



ESP Hardware Overview

5/8/22 Brent Roman brent@mbari.org



2G ESP Machine Types

- shallow
 - 50 meter rated can
 - All but one 2G ESP is of this type
- 4km
 - 4000 meter rated titanium sphere
 - Only one ever deployed
- mfb
 - standalone microfluidic block
 - affectionately named “tombstone”
 - still supported, but not none deployed

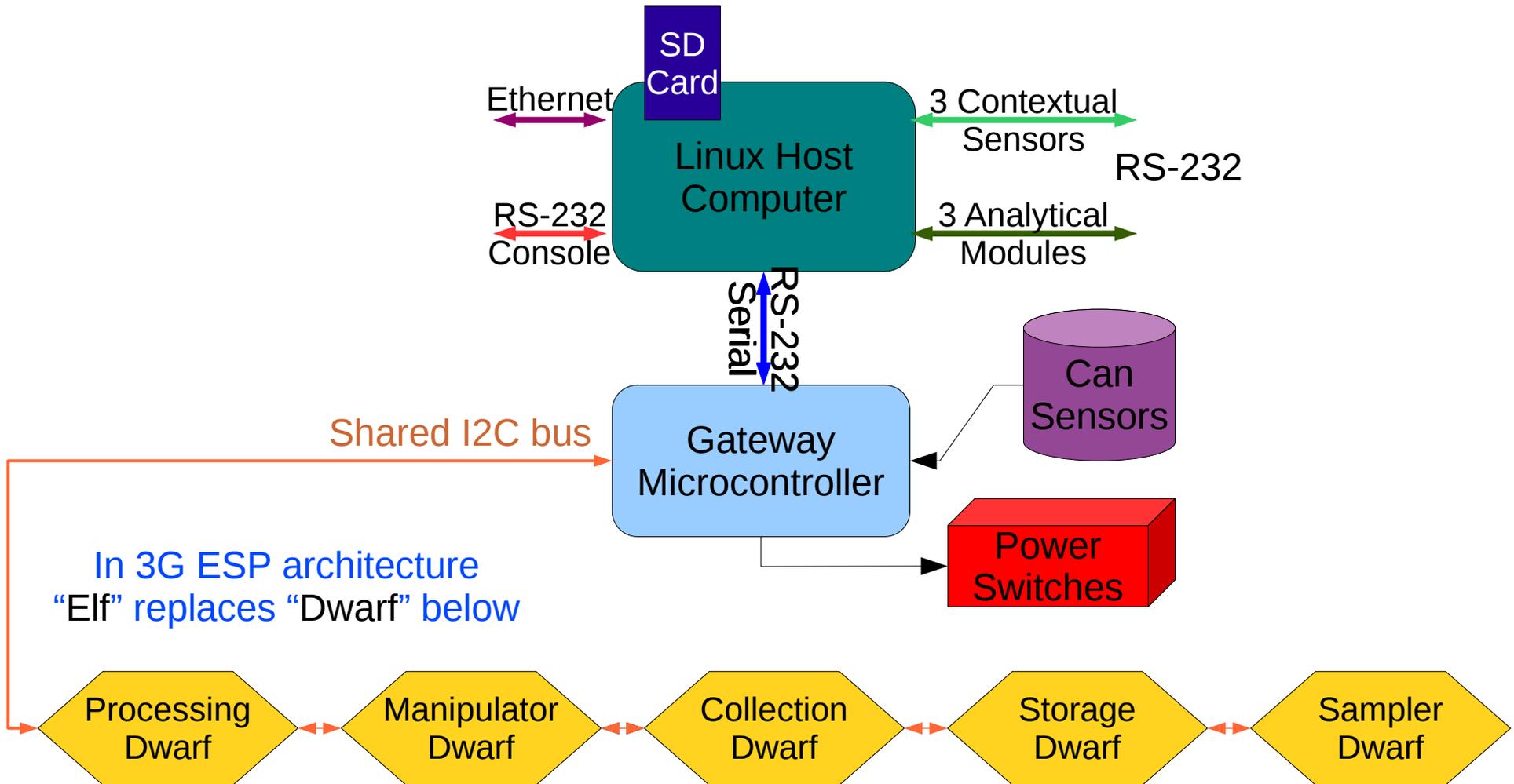
3G ESP Machine Types

- auv
 - Includes cartridge carousel
 - Suitable for deployment in MBARI Long-Range AUV
- portable
 - Single cartridge
 - Used for protocol development in lab

ESP Hardware Architecture

- Distributed control
 - All “work” delegated to microcontrollers
 - 2G calls them “dwarves”, 3G “elves”
 - All dwarf/elf microcontrollers are identical
 - all communicate on a shared I²C bus
 - all run the same firmware
 - The unique “gateway” microcontroller
 - connects the Linux Host Computer (via an RS-232 serial port)
 - to the microcontrollers’ common I²C bus

2G ESP Hardware Connectivity



Almost all ESP activity is funneled through the RS-232 link between Gateway and Linux Host
The Linux host may be replaced with any computer with a serial port (for lab testing)

Failures on *any* Microcontroller may cause I2C bus errors on others
Gateway failures may also be reported as I2C bus errors

Simulated Hardware

- Can run in simulated time or real-time
- Each Simulated Dwarf or Elf
 - Implemented as a separate Ruby thread
 - while real microcontrollers are programmed in 'C'
 - Responds to the exact same I²C bus messages
 - Models basic, linear motor and heater physics
 - Simulates “crash” if one attempt to run past end stop
 - However, does not model two actuators colliding
 - Heaters do not model boiling water
- In real-time, may be combined with real contextual sensors on RS-232 ports



Simulation Limitations

- Can environment is unchanging
- Energy Use is not tracked
- Filter clogging is not simulated
 - samples at constant rate until goal reached
 - one can set this simulated filtering rate
- No images generated
- No email messages in simulated time
 - But you can get emails running real-time sims
- Run your simulated time sims on a laptop
 - >100x faster than the ESP!