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Leverage the **i.MX 6 Series** **Applications Processor** for Industrial Applications

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Session Introduction

- This session talks about how to maximize computing performance and take advantage of flexible interfaces using the i.MX 6 series applications processor
 - Learn how to enable and use common acceleration units on i.MX 6 series
 - Recognize the benefit and flexibility i.MX 6 series offers for attaching peripherals
- About myself:
 - My name is Hans-Peter Rosinger, I am an Freescale field application engineer for the i.MX processor and Vybrid controller solution product lines.
 - I am based in Munich, Germany, and support industrial and general embedded customers.
- This session will last about 50min with Q&A at the end.



Session Objectives

- After completing this session you will be able to:
 - Specify industrial grade i.MX 6 series processors which are pin compatible and part of the Freescale product longevity program
 - Describe acceleration units the i.MX 6 series processor offers
 - Enable and use them on i.MX 6 series processors running Linux
 - Select the most appropriate interface on the i.MX 6 series for connecting peripherals depending on your application requirements



Agenda

- Overview of i.MX 6 series processors
 - Target applications
 - Features and industrial highlights
- Maximize i.MX 6 series computing performance
 - Take advantage of the NEON on chip acceleration unit
 - Integrate it into your application software
 - Let the GPU do the job featuring OpenCL
 - Power vs. performance trade off
- Connect peripherals to i.MX 6 series
 - Leverage many feature rich and flexible interfaces
 - Low latency / high throughput options on i.MX 6 series connecting an ASIC or FPGA
- Summary

i.MX 6 Series Target Applications

Automotive



- Infotainment
- Telematics
- Instrument Clusters
- Vision/Camera Systems

eReaders



- Monochrome eReader
- Color eReaders



Smart Devices



- IPTV/Streaming Media
- Transportation – in-flight infotainment, marine navigation, in-car signage
- Health Care – patient monitoring, telehealth, fitness equipment
- Factory, process and building automation
- Handheld scanners and printers
- Digital signage
- Thin Client and cloud server
- Point of sale terminal and printer
- Tablets – medical, educational, industrial
- IPTV/Streaming media
- IP phone
- Test and Measurement
- Appliances
- Home audio

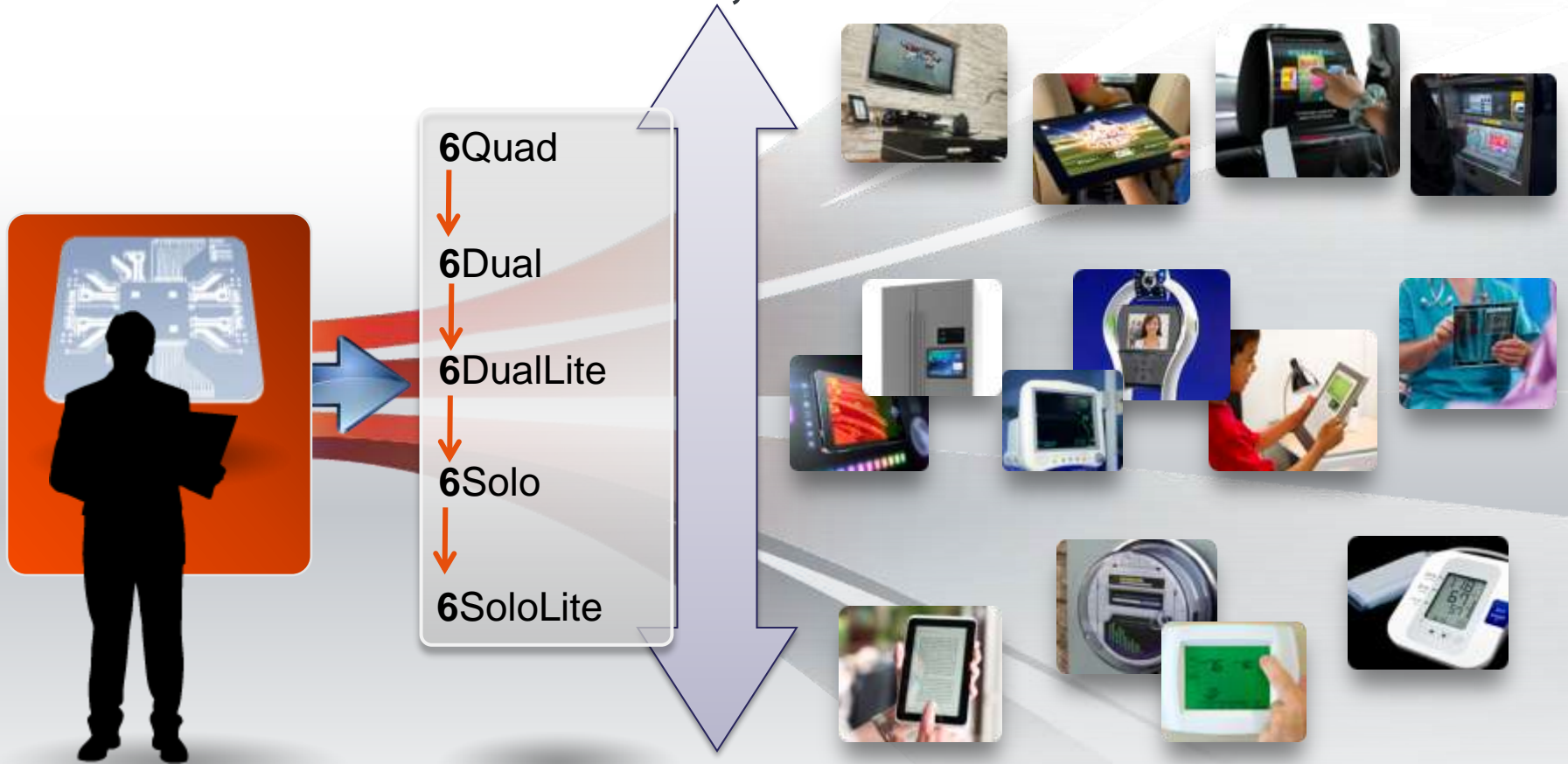
i.MX 6 Series Industrial Grade Features



*Features vary
by product family*

- **ARM® Cortex™-A9 based solutions** with up to 800MHz
- **Video playback in high definition** for stunning visual experience
- **Triple Play graphics architecture** enables graphics with separate 3D and 2D graphics engines
- Display interfaces **LVDS, Parallel and HDMI** display technology
- **Optimized peripheral sets:** PCIe/SATA/GbE, USB/SD/MIPI and CAN/MLB150 tailored for the auto infotainment, consumer and industrial markets
- **64-bit memory bus for optimal performance**, and memory interfaces support DDR3, DDR3L and LP-DDR2
- **Integrated power management** simplifies design and reduces external components
- **Specialized support for harsh conditions** unique to automotive and industrial environments (i.e. extreme temperatures)

i.MX 6 Series: One Platform, Differentiated Products



- Provide customers and partners with the **broadest range** of choices
- Reduce **development costs** and **improve** time to market
- **Performance scalability** is key to implement this strategy

NXP 6 Series At a Glance

Scalable series of five ARM Cortex A9-based SoC families

i.MX 6SoloLite

- Single ARM® Cortex™-A9 at 1.0GHz
- 256KB L2 cache, Neon, VFPvD16, Trustzone
- 2D graphics
- 32-bit DDR3 and LPDDR2 at 400MHz
- Integrated EPD controller



i.MX 6Solo

- Single ARM Cortex-A9 at 1.0GHz
- **512KB** L2 cache, Neon, VFPvD16, Trustzone
- **3D graphics** with 1 shader
- 2D graphics
- 32-bit DDR3 and LPDDR2 at 400MHz
- Integrated EPD controller



i.MX 6DualLite

- **Dual** ARM Cortex-A9 at 1.0GHz
- 512KB L2 cache, Neon, VFPvD16, Trustzone
- 3D graphics with 1 shader
- 2D graphics
- **64-bit** DDR3 and 2-channel 32-bit LPDDR2 at 400MHz
- Integrated EPD controller



i.MX 6Dual

- **Dual** ARM Cortex-A9 at 1/**1.2GHz**
- **1 MB** L2 cache, Neon, VFPvD16, Trustzone
- 3D graphics with **4 shaders**
- **Two** 2D graphics engines
- 64-bit DDR3 and 2-channel 32-bit LPDDR2 at **533MHz**
- Integrated **SATA-II**



i.MX 6Quad

- **Quad** ARM Cortex-A9 at 1.2GHz
- 1 MB L2 cache, Neon, VFPvD16, Trustzone
- 3D graphics with 4 shaders
- Two 2D graphics engines
- 64-bit DDR3 and 2-channel 32-bit LPDDR2 at 533MHz
- Integrated SATA-II



Pin-to-pin and Power Compatible

Software Compatible

i.MX 6 Series Highlights

- ARM Cortex-A9 based solutions ranging up to 1.2GHz
- HD 1080p encode and decode (except 6SL)
- 3D video playback in High definition (except 6SL)
- SW support: Google Android™, Windows® Embedded CE, Linux®

Features vary by product family

i.MX 6 Series for Industrial



- Broad Software Support
 - Mature Freescale Linux offering with LTS Kernel support
 - Broad Android offering with 3.x and 4.x
 - Windows Embedded support through proven partners
 - RTOS support including QNX, VxWorks, Integrity
 - Strong Ecosystem with Module Manufacturers and Software Integrators
- Industrial Environment and Peripheral Support
 - 3.3V IO
 - 0.8mm pitch package to reduce PCB & manufacturing cost
 - Flexible interface supporting LP-DDR2, DDR3 and LV-DDR3
 - Broad peripheral support – Gbit ethernet, CAN, SATA, PCI-E, LVDS, MIPI
 - Extended Temp range available with full Industrial qualified parts
- Up to 15 year lifetime support for manufacturing

i.MX 6 Series Product Longevity

- Certain devices in the i.MX 6 series have been added to Freescale's product longevity program
- Visit freescale.com/productlongevity for more information

i.MX 6 Family	Part #	Description	Package	Temp Range	Longevity	Product Launch
i.MX 6Quad	MCIMX6Q6AVT10AD	1GHz Automotive	21x21, 0.8mm FCBGA lidded	-40C to +125C	15yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6Quad	MCIMX6Q7CVT08AD	800MHz Industrial	21x21, 0.8mm FCBGA lidded	-40C to +105C	10yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6Dual	MCIMX6D6AVT10AD	1GHz Automotive	21x21, 0.8mm FCBGA lidded	-40C to +125C	15yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6Dual	MCIMX6D7CVT08AD	800MHz Industrial	21x21, 0.8mm FCBGA lidded	-40C to +105C	10yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6DualLite	MCIMX6U6AVM08AC	800MHz Automotive	21x21, 0.8mm MAPBGA	-40C to +125C	15yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6DualLite	MCIMX6U7CVM08AC	800MHz Industrial	21x21, 0.8mm MAPBGA	-40C to +105C	10yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6Solo	MCIMX6S6AVM08AC	800MHz Automotive	21x21, 0.8mm MAPBGA	-40C to +125C	15yrs	2012-11
i.MX 6Solo	MCIMX6S7CVM08AC	800MHz Industrial	21x21, 0.8mm MAPBGA	-40C to +105C	10yrs	2012-11

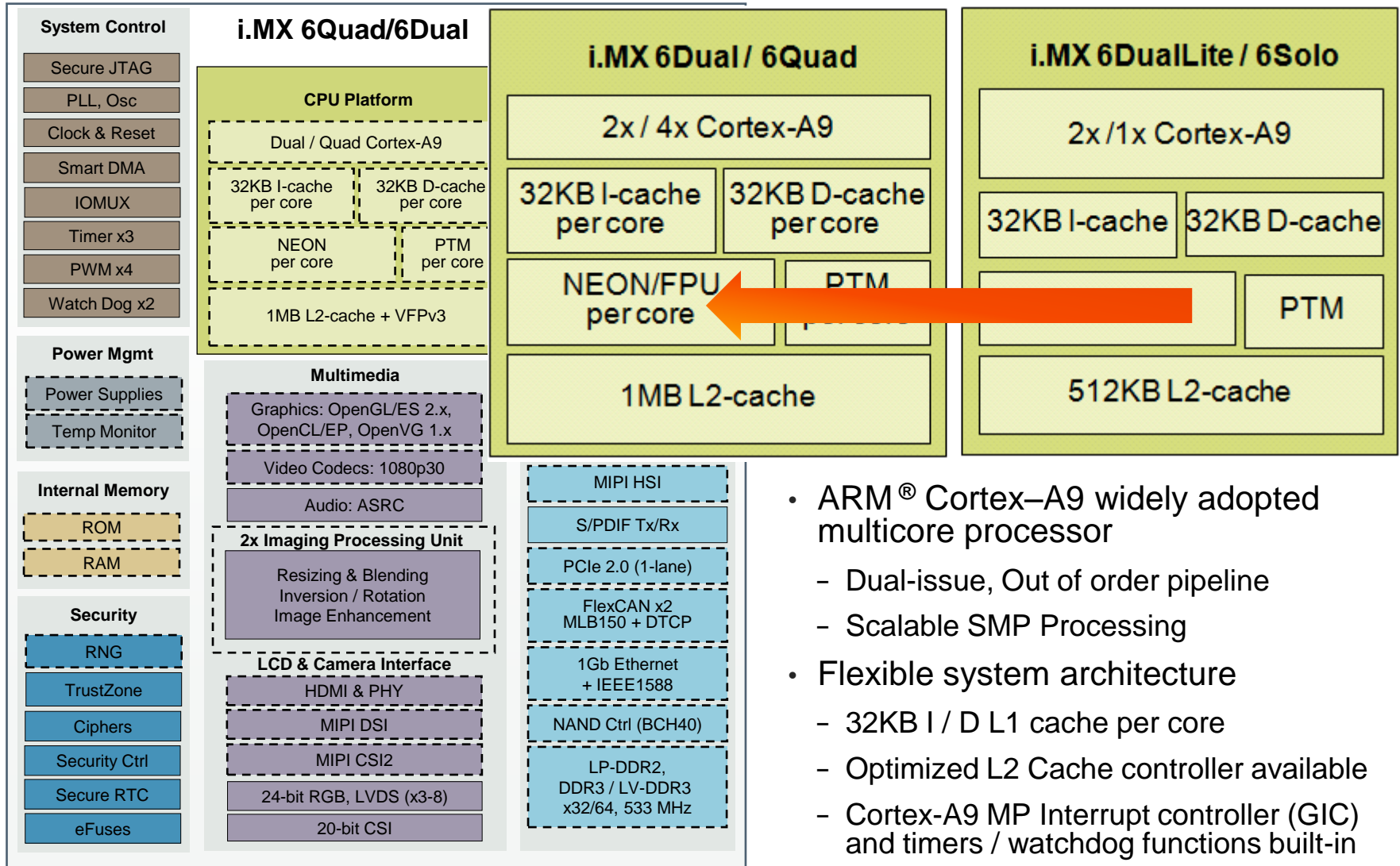


Maximize i.MX 6 Series Computing Performance

Why Computing Performance in Industrial?

- Application for object detection / gesture recognition
 - Require mathematical algorithms
- Growing display and camera resolution required for HMI
 - Image processing capabilities
- Demand for similar “consumer like” user experience
 - Graphics acceleration
- Battery powered devices in industrial automation
 - Compute smart and power efficient

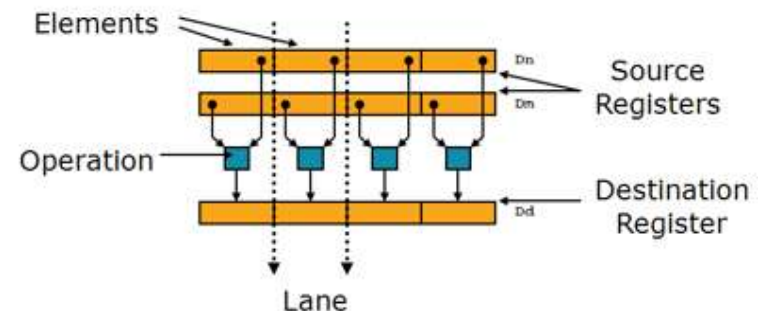
i.MX 6Quad/6Dual Applications Processor



- ARM® Cortex-A9 widely adopted multicore processor
 - Dual-issue, Out of order pipeline
 - Scalable SMP Processing
- Flexible system architecture
 - 32KB I / D L1 cache per core
 - Optimized L2 Cache controller available
 - Cortex-A9 MP Interrupt controller (GIC) and timers / watchdog functions built-in

ARM® NEON Acceleration Unit

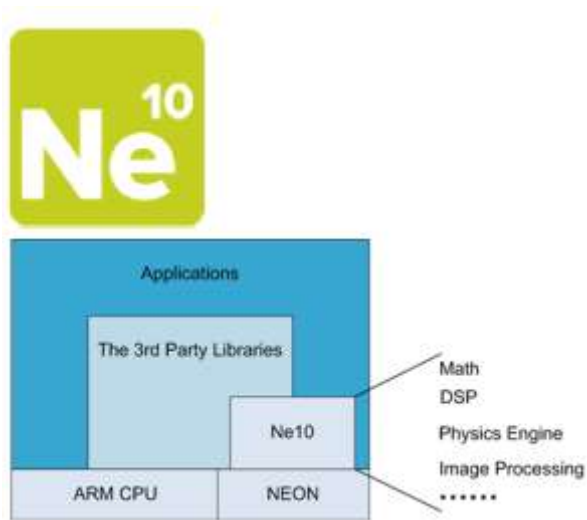
- NEON® is a wide SIMD (Single Instruction, Multiple Data) data processing architecture
 - Extension for ARM Cortex-A series processors and ARM instruction set
 - It provides support for the ARM v7 Advanced SIMD and Vector Floating-Point v3 (VFPv3) instruction sets.
- 32 registers, 64 bite wide (dual view as 16 registers, 128-bits wide)
- NEON instructions perform “Packed SIMD” processing
 - Registers are considered as vectors of elements of the same data type
 - Data types can be:
 - Singed/unsigned 8-bit, 16-bit, 32-bit 64-bit, single precision or floating point
 - Instructions perform same operation in all lane
- With the exception of simultaneous loads / stores, the processor can execute SIMD(VFP) instructions in parallel with ARM or Thumb instructions



Software Enablement

- NEON can be enabled on Bare Metal Code
 - No OS required
 - Inline Assembler
 - NEON Intrinsics available (for GCC when mfpu=neon)
- Freescale offers Platform SDK
 - Bare metal SDK for i.Mx6 Series
 - starts Cortex-A9 (optional enable, NEON, L1 Cache, MMU, etc)
 - Reusable drivers and tests for many peripherals
 - <https://community.freescale.com/docs/DOC-94139>
- But how to enable NEON on an OS?

ARM® Ne10 Project



- Some facts:
 - An Open Optimized Software Library Project for the ARM architecture
 - The Ne10 library provides a set of the most commonly used functions that have been heavily optimized for ARM based CPUs with NEON
 - The library focuses on matrix/vector algebra and signal processing
 - Ne10 will evolve over time
 - License refer to <http://projectne10.github.io/Ne10/doc/>
- Software Enablement
 - Easy enablement on i.MX 6 series Linux or Android platforms
 - No assembly coding required to use libraries
 - Chose function from Ne10 pre-built library



Ne10 Supported Functions



Math Functions	Signal Processing Functions	Image Processing Functions
Vector Add / Sub	Complex FFT	Image Resize
Matrix Add / Sub	Float/Fixed point Complex FFT	Image Rotate
Vector Multiply / Multiply-Accumulator	Float/Fixed point Real2Complex FFT	
Matrix Multiply / Vector Multiply	Finite Impulse Response (FIR) Filters	
Vector Div / Setc / Len / Normalize / Abs / Dot / Cross / Rsbc	Finite Impulse Response (FIR) Decimator	
Matrix Div / Determinant / Invertible / Transpose / Identify	Finite Impulse Response (FIR) Interpolator	
	Finite Impulse Response (FIR) Lattice Filters	
	Finite Impulse Response (FIR) Sparse Filters	
	Infinite Impulse Response (IIR) Lattice Filters	

Full documentation: <http://projectne10.github.io/Ne10/doc/modules.html>

Four Steps to Use Ne10 on i.MX 6 Series Running Linux

- Prepare target or host
 - ARM GCC, cmake, make, git
- Download Ne10 project
 - \$ git clone git://github.com/projectNe10/Ne10
- Compile and use library
 - \$cd \$NE10PATH, mkdir build, cd build, cmake .., make
 - libNE10.a is placed in \$NE10PATH /build/modules/
 - A test program "NE10_test_static" is placed in \$NE10PATH /build/samples/.
 - More tests can be compiled \$NE10PATH /build/test/
- You can run it

Demo on i.MX 6Quad Sabre SDB

3

1+ Scanning dependencies of target NE10

```

[ 0%] Building C object modules/CMakeFiles/NE10.dir/math/NE10_abs.c.o
[ 1%] Building C object modules/CMakeFiles/NE10.dir/math/NE10_addc.c.o
[ 2%] Building C object modules/CMakeFiles/NE10.dir/math/NE10_add.c.o
[ 3%] Building C object modules/CMakeFiles/NE10.dir/math/NE10_divc.c.o
[ 83%] Building C object test/CMakeFiles/NE10_dsp_unit_test_static.dir/__/modules/dsp/test/test_suite_iir.c.o
[ 84%] Building C object test/CMakeFiles/NE10_dsp_unit_test_static.dir/src/seatest.c.o
[ 85%] Building C object test/CMakeFiles/NE10_dsp_unit_test_static.dir/src/unit_test_common.c.o

```

```

root@imx6qsabresd:~/Ne10/build/test# ls
CMakeFiles  Makefile  NE10_dsp_unit_test_static  NE10_imgproc_unit_test_static  NE10_math_unit_test_static

```

```

root@imx6qsabresd:~/Ne10/build/test# ./NE10_imgproc_unit_test_static
----- /home/root/Ne10/modules/imgproc/test/test_suite_resize.c -----
1 run 0 failed

----- /home/root/Ne10/modules/imgproc/test/test_suite_rotate.c -----
1 run 0 failed

```

```

===== SEATEST v0.5 =====

ALL TESTS PASSED
2 tests run
in 1009 micro-s
=====

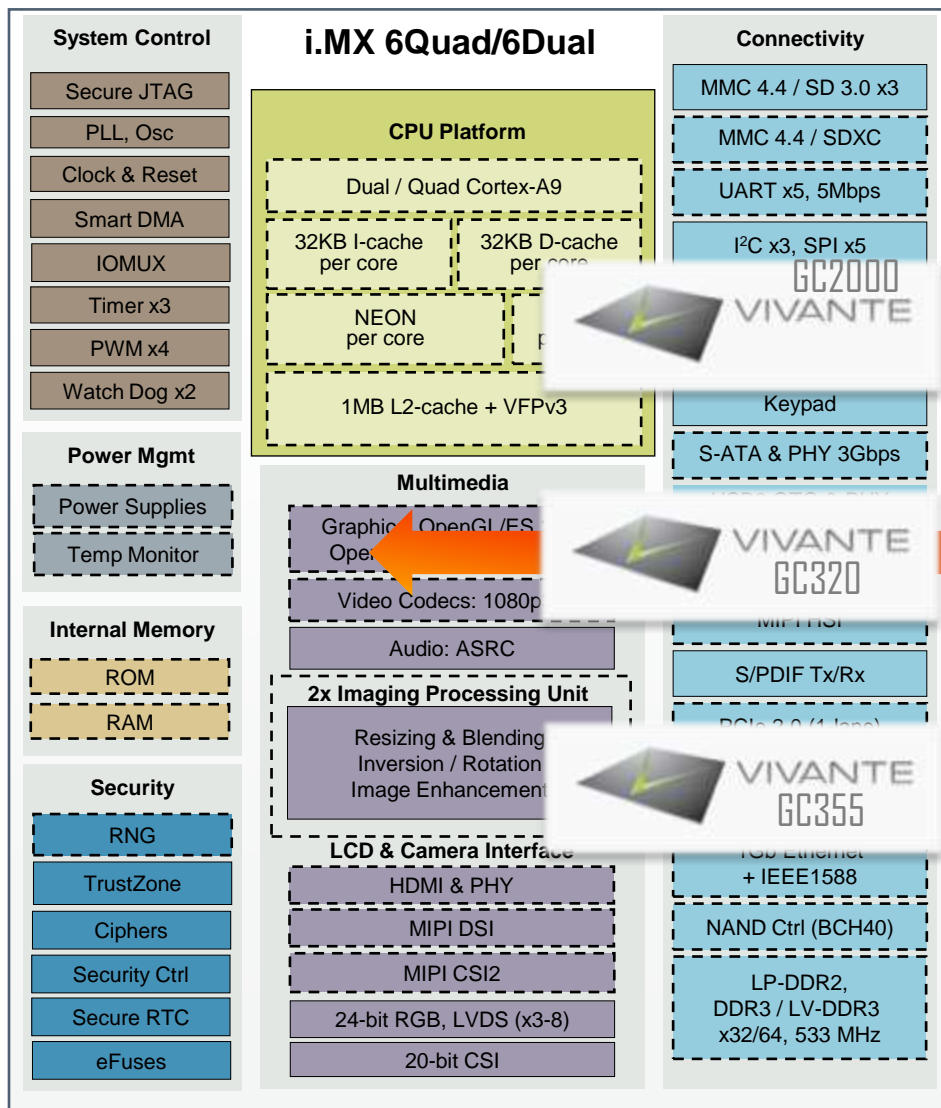
```

```

root@imx6qsabresd:~/Ne10/build/test#

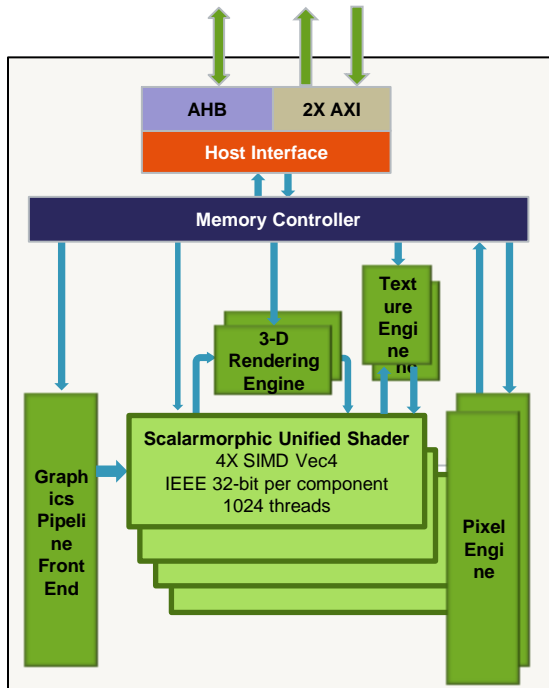
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i.MX 6Quad/6Dual Applications Processor



- Introducing the i.MX Triple-Play Graphics Solution
- High-Performance OpenGL/OpenCL GPU Core
 - Vivante GC2000 @ 528MHz (600 MHz shader)
 - 88M triangles / sec (176MT/s @ 50% cull)
 - 4 Shader Cores: 21.6 GFLOPS
 - 1056 M Pixels/s, 1056 M Texels/ s
- High-Performance Composition Engine 2D Core
 - Up to 633M pixels / sec raw performance
 - Vivante GC320
- High-Performance Vector Graphics Core
 - 264M Pixels / sec raw performance
 - Native OpenVG 1.1 vector acceleration with hardware tessellation
 - Vivante GC355

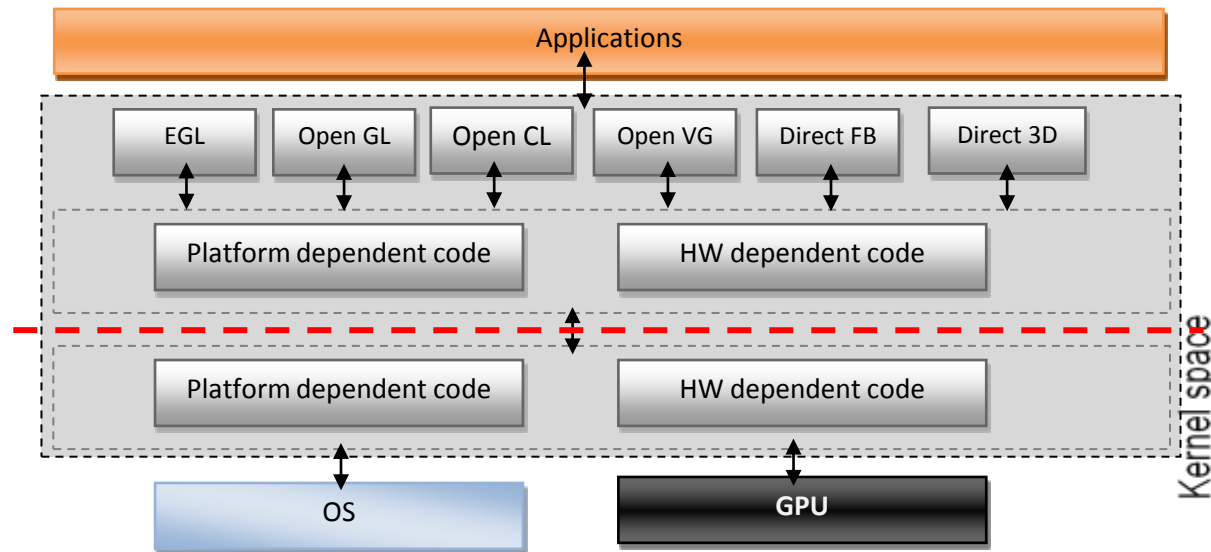
Vivante GC2000 ScalarMorphic™ Architecture



- Architectural Features
 - CoolThreads™ multilevel clock gating and massive data parallelism
 - 4X SIMD Vec-4 unified shaders (IEEE single precision FP)
 - Point sample, bi-linear/tri-linear and cubic/volumetric textures
 - Balanced performance/ bandwidth
 - Memory locality / Texture compression
 - Frame buffer/Z compression
 - Native OpenGL ES 2.0 rendering
 - Quality 4x MSAA anti-aliasing
 - Depth buffering
- System Functionality
 - Up to 1024 independent threads
 - Low bandwidth characteristics for both simple and complex scenes
 - Comprehensive API support
 - OpenGL ES 1.1 / 2.0
 - OpenVG 1.1
 - OpenGL 2.1 & 3.0 (w/ GLX)
 - OpenCL 1.1 EP

i.MX 6 Series GPU Driver Overview

- The GPU driver is structured in a “User space” part and a “Kernel space” part that communicate through ioctls
- The user side contains command buffers where the application puts commands for the GPU
- On the kernel side, command queues are used to link and manage the command buffers supplied
- The hardware is synchronized with the software through hardware events



OpenCL Overview

- OpenCL is an open specification API from the Khronos Group
 - Same standards body that made OpenGL, OpenVG, OpenMAX, etc.
- OpenCL enables asynchronous multi-core programming for heterogeneous computing environments
 - Allows the user to run work 'kernels' that run over large data sets and across many processors
 - Effectively makes GPU look like a cluster of DSPs executing on a task
 - i.MX 6Q/D implements the OpenCL 1.1 Embedded Profile
- Language Specification
 - C-based cross-platform programming interface
 - Subset of ISO C99 with language extensions - familiar to developers
 - Well-defined numerical accuracy (IEEE 754 rounding with specified max error)
 - Online or offline compilation and build of compute kernel executables
 - Includes a rich set of built-in functions
- Platform Layer API
 - A hardware abstraction layer over diverse computational resources
 - Query, select and initialize compute devices
 - Create compute contexts and work-queues
- Runtime API
 - Execute compute kernels
 - Manage scheduling, compute, and memory resources

OpenCL Example Use Cases

OpenCL efficient functions

- Haar-like Features / Wavelets
- Sobel Line Detection
- Computing Eigenvalues
- FFT
- Noise Generation
- DCT
- Histogram Generation
- Histogram of Oriented Gradients (HOGs)
- Demosiac

i.MX 6 Series Open CL Execution Model

Compute Units per device (Shader cores)	4
Processing Elements per compute unit	4
Profile	Embedded
Preferred work-group/ thread group size	16
Max count global work-items each dim	64K
Max count of work-items each dim per work-group	1K
Instruction Memory	512
Texture Samplers available to OCL	4
L1 Cache Size	4KB

Power Versus Performance Tradeoff

- Simple test on i.MX 6Quad SabreSDB – Yocto 3.10.17 Beta Release
- Enabled two Cortex-A9 cores
- Vector ADD (Data type float32)
 - Cortex-A9
 - Cortex-A9 + NEON
 - Cortex-A9 + OpenCL (GC2000)
- Depending on size NEON / OpenCL can show significant performance boost
- On small data size OpenCL sub optimal or even worse because of OpenCL overhead
- Significant power consumption increase (~+60%) when enabling OpenCL

Best Reasons When to Chose NEON / GPU OpenCL

- When CPU utilization is high due to DSP and MATH computing
 - Filter (IIR, FIR) MAC, Floats
- When dealing with vectors
- NEON runs at CPU speed and takes advantage of L1/L2 cache
- CPU and NEON can make use of local SRAM
- Make use of Ne10 Library to use NEON for Linux or Android applications
- OpenCL can bring more performance and is more flexible

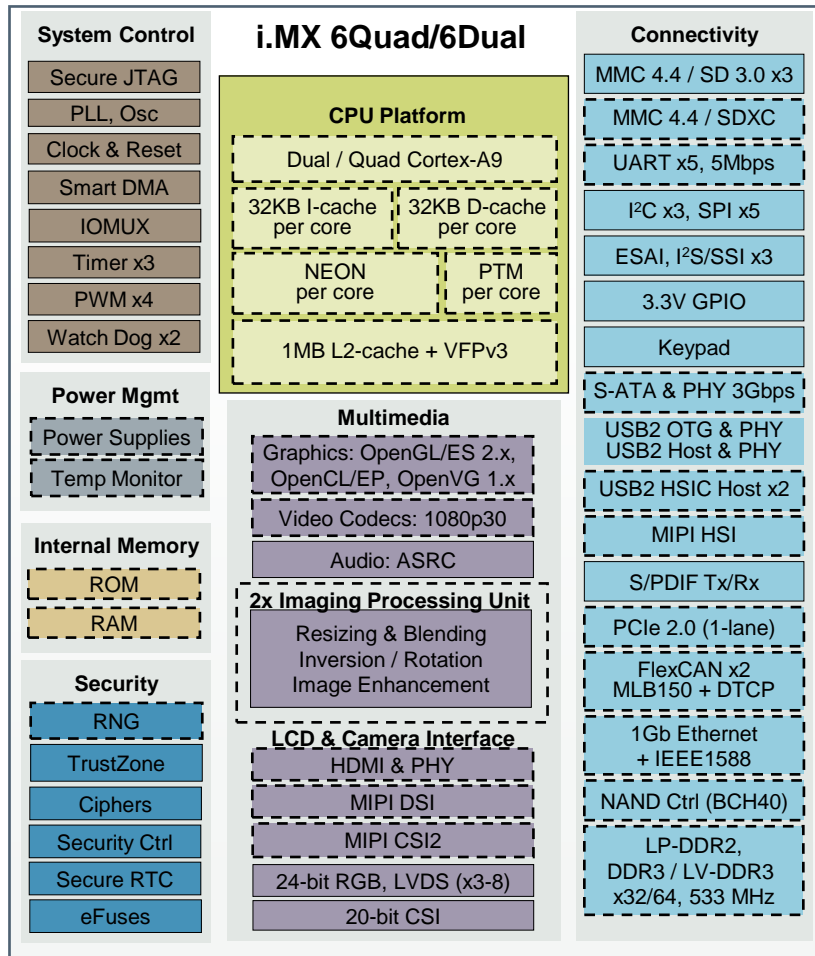


Connect Peripherals to i.MX 6

Why Attach or Integrate Peripherals in Industrial?

- Industrial IO Systems
 - Support (different) industrial Ethernet protocols
 - Require often Integration of proprietary ASIC or FPGA
 - Flexible and efficient interface
- Compact form factors
 - CPU needs to service additional channels (UART, USB, etc)
- Cooling due to compact size or closed body an issue
 - Power efficient system architectures required
- At the same time data throughput demand growing
 - An high throughput interface is required

i.MX 6 Series Interface Offering



- i.MX 6 series Industrial Ethernet support (partners)
 - EtherCAT master
 - PROFINET RT (Not IRT)
 - Modbus TCP
 - IEEE 1588
 - DeviceNet (CAN)
- EtherCAT slave or other proprietary Interfaces require ASIC / FPGA

External Interface Module (EIM)

- The EIM handles the interface to devices peripherals and memory to the chip
- Feature Highlights:
 - Up to four chip selects for external devices
 - Support for multiplexed address / data bus operation
 - Programmable wait-state generator for each CS
 - Asynchronous or Synchronous access to devices
 - Flexible 8/16 or 32-bit configurable data width
 - Asynch. page Mode access and Burst support for synch mode
 - External Interrupt Support

EIM Benefit and Software Enablement

- Connect FPGA / ASIC directly through i.MX 6 series EIM
- No protocol overhead thus efficient when accessing small data junks (single bytes, half or words)
- If real-time data are computed in external peripheral they can be transferred with low latency to i.MX 6 series (could run Linux RT Xenmai)
- To burst data is are possible
- Driver can directly memory map EIM address space
- Freescale provides reference driver in Platform SDK
 - Bare metal driver can be ported to Linux, WinCE or RTOS





PCI Express Overview

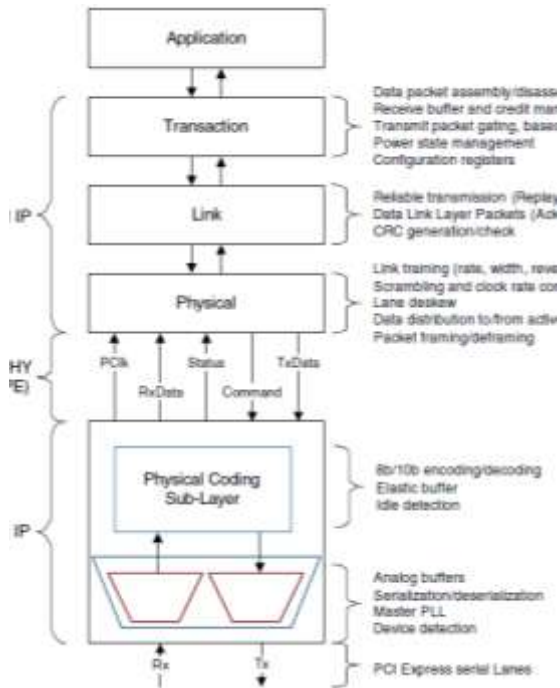
- PCIe Specification
 - <http://www.pcisig.com/specifications/pciexpress/>
- PCI Express architecture is a high performance, IO interconnect for peripherals in computing/communication platforms
- Evolved from PCI and PCI-X architectures
 - 32-bit or 64-bit data bus, addressing scheme
 - Bus arbitration
- PCIe enhancements
 - Point-to-point connection
 - Serial high Speed Interface (1,2,4,8,16, etc Lanes)
 - PCIe uses differenc encoding shemes like 8b/10b
 - Higher throughput
- PCIe Topology
 - PCIe Root Complex (typical Master or main CPU)
 - PCIe Endpoint (typical high speed Peripheral)
 - PCIe Switch (Peripheral Expander)





- PCIe include the following cores
 - PCIe Dual Mode (DM) core
 - PCIe Root Complex (RC) core
 - PCIe Endpoint (EP) core
 - AXI Bridge to Interconnect
- PCI Express PHY supports
 - PCIe 2.0 / 5Gbps
 - PCIe 1.1 / 2.5 Gbps
 - IEEE 1149.6 (JTAG) Bscan
 - Built in self Tester (BIST)

PCIe Protocol Stack

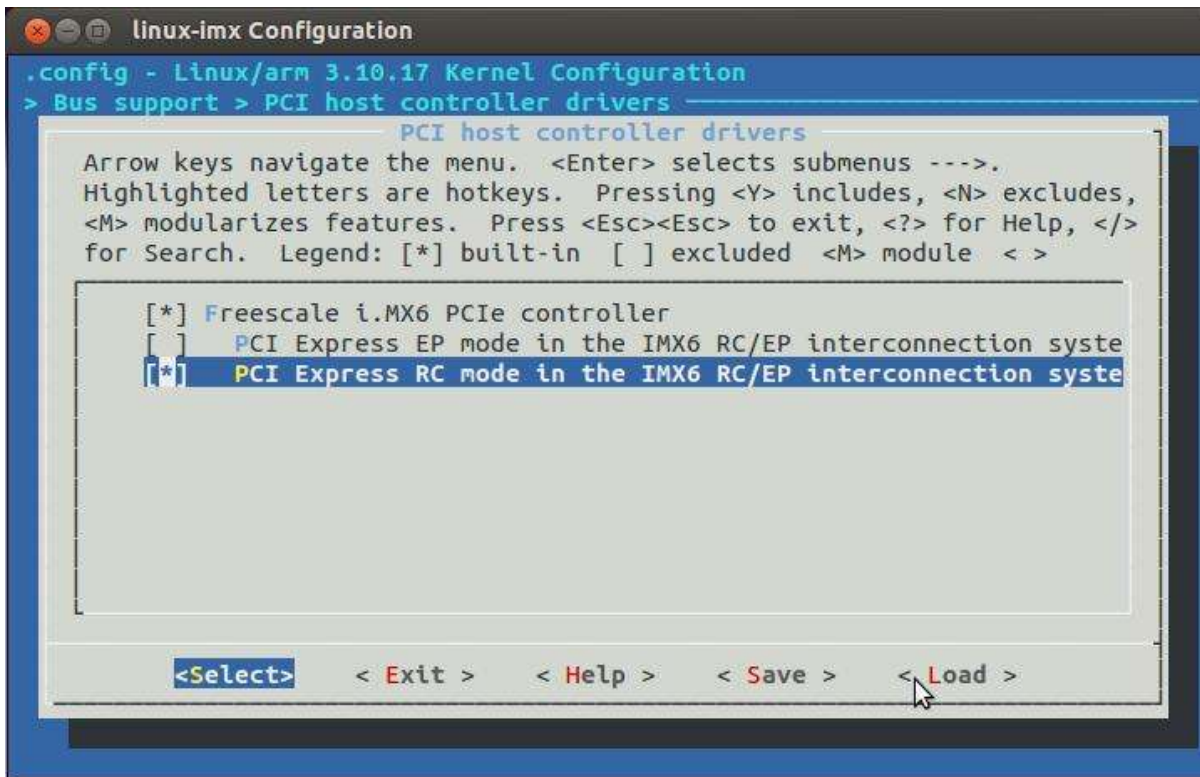


- PCI Express Dual Mode controller and PCIe PHY hide most of the complexity of the protocol from application
- PCIe complex implements standard PIPE interface between digital logic (PCIe controller) and interface PHY
- i.MX 6 series BSP supports PCIe



How to Enable PCIe Driver in FSL Linux

- i.MX 6 series FSL Yocto 3.10.17 release supports PCIe
 - Root Complex or Endpoint Driver



Demo of Using and Testing PCIe WLAN Card

- Follow Linux RM – PCIe How to test
 - Generic IEEE 802.11 Networking Stack (mac80211) used by WIFI devices
 - Symbol: MAC80211 [=y] Type : tristate Prompt: Generic IEEE 802.11 Networking Stack (mac80211) Defined at net/mac80211/Kconfig:1 Depends on: NET [=y] && WIRELESS [=y] && CFG80211 [=y] Location: -> Networking support (NET [=y]) -> Wireless (WIRELESS [=y])
 - CONFIG_IWLWGN: Select to build the driver supporting the: Intel Wireless Wi-Fi Link Next-Gen AGN
 - WIFI firmware configurations:
 - iwlgan: Intel(R) Wireless WiFi Link AGN driver for Linux, in-tree:
 - iwlgan: Copyright(c) 2003-2011 Intel Corporation
 - PCI: enabling device 0000:01:00.0 (0140 -> 0142)
 - iwlgan 0000:01:00.0: Detected Intel(R) Centrino(R) Ultimate-N 6300 AGN, REV=0x74
 - iwlgan 0000:01:00.0: device EEPROM VER=0x43a, CALIB=0x6
 - iwlgan 0000:01:00.0: Device SKU: 0Xb
 - iwlgan 0000:01:00.0: Valid Tx ant: 0X7, Valid Rx ant: 0X7
 - iwlgan 0000:01:00.0: Tunable channels: 13 802.11bg, 24 802.11a channels

i.MX 6 Series PCI Express Throughput Results

	ARM Core used as the bus master and cache disabled	ARM Core used as the bus master and cache enabled	IPU used as the bus master (DMA)
Data size in one write tlp	8 bytes	32 bytes	64 bytes
Write speed	~109 MB/s	~298 MB/s	~344 MB/s
Data size in one read tlp	32 bytes	64 bytes	64 bytes
Read speed	~29 MB/s	~100 MB/s	~211 MB/s

Summary

- i.MX 6 series is an successful and optimal choice for industrial applications
 - i.MX 6Quad to i.MX 6Solo full pin to pin compatible
 - Industrial qualified devices
 - Part of the Freescale product longevity program
 - i.MX 6 series offers several computing engines
 - ARM Cortex-A9 including NEON / VFPv3
 - Vivante GP GPU supporting OpenCL
 - i.MX 6 series rich and flexible interfaces
 - Choose between flexible and low latency (EIM) vs. high data throughput (PCIe)



www.Freescale.com