I2C Driver in Linux

Computer Science & Engineering Department
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287

Dr. Yann-Hang Lee
yhlee@asu.edu
(480) 727-7507
I2C and SMBus in x86

- In general, a system can have multiple I2C buses via different adapters and many I2C devices
- 2-wire synchronous serial buses
  - Master and slave, addressable
- SMBus module in ICH8
  - 0000:00:1f.3 [0x400-0x41f]
- I2C bus and the SMBus are essentially compatible with each other.
- Differences:
  - Timeout (in SMBus, reset interfaces when clock is low for longer than 35ms)
  - Maximum clock speed: 100MHz (Smbus) but I2C bus has both 400kHz and 3.4MHz versions.
  - Logic level: 1: 3V in I2C and 2.1V in SMBus
I2C Drivers in Linux

- A driver for I2C bus
  - adapter and algorithm drivers
  - manages I2C bus transactions
- Drivers for I2C devices
- A client has the device’s I2C bus address and a pointer to a driver which is attached with an adapter
- When a user program issues a file operation that needs an I2C transaction
  - `i2C_transfer` (i2C-core.c) to invoke `adap_algo_master_xfer`
  - command or data is in an msg array
  - the adapter issues reads/writes to hardware I/O addresses.
- Other operations (except I2C bus transaction) are handled by the drivers

(https://i2c.wiki.kernel.org/index.php/Driver_Architecture)
Example of Accessing I2C/SMBus Devices

```
// for each i2c device
struct i2c_client {
    unsigned short  flags;
    unsigned short  addr;
    char  name[I2C_NAME_SIZE];
    struct i2c_adapter *  adapter;
};
struct i2c_driver *  driver;
struct device  dev;
int  irq;
struct list_head  list;
struct completion  released;
```
Example of I2C Devices

- **Two Wii nunchuck devices**
  - one is connected to ICH8 SMBus
  - one is connected to I2C adapter on PCI bus

- **2 instances of I2C_client**
  - different I2C device names
  - different adapters
  - Use the same device driver
  - same I2C slave address 0x52

- **When read from the nunchucks**
  - Same I2C signals on both buses, e.g. start, addr, R/W, ack …..
  - Different commands are sent to the different adapters (ICH8 SMBus module and PCI I2C adapter)
  - Driver makes the same call to
    
    `i2c_smbus_xfer` of `i2c.core` and then `adapter->algo->smbus_xfer`
User Space Access to I2C Devices

- Basically, a device driver to control I2C adapters
  - Send and receive raw data to and from I2C buses
- An I2C device driver can process the raw data and present data according to device model
  - A nunchuck device driver measures the speed of joystick movement instead of reporting joystick position.
- I2C-dev – loadable module
  - Major number: 89
  - Minor number: defined for each adapter
  - i2c_dev represents an i2c_adapter, an I2C or SMBus master, not a slave (i2c_client) – called /dev/i2c-0, /dev/i2c-1, /dev/i2c-2, etc.

```c
struct i2c_dev {
    struct list_head list;
    struct i2c_adapter *adap;
    struct device *dev;
};
```
How to Use I2C-dev

- Load i2c-dev module
- Create an i-node for the device
  
  ```bash
  % mknod /dev/i2c-0 c 89 0
  ```
- Include i2c-dev.h where i2c-dev interface is defined

```c
#define ADDRESS 0x38

int fd;

fd = open("/dev/i2c-0", O_RDWR);        // open a device file
ioctl(fd, I2C_SLAVE, ADDRESS);         // set up the slave address
```

- Using read() and write) for an entire I2C transaction takes place (i.e. start bit, address, data, stop).
- Using the wrapper functions that i2c-dev.h provides.
- SMBus commands
  
  ```c
  i2c_smbus_write_byte_data() ➞ i2c_smbus_access
  → ioctl(file, I2C_SMBUS, &args)
  ```