

The World Leader in High Performance Signal Processing Solutions



Introduction to VisualAudio

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About this Module

- ◆ **This module gives an overview of VisualAudio, a tool for rapid development of audio processing software. Examples and demonstrations will be based on the ADSP-BF533 EZ-KIT. You will learn about:**
 - The primary features of VisualAudio and how the tool can accelerate product development
 - How to design audio processing layouts using the graphical editor
 - The underlying DSP software architecture

- ◆ **Target Audience**
 - Embedded product developers
 - Some experience with audio
 - Some familiarity with Blackfin processors and the VisualDSP++ development environment

- ◆ **A separate module – aimed specifically at audio algorithm developers - discusses VisualAudio’s advanced features in more detail**



Module Outline

- ◆ **VisualAudio Overview**
- ◆ **Live Demonstration**
- ◆ **DSP Software Architecture**
 - Relationship to VisualDSP++
 - The audio module library
 - Real-time platforms
- ◆ **Conclusion**



VisualAudio Overview



What Is VisualAudio?

- ◆ **A tool for streamlining audio product development**
- ◆ **Consists of:**
 - **The VisualAudio Designer - graphical audio processing design application**
 - **Audio Module Library - commonly used audio functions**
 - **Example Platforms - real-time frameworks with audio I/O**
- ◆ **Designed for product development engineers**
- ◆ **Provides most of the standard software components found in audio products**
- ◆ **Generates MIPs and memory optimized code**



Supports Both Blackfin and SHARC Processor Families from ADI

◆ Blackfin

- 2x16-bit SIMD fixed-point DSP (VisualAudio uses 32-bit fixed-point for all audio)
- Rich set of microcontroller features
- Full external memory interface

◆ SHARC

- 32-bit floating-point DSP with SIMD capabilities
- External memory support varies among processor versions

◆ Both architectures come in a variety of models with integrated audio peripherals

- Serial ports
- S/PDIF transceiver
- Hardware sampling rate converters

◆ Both processor families are supported by similar platforms, and complementary sets of audio modules and decoders.

Blackfin vs. SHARC Selection Guide

- ◆ The SHARC is ideal for products whose primary function is audio or if there is a significant amount of audio processing
 - Audio/video receivers
 - Professional audio systems
 - High-end automotive audio systems
- ◆ The Blackfin is ideal for products that have functions in addition to audio
 - Portable media players
 - Automotive head units & telematics
 - Networked media nodes
 - Mass market pro audio
 - Mid-end automotive amplifiers
- ◆ As a rule of thumb, the SHARC is 3 to 4 times as efficient as the Blackfin in processing audio, per MIP



EZ-KIT Evaluation Hardware Supported by VisualAudio

◆ ADSP-21262 EZ-KIT

- 2-in 8-out analog I/O
- 1 S/PDIF input

◆ ADSP-21364 EZ-KIT

- 2-in 8-out analog I/O
- S/PDIF input and output

◆ ADSP-21369 EZ-KIT

- 2-in 8-out analog I/O
- S/PDIF input

◆ Audio extender card is coming soon which provides 8-in and 16-out analog I/O

◆ ADSP-BF533 EZ-KIT

- 4-in 6-out analog I/O

◆ ADSP-BF537 EZ-KIT

- 2-in 2-out analog I/O

◆ ADSP-BF537 EZ-KIT with audio extender card

- 8-in 16-out analog I/O
- S/PDIF input and output



Key Benefits

◆ For product developers

- Provides a starting point and methodology for audio product development
- Reduces development time, cost, and risk
- Allows engineers to focus on *differentiating* their products rather than implementing standard features
- Provides access to audio IP in a consistent format

◆ For IP developers

- Streamlines IP development
- Serves as a demonstration platform
- Provides a consistent format to deliver audio IP



Live Demo

- ◆ **Creating a New System**
- ◆ **Designing the Layout**
- ◆ **Generating Code**
- ◆ **Building the Executable**
- ◆ **Real-time Tuning**

Demo Overview

◆ Hardware Setup

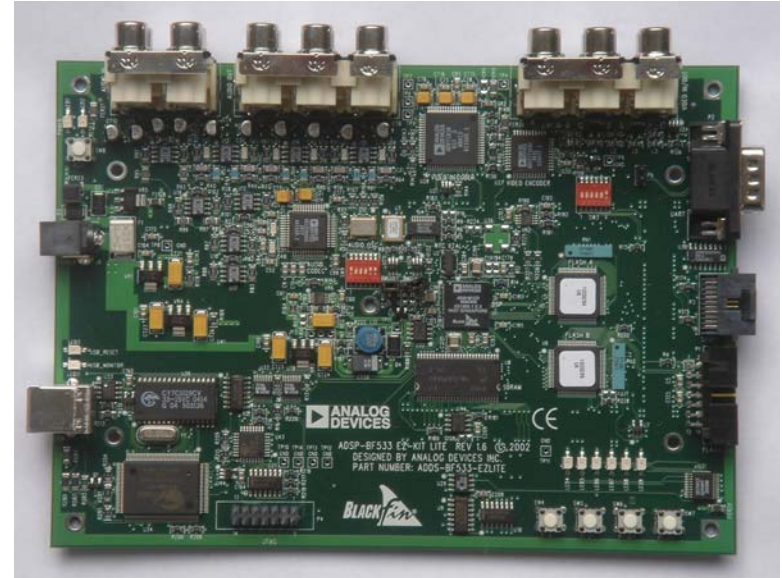
- BF533 EZ-KIT
- HUSB emulator (recommended, but you can use the built-in USB emulator)
- Line-level audio source
- Powered speakers

◆ Software Setup

- VisualAudio
- VisualDSP++

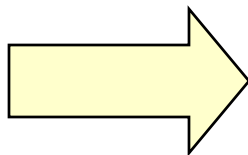
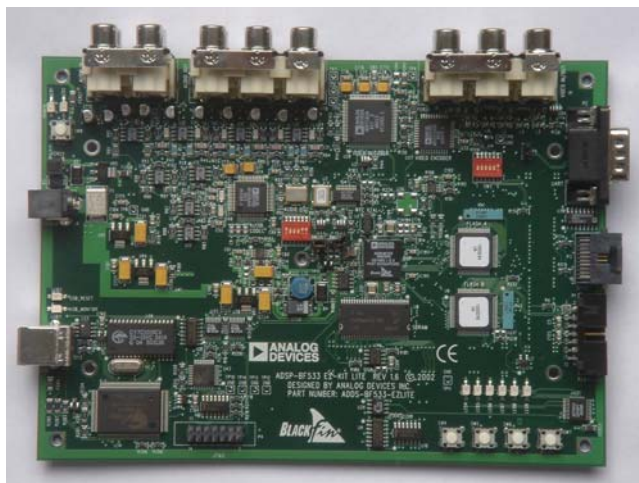
◆ Steps

- Create an audio processing design using the graphical editor
- Generate code
- Build and run the executable on the EZ-KIT
- Tune the system in real-time



Migrate to Your Target Hardware

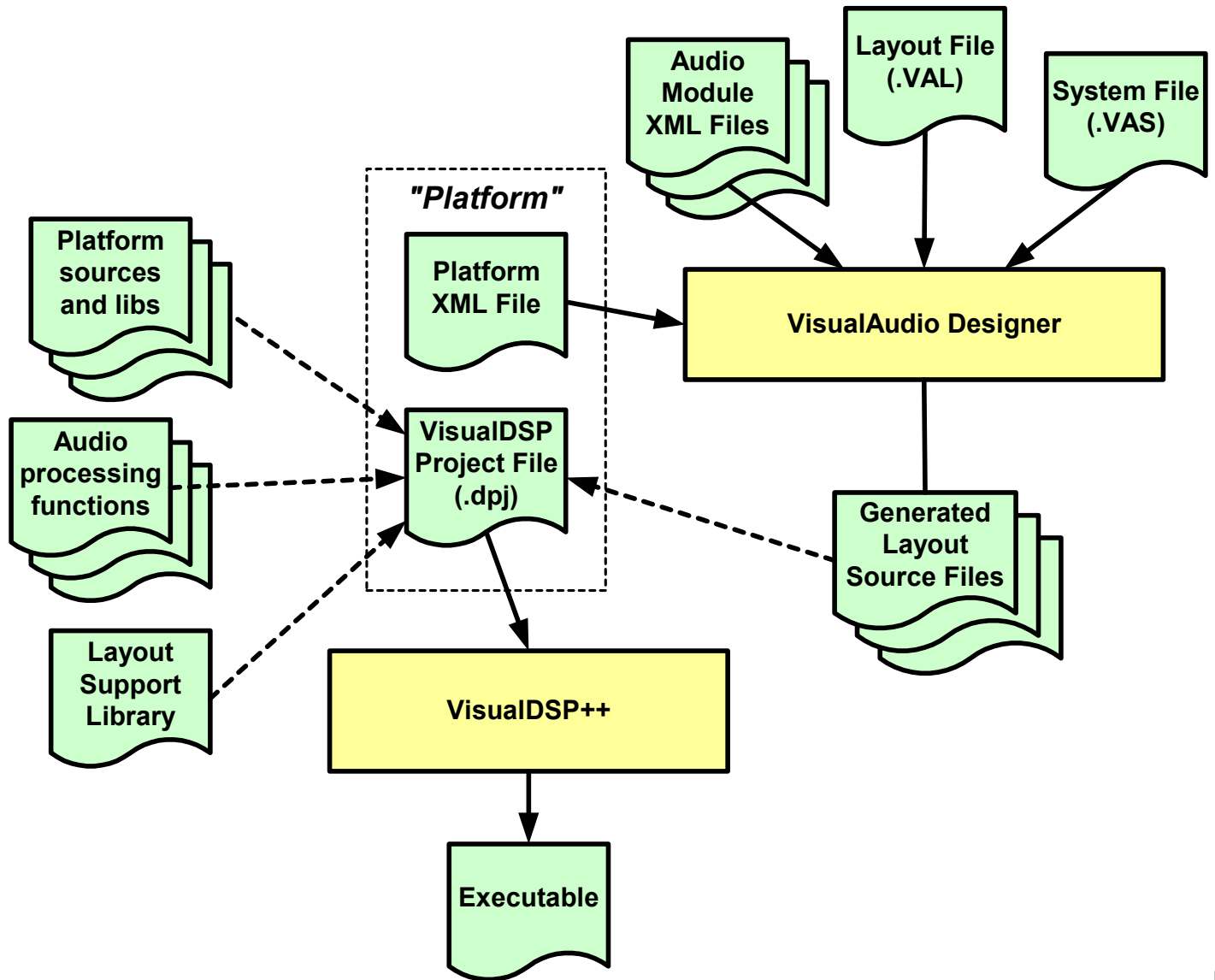
- ◆ Begin with a reference platform – source code provided
- ◆ Write drivers for your target hardware
- ◆ Create a platform file that describes your hardware to VisualAudio
- ◆ Continue to use VisualAudio on your target hardware





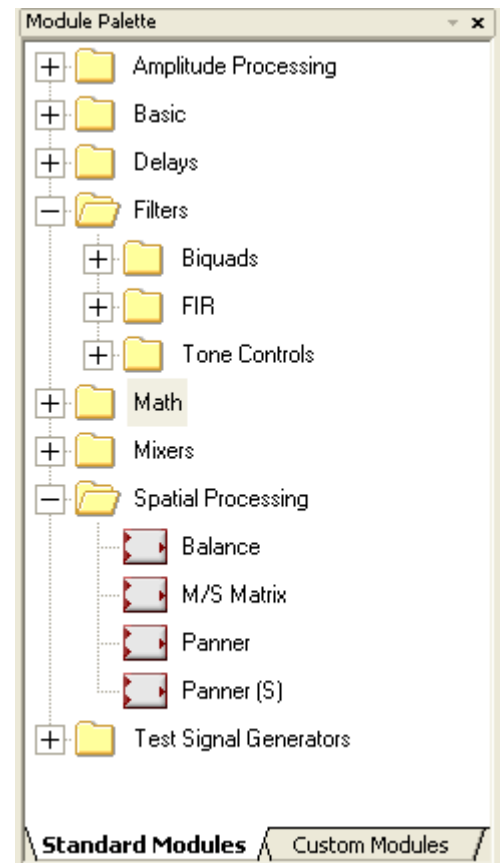
DSP Software Architecture

VisualAudio and VisualDSP++



Audio Module Library

- ◆ Subroutines for processing PCM audio
- ◆ 89/(94) “standard” modules provided in the current Blackfin/(SHARC) release:
 - Mixers
 - Filters
 - Delays
 - Tone controls
 - Basic math
 - Faders / balance
 - Volume controls
 - Compressor
 - Limiter
 - Etc
- ◆ Optimized for SIMD execution
- ◆ Some have separate versions for mono and stereo inputs
- ◆ Source code provided
- ◆ Customers can write their own modules as well



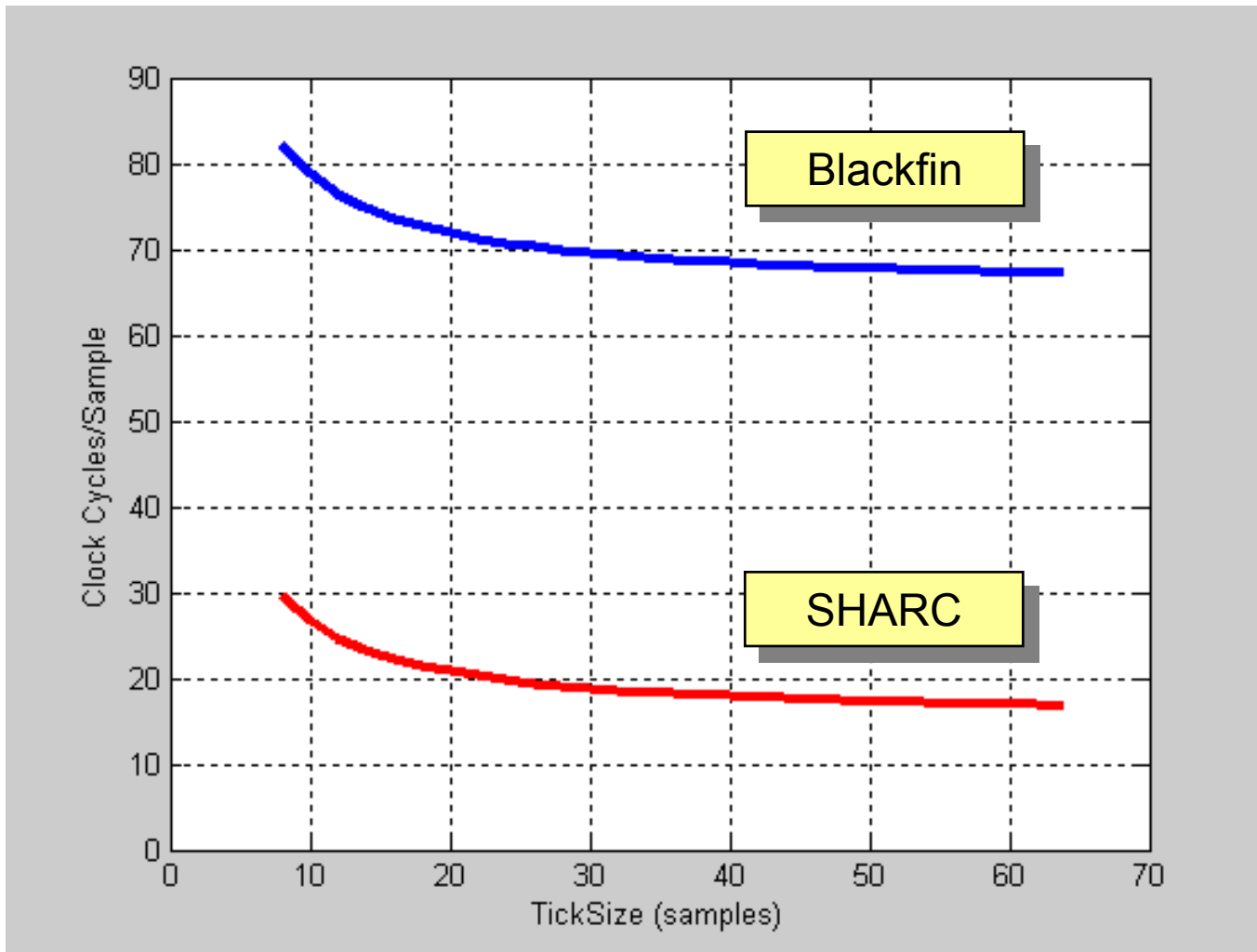


Block Processing

- ◆ **Each audio module operates on a block of data – rather than sample-by-sample**
- ◆ **The number of samples per block is fixed and is called the “TickSize”**
- ◆ **All modules operate at the same TickSize.**
- ◆ **The TickSize is adjustable through the User Interface**
- ◆ **Block processing is a natural fit for audio decoders which output blocks of data (e.g., Dolby Digital outputs 256 sample blocks)**
- ◆ **Block processing yields an efficient implementation**

Example Computation

10th order IIR filter



Audio Module Interconnections / Wires

- ◆ Mono wires contain TickSize audio samples



- ◆ Stereo wires hold interleaved data and contain 2*TickSize audio samples



- ◆ Control wires contain a single value

- ◆ 4 frequency domain wire types

- Real half spectrum
- Complex half spectrum
- Real full spectrum
- Complex full spectrum



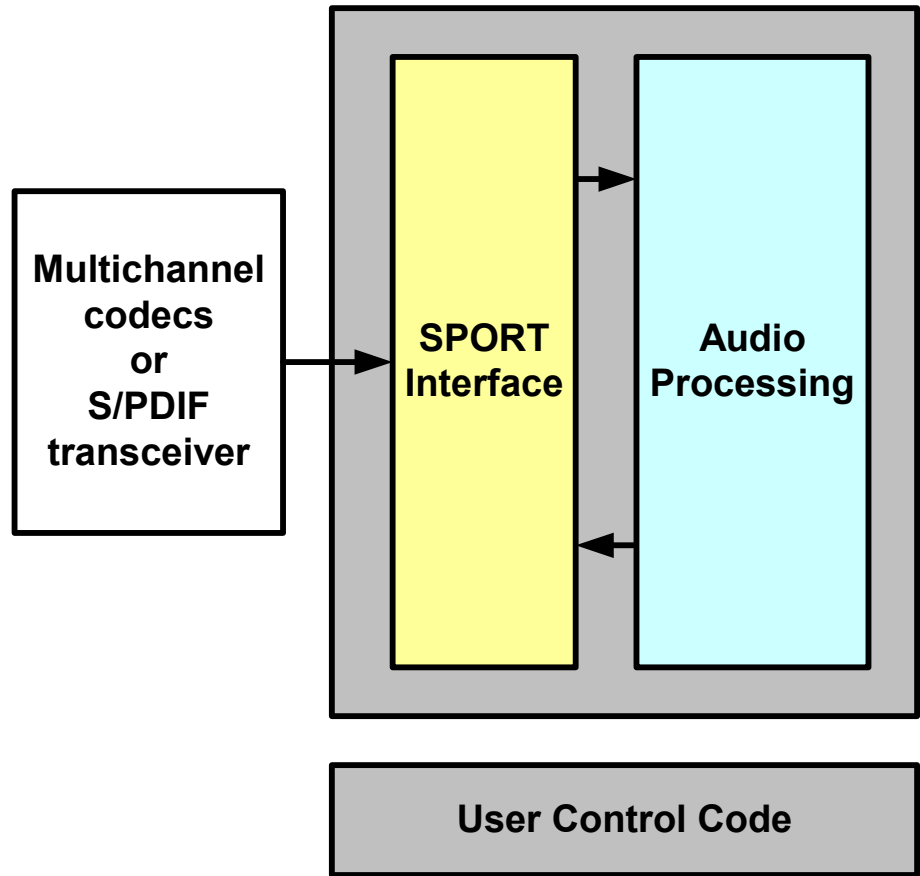
VisualAudio Platforms

- ◆ **Lightweight interrupt driven real-time frameworks**
- ◆ **Platforms provide**
 - **Double-buffered DMA-driven audio I/O**
 - **An interface to VisualAudio generated audio processing**
 - **A separate non-real-time control thread**
 - **Tuning**
 - **Communication with a host micro-controller (if any)**
- ◆ **Several application-specific variants**
 - **“Basic” - General purpose, PCM I/O**
 - **AVR (for home theater products with decoders)**
 - **Automotive**

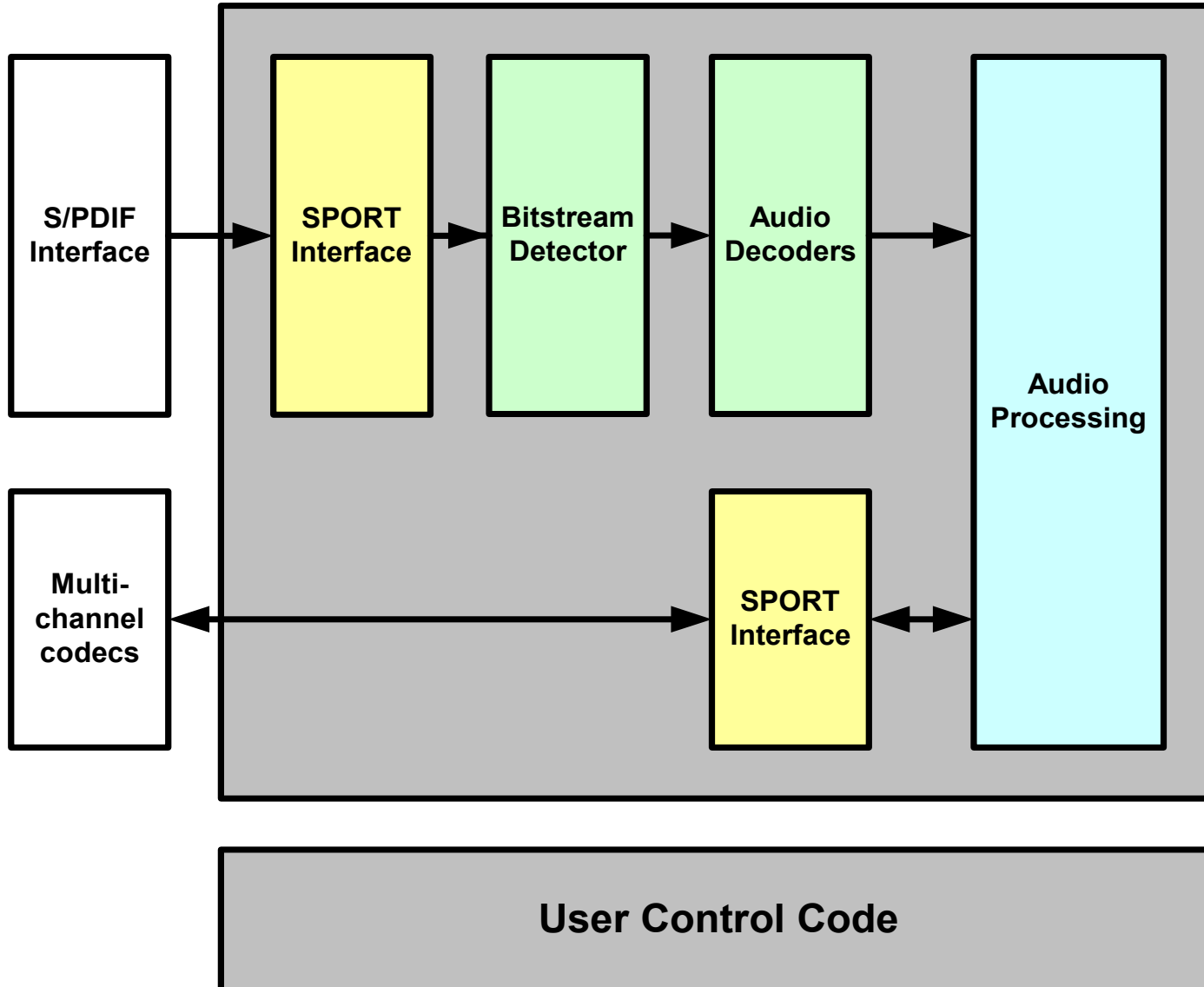


“Basic” Platform

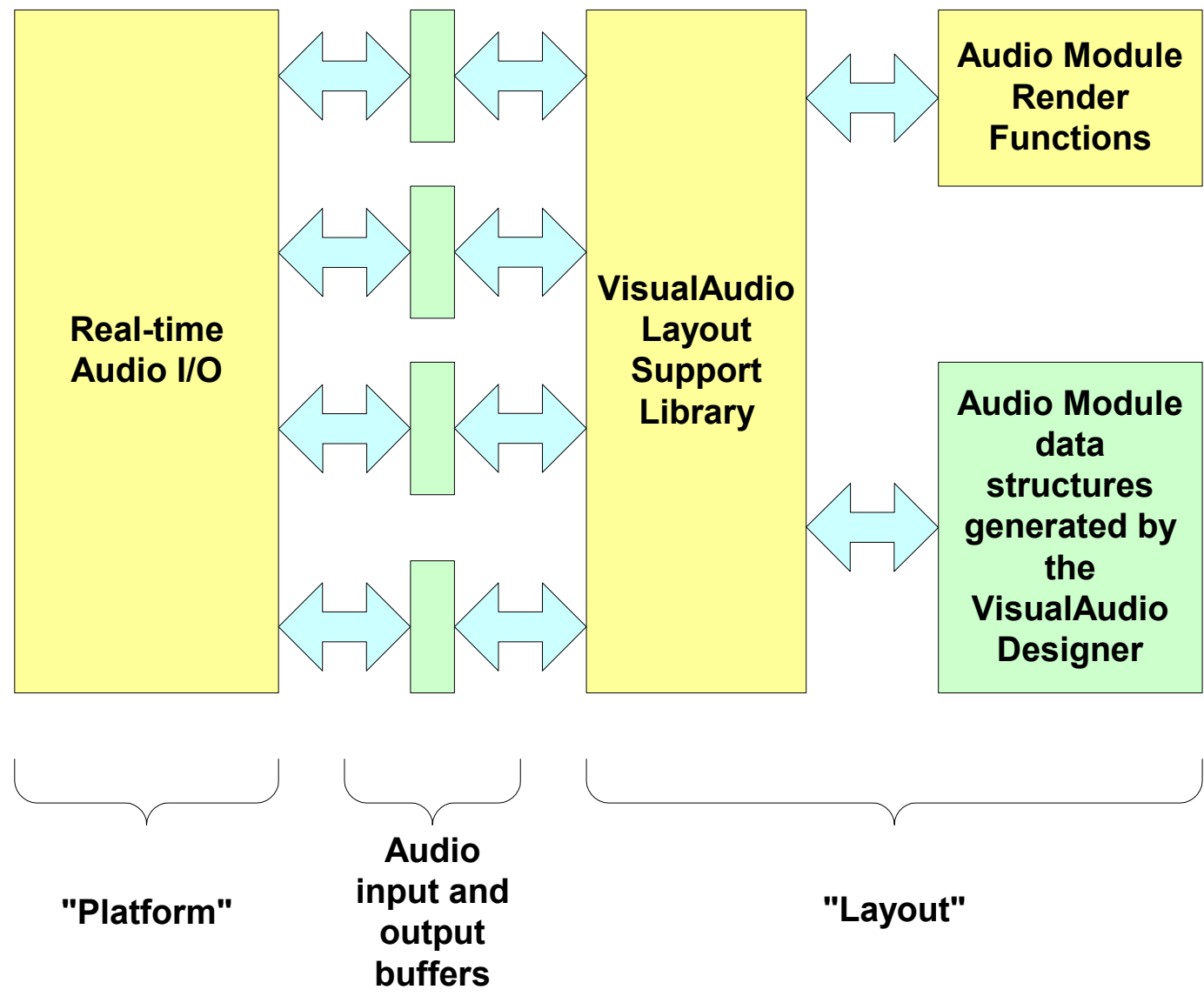
- ◆ Targeted at PCM-based audio products without decoders
- ◆ Platform divided into
 - A common core framework
 - Platform specific drivers
- ◆ Double-buffered DMA-driven block-based audio I/O
- ◆ Layout executes at interrupt level
- ◆ Tuning, host communication and user control code execute at non-interrupt level



“AVR” Platform



Platform / Layout Interface



Conclusion

- ◆ **VisualAudio accelerates the development of embedded audio applications**
- ◆ **An intuitive graphical user interface allows audio processing to be easily designed and configured**
- ◆ **Supports both the Blackfin and SHARC families of processors and many different EZ-KIT development platforms**
- ◆ **Generates efficient code**

- ◆ **A separate training module covers the VisualAudio environment in more depth**
 - **Advanced user interface features**
 - **Writing custom audio modules**
 - **Interfacing to external design applications**

For Additional Information

- ◆ **A free download is available at the VisualAudio product page**
 - <http://www.analog.com/en/prod/0,2877,VISUALAUDIO,00.html>

- ◆ **Additional examples and tutorials can be found at the VisualAudio Developer's Web site:**
 - www.visualaudiodeveloper.com

- ◆ **Specific technical questions can be sent to:**
 - visualaudio.support@analog.com

- ◆ **Click the “Ask A Question” button**