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An Advanced Embedded Application for Receiver Processor Unit

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Abstract

To meet the specific requirements of the users for different platforms like ships, aircrafts, helicopters, ground vehicles and submarines Electronic Warfare (EW) systems are used. The Embedded System will have broadband and narrowband operations to meet the strategic needs of EW systems. Broadband operation is achieved by employing a Wide Open Receiver, which will attain 100% Probability of Intercept(POI), whereas narrowband receiver will help in achieving higher sensitivity and better Range Advantage Factor(RAF) against Low Probability of Intercept(LPI) radars. Our proposed scheme is to develop an advancedEmbedded application for Receiver Processor Unit (RPU) to generate the controls for the Digitally Tuned Oscillator(DTO) and the switches in the Built In Test Equipment (BITE) distribution network based on the BITE Command received from System Controller Display (SCD). The output of the RF Source is fed to the programmable attenuator to adjust the power levels required to check the dynamic range of the receiver. In this paper, the proposed RPU generates the controls for various devices like switch filter bank, homodyne receiver etc. The embedded application is thoroughly tested for its functionality using the given lookup table and the results are found to be satisfactory.

Keywords: Receiver Processor Unit (RPU), System Controller Display (SCD), Electronic Support Measure Processor (ESMP), Homodyne Receiver, Switch Filter Bank (SFB), Quad Super Heterodyne Receiver (QSHR).

INTRODUCTION

In the earlier systems, it was enough to have serial communication (RS -232) [1-2] as there were few threats prevailing in the environment and the characteristics themselves were not complex in nature. So the data flow (updates from ES) was very slow and the serial link was suiting in the demand. The modern radars transmit very complex waveforms, such as Chirp, Pseudo random sequence (baker, phase coded) within the pulse, making it very difficult for jammer to run them. The ES should extract these features from the waveform and classify the radar in order to take counter action. The more information extraction of the signal link definitely increases the size of data on serial link which would take a fixed amount of time. So the jammer cannot immediately take the action against the radar. Even though serial port is harder to program than the parallel port this is the most effective method in which the data transmission requires less wire which gives rise to lesser cost. The RS-232 is communication line which enables the data transmission by only three wire links. The three links provide transmit, receive and common ground. The transmit and receive lines on this DB-9 connector send and receive data between the computers. The disadvantages of Rs-232 communication are that the speed is very low (up to 20kbps), it covers less distance and is used for small area networks and serial communication only. In this paper, a new method “ETHERNET communication” is proposed to achieve faster data rates when compared to RS-232. The frequency scheme for the RPU is proposed to provide high parameter measurement accuracy over 360 degree spatial coverage (90degree for each array). This is explained as follows:

In the Electronic Support (ES) segment, the frequency coverage of 0.8-35GHz is achieved in the split bands of 0.8-2.2 GHz, 0.8-17 GHz(Broadband Receivers), 2.2-8 GHz, 7-17 GHz (Narrowband Receivers), and 0.8-35GHz. The EA (Electronic Attack) system will be realized in two split bands, 7-17 GHz and 0.8-35 GHz band. Number of threat Radars will be more in 7-17 GHz band and the ship is vulnerable over 360 degrees. In 0.8-35 GHz band, the number of threat Radars is very few and the operational range of the Radar is also less. Four sets of direction finding antenna arrays (7-17, 2.2-8 & 7-17 GHZ) housed in an Antenna HEAD Unit (AHU) are proposed to be mounted on the Pole mast of the platform. Dipoloop Antenna (0.8-2.2 GHz) and Bi-conical Antenna(0.8- 35 GHz) are stacked together and four such stacked antennas are proposed to be mounted on the Yard Arms of the main mast of the ship or on other structures in a Square/Rectangular configuration with a minimum span of 10 Meters. In 2.2-17 GHz BB channel, the simulated RF is simultaneously fed to the four Homodyne receivers. The RPU receives the computed data in the Homodyne receiver and sends the PD Data to the ESM Processor on OFC and the Health status of the Channel (FER, Homodyne Receiver, and RPU) to the SCD on the Ethernet. In 2.2-8 GHz NB channel and 7-17 GHz NB channel, the RF signal generated by the network is fed to the 2.2-8GHz switch matrix and 7-17 GHz switch matrix respectively. The switch matrix feeds the RF into QSHR which generates the IF corresponding to the fed RF. This IF is processed by the Digital Receivers to generate the detailed pulse parameters. Homodyne Receivers employ Base Line Interferometer (BLI) technique in 2.2-17 GHz band for interception, analysis and high accuracy DOA measurement. In this paper, a proposed RPU provides better control for various devices with the help of newly developed embedded applications. The rest of the paper is organized as follows: section II gives the proposed system level and implementations are illustrated in section III. Next, section IV gives the result evaluation for the proposed scheme. Finally, conclusions are provided in section V.

PROPOSED SYSTEM LEVEL BLOCK DIAGRAM

The proposed system is shown in Fig.1. Commands are fired by using System Controller Display (SCD). SCD is Graphical User Interface (GUI) that resides in a personal computer. Electronic Support Measure Processor (ESMP) communicates with the SCD and sends the commands to Receiver Processor Unit Board through Ethernet cable. Developed embedded application resides in the flash memory of RPU Board. When the board is switched ON embedded application runs automatically as it is already present in the flash memory of the RPU Board. The embedded application is developed using C language. The application sends an acknowledgement to SCD for handshaking purpose. Suppose when threshold command is fired, RPU sends the controls for homodyne receiver. Similarly, other controls are sent to corresponding devices for executing the commands.

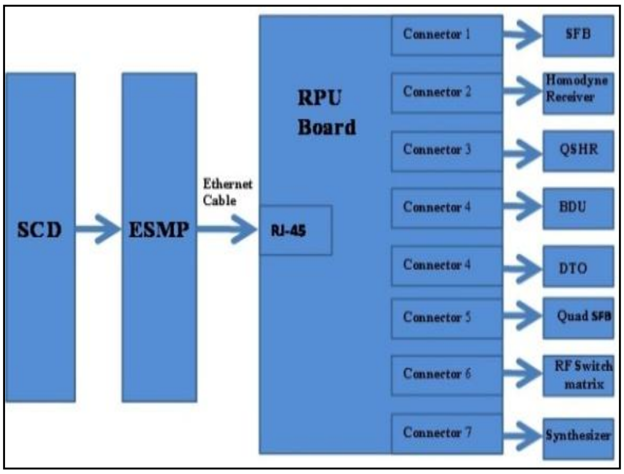

Figure 1. System level block diagram

Fig.2. shows internal details of RPU which is the main component of the proposed system. It contains the following hardware components.

***FPGA*:** Xilinx 1738 pin Virtex-5 FXT family FPGA (XQ5VFX200T-1FF1738I).

***Memory Elements*:** 16M x 16-bit, 200 MHZ, DDR-2 memory on-board. Two on board 256Mb parallel Flashes

***Clocks*:** 1.50MHz and 100MHz fixed single ended clocks to the FPGA.

***Ethernet*:** Two 10/100/1000 Mbps Ethernet channel terminated using RJ45 connector on front panel.

***Power*:** Input power - 5V/6A**.**Sourced from on board micro-D connector, all required voltages derived from on-board DC-DC converters and on board power monitoring circuitry.

IMPLEMENTATION PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING EMBEDDED APPLICATION

The implementation process is shown in Fig.3 in the form of flowchart. Base System Builder (BSB)wizard is used to create the required hardware platform for RPU. Hardware platform includes FPGA, DDR2 Memory, FLASH Memory, CONFIG-FLASH Memory, RS-232 Port, Block RAM, Timer interrupt, Ethernet MAC d etc.User Constraints File (UCF) is written for each hardware device by using Embedded Development Kit (EDK). Then, EDK generates a bit file which is used to program the FPGA.

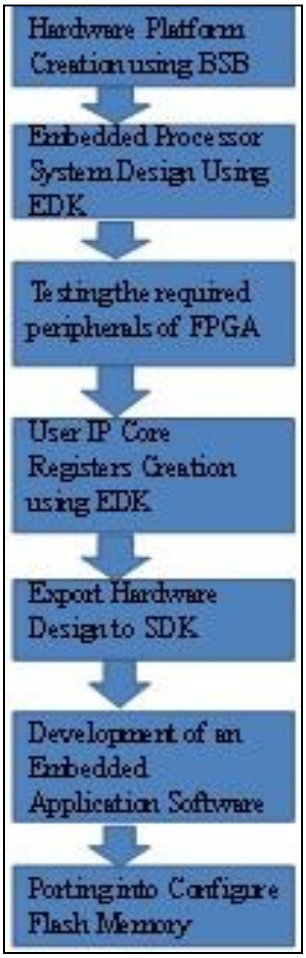

Figure 2. Configuration of Embedded System Processor

Custom IP core is an Intellectual Property created by the user in EDK environment .This Custom IP core contains several registers in it and each register is 32 bit wide. The entire hardware design (bit file) is exported into Software Development Kit (SDK). SDK is used to build and run the embedded application. After thoroughly testing the application, it is fused permanently into CONFIG-FLASH Memory.

COMMANDS IMPLEMENTED FOR RPU

The commands for the RPU are broadly classified into 2 categories namely broadband receiver commands and narrowband receiver commands. There are four broadband receiver commands namely SFB selection, Threshold selection, Bite On/Off and Mode selection. Similarly there are four narrowband commands namely Directed mode, Configure List Frequency mode, Narrowband Bite On/Off and RFPS Bite On/Off. The details of the commands like command code, parameters and command name for the broadband and narrowband commands are shown in Table.1 and Table.2 respectively.

Table 1: Broadband Receiver Commands

S.No.	Command/Message Name	Parameters	Command Code
1	SFB Selection	Sfb controls	0x201
2	Threshold Selection	Threshold	0x202
3	Bite On/Off	Bite On, BITE Frequency, Pulse or CW, Bite Power Level, Quadrant Selection.	0x203
4	Mode Selection	Mode selection, Channel selection, SFB controls, Threshold.	0x205

Table 2: Narrowband Receiver Commands

S.No.	Command/Message Name	Parameters	Command Code
1	Directed Mode	RF Frequency, RF Attenuation, IF Attenuation, Dig Rx Threshold, IF BW selection, Quadrant selection.	0x206
2	Configure List frequency Mode	No.of Frequency sets, RF Frequency, RF Attenuation, IF Attenuation, Dig Rx Threshold, IF BW selection, Dwell time.	0x207

3	NB BITE On/Off	Bite On, BITE frequency, RF attenuation, IF attenuation, Dig Rx threshold, IF BW Selection, Pulse or CW, BITE power level, Quadrant selection.	0x208
4	RFPS 2-18 Bite On/Off	Bite on , Bite Frequency, Pulse or CW, Bite Power Level.	0x20A

Each Command Consists of Header, Message Body and Footer. Header Consists of Start of Frame, Command Code, Sequence number and length of the message body.Message Body is nothing but Command's data information. Footer is present after the message body. The command frame format is shown in Fig.4. Each Command is identified by its command code and message length. No two commands would have same command code. Fig.6 shows the fields in command frame.

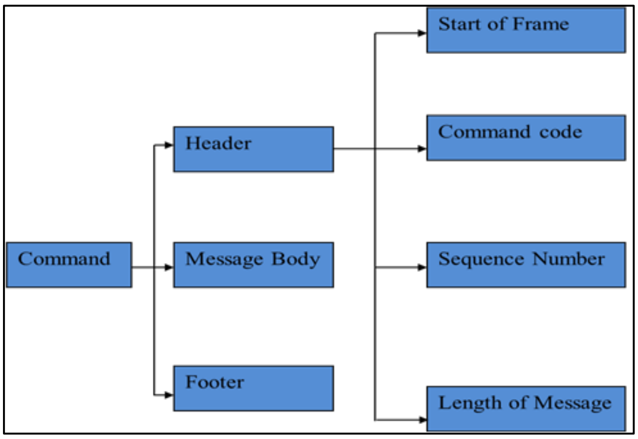

Figure 3: Command Frame Format

TESTING OF COMMANDS

Test setup is used for testing the RPU commands. Wire shark software tool is used for capturing the Ethernet command frames fired from the SCD. The embedded application analyses the command frames and verifies its functionality using look-up tables. The Ethernet data rate may be set at 10/100/1000 Mbps in the EDK tool.

RESULTS

A. Broadband receiver command results

The input parameter values forBite On/Off command is shown in Fig.6 for an Ethernet data rate of 1 Gbps which is set in EDK tool. The command frame captured by Wire shark software tool is shown in Fig.7. The output on Tera term (Hyper terminal) is shown in Fig.8. It may be observed from Fig.8 that tuning frequency is 31050 MHz, DTO_VCO is 0 and DTO_Latch is 1.It is very clear from the given lookup table that the output results obtained are in good agreement. Similarly, the results for all other broadband commands are also verified.

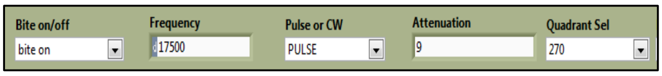

Figure 4: Input from SCD for Bite On/Off command

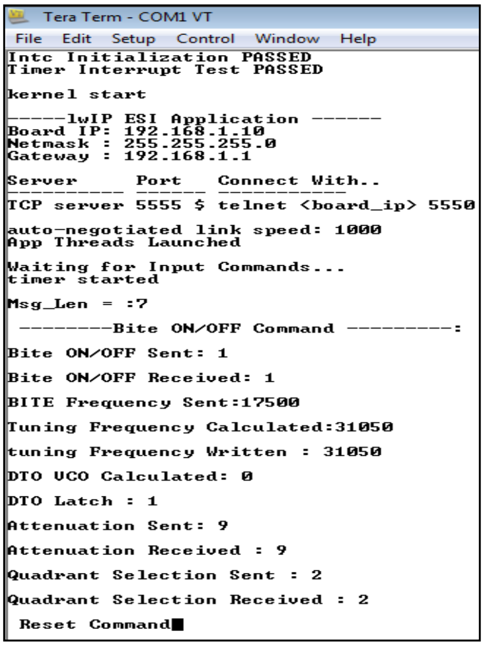

Figure 5: Bite On/Off Command Frame

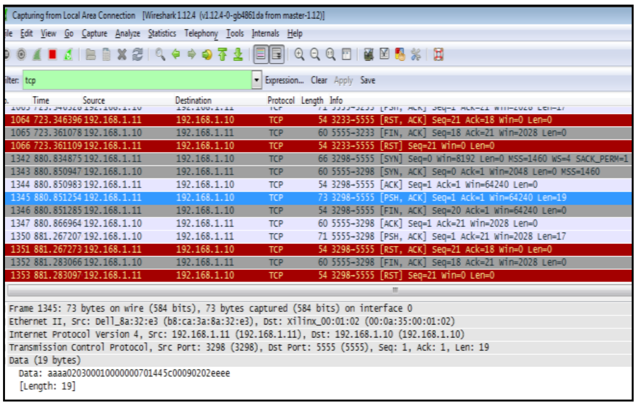

Figure 6: Output for Bite On/Off Command on Tera-term (Hyper Terminal)

B. Narrowband receiver command with results

The input parameter values for Configure List Frequency command is shown in Fig.9 for an Ethernet data rate of 1 Gbps, which is set in EDK tool. The command frame captured by Wire shark software tool is shown in Fig.10. The output on Tera term (Hyper terminal) is shown in Fig.11. It may be observed from Fig.10 that for frequency set-1,synthesizer frequency is 64000 MHz, Band select is 2,SFB is 2 and for frequency set- 2,synthesizer frequency is 54000 MHz, Band select is 2,SFB is 0. It is very clear from the given lookup table that the output results obtained are in good agreement. Similarly, the results for all other narrowband commands are also verified.

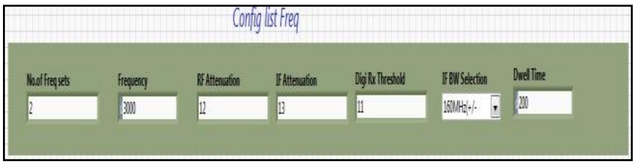

Figure 7: Input from SCD for Configure List frequency command

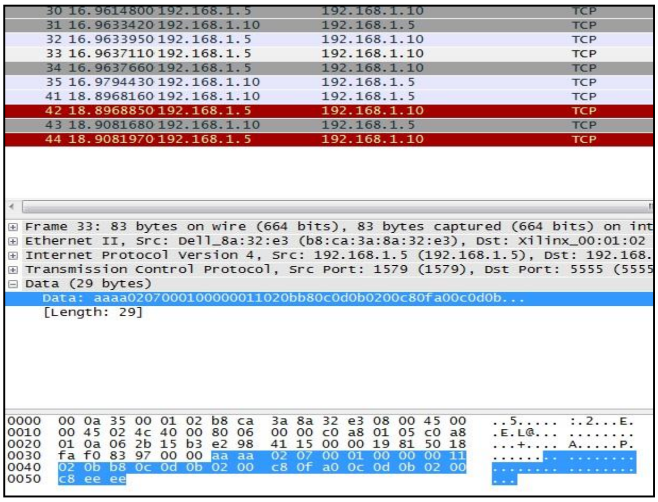

Figure 8: Configure List Frequency Command Frame

CONCLUSIONS

In our proposed work, An Advanced embedded application for Receiver processor unit is developed. In the proposed scheme, Base System Builder (BSB) wizard is used to create the required hardware platform for RPU. User Constraints File (UCF) is written for each hardware device by using Embedded Development Kit (EDK) and the entire hardware design (bit file) is exported into Software Development Kit (SDK). Embedded application for RPU is written using embedded C for processing and verifying the commands. Broadband and narrowband receiver commands are implemented and tested. We observed that Receiver processor unit provides faster communication when compared to other existing techniques.

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