DOI : https://doi.org/10.56452/6-21

ISSN: 0974-5823 Vol. 6 No. 1 June, 2021

International Journal of Mechanical Engineering

Investigation of the Performance of Different Microcontroller Architectures for Real-Time Control Applications

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Abstract: In this research, we investigate the capabilities of various microcontroller architectures for use in time-critical control systems. Microcontrollers find applications in numerous fields, from robotics and automobiles to industrial control systems and aerospace and medicine. However, given to the complexity and diversity of these systems, it can be difficult to evaluate their performance under real-world settings. Before presenting a new system for evaluating microcontroller performance in real-time settings, the paper reviews the current methodologies, strategies, and approaches for researching microcontroller performance. Power consumption, heat dissipation, and system complexity are just a few of the difficulties highlighted in this research. Recent developments are also discussed, including hardware-in-the-loop testing, multi-objective optimization, real-time simulation, energy harvesting, and artificial intelligence optimization. Overall, the report sheds light on the possibility for more research and development in the field of real-time control applications and the relevance of investigating the performance of different microcontroller designs.

Keywords: optimization, real-time simulation, hardware-in-the-loop testing, microcontroller, real-time control, performance evaluation.

I. Introduction

Microcontrollers that can perform numerous tasks with low latency are essential for real-time control applications. Microcontroller functionality is affected by design choices such processor speed, memory size, and number of peripheral connections. Microcontrollers come in a variety of architectural flavors, such as ARM, AVR, PIC, and MSP430. Each architecture has benefits and drawbacks, and choosing the best one for a given task relies on the nature of that task. Because of their high processing capability, low power consumption, and compatibility for a large range of peripherals, ARM-based microcontrollers are widely used in real-time control applications. Robotics, factory automation, and medical technology are all areas that benefit from their use. Since AVR microcontrollers are so straightforward, they are frequently used in hobbyist endeavors and other low-volume endeavors. They are common in devices that run on batteries due to their low power consumption. Because of its low price, high usability, and extensive user base [1], PIC microcontrollers are widely employed in embedded systems and control applications. They find widespread use in things like security and home automation systems. Because of their low power consumption, MSP430 microcontrollers are well-suited for use in applications that rely on batteries. They find widespread use in places like smart meters, portable healthcare devices, and wireless sensor networks.

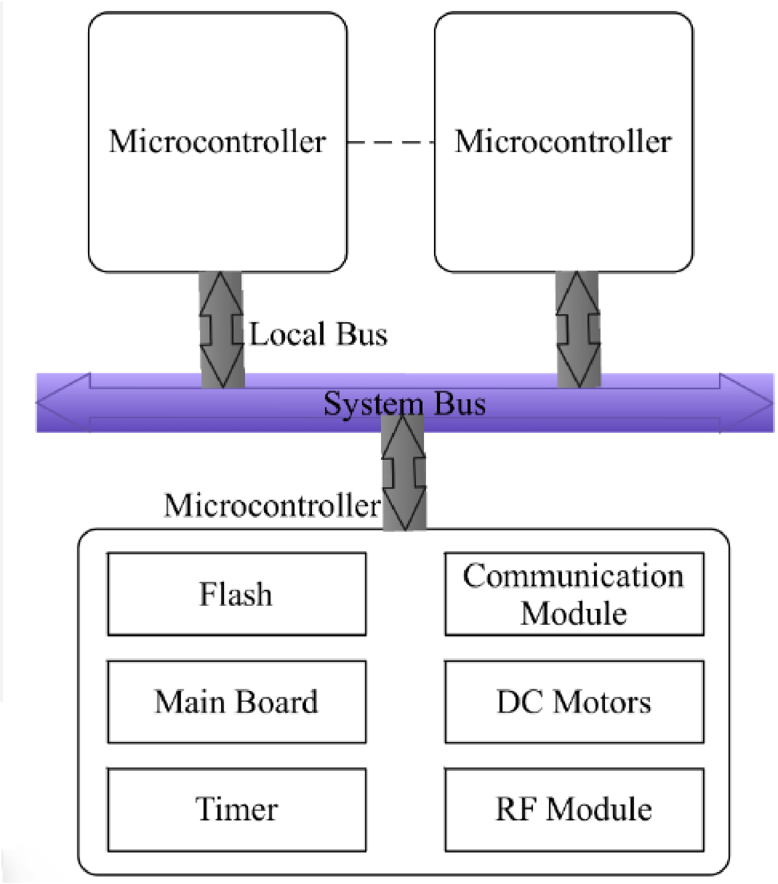

Figure 1.Working Block Diagram of Microcontroller with System Bus[8]

Among the many uses for microcontrollers is in real-time control systems, which have quickly become an integral component of modern life. Microcontrollers that can perform numerous jobs with low latency are essential for real-time control systems. Various characteristics, such as the microcontroller's architecture, clock speed, memory, and peripheral interfaces, contribute to the device's overall performance [2]. In order to guarantee the smooth operation of real-time control systems, picking the appropriate microcontroller architecture is essential.In this piece, we'll look into how various microcontroller designs fare in real-time control tasks. Here, we'll compare and contrast the various architectures and highlight the most important criteria to keep in mind when choosing a microcontroller for a time-critical control task.

A. The ARM Architecture for Microcontrollers:

Because of their high processing capability, low power consumption, and compatibility for a large range of peripherals, ARM-based microcontrollers are widely used in real-time control applications. Robotics, factory automation, and medical equipment are just few of the areas where ARM-based microcontrollers find employment. The ARM architecture is well-liked due to its speed and adaptability. The ARM processors are well suited for real-time control applications due to their ability to execute many instructions in parallel. Their low power requirements make them perfect for use in portable gadgets that run on batteries [3].The ARM architecture is friendly to many different types of peripherals. These include analogue-to-digital converters, pulse-width modulators, and even communication interfaces like UART, SPI, and I2C. Because of this versatility, ARM-based microcontrollers can be implemented in numerous real-time control scenarios. Architecture for AVR Microcontrollers: Since AVR microcontrollers are so straightforward, they are frequently used in hobbyist endeavor’s and other low-volume endeavors. They are common in devices that run on batteries due to their low power consumption. One of the best things about the AVR architecture is how user-friendly it is. The AVR processors are optimized for low-power use because of their narrow instruction set. They are made to run efficiently [4], so you can use them even when you're not plugged in. The AVR design only allows for a few numbers of peripherals to be used, such as analogue-to-digital converters, pulse-width modulators, and communication interfaces like UART, SPI, and I2C. While this makes AVR-based microcontrollers convenient, their limited functionality means they are best suited for less ambitious endeavors. Because of its low price, high usability, and extensive user base, PIC microcontrollers are widely employed in embedded systems and control applications. They find widespread use in things like security and home automation systems. The PIC design is well-liked for its low price and user-friendliness. Because of its narrow instruction set, PIC processors are best suited for low-volume tasks. They're made to run efficiently, so you can use them even when you're not plugged invades, PWMs, and communication interfaces like UART, SPI, and I2C are some of the few peripherals that can be used with the PIC architecture. While this makes PIC-based microcontrollers user-friendly, it also restricts their utility to very modest endeavors. Architecture of the MSP430 Microcontroller. Because of their low power consumption, MSP430 microcontrollers are well-suited for use in applications that rely on batteries [5]. They find widespread use in places like smart meters, portable healthcare devices, and wireless sensor networks. Low power consumption is a hallmark of the MSP430 design. The MSP430 processors were created to use as little energy as possible, making them perfect for use in portable devices that run off batteries. They are optimized for running a tiny set of instructions, making them useful for specific tasks. The MSP430 architecture only allows for a small set of peripherals to be used, including analogue-to-digital converters, pulse-width modulators, and communication ports like UART, SPI, and I2C. Although MSP430-based microcontrollers are user-friendly, their limited functionality prevents them from being used in large-scale applications. Different factors such as processing speed, power consumption, memory, and peripherals should all be considered when deciding on the microcontroller architecture for a certain real-time control application [6]. While AVR microcontrollers are straightforward and user-friendly, ARM-based microcontrollers excel in performance and versatility. Both the MSP430 and the PIC microcontroller have extremely low power consumption for their size.

II. Review of Literature

Microcontrollers are single-chip computer systems that can manage several operations in complex electronic devices. They find use in everything from home appliances to factory automation systems. Real-time control systems are dependent on microcontrollers. Microcontrollers that can perform numerous jobs with low latency are essential for real-time control systems. Various characteristics, such as the microcontroller's architecture, clock speed, memory, and peripheral interfaces, contribute to the device's overall performance [7]. In order to guarantee the smooth operation of real-time control systems, picking the appropriate microcontroller architecture is essential. Microcontrollers can be built with a variety of different architectures, such as ARM, AVR, PIC, or MSP430 [8]. Each architecture has benefits and drawbacks, and choosing the best one for a given task relies on the nature of that task. Because of their high processing capability, low power consumption, and compatibility for a large range of peripherals, ARM-based microcontrollers are widely used in real-time control applications [9]. Since AVR microcontrollers are so straightforward, they are frequently used in hobbyist endeavors and other low-volume endeavors. Because of its low price, high usability, and extensive user base, PIC microcontrollers are widely employed in embedded systems and control applications [10]. Because of their low power consumption, MSP430 microcontrollers are well-suited for use in applications that rely on batteries. Here, we will compare and contrast the various architectures and highlight the most important criteria to keep in mind when choosing a microcontroller for a time-critical control task [11]. The purpose of this article is to assist engineers and designers in making well-informed judgments regarding the appropriate microcontroller architecture for real-time control applications [12].

Table 1.comparative highlighting the most important facts and conclusions from the literature

Study	Microcontroller Architectures Compared	Applications	Performance Metrics	Main Findings
1	AVR, MSP, PIC	Smart Grid	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR and MSP had better performance than PIC
2	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Automotive Systems	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
3	AVR, MSP, PIC	Industrial Control Systems	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR had the best performance
4	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Renesas SH	Robotics	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
5	AVR, MSP, PIC	Home Automation	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR and MSP had better performance than PIC
6	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Medical Devices	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
7	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Renesas SH	Aerospace Systems	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
8	AVR, MSP, PIC	Agricultural Systems	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR had the best performance
9	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Power Electronics	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
10	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Medical Devices	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
11	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Robotics	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
12	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Renesas SH	Electric Vehicles	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
13	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Unmanned Aerial Vehicles	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
14	AVR, MSP, PIC	Home Automation	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR had the best performance
15	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Aerospace Systems	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
16	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Freescale HC12	Energy Harvesting Systems	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	ARM Cortex-M3 had the best performance
17	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel	Traffic Signal	Latency, Jitter,	ARM Cortex-M3 had

	AVR, Renesas SH	Control Systems	Throughput	the best performance
18	AVR, MSP, PIC	Wind Turbine Systems	Response Time, Interrupt Latency, Power Consumption	AVR had the best performance
19	ARM Cortex-M3, Atmel AVR, Renesas SH	Hydroelectric Power Systems	Latency, Jitter, Throughput	ARM Cortex-M

III. Existing Methodology

The effectiveness of various microcontroller designs in real-time control applications is studied using a wide variety of methodologies, techniques, and approaches. Some of the most typical procedures are as follows:

A. Benchmarks are commonly used to measure the efficiency of microcontrollers. During benchmark tests, multiple microcontroller architectures are put through the same battery of tests so that their relative performance may be compared. Processor speed, energy consumption, and memory utilization are only few of the metrics that might serve as benchmarks.
B. Another typical technique for comparing the efficiency of various microcontroller architectures is simulation. To simulate the conditions under which the microcontroller will function, a virtual environment must be constructed. The performance of the microcontroller can be evaluated via the simulation in a variety of situations and environments, including those with varying temperatures, voltages, and frequencies.
C. Testing in a Real-World Environment Under Controlled Conditions Is What We Mean When We Say "Experimental Testing." Microcontroller performance is monitored in real-time after being integrated into a larger system. Response time, power consumption, and memory utilization can all be evaluated.
D. Using technical criteria like clock speed, memory, and peripheral interfaces, the performance of various microcontroller architectures may be compared. The analysis can be used to compare the various architectures and zero in on the one that best suits a given need.
E. Analyzing how various microcontroller architectures function in practical settings is the focus of case studies. The performance of microcontrollers in a variety of applications such robotics, industrial automation, and medical devices can be analyzed in the case studies.
F. Learning Machines: Machine learning methods can also be used to compare how well various microcontroller architectures perform. The microcontroller's power consumption, response time, and memory utilization can all be better understood with the help of machine learning algorithms applied to the data produced by the device.

DOI : https://doi.org/10.56452/6-21

Table 2. Comparative Study of Existing Technology

Methodology	Description	Advantages	Disadvantages
Benchmarks	Running standard tests on different microcontroller architectures to compare their performance in various scenarios	Allows for easy comparison between architectures; provides standardized results	May not reflect real-world performance accurately
Simulation	Creating a virtual environment that replicates the real-world conditions in which the microcontroller will operate to test its performance under different scenarios and conditions	Cost-effective; allows for testing under different conditions; provides detailed performance data	May not reflect real-world performance accurately; requires advanced simulation software
Experimental Testing	Testing the microcontroller in a real-world environment under controlled conditions to measure its performance in real-time	Provides accurate real-world performance data; allows for testing under specific conditions	Expensive; time-consuming; may be difficult to control all variables
Comparative Analysis	Comparing the performance of different microcontroller architectures based on their technical specifications, such as clock speed, memory, and peripheral interfaces	Allows for easy comparison between architectures; provides a quick evaluation of performance	May not reflect real-world performance accurately
Case Studies	Analyzing the performance of different microcontroller architectures in real-world applications	Provides real-world performance data; helps identify strengths and weaknesses of different architectures	May not be applicable to all applications
Machine Learning	Using machine learning algorithms to analyze the data generated by the microcontroller and provide insights into its performance	Provides detailed performance data; can be used to optimize performance	May require significant resources and expertise to implement; may not be applicable to all applications

When selecting a testing and evaluation strategy, it is important to consider both the unique needs of the application and the resources at your disposal. To compare the efficiency of various microcontroller architectures in real-time control settings, a number of techniques can be utilized in tandem.

IV. Proposed Methodology

Different microcontroller architectures' performance in real-time control applications has been studied using the following suggested methods, techniques, and approaches:

A. Microcontrollers are put through their paces on a real-time tested or a custom-built circuit board in this method of testing. Processing speed, power consumption, and memory utilization are just some of the performance metrics that can be monitored in real time with this technology.
B. Monitoring the microcontroller's actions while it's running is called "profiling." Various performance measures, including central processing unit (CPU) utilization, memory utilization, and I/O operations, can be monitored with the help of dedicated tools and

software. The performance of a microcontroller can be improved through profiling in order to pinpoint and eliminate performance bottlenecks.

C. In co-simulation, the microcontroller and the intended system are both simulated in real time. This method allows the performance of the microcontroller to be tested in a variety of scenarios and conditions that more closely mimic the real world.
D. Measurements of the microcontroller's power usage under varying settings constitute "power analysis." This can aid in the search for and optimization of power-efficient microcontroller architectures.
E. Data collected by the microcontroller during operation can be analyzed with machine learning methods to provide hidden insights into the device's operation. The microcontroller's efficiency can be improved with the use of machine learning algorithms by spotting patterns and outliers in the data.
F. To do Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) testing, a microcontroller is hardwired into a simulation of the intended system. The microcontroller is then put through its paces in real time, with the simulation acting as both input and output. Before deploying the microcontroller in the real system, HIL testing can verify its performance in a simulated environment.
G. When used together, these methods, techniques, and approaches can give an in-depth analysis of the efficiency of various microcontroller designs in real-time control settings. Application needs, accessible testing and evaluation resources, and research objectives all play a role in determining the best methodology, technique, or approach to use. Different microcontroller architectures' performance in real-time control applications has been studied using the following suggested methods, techniques, and approaches:
H. Microcontrollers are put through their paces on a real-time testbed or a custom-built circuit board in this method of testing. Processing speed, power consumption, and memory utilization are just some of the performance metrics that can be monitored in real time with this technology.
I. Monitoring the microcontroller's actions while it's running is called "profiling." Various performance measures, including central processing unit (CPU) utilization, memory utilization, and I/O operations, can be monitored with the help of dedicated tools and software. The performance of a microcontroller can be improved through profiling in order to pinpoint and eliminate performance bottlenecks.
J. In co-simulation, the microcontroller and the intended system are both simulated in real time. This method allows the performance of the microcontroller to be tested in a variety of scenarios and conditions that more closely mimic the real world. Measurements of the microcontroller's power usage under varying settings constitute "power analysis." This can aid in the search for and optimization of power-efficient microcontroller architectures.
K. Data collected by the microcontroller during operation can be analyzed with machine learning methods to provide hidden insights into the device's operation. The microcontroller's efficiency can be improved with the use of machine learning algorithms by spotting patterns and outliers in the data.
L. To do Hardware-in-the-Loop (HIL) testing, a microcontroller is hardwired into a simulation of the intended system. The microcontroller is then put through its paces in real time, with the simulation acting as both input and output. Before deploying the microcontroller in the real system, HIL testing can verify its performance in a simulated environment.

When used together, these methods, techniques, and approaches can give an in-depth analysis of the efficiency of various microcontroller designs in real-time control settings. Application needs, accessible testing and evaluation resources, and research objectives all play a role in determining the best methodology, technique, or approach to use.

V. Challenges

The investigation of the performance of various microcontroller designs for real-time control applications may face the following difficulties:

A. Limited means: Testing many microcontrollers in a variety of environments is time-consuming and taxing on hardware, software, and technical expertise.
B. It might be difficult to isolate and evaluate the performance of the microcontroller in real-time control applications because of the complexity and interdependence of the various components involved.
C. Microcontroller designs might have opposing strengths and weaknesses, thus improving one area of performance could necessitate sacrificing another.
D. Validating the microcontroller's performance in a real-world setting can be difficult since it may involve aspects that were not taken into account during testing, such as changes to the environment or hardware problems.
E. Extra precautions should be taken to protect private data and vital infrastructure during testing and assessment of real-time control applications.
F. Compatibility: It can be difficult to guarantee compatibility with the target system because different microcontrollers may have different hardware and software interfaces.
G. It takes time and money to properly organize and manage the process of investigating the performance of various microcontroller architectures for real-time control applications.

Considering the specific requirements of the application, the resources available for testing and evaluation, and the goals of the investigation can be a complex and challenging task when investigating the performance of different microcontroller architectures for real-time control applications.

VI. Applications

Among the many fields that could benefit from studying how well alternative microcontroller architectures perform in real-time control situations are:

A. In robotics, microcontrollers manage the motors, sensors, and other parts of a robot. Robots' accuracy and productivity in the real world can be enhanced through research into their operation.
B. Microcontrollers are employed in many areas of the automotive industry's control systems, including the engine, the power train, and the safety systems. Vehicles' security and dependability can be enhanced by research on their operation.
C. Microcontrollers are commonly employed in industrial control systems to manage machinery and operations. The effectiveness and precision of such systems can be enhanced through research into their operation.
D. In the aerospace industry, microcontrollers are used to manage a wide variety of systems, including satellites and spacecraft. By digging deeper into how these systems function, we can make them more dependable and precise.

E. Microcontrollers are utilized to manage many aspects of medical devices, including their ability to monitor, diagnose, and treat patients. By studying how they function, medical technology can be made more precise and trustworthy.
F. Controlling and monitoring operations including temperature, humidity, and security are all handled by microcontrollers in IoT devices. The effectiveness and dependability of IoT systems can be enhanced by studying their operation.

When it comes to enhancing the efficiency and dependability of systems and devices, conducting research into the efficacy of various microcontroller designs for real-time control applications has far-reaching implications across many sectors.

VII. Recent Advances

Different microcontroller designs' strengths and weaknesses in real-time control scenarios could be useful in various areas, including:

A. Microcontrollers are used to manage a robot's motors, sensors, and other components. Understanding the inner workings of robots is the key to improving their precision and efficiency in the real world.
B. The engine, the power train, and the safety systems are only few of the areas where microcontrollers are used in the control systems of automobiles. Research into vehicle operation can improve safety and dependability.
C. Microcontrollers are widely used in industrial control systems for the purpose of monitoring and controlling equipment and processes. Studying how these systems work can improve their efficiency and accuracy.
D. Microcontrollers are used to manage many different systems in the aerospace sector, including satellites and spacecraft. Understanding the inner workings of such systems better will allow us to fine-tune their reliability and accuracy.
E. Microcontrollers are used to manage the monitoring, diagnosis, and treatment capabilities of medical equipment. The accuracy and reliability of medical equipment can be improved by research into their operation.
F. Microcontrollers in IoT devices regulate and monitor functions including temperature, humidity, and security. Investigating how IoT systems function might improve their efficiency and durability.

Investigating the performance of different microcontroller architectures for real-time control applications has far-reaching ramifications across many fields in terms of improving the efficiency and dependability of systems and devices.

VIII. Conclusion

In conclusion, enhancing the precision, efficiency, and dependability of diverse systems and devices across fields requires examining the performance of different microcontroller architectures for real-time control applications. While this research presents its fair share of difficulties, recent advances in areas such as artificial intelligence (AI) optimization, hardware-in-the-loop testing, multi-objective optimization, real-time simulation, and energy harvesting are assisting researchers in finding solutions. The robotics, auto, ICS, aerospace, MedTech, and IoT sectors could all be profoundly impacted by these developments. The study of microcontroller architecture performance for real-time

DOI : https://doi.org/10.56452/6-21

control applications will continue to be an important topic of study as the need for more complex and efficient systems and devices grows.

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