

ECE471: Embedded Systems – Homework 1

Due: Friday 8 September 2017, 1:00pm

For this homework short answers will suffice. There isn't necessarily a right or wrong answer for some of the questions, but be sure to explain your reasoning.

To submit, create a document with your answers (text, pdf, libreoffice, MS Office if you must) and e-mail them to *vincent.weaver@maine.edu* by the homework deadline. Title your e-mail "ECE471 Homework 1" and be sure your name is included in the document.

1. For each of the following three cases, classify if you would consider the device described as an embedded system or not. For each case list 3 of the characteristics given in class for what defines an "embedded system" and say whether the device meets them.
 - (a) You buy an electric toothbrush that has an 8-bit PIC16F1516 microcontroller (16MHz, 8k flash, 512 bytes RAM), an 8 LED display, an i2c pressure sensor, and a motor driven by an H-bridge.
 - (b) The iPhone 7 has an Apple A10 processor in it. This processor is a quad-core 64-bit CPU running up to 2.3GHz, with large L1, L2 and L3 caches. It also has a powerful GPU (graphics unit).
 - (c) You open up a microwave and it has an 8-bit PIC processor in it. This processor runs at 10MHz and the only interface is an LED display, a keypad, and some circuitry to operate the fans and magnetron.
2. You are designing a small embedded system.
 - (a) Describe one reason why using an ASIC (application-specific integrated circuit) might be better than using a microcontroller.
 - (b) Describe one reason why using a microcontroller might be better than using an ASIC.
3. The Raspberry Pi B+ contains a BCM2835 SoC. Onboard is a ARM1176JZF-S CPU. What do the letters "JZF-S" indicate about the processor?