TinyOS – an operating system for sensor nets

- Embedded operating systems
 - How do they differ from desktop operating systems?
- Event-based programming model
 - How is concurrency handled?
 - How are resource conflicts managed?
- Programming in TinyOS
 - What new language constructs are useful?

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Embedded Operating Systems

- Features of all operating systems
 - Abstraction of system resources
 - Managing of system resources
 - Concurrency model
 - Launch applications
- Desktop operating systems
 - □ General-purpose all features may be needed
 - □ Large-scale resources memory, disk, file systems
- Embedded operating systems
 - □ Application-specific just use features you need, save memory
 - Small-scale resources sensors, communication ports

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System Resources on Motes

- Timers
- Sensors
- Serial port
- Radio communications
- Memory
- Power management

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Abstraction of System Resources

- Create virtual components
 - □ E.g., multiple timers from one timer
- Allow them to be shared by multiple threads of execution
 - E.g., two applications that want to share radio communication
- Device drivers provide interface for resource
 - Encapsulate frequently used functions
 - Save device state (if any)
 - Manage interrupt handling

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Very simple device driver

- Turn LED on/off
- Parameters:
 - port pin
- API:
 - on(port_pin)specifies the port pin (e.g., port D pin 3)
 - off(port_pin)
- Interactions:
 - only if other devices want to use the same port

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Simple device driver

- Turning an LED on and off at a fixed rate
- Parameters:
 - port pin
 - rate at which to blink LED
- API:
 - on(port_pin, rate)
 - specifies the port pin (e.g., port D pin 3)
 - specifies the rate to use in setting up the timer (what scale?)
 - off(port_pin)
- Internal state and functions:
 - keep track of state (on or off for a particular pin) of each pin
 - interrupt service routine to handle timer interrupt

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Interesting interactions

- What if other devices also need to use timer (e.g., PWM device)?
 - timer interrupts now need to be handled differently depending on which device's alarm is going off
- Benefits of special-purpose output compare peripheral
 - output compare pins used exclusively for one device
 - output compare has a separate interrupt handling routine
- What if we don't have output compare capability or run out of output compare units?

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Sharing timers

- Create a new device driver for the timer unit
 - Allow other devices to ask for timer services
 - Manage timer independently so that it can service multiple requests
- Parameters:
 - Time to wait, address to call when timer reaches that value
- API:
 - set_timer(time_to_wait, call_back_address)
 - Set call_back_address to correspond to time+time_to_wait
 - Compute next alarm to sound and set timer
 - Update in interrupt service routine for next alarm
- Internal state and functions:
 - How many alarms can the driver keep track of?
 - □ How are they organized? FIFO? priority queue?

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Concurrency

- Multiple programs interleaved as if parallel
- Each program requests access to devices/services
 - e.g., timers, serial ports, etc.
- Exclusive or concurrent access to devices
 - allow only one program at a time to access a device (e.g., serial port)
 - arbitrate multiple accesses (e.g., timer)
- State and arbitration needed
 - keep track of state of devices and concurrent programs using resource
 - □ arbitrate their accesses (order, fairness, exclusivity)
 - monitors/locks (supported by primitive operations in ISA test-and-set)
- Interrupts
 - disabling may effect timing of programs
 - keeping enabled may cause unwanted interactions

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Handling concurrency

- Traditional operating system
 - multiple threads or processes
 - file system
 - virtual memory and paging
 - input/output (buffering between CPU, memory, and I/O devices)
 - interrupt handling (mostly with I/O devices)
 - resource allocation and arbitration
 - command interface (execution of programs)
- Embedded operating system
 - lightweight threads
 - input/output
 - interrupt handling
 - real-time guarantees

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Embedded operating systems

- Lightweight threads
 - basic locks
 - fast context-switches
- Input/output
 - API for talking to devices
 - buffering
- Interrupt handling (with I/O devices and UI)
 - translate interrupts into events to be handled by user code
 - trigger new tasks to run (reactive)
- Real-time issues
 - guarantee task is called at a certain rate
 - guarantee an interrupt will be handled within a certain time
 - priority or deadline driven scheduling of tasks

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Examples

- Palm OS
 - US Robotics Palm Pilot
 - □ Motorola microcontrollers (68328 Dragonball, migrating to Xscale)

embedded operating

reside in ROM (flash)

systems typically

- simple OS for PDAs
- only supports single threads
- Pocket PC
 - PDA operating system
 - spin-off of Windows NT
 - portable to a wide variety of processors (e.g., Xscale)
 - full-featured OS modularized to only include features as needed
- Wind River Systems VxWorks
 - one of the most popular embedded OS kernels
 - highly portable to an even wider variety of processors (tiny to huge)
 - modularized even further than the ones above (basic system under 50K)

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TinyOS

- Open-source development environment
- Simple (and tiny) operating system TinyOS
- Programming language and model nesC
- Set of services
- Principal elements
 - Scheduler/event model of concurrency
 - Software components for efficient modularity
 - Software encapsulation for resources of sensor networks

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TinyOS History – www.tinyos.net

- Motivation create Unix analog (circa 1969)
 - Uniform programming language: C
 - Uniform device abstractions
 - Open source: grow with different developers/needs
 - Support creation of many tools
- Created at UC Berkeley
 - 1st version written by Jason Hill in 2000
 - Large part of development moved to Intel Research Berkeley in 2001
 www.intel-research.net/berkeley
 - Smart Dust, Inc. founded in 2002
- Large deployments
 - Great Duck Island (GDI)
 - http://www.greatduckisland.net/
 - Center for Embedded Network Sensing (CENS)
 - http://www.cens.ucla.edu/

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TinyOS Design Goals

- Support networked embedded systems
 - Asleep most of the time, but remain vigilant to stimuli
 - Bursts of events and operations
- Support UCB mote hardware
 - Power, sensing, computation, communication
 - Easy to port to evolving platforms
- Support technological advances
 - Keep scaling down
 - Smaller, cheaper, lower power

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TinyOS Design Options

- Can't use existing RTOS's
 - Microkernel architecture
 - VxWorks, PocketPC, PalmOS
 - Execution similar to desktop systems
 - PDA's, cell phones, embedded PC's
 - More than a order of magnitude too heavyweight and slow
 - Energy hogs

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TinyOS Design Conclusion

- Similar to building networking interfaces
 - Data driven execution
 - Manage large # of concurrent data flows
 - Manage large # of outstanding events
- Add: managing application data processing
- Conclusion: need a multi-threading engine
 - Extremely efficient
 - Extremely simple

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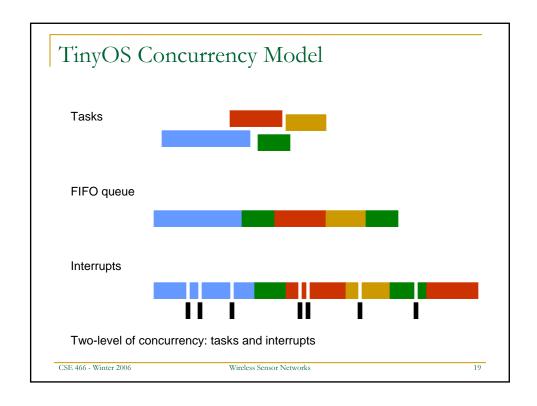
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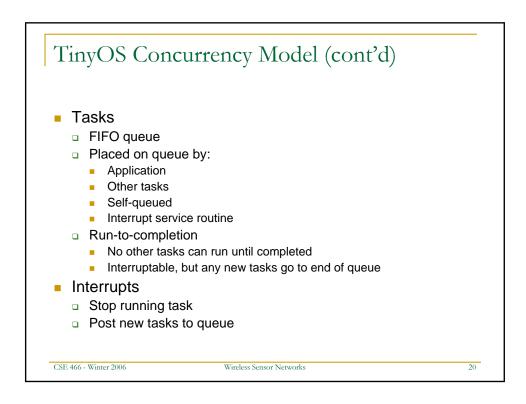
TinyOS Kernel Design

- Two-level scheduling structure
 - Events
 - Small amount of processing to be done in a timely manner
 - E.g. timer, ADC interrupts
 - Can interrupt longer running tasks
 - Tasks
 - Not time critical
 - Larger amount of processing
 - E.g. computing the average of a set of readings in an array
 - Run to completion with respect to other tasks
 - Only need a single stack

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TinyOS Concurrency Model (cont'd)

- Two-levels of concurrency
 - Possible conflicts between interrupts and tasks
- Atomic statements

```
atomic {
...
```

 Asynchronous service routines (as opposed to synchronous tasks)

```
async result_t'interface_name.cmd_or_event_name {
...
}
```

- Race conditions detected by compiler
 - □ Can generated false positives norace keyword to stop warnings, but be careful

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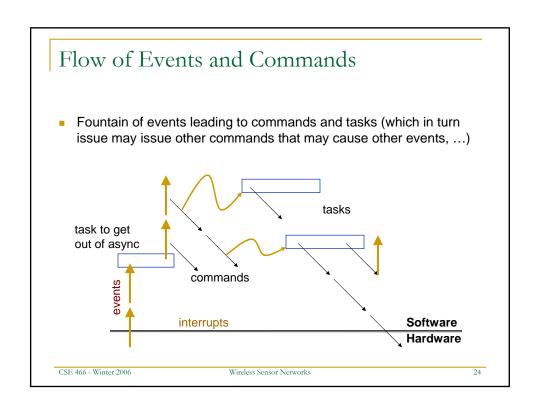
TinyOS Programming Model

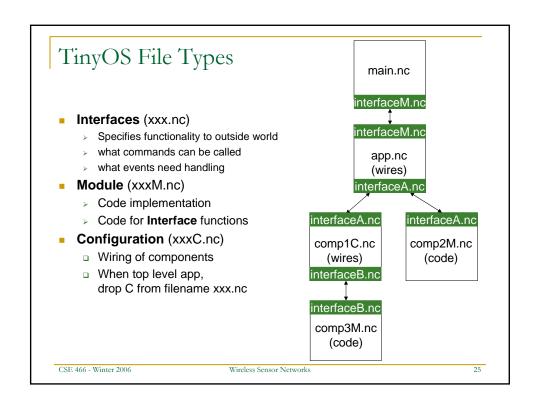
- Separation of construction and composition
 - Programs are built out of components
- Specification of component behavior in terms of a set of interfaces
 - Components specify interfaces they <u>use</u> and <u>provide</u>
- Components are statically wired to each other via their interfaces
 - This increases runtime efficiency by enabling compiler optimizations
- Finite-state-machine-like specifications
- Thread of control passes into a component through its interfaces to another component

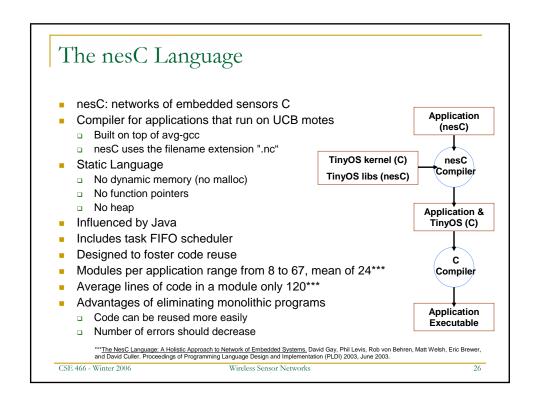
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TinyOS Basic Constructs Commands task **Application** Cause action to be initiated **Events** command Notify action has occurred event Generated by external interrupts Call back to provide results task Component from previous command **Tasks** command Background computation event Not time critical Hardware task Interface CSE 466 - Winter 2006 23 Wireless Sensor Networks







Commands

Commands are issued with "call"

```
call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 1000);
```

- Cause action to be initiated
- Bounded amount of work
 - Does not block
- Act similarly to a function call
 - Execution of a command is immediate

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Events

Events are called with "signal"

```
signal ByteComm.txByteReady(SUCCESS);
```

- Used to notify a component an action has occurred
- Lowest-level events triggered by hardware interrupts
- Bounded amount of work
 - Do not block
- Act similarly to a function call
 - Execution of a event is immediate

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Tasks

Tasks are queued with "post"

post radioEncodeThread();

- Used for longer running operations
- Pre-empted by events
 - Initiated by interrupts
- Tasks run to completion
- Not pre-empted by other tasks
- Example tasks
 - High level calculate aggregate of sensor readings
 - Low level encode radio packet for transmission, calculate CRC

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Components

- Two types of components in nesC:
 - Module
 - Configuration
- A component provides and uses Interfaces

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Module

- Provides application code
 - Contains C-like code
- Must implement the 'provides' interfaces
 - □ Implement the "commands" it provides
 - Make sure to actually "signal"
- Must implement the 'uses' interfaces
 - Implement the "events" that need to be handled
 - "call" commands as needed

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Configuration

- A configuration is a component that "wires" other components together.
- Configurations are used to assemble other components together
- Connects interfaces used by components to interfaces provided by others.

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Interfaces

- Bi-directional multi-function interaction channel between two components
- Allows a single interface to represent a complex event
 - E.g., a registration of some event, followed by a callback
 - Critical for non-blocking operation
- "provides" interfaces
 - Represent the functionality that the component provides to its user
 - □ Service "commands" implemented command functions
 - □ Issue "events" signal to user for passing data or signalling done
- "uses" interfaces
 - Represent the functionality that the component needs from a provider
 - Service "events" implement event handling
 - □ Issue "commands" ask provider to do something

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Application

- Consists of one or more components, wired together to form a runnable program
- Single top-level configuration that specifies the set of components in the application and how they connect to one another
- Connection (wire) to main component to start execution
 - Must implement init, start, and stop commands

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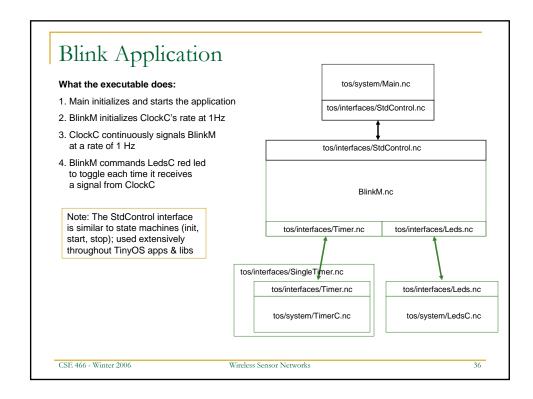
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Components/Wiring

- Directed wire (an arrow: '->') connects components
 - Only 2 components at a time point-to-point
 - Connection is across compatible interfaces
 - □ 'A <- B' is equivalent to 'B -> A'
- [component using interface] -> [component providing interface]
 - [interface] -> [implementation]
- '=' can be used to wire a component directly to the top-level object's interfaces
 - Typically used in a configuration file to use a sub-component directly
- Unused system components excluded from compilation

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Blink.nc

```
configuration Blink {
}
implementation {
  components Main, BlinkM, SingleTimer, LedsC;
  Main.StdControl -> SingleTimer.StdControl;
  Main.StdControl -> BlinkM.StdControl;
  BlinkM.Timer -> SingleTimer.Timer;
  BlinkM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
}
```

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StdControl.nc

```
interface StdControl {
  command result_t init();
  command result_t start();
  command result_t stop();
}
```

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BlinkM.nc BlinkM.nc module BlinkM { provides { interface StdControl; implementation { uses { interface Timer; command result_t StdControl.init() { interface Leds; call Leds.init(); } return SUCCESS; } command result_t StdControl.start() { return call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 1000); command result_t StdControl.stop() { return call Timer.stop(); event result_t Timer.fired() call Leds.redToggle(); return SUCCESS; CSE 466 - Winter 2006 Wireless Sensor Networks 39

SingleTimer.nc (should have been SingleTimerC.nc)

- Parameterized interfaces
 - allows a component to provide multiple instances of an interface that are parameterized by a value
- Timer implements one level of indirection to actual timer functions
 - Timer module supports many interfaces
 - $\hfill \square$ This module simply creates one unique timer interface and wires it up
 - By wiring Timer to a separate instance of the Timer interface provided by TimerC, each component can effectively get its own "private" timer

```
configuration SingleTimer {
  provides interface Timer;
  provides interface StdControl;
}
implementation {
  components TimerC;

Timer = TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
  StdControl = TimerC.StdControl;
}
```

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Blink.nc without SingleTimer

```
configuration Blink {
}
implementation {
  components Main, BlinkM, TimerC, LedsC;
  Main.StdControl -> TimerC.StdControl;
  Main.StdControl -> BlinkM.StdControl;
  BlinkM.Timer -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
  BlinkM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
}
```

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Timer.nc

```
interface Timer {
  command result_t start(char type, uint32_t interval);
  command result_t stop();
  event result_t fired();
}
```

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TimerC.nc

- Implementation of multiple timer interfaces to a single shared timer
- Each interface is named
- Each interface connects to one other module

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Leds.nc (partial)

```
interface Leds {

/**
 * Initialize the LEDs; among other things, initialization turns them all off.
 */
    async command result_t init();

/**
 * Turn the red LED on.
 */
    async command result_t redOn();

/**
 * Turn the red LED off.
 */
    async command result_t redOff();

/**
 * Toggle the red LED. If it was on, turn it off. If it was off,
 * turn it on.
 */
    async command result_t redToggle();
    ...

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```

LedsC.nc (partial)

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```
atomic {
    TOSH_CLR_RED_LED_PIN();
    ledsOn |= RED_BIT;
module LedsC {
  provides interface Leds;
                                                                             return SUCCESS;
implementation
                                                                          uint8_t ledsOn;
   enum {
  RED_BIT = 1,
  GREEN_BIT = 2,
                                                                                 TOSH_SET_RED_LED_PIN();
ledsOn &= ~RED_BIT;
      YELLOW_BIT = 4
                                                                              return SUCCESS;
  async command result_t Leds.init() {
  atomic {
   ledsOn = 0;
                                                                          async command result_t Leds.redToggle() {
                                                                            result_t rval;
atomic {
        ledsOf = 0',
dbg(DBG_BOOT, "LEDS: initialized.\n");
TOSH_MAKE_RED_LED_OUTPUT();
TOSH_MAKE_YELLOW_LED_OUTPUT();
TOSH_MAKE_GREEN_LED_OUTPUT();
                                                                               if (ledsOn & RED_BIT)
    rval = call Leds.redOff();
        TOSH_SET_RED_LED_PIN();
TOSH_SET_YELLOW_LED_PIN();
                                                                                     rval = call Leds.redOn();
                                                                             return rval;
         TOSH_SET_GREEN_LED_PIN();
      return SUCCESS;
```

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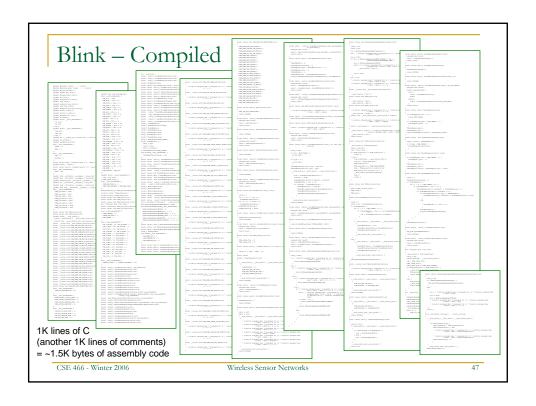
async command result_t Leds.redOn() {
 dbg(DBG_LED, "LEDS: Red on.\n");

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Controlling the hardware in TinyOS

```
in tos/platform/mica2dot/hardware.h: you have
TOSH_ASSIGN_PIN(INT0, D, 0);
#define TOSH_ASSIGN_PIN(name, port, bit) \
static inline void TOSH_SET_##name##_PIN() {sbi(PORT##port, bit);} \
static inline void TOSH_CLR_##name##_PIN() {cbi(PORT##port, bit);} \
static inline int TOSH_READ_##name##_PIN() \
 {return (inp(PIN##port) & (1 << bit)) != 0;} \
static inline void TOSH_MAKE_##name##_OUTPUT() {sbi(DDR##port, bit);} \
static inline void TOSH_MAKE_##name##_INPUT() {cbi(DDR##port, bit);}
Gives these control mechanisms:
   TOSH_SET_INT0_PIN();
   TOSH_CLR_INT0_PIN();
   TOSH_READ_INT0_PIN();
   TOSH_MAKE_INTO_OUTPUT();
   TOSH_MAKE_INTO_INPUT();
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```

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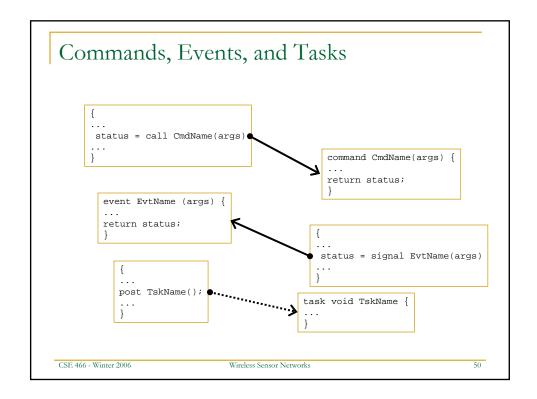
Blink – Compiled – a small piece static inline result_t LedsC\$Leds\$redToggle(void) result t rval; { __nesc_atomic_t __nesc_atomic = __nesc_atomic_start(); if (LedsC\$ledsOn & LedsC\$RED_BIT) { rval = LedsC\$Leds\$redOff(); } else { rval = LedsC\$Leds\$redOn(); } _nesc_atomic_end(__nesc_atomic); } inline static result_t BlinkM\$Leds\$redToggle(void) unsigned char result; result = LedsC\$Leds\$redToggle(); static inline result_t LedsC\$Leds\$redOn(void) return result; TOSH_CLR_RED_LED_PIN(); LedsC\$ledsOn |= LedsC\$RED_BIT; static inline result_t BlinkM\$Timer\$fired(void) BlinkM\$Leds\$redToggle(); __nesc_atomic_end(__nesc_atomic); } return SUCCESS; static inline result_t LedsC\$Leds\$redOff(void) { __nesc_atomic_t __nesc_atomic = __nesc_atomic_start(); { TOSH_SET_RED_LED_PIN(); LedsC\$ledsOn &= ~LedsC\$RED_BIT; } __nesc_atomic_end(__nesc_atomic); } return SUCCESS; CSE 466 - Winter 2006 Wireless Sensor Networks

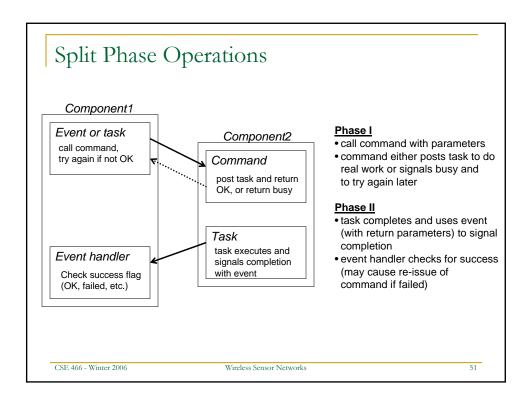
Concurrency Model

- Asynchronous Code (AC)
 - Any code that is reachable from an interrupt handler
- Synchronous Code (SC)
 - Any code that is ONLY reachable from a task
 - Boot sequence
- Potential race conditions
 - Asynchronous Code and Synchronous Code
 - Asynchronous Code and Asynchronous Code
 - Non-preemption eliminates data races among tasks
- nesC reports potential data races to the programmer at compile time (new with version 1.1)
- Use atomic statement when needed
- async keyword is used to declare asynchronous code to compiler

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Naming Convention

- Use mixed case with the first letter of word capitalized
 - Interfaces (Xxx.nc)
 - Components
 - Configuration (XxxC.nc)
 - Module (XxxM.nc)
 - □ Application top level component (Xxx.nc)
- Commands, Events, & Tasks
 - First letter lowercase
 - Task names should start with the word "task", commands with "cmd", events with "evt" or "event"
 - If a command/event pair form a split-phase operation, event name should be same as command name with the suffix "Done" or "Complete"
 - Commands with "TOSH_" prefix indicate that they touch hardware directly
- Variables first letter lowercase, caps on first letter of all sub-words
- Constants all caps

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Interfaces can fan-out and fan-in

- nesC allows interfaces to fan-out to and fan-in from multiple components
- One "provides" can be connected to many "uses" and vice versa
- Wiring fans-out, fan-in is done by a combine function that merges results

combine is just a simple logical AND for most cases
....
 ok1 = call UARTControl.init();
 ok2 = call RadioControl.init();
 ok3 = call Leds.init();

 return rcombine3(ok1, ok2, ok3);

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```
Example
                                    configuration CntToLeds {
                                      components Main, Counter, IntToLeds, TimerC;
                                      Main.StdControl -> IntToLeds.StdControl;
                                      Main.StdControl -> Counter.StdControl;
                                      Main.StdControl -> TimerC.StdControl;
                                      Counter.Timer
                                                        -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
                                      Counter.IntOutput -> IntToLeds.IntOutput;
                                                       M ain.nc
                                                     StdControl.nc
                                                     StdControl.nc
                                                      Counter.nc
                                                Timer.nc
                                                            IntOutput.nc
                              StdControl.nc
                                                               IntOutput.nc StdControl.nc
                                              Timer.nc
                                                                      IntToLeds.nc
                                      TimerC.nc
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```

Exercise

- Which of the following goes inside the module you are implementing if we assume you are the "user" of the interface?
 - NOTE: Not all of these choices are exposed through an interface.
 Assume those that are not exposed are implemented in your module.
 - post taskA();
 - call commandB(args);
 - signal eventC(args);
 - taskA implementation
 - commandB implementation
 - eventC implementation

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```
Sense Application
                                         SenseM.nc
                                          module SenseM {
                                            provides {
                                              interface StdControl;
                                            uses {
                                              interface Timer;
Sense.nc
                                              interface ADC;
                                              interface StdControl as ADCControl;
configuration Sense {
                                              interface Leds;
                                                                           cont'd
  components Main, SenseM, LedsC, TimerC, DemoSensorC as Sensor;
                                                   configuration DemoSensorC
  Main.StdControl -> Sensor.StdControl;
  Main.StdControl -> TimerC.StdControl;
                                                     provides interface ADC;
  Main.StdControl -> SenseM.StdControl;
                                                     provides interface StdControl;
  SenseM.ADC -> Sensor.ADC;
  SenseM.ADCControl -> Sensor.StdControl;
  SenseM.Leds -> LedsC.Leds;
                                                     components Photo as Sensor;
  SenseM.Timer -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
                                                     StdControl = Sensor;
                                                     ADC = Sensor;
                                   DemoSensorC.nc
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```

SenseM.nc

```
cont'd
implementation {
/* Module scoped method. Displays the lowest 3 bits to the LEDs, with RED
   being the most significant and YELLOW being the least significant */
result_t display(uint16_t value) {
    if (value &1) call Leds.yellowOn(); else call Leds.yellowOff();
    if (value &2) call Leds.greenOn(); else call Leds.greenOff();
    if (value &4) call Leds.redOn(); else call Leds.redOff();
    return SUCCESS;
command result_t StdControl.init() { return call Leds.init(); }
command result_t StdControl.start() { return call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 500); }
command result_t StdControl.stop() { return call Timer.stop(); }
event result_t Timer.fired() { return call ADC.getData(); }
async event result_t ADC.dataReady(uint16_t data) {
    display(7-((data>>7) &0x7));
    return SUCCESS;
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```

Sense Application Using Task

```
module SenseTaskM {
    provides {
        interface StdControl;
    }
    uses {
        interface Timer;
        interface ADC;
        interface Leds;
    }
    implementation
    {
        components Main, SenseTaskM, LedsC, TimerC, DemoSensorC as Sensor;
        Main.StdControl -> TimerC;
```

SenseM.nc

Main.StdControl -> TimerC;
Main.StdControl -> Sensor;
Main.StdControl -> SenseTaskM;

SenseTaskM.Timer -> TimerC.Timer[unique("Timer")];
SenseTaskM.ADC -> Sensor;
SenseTaskM.Leds -> LedsC;
}

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SenseTaskM.nc

```
\verb|implementation|| \{
  enum {
    log2size = 3, // log2 of buffer
size=1 << log2size, // circular buffe
sizemask=size - 1, // bit mask
                                // head index
  int8_t head; // head index
int16_t rdata[size]; // circular buffe
  inline void putdata(int16_t val)
     int16_t p;
    atomic {
    p = head;
             head = (p+1) & sizemask;
rdata[p] = val;
  result_t display(uint16_t value)
        if (value &1) call Leds.yellowOn();
        else call Leds.yellowOff();
       if (value &2) call Leds.greenOn();
else call Leds.greenOff();
        if (value &4) call Leds.redOn();
        else call Leds.redOff();
        return SUCCESS;
```

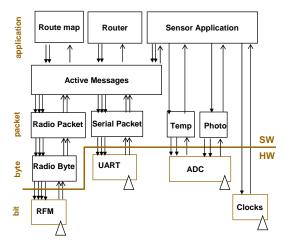
```
task void processData()
  int16_t i, sum=0;
  atomic {
  for (i=0; i<size; i++)</pre>
       sum += (rdata[i] >> 7);
  display(sum >> log2size);
command result_t StdControl.init() {
 atomic head = 0;
 return call Leds.init();
command result_t StdControl.start() {
 return call Timer.start(TIMER_REPEAT, 500);
command result_t StdControl.stop() {
 return call Timer.stop();
event result_t Timer.fired() {
 return call ADC.getData();
async event result_t ADC.dataReady(uint16_t data)
 putdata(data);
 post processData();
 return SUCCESS;
```

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NOTE: This is NOT the radio stack we will be using

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Tips

- Make liberal use of "grep" or "find in files"
- Look at example applications in the /apps directory
- All interfaces are in /interfaces directory
- Utilities are in /system, /lib, /platform, or /sensorboards
- Try to keep commands and events very short
 - Avoid loops, use queues and callbacks

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Debugging

- Covered in more detail in later lectures
- Applications can be built to run on the PC (TOSSIM)
 - Good to debug
 - Does not perfectly simulate the hardware
- Toggling LEDs
 - Can only get so much information from 1 LED
 - Useful for indicating specific events (will LED be on long enough?)
 - Radio packet transmit/receive
 - Timer fired
 - Sensor activation

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