1)

We look for means to

- Set and read clocks, sometimes with different levels of precision/accuracy.
- Suspend the execution (sleep) of a task.
- Implement periodic releases of periodic tasks.

Clocks and Timers (2)

- Real-time system may have specific clock hardware.
 POSIX 1003.1b provides a generic interface, for any hardware/operating system.
- Real-time extensions of clock service from POSIX 1003.1b
 - A system may have several "real-time" clocks (CLOCK_REALTIME identifier).
 - Any POSIX 1003.1b must have at least one "real-time" clock.
 - Constraints on accuracy/precision: at least 20 ms. But actual precision depends on hardware and operating system.
 - Clocks can be used to create timers.

Clocks and Timers (3)

What is a timer

- A timer is an entity that is counting down events.
- A timer as an initial value. When it reaches zero, it usually triggers the execution of a suprogram: RTEMS/POSIX triggers a signal in this case.

What is a signal

- Signal: event/message asynchronously sent to a process or a thread. Each signal has a known number (e.g. signal.h).
- Signals can be ignored/masked, pended or delivered. Behavior can be specified by the programmer (signal table).

Clocks and Timers (4)

 $clock_gettime$

 $clock_settime$

 $clock_getres$

timer_create

 $timer_delete$

timer_getoverrrun

 $timer_settime$

timer_gettime

nanosleep

Return current time

Give a value to a clock

Read precision

of a clock

Create a timer

Delete a timer

Return the number

of pending signal for a timer

Start the timer

Read remaining time

before a timer has exhausted

Block a thread

for an amount of time

Clocks and Timers (5)

Example of a timer with SIGALRM signal

```
void *POSIX Init( void *argument) {
  timer_t myTimer;
  struct timespec waittime;
  struct sigaction sig;
  struct itimerspec ti;
  struct sigevent event;
  sigset t mask;
  siq.sa flaqs=0;
  sig.sa handler=handler;
  sigemptyset(&sig.sa_mask);
  sigaction(SIGALRM, &sig, NULL);
  sigemptyset(&mask);
  sigaddset(&mask,SIGALRM);
  sigprocmask(SIG UNBLOCK, &mask, NULL);
```

Clocks and Timers (6)

Example of a timer with SIGALRM signal (cont)

```
event.sigev notify=SIGEV SIGNAL;
event.sigev_value.sival_int=0;
event.sigev_signo=SIGALRM;
timer create(CLOCK REALTIME, &event, &myTimer);
ti.it_value.tv_sec=1;
ti.it value.tv nsec=0;
ti.it interval.tv sec=0;
ti.it interval.tv nsec=0;
timer settime(myTimer, 0, &ti, NULL);
printf("Wait for timer ...\n");
waittime.tv sec=10;
waittime.tv nsec=0;
nanosleep(&waittime, NULL);
exit(0);
return NULL;
```

Clocks and Timers (7)

Example of a timer with SIGALRM signal (cont)

```
void handler(int sig)
{
         printf("Signal %d received : timer exhausted\n", sig);
}
```

Compile and run:

```
$make
sparc-rtems4.8-gcc ...
$tsim o-optimize/alarm.exe
tsim> run
resuming at 0x40000000
Wait for timer ...
Signal 14 received : timer exhausted
Program exited normally.
tsim> q
```

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- 4. POSIX 1003 Standard
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- RTOS: portability (architecture), configurability (resource available), cross-compiling, RTOS adapted to each domain/application.
- RTEMS: one process/several threads, several API including POSIX.
- POSIX API for real-time systems: thread and fixed priority scheduling, semaphore/mutex and inheritance protocols, timer/clock and periodic thread releases. ⇒ may lead to the development of real-time applications that can be compliant with real-time scheduling theory.

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References

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