Intel® IXP42X Product Line and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor: I²C Implementation Using the GPIO Pins

Application Note

July 2004
Intel® IXP42X Product Line and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor:
I^2C Implementation Using the GPIO Pins

Contents

INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT IS PROVIDED IN CONNECTION WITH INTEL® PRODUCTS. EXCEPT AS PROVIDED IN INTEL'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE FOR SUCH PRODUCTS, INTEL ASSUMES NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER, AND INTEL DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY RELATING TO SALE AND/OR USE OF INTEL PRODUCTS, INCLUDING LIABILITY OR WARRANTIES RELATING TO FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, MERCHANTABILITY, OR INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT, OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.

Intel Corporation may have patents or pending patent applications, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights that relate to the presented subject matter. The furnishing of documents and other materials and information does not provide any license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any such patents, trademarks, copyrights, or other intellectual property rights.

Intel products are not intended for use in medical, life saving, life sustaining, critical control or safety systems, or in nuclear facility applications. Intel may make changes to specifications and product descriptions at any time, without notice. Designers must not rely on the absence or characteristics of any features or instructions marked “reserved” or “undefined.” Intel reserves these for future definition and shall have no responsibility whatsoever for conflicts or incompatibilities arising from future changes to them.

Contact your local Intel sales office or your distributor to obtain the latest specifications and before placing your product order.

Copies of documents which have an order number and are referenced in this document, or other Intel literature, may be obtained by calling 1-800-548-4725, or by visiting Intel's website at http://www.intel.com.


*Other names and brands may be claimed as the property of others.

Copyright © Intel Corporation 2004
# Contents

1.0 Introduction .......................................................................................................................................................... 5
  1.1 Scope .................................................................................................................................................................. 5
  1.2 Related Documentation ................................................................................................................................. 5
  1.3 Acronyms ........................................................................................................................................................ 5

2.0 Overview ............................................................................................................................................................... 6
  2.1 I²C Bus Overview ........................................................................................................................................... 6
  2.2 I²C EEPROM Overview .............................................................................................................................. 6

3.0 I²C Interface .......................................................................................................................................................... 7
  3.1 Functional Description .................................................................................................................................. 7
  3.2 Control Signals ............................................................................................................................................... 8
  3.3 Data Signals .................................................................................................................................................. 8
  3.4 I²C Hardware Interface ............................................................................................................................... 8

4.0 I²C Software Protocol ......................................................................................................................................... 10
  4.1 I²C Software Source Code .......................................................................................................................... 12

## Figures

1. I²C Standard Communication Protocol .................................................................................................................. 8
2. I²C EEPROM Interface .......................................................................................................................................... 9
3. Complete Read Transfer Sequence ..................................................................................................................... 11
4. Complete Write Transfer Sequence .................................................................................................................... 11

## Tables

1. Signal Descriptions ............................................................................................................................................... 7
## Revision History

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Revision</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 2004</td>
<td>004</td>
<td>Updated Intel® product branding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 2003</td>
<td>003</td>
<td>Updated Section 4.1.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 2002</td>
<td>001</td>
<td>Initial release of document. (Published as Intel® IXC1100 Control Plane Processor—I2C Implementation Using the GPIO Port Application Note.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1.0 Introduction

1.1 Scope

This application note describes the implementation of the I²C (Inter-IC) using the Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor GPIO pins. This includes the I²C protocol, hardware interface implementation, and I²C software written for the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors running under Wind River Systems* VxWorks*.

Details regarding I²C architecture, performance, and register set are not described in this document. It is assumed that the reader is familiar with the I²C bus protocol.

1.2 Related Documentation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Document Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor Developer’s Manual</td>
<td>252480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor Datasheet</td>
<td>252479</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intel® IXP400 Software Programmer’s Guide</td>
<td>252539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I²C-Bus Specification from Philips Semiconductors* (Available at <a href="http://www.philips.com">www.philips.com</a>)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1.3 Acronyms

- EEPROM: Electrically Erasable Programmable Read-Only Memory
- GPIO: General-Purpose Input/Output
- I²C: Inter-IC
- IC: Integrated Circuit
- MSB: Most-Significant Bit
- SCL: Serial Clock
- SDA: Serial Data
- SoC: System-on-Chip
2.0 Overview

The Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor are a highly integrated System-on-Chip designed to provide greater design flexibility and reduce system-development costs. The Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors feature many integrated features that simplify system design requirements in embedded applications. These on-chip features include a PC133 SDRAM controller, interrupt controller, GPIO interface, PCI controller, UARTs, watchdog timer (WDT), general-purpose timers, and three Network Processor Engines (NPEs) for the Ethernet and UTOPIA interface.

While the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors do not have dedicated on-chip I₂C support hardware, this I₂C bus can be simulated by software control of two GPIO pins. This application note provides an overview of the I₂C bus interface and the EEPROM, as well as details on an application interfacing two GPIO pins (I₂C master) to a two-wire EEPROM (I₂C slave).

2.1 I₂C Bus Overview

The I₂C bus is a serial bus developed by Philips Electronics* and a two-wire, bidirectional serial bus that provides a serial data (SDA) line and a serial clock (SCL) line interface to exchange information between devices. The bus is a multiple-master bus including arbitration and collision detection mechanic to prevent data corruption if multiple devices attempt to control the bus at the same time.

Each device on the I₂C bus has its own unique address and can operate as a transmitter or receiver. A master is defined as a device that initiates, controls, and terminates a transfer. A slave is defined as any device addressed by a master.

Data is transmitted to, and received from, the I₂C bus via a buffered interface. Control and status information is relayed through a set of memory-mapped registers. (For a complete list of I₂C bus features, capabilities, and operation details, see the I₂C-Bus Specification.)

2.2 I₂C EEPROM Overview

Serial EEPROM devices are popular for storing system configuration parameters, user settings, measurement data, and other non-volatile information. In a typical usage model, an SoC processor acts as a master device that controls the exchange of data with the EEPROM.

All I₂C bus-compatible devices are incorporated on-chip to enable them to communicate directly with each other via the I₂C bus.
3.0 I²C Interface

I²C can be implemented using two GPIO pins of the Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor, including the I²C standard communication protocol, hardware interface implementation, and I²C software written for the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors running under VxWorks.

3.1 Functional Description

The I²C bus defines a serial protocol for passing information between agents on the I²C bus and uses a two-wire pin interface consisting of an SDA line and an SCL line. Each device on the I²C bus is recognized by a unique 7-bit address and can operate as a transmitter or receiver.

The I²C bus serial operation uses an open-drain, wired-AND bus structure. This enables multiple devices to drive the bus lines and to communicate status about events such as arbitration, wait states, and error conditions.

For example, when a master drives the SCL during a data transfer, it transfers a bit every time the clock is high. When the slave is unable to accept or drive data at the rate that the master is requesting, the slave can hold SCL low — between the high states — to insert a wait interval. The master’s clock can only be altered by a slow slave peripheral keeping the clock line low or by another master during arbitration.

The I²C bus allows design of a multi-master system, meaning more than one device can initiate data transfers at the same time. To support this feature, the I²C bus arbitration relies on the wired-AND connection of all I²C interfaces to the I²C bus.

Two masters can drive the bus simultaneously, provided they are driving identical data. The first master to drive SDA high — while another master drives SDA low — loses the arbitration. The SCL consists of a synchronized combination of clocks generated by the masters using the wired-AND connection to the SCL.

Table 1 summarizes I²C interface signals.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Signal</th>
<th>I/O</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SDA</td>
<td>Bidirectional</td>
<td>Serial Data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SCL</td>
<td>Bidirectional</td>
<td>Serial Clock</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A master is the device that initiates a data transfer on the bus and generates the clock signals to permit that transfer. At that time, any device addressed is considered a slave.

Each data size is 8 bits long, and the number of data packets that can be transmitted per transfer is unrestricted. Each data packet sent or received is followed by an acknowledge bit. Figure 1 shows the typical I²C standard communication wave form. The I²C standard communication protocol consists of control and data signals.
3.2 Control Signals

Control signals start and stop transfers on the I²C bus and send and receive acknowledgments when appropriate. Changes in the data line — while the clock is high — are interpreted as control signals.

3.3 Data Signals

The I²C bus is a two-wire, bidirectional serial bus that provides an SDA line and an SCL line interface to exchange information between devices (transmitter and receiver). A byte is the biggest data packet that can be transmitted between acknowledgments.

Data signals differ from control signals in that, during transfers, the data line remains stable whenever the clock signal is high. All data transfers on the bus are Most-Significant Bit (MSB) first.

The value of the data line, during a clock pulse, signals the value of that bit on the wire. The value of the next bit is set before the next clock pulse and so on.

3.4 I²C Hardware Interface

Figure 2 shows how to connect the I²C interface to a 256-byte, I²C EEPROM 7-bit addressing mode (Philips PC8582C-2T/03) using two GPIO pins (GPIO6 and GPIO7) of the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors.

For complete details on I²C operation, see the I²C-Bus Specification.
All devices connected to the I^2^C bus — other than the GPIO controller — are automatically considered slaves. As shown in Figure 2, the I^2^C EEPROM acts as either a slave transmitter or slave receiver.

Because the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors do not have I^2^C bus interface controller on-chip implementation, the I^2^C protocol is emulated by two pins of the GPIO controller (GPIO6 & GPIO7). This component depends on functionality provided by the GPIO driver. The GPIO software driver is used to toggle two pins on the GPIO controller, which represent the SDA and SCL lines of an I^2^C bus.

The official I^2^C bus protocol supports three modes of transfer rates:

- **Standard Mode** — Up to 100 Kbps
- **Fast Mode** — Up to 400 Kbps
- **High-Speed Mode** — Up to 3.4 Mbps

Only the standard mode is supported in the sample code referenced in Section 4.1, “I^2^C Software Source Code” on page 12.
4.0 I²C Software Protocol

The I²C software driver is written for the Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor running under VxWorks. An actual I²C bus is emulated using two GPIO pins (GPIO 6 and GPIO 7). One pin is for data signals (SDA), and one pin is for clock signals (SCL).

The software driver enables client software to operate as either a transmitter or receiver, depending on its function. However, only one master device is supported (for example, the Intel® IXP425 Network Processor). This is because the GPIO controller, which is used to drive the SDA and SCL lines, does not have open-connector outputs. Because of this, no other device is able to drive the data like while the processor is driving the data line.

To facilitate understanding of the I²C protocol and the way it is implemented in this driver, these main control and data signals must be understood:

- **START Signal** — Initiates a data transfer request.
  A device can initiate communication by sending a START signal when another device is bus master. A START signal is represented by a HIGH to LOW transition on the SDA line while the SCL line is HIGH.
  If the bus is free (both SDA and SCL are HIGH), the SDA line is forced LOW. If the bus is not free, it remains unchanged.
  If successful, the bus is considered busy after the generation of a START signal and can only be released by the generation of a STOP signal.

- **STOP Signal** — Sends a STOP signal on the bus.
  A STOP signal is represented by a change in the SDA line from LOW to HIGH while the SCL line is HIGH. This function may be called at any time during a data transfer. The bus is considered free after the generation of a STOP signal.

- **AckSend** — Data transfer with acknowledge is obligatory and is generated after each byte is transmitted.
  This function generates an acknowledge signal on the I²C bus. It is used by the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors when it is running as master receiver. It generates an acknowledge related clock pulse, during which the SDA line is pulled LOW to indicate an acknowledgment to the slave transmitter. A master receiver can signal the end of data to a slave by not generating an acknowledge on the last byte that was clocked out of the slave.

- **AckReceive** — Receives an acknowledge signal on the I²C bus.
  This signal is used by the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors when running as master transmitter. An acknowledge related clock pulse is generated, and the value of the SDA line tested to see if the slave receiver has acknowledged. If, for some reason, the receiver does not acknowledge within the time allowed, the transmitter can generate a STOP signal to terminate the transfer.

- **ByteTransmit** — Transmits a byte on the I²C bus.
  In this case, the Intel® IXP42X product line and IXC1100 control plane processors are acting as master transmitter. All data transfers on the bus are MSB (Most-Significant Bit) first. The value of the data line during a clock pulse signals the value of that bit on the wire. The value of the next bit is set before the next clock pulse, and so on. Figure 4 shows where the value 0xC0 is transmitted.
• **ByteReceive** — Analogous to the transmit function except in this case the SDA line is toggled by the slave transmitter (for example, the Intel® IXP42X Product Line of Network Processors and IXC1100 Control Plane Processor acting as master receiver). Again, all byte transfers are MSB first.

• **ReadTransfer** — Reads “num” bytes from the slave device addressed by “devAddr” at offset “offset.” This function encapsulates a number of the primitive protocol functions described previously, as can be seen in Figure 3. Sections “c” and “d” would occur “num” times, once for the offset and several times for each byte that is to be transmitted.

**Figure 3. Complete Read Transfer Sequence**

![Figure 3. Complete Read Transfer Sequence](image)

• **WriteTransfer** — Writes “num” bytes to the slave device addressed by “devAddr” at offset “offset.” It encapsulates a number of the primitive protocol functions described previously as seen in Figure 4. Sections “c” and “d” would occur “num” times, once for the offset and several times for each byte that is to be transmitted.

**Figure 4. Complete Write Transfer Sequence**

![Figure 4. Complete Write Transfer Sequence](image)
4.1 I^2C Software Source Code

For example source code listings for the I^2C software driver, see the Wind River* (http://www.windriver.com) Intel® IXDP425 / IXCDP1100 Development Platform Board Support Package.