Networked Air Hockey Video Game

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OVERVIEW

Game Play

- Two players
- Paddle control using mouse
- First player to 8 points wins!

Players on separate terminals

• Communication through Ethernet directly connected network

OBJECTIVES

• Build the game from scratch that features:

• Fully integrated system (hardware and software)

• Clean, intuitive design

• Fun game play

DESIGN ARCHITECTURE

• Altera Cyclone II FPGA

NIOS processor

- CPU
- SRAM

- Peripherals
 - VGA
 - Mouse
 - Ethernet





CIRCLE GENERATION ALGO

- Drawing circles require computing the square of the x,y coordinates as well as the radius
- Multiplication is toxic!
- It is possible to generate circles using only lookups and addition:
 - Created array which contains pre-computed squares
 - Lookup into the array to get the square based on the index
 - Use these values as constant for computing the equation of a square

NETWORKING!

- Point to point ethernet connection established between the players.
- Master Slave configuration.
- IP packets transmitted.
- Paddle coordinates from slave to master and vice versa transmitted over the ethernet.
- Puck coordinates transmitted only from master to slave.

PS2 MOUSE INTERFACE

		Bit 7	Bit 6	Bit 5	Bit 4	Bit 3	Bit 2	Bit 1	Bit 0	
	Byte 1	Y overflow	X overflow	Y sign bit	X sign bit	Always 1	Middle Btn	Right Btn	Left Btn	
	Byte 2	Byte X movement Byte Y movement								
	Byte 3									

- 3 byte serial transmission from the PS2 mouse.
- Data captured continuously from the data register
- Used Altera alt_up_ps2_port.c functions to capture the mouse data
- Created ps2_mouse.c file from scratch! to handle the directions and positions of the paddles.

SCORE KEEPING

Bit maps created for PLAYER: 1,2.

Bit maps created for score from 0 -8.

 Every time a goal is scored by a player, the appropriate bit map location is chosen based on the new score and displayed on the VGA.

• Scores are also transmitted over the ethernet to the other player's display.



PROJECT EXPERIENCE

• Worked in parallel

• Lots of collaboration

• Learned to work in distracting environment

SUMMARY

Lessons Learned

- Important to understand the details of each component
- Make use each member's individual strengths
- Always leave space for adjustments or additions