Using the Digital I/O interface of STMicroelectronics STM32 Microcontrollers

Corrado Santoro

ARSLAB - Autonomous and Robotic Systems Laboratory
Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica - Università di Catania, Italy
santoro@dmi.unict.it

L.S.M. Course
What is a “digital I/O interface”?

- It is an interface in which each electrical pin may have two states:
  - Logical 0 (it means 0V);
  - Logical 1 (it means 5V or 3.3V on the basis of the VDD);

- Each line can be programmed as:
  - an **output** (it “generates” current and can be used, for example, to light a LED)
  - an **input** (it “receives” current and can be used, for example, to read a pushbutton)
MCUs of the STM32 family have several **digital ports**, called GPIOA, GPIOB, GPIOC, ..., 

Each port has **16 bits** and thus **16 electrical pins**

Pins are referred as $P_{xy}$, where $x$ is the port name (A, B, ..., E) and $y$ is the bit (0, 1, ..., 15).

As an example, the pin $PC_{3}$ is the bit 3 of the port C.

Each PIN has also an **alternate function**, related to a peripheral e.g. Timer, UART, SPI, etc.

According to the MCU package, not all bits are mapped to electrical pins. This is a choice “by-design”.
The General Purpose I/O (GPIO) Interface of STM32

Figure 12. STM32F401xD/xE LQFP64 pinout
To use a specific GPIO line (pin), the following operations are needed:

**Set-up**
1. Initialize the whole GPIO port (this operation basically enables the clock line to the GPIO port)
2. Set the direction (input or output) of the pin you intend to use

**Operate**
- Read the GPIO pin, if it is programmed as “input”, or
- Write the GPIO pin, if it is programmed as “output”

These operations are made really simple using the `stm32_unict_lib`

Corrado Santoro
Digital I/O in STM32 Family
Example: setting **PA5** as output and using it

**Set-up**

1. Initialize the whole GPIO port (this operation basically enables the clock line to the GPIO port)
   ```c
   GPIO_init(GPIOA);
   ```
2. Set the direction of the pin you intend to use
   ```c
   GPIO_config_output(GPIOA, 5);
   ```

**Operate**

- Write “0” to PA5:
  ```c
  GPIO_write(GPIOA, 5, 0);
  ```
- Write “1” to PA5:
  ```c
  GPIO_write(GPIOA, 5, 1);
  ```
The Nucleo64 Addon Board

Digital I/O in STM32 Family

Corrado Santoro
First Example: Flashing a LED

```c
#include "stm32_unict_lib.h"

void setup(void)
{
    GPIO_init(GPIOB); // initialize port B
    GPIO_config_output(GPIOB, 0); // configure pin PB0 as output
}

void loop(void)
{
    GPIO_write(GPIOB, 0, 1); // set PB0 to 1
    delay_ms(500); // wait 0.5 secs
    GPIO_write(GPIOB, 0, 0); // set PB0 to 0
    delay_ms(500); // wait 0.5 secs
}

int main()
{
    setup();
    // infinite loop
    for (;;) {
        loop();
    }
}
```
Example: setting **PC3** as input and using it

**Set-up**

1. Initialize the whole GPIO port (this operation basically enables the clock line to the GPIO port)
   
   ```c
   GPIO_init(GPIOC);
   ```

2. Set the direction of the pin you intend to use
   
   ```c
   GPIO_config_input(GPIOC, 3);
   ```

**Operate**

- Read PC3 pin:
  
  ```c
  int pinval = GPIO_read(GPIOC, 3);
  ```

- “pinval” can be “0” or “1”
First Example: Read a Pushbutton and lit the LED

```c
#include "stm32_unict_lib.h"

void setup(void) // pushbutton on PB10; LED on PC2
{
    GPIO_init(GPIOB); // initialize ports
    GPIO_init(GPIOC);
    GPIO_config_input(GPIOB, 10); // pin PB10 as input
    GPIO_config_output(GPIOC, 2); // pin PC2 as output
}

void loop(void)
{
    int pinval = GPIO_read(GPIOB, 10);
    GPIO_write(GPIOC, 2, !pinval);
}

int main()
{
    setup();
    // infinite loop
    for (;;) {
        loop();
    }
}
```

Inside the code....

- What are the GPIOA, GPIOB, ... variables?
- What are the prototypes of the GPIO functions?

GPIOA, GPIOB, ... are **global variables** defined in CMSIS libraries as:

```c
GPIO_TypeDef * GPIOA;
GPIO_TypeDef * GPIOB;
...;
```

- **GPIO_TypeDef** is a structure whose fields are the special-function-registers (SFRs) of a GPIO port

- Each GPIOA, GPIOB, ... variable is a **pointer** to a **GPIO_TypeDef** and represents the **address** of the memory holding the SFRs of that port
The GPIO function prototypes

- Initialize a GPIO port:
  
  ```c
  void GPIO_init(GPIO_TypeDef * port);
  ```

- Configure a GPIO pin as input:
  
  ```c
  void GPIO_configure_input(GPIO_TypeDef * port, int pin_num);
  ```

- Configure a GPIO pin as output:
  
  ```c
  void GPIO_configure_output(GPIO_TypeDef * port, int pin_num);
  ```

- Write to an output pin:
  
  ```c
  void GPIO_write(GPIO_TypeDef * port, int pin_num, int pin_val);
  ```

- Read from an input pin:
  
  ```c
  int GPIO_read(GPIO_TypeDef * port, int pin_num);
  ```

- Change the state of an output pin:
  
  ```c
  void GPIO_toggle(GPIO_TypeDef * port, int pin_num);
  ```
Using the Digital I/O interface of STMicroelectronics STM32 Microcontrollers

Corrado Santoro

ARSLAB - Autonomous and Robotic Systems Laboratory
Dipartimento di Matematica e Informatica - Università di Catania, Italy
santoro@dmi.unict.it

L.S.M. Course