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C++OS on 2nd RP2040 Core

C++OS goes Multi-Core

emBO++

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C++OS on 2nd RP2040 Core

C++OS goes Multi-Core

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Overview

What and Why?

C++

C++OS

RP2040

Executors

Pico

Dual Core

Coroutines

Sender/Receiver

Why C++OS?

References



What?

- C++ Standard Interface
 - not implementation
 - C++ compiler is not an OS
- C++OS
 - a specific implementation
 - not complete



C++OS on RP2040

- Dual core
 - no real SMP
 - special synchronization
- C++OS support
 - see what's required
 - what are the challenges



Why?

- Portability
- Testing / Simulation
 - on host
- Maintenance
 - well known API
- Control Structures
 - well known mechanisms



Why RP2040?

- Easily available
- ARM Cortex-M0+ based
- Documentation not too bad
- SDK as documentation
- It's pretty cool hardware



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Concurrency

- C++11 provided thread, async
- Synchronization
 - mutex, condition_variable
 - latch, barrier, semaphore, atomic_wait
- Memory model
- Atomics



Time

- Current time
 - chrono
- Durations
 - Sleep
- No Timers
 - missing event mechanism



More C++ Support

- Minimal event support
 - interrupts are signals
- Event model part of Networking TS
 - based on callbacks
 - problematic lifetime issues
- Coroutines
 - still no real library support
- Filesystem



Standard C++ Library

- C++ provides much for small systems beyond synchronization and tasks
 - not only freestanding!



Standard Library

```
#include <string>
#include <vector>
#include <memory_resource>
#include <charconv>

constexpr size_t pmrSize = 1024;
std::byte pmrBuf[pmrSize];
StaticAllocator alloc(pmrBuf, pmrSize);
std::pmr::vector<int> vi({10, -24, 3456}, &alloc);
std::pmr::vector<std::pmr::string> vs(&alloc);
void fillVect()
{
    vi.push_back(-713);
    vs.push_back(std::pmr::string(" Hello", &alloc));
    vs.push_back(std::pmr::string(" AVR", &alloc));
}
```



execution

- C++ Standard Proposal (P2300)
 - heterogenous computing resources
 - `std::thread` is not sufficient
 - event handling model
 - aimed for C++26



Execution Contexts

- `std::thread` is insufficient
- Execution contexts provide agents to run tasks
 - `std::async`, `std::thread`
 - thread pool
 - ISR
 - other core (GPU)
- Execution contexts not part of API
- Execution contexts provide schedulers
- Schedulers have a function `schedule()`



Event Interface

- Many (embedded) systems are event triggered
- Sender/Receiver provides the standard interface for this
 - not:
`async_event(ev, callback);`
 - but:
`ev | callback;`
- Some details still open
- Networking proposal expected
- Planned for C++26



Queues

- Important communication mechanism
- Between different tasks
- Between ISRs and tasks
 - needs to be lock-free on ISR side



Sender/Receiver Queues

- The role of queues in the sender/receiver model is still largely open
- But the most important point of sender/receiver is customization
 - but the customization mechanism is still open
- Any queues between two stages can be customized to the involved execution agents



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C++OS Goals

- Implement full C++ on small systems
- Some extensions specific for small systems
- Native ARM
 - Cortex-M0, Cortex-M3/4
- Native 8-bit AVR
 - AVR6
- Hosted implementation on FreeRTOS
 - ESP32



Standard Library

- Lot of C++ Standard Library is OS independent
 - "freestanding"
- Even non-freestanding
 - `<chrono>`
 - `just now()` is missing
 - `<mutex>`
 - `lock_guard`, `unique_lock`
 - just `mutex` itself is missing
 - etc...
- GCC's `libstdc++` can be built e.g. for ARM, AVR, MSP430
 - C++OS simply fills the gaps



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RP2040

- Based on ARM Cortex-M0+
 - not designed for multi-core (ARMv6, not ARMv7)
- Special Synchronization HW
 - CPUID
 - spinlocks
 - FIFO
- SMP / no SMP
 - Shared Memory Processing
 - not Symmetrical Multi-Processing
 - no "cache coherence"



C++OS on RP2040

- Single core
- Standard Cortex-M0+ support
- No Pico SDK
 - does some resource management and synchronization
 - job of OS
 - somewhat fragmented
- Support for `std::mutex`, `std::condition_variable`
- Support for `std::atomic`
 - not complete



Examples

- Simple Test example
 - setup some tasks and start them
 - nice test for correct porting



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Executors in P2300

- Nearly non-existent
- No `execution_context` interface
 - not even how to get a scheduler
- No concrete execution contexts
 - not even a thread pool



C++OS Executors

- `exec_context`
 - classic pre-emptive multi-tasking
- `single_context`
 - if you don't want preemption
 - based on hardware (not based on just a thread)
 - also `LoopExecutor`
- `IrqContext`
 - for interrupt service routines
 - not for RP2040 yet



Synchronization

- (Lock-free) atomics work everywhere
 - no implementation for `atomic_notify`, `atomic_wait` yet
 - most others should work
- `std::mutex` and `std::condition_variable` only specified for standard preemption
- Basic event proposal P0073R2
 - notify from one execution context to another
 - possible m:n problem
 - possibly multiple others
 - somewhat superseded by `atomic_notify`, `atomic_wait`
 - but mainly standard thread only



Events

- C++OS provides event as implementation mechanism behind e.g. `std::mutex`
- Originally for `exec_context` only
 - `block()`, `unblock_one()` and `unblock_all()`
- New support for `notify_one` templated on the sending executor
 - interface not settled
- Requires special support from executor



Queues

- Classic queue
 - blocking and non-blocking push and pop
 - implementation actually taken from the host
 - can be used from ISR (`try_` only)
- Event based queue
 - queue body
 - separate push and pull ends templated on executor
 - blocking and non-blocking (`try_`) push and pop
 - implementation based on event
 - only single-ended (yet)



Examples

- Simple test example
 - three tasks in `exec_context`
 - first task creates numbers and pushes them into first queue
 - second task waits a bit and then transfers to second queue
 - third task consumes second queue
- Tests full and empty conditions



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Pico W

- WiFi modem
 - connected via SPI
 - special SPI via PIO
- Idea: WiFi speaker
 - previous version based on Espressif and FreeRTOS
- I2S also via PIO



WiFi Speaker

- Using SnapCast
- Sound encoded via Opus
 - decoding on second core
- WiFi didn't work out
 - using UART connection instead
 - simple modification to `snapsrvr`



Code

- ISR for UART pushes Opus frames into first queue
- Decoder task decodes the frame and pushes PCM to second queue
- ISR for I2S pulls from second queue and puts them out



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Dual Core

- No traditional SMP
 - tasks can't migrate cores
- Currently only `single_context`
 - templated on core id
 - blocking should be WFI
 - startup for second core needs special code
- Atomics based on spinlock
- Event notification via FIFO



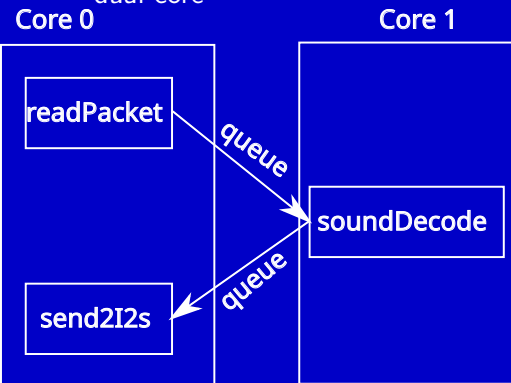
Examples

- Queue test as before
 - second task now on second core
- WiFi speaker also just puts decoder on second core



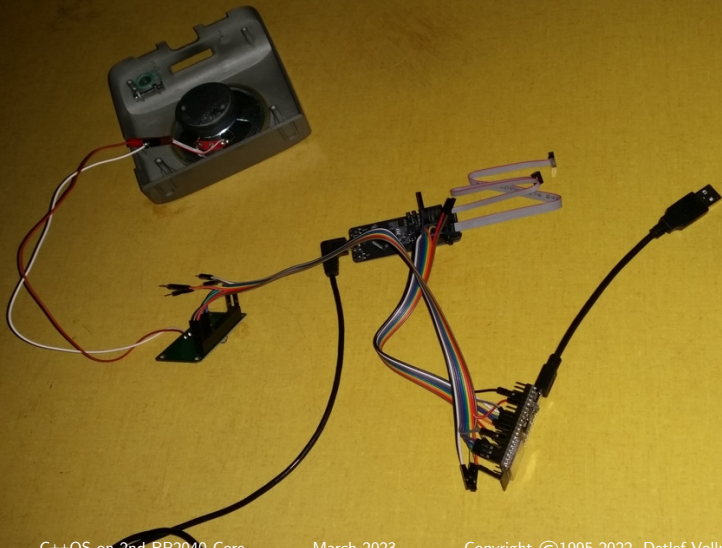
Examples

- Wireless speaker
 - receive sound stream from WiFi
 - decode it
 - send to I2S
 - dual core





Hardware





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Coroutines

- Coroutines avoid much of the overhead
 - especially if no scheduling is required
 - typical for event based systems
- Still no standard task class



Queues for Coroutines

- Queues need coroutines for push and pop
- Coroutine promise must register for events
- Scheduler required based on select/epoll mechanism
- No implementation yet



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Pico

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Examples

- Interrupts
 - transfer data from ISR to application

IRQ Context

APP Context

timerTask

queue

printTask



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Don't Use C++OS

- C++OS is a proof of concept
- C++OS is a toy to try out new C++ proposals
- Not for production use
 - buggy
 - no tests
 - incomplete
 - no interrupt policy



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Code

- Any code shown here can be found at <https://gitlab.com/cppos1/embo-2023>



References

- These slides:
<http://www.vollmann.ch/>
- Implementation:
<https://gitlab.com/cppos1/cppos>
- Standard proposals, TSes:
<http://www.open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG21/docs/papers/>
- Executors:
[2022/p2300r4.html](http://www.open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG21/docs/papers/2022/p2300r4.html)
- Queues:
[2019/p0260r3.html](http://www.open-std.org/JTC1/SC22/WG21/docs/papers/2019/p0260r3.html)



Questions

- ???