

Simulink Coder Getting Started F28335 Study Guide

simulink coder getting started f28335 is an essential guide for engineers and developers looking to leverage MATLAB Simulink's powerful code generation capabilities for Texas Instruments' TMS320F28335 microcontroller. The F28335 is part of the C2000 family, renowned for high-performance real-time control applications such as motor control, digital power conversion, and automation systems. By integrating Simulink Coder with the F28335, developers can streamline the development process, reduce manual coding efforts, and accelerate deployment of embedded systems. This article offers a comprehensive overview of how to get started with Simulink Coder for the F28335, covering setup, configuration, code generation, and deployment.

Understanding the TMS320F28335 Microcontroller

Before diving into Simulink Coder workflows, it's crucial to understand the capabilities and architecture of the TMS320F28335.

Key Features of the F28335

- 32-bit C28x CPU core with floating-point support
- High-speed 150 MHz CPU clock
- On-chip peripherals, including ADCs, PWMs, and communication interfaces
- Extensive memory? up to 256 KB Flash and 68 KB RAM
- Designed specifically for real-time control applications

These features make the F28335 ideal for complex control algorithms that require precise timing and fast execution.

Development Environments and Toolchains

For programming the F28335, Texas Instruments provides tools such as:

- Code Composer Studio (CCS) ? primary IDE for development
- TI C2000Ware ? software libraries and drivers
- ControlSUITE ? software package that includes example projects and firmware

When integrating with Simulink, the goal is to generate code that seamlessly works with these development tools.

Setting Up Your Environment for Simulink Coder with F28335

Getting started requires setting up both MATLAB/Simulink and the necessary toolchains, along with configuring target hardware.

Prerequisites

Ensure you have the following installed:

- MATLAB and Simulink (preferably the latest version)
- Simulink Coder (formerly Real-Time Workshop)
- Embedded Coder (if advanced code customization is needed)
- MATLAB Support Package for Texas Instruments C2000 Processors
- Code Composer Studio (CCS) version compatible with F28335
- TI C2000Ware and ControlSUITE libraries

Installing Support Packages

To install the TI Support Package:

- Open MATLAB.
- Navigate to Home > Add-Ons > Get Add-Ons.
- Search for "TI C2000" and select the MATLAB Support Package for Texas Instruments C2000 Processors.
- Follow prompts to install and configure the support package.

This package provides blocks and tools needed for code generation targeting the F28335.

Configuring Hardware Support and Toolchains

Once installed:

- Connect your F28335 hardware development kit to your PC via USB or JTAG.
- Open MATLAB and run supportPackageInstaller if needed to verify support.
- Configure the build environment in MATLAB to recognize CCS as the compiler.

Proper setup ensures smooth code generation and deployment.

Designing Control Algorithms in Simulink for F28335

With environment setup complete, you can now begin designing control algorithms in Simulink.

Creating a New Model for Embedded Deployment

Start by:

- Opening Simulink and creating a new model.
- Adding blocks such as Sources, Math Operations, and Sinks to formulate your control logic.
- Utilizing specialized blocks provided by the TI Support Package, such as C2000 PWM, ADC, and Encoders.

Using Hardware-Optimized Blocks

The support package provides hardware-specific blocks that simplify interfacing:

- C2000 ADC block for reading analog inputs.
- C2000 PWM block for generating pulse-width modulation signals.
- C2000 Interrupt blocks for real-time event handling.

These blocks abstract low-level hardware details, allowing focus on control logic.

Model Configuration for Code Generation

Configure your model for embedded code:

- Set System Target File to ert.tlc for embedded code generation.
- Define the Hardware Implementation as Texas Instruments C2000.
- Specify data types, sample times, and other parameters aligned with F28335 specifications.

Generating C Code for F28335 Using Simulink Coder

Once your model is complete and configured, proceed with code generation.

Initiating Code Generation

Steps include:

- Click on the Deploy to Hardware button or select Code > Generate Code from the menu.
- Review code generation reports for warnings or errors.
- Ensure that the generated code adheres to real-time constraints of your application.

Configuring Build Settings

In the Configuration Parameters:

- Set the System target file to ert.tlc for embedded code.
- Specify the Hardware implementation as TI C2000.
- Adjust Code generation options, such as optimization level and code size constraints.

Building and Exporting the Application

After configuring:

- Click Build to generate C code and a standalone executable.
- The build process produces code compatible with CCS and your hardware.
- Use CCS to compile and flash the code onto the F28335 device.

Deploying and Running the Generated Code on F28335

Deployment involves transferring the code from MATLAB/Simulink to the target hardware and ensuring it runs correctly.

Using Code Composer Studio (CCS)

To deploy:

- Open CCS and connect your F28335 hardware.
- Import the generated code or project files.
- Configure the build options if necessary.
- Compile and flash the firmware onto the microcontroller.
- Start debugging or running the application directly.

Monitoring and Debugging

Leverage CCS debugging tools:

- Set breakpoints to monitor control flow.
- Use real-time data visualization tools.
- Check peripheral status registers and input/output signals.

Testing and Validation

Ensure your control algorithms operate as intended:

- Test with simulated inputs before deploying to hardware.
- Validate response times and control accuracy.
- Iterate on your Simulink model as needed, regenerating code and redeploying.

Advanced Tips and Best Practices

To maximize efficiency and reliability, consider the following tips:

Optimize Code for Performance

- Enable code optimization flags in CCS.
- Use fixed-point arithmetic if floating-point is unnecessary to save processing power.
- Minimize interrupt latency by efficient task scheduling.

Maintain Modular and Reusable Models

Design your Simulink models with modular blocks to facilitate updates and reuse across projects.

Documentation and Version Control

Keep thorough documentation of your models, configurations, and code versions to streamline troubleshooting and future development.

Stay Updated with Toolchain Releases

Regularly update MATLAB, Simulink, and TI software to benefit from improvements and new

features.

Conclusion

Getting started with Simulink Coder for the F28335 involves setting up the development environment, designing control algorithms using specialized hardware blocks, generating optimized C code, and deploying it onto the microcontroller. This process significantly reduces development time, simplifies complex control system implementation, and facilitates rapid prototyping. By following best practices and leveraging the integrated tools provided by MATLAB and Texas Instruments, engineers can develop robust embedded applications that leverage the full capabilities of the TMS320F28335. Whether you're working on motor control, power electronics, or automation,

Getting Started with Simulink Coder for F28335: A Comprehensive Guide

Introduction

Embedded control systems are at the heart of many modern applications, ranging from robotics to industrial automation. Texas Instruments' C2000 family, particularly the F28335 microcontroller, is a popular choice among engineers for real-time control tasks due to its high-performance capabilities. To streamline development and deployment, MathWorks' Simulink Coder (formerly Real-Time Workshop) offers an efficient way to generate optimized C code directly from Simulink models, facilitating rapid prototyping and deployment on TI's F28335.

This guide aims to provide a detailed walkthrough for beginners and intermediate users on how to get started with Simulink Coder for the F28335 platform, covering setup, configuration, code generation, deployment, and troubleshooting.

Understanding the F28335 Microcontroller

Before diving into the toolchain, it's essential to understand what makes the F28335 unique:

- High Performance: 150 MHz C28x 32-bit DSP core
- Memory Resources: Up to 256 KB on-chip RAM and 1 MB Flash
- Peripherals: Multiple PWM modules, ADCs, DACs, UARTs, SPI, I2C, and more
- Applications: Motor control, digital power conversion, industrial automation

The F28335's real-time processing capabilities make it ideal for control algorithms that require deterministic timing and high-speed computation.

Software and Hardware Requirements

Hardware Requirements

- F28335 Development Board: Such as the TI TMS320F28335 Experimenter's Kit
- PC with MATLAB and Simulink Installed: MATLAB R202X or later
- Embedded Coder License: To enable code generation features
- Code Composer Studio (CCS): For compilation and flashing (recommended version compatible with your toolchain)
- JTAG Emulator/Debugger: For programming and debugging the F28335

Software Requirements

- MATLAB & Simulink: Ensure they are updated to a version compatible with your Embedded Coder license
- Simulink Coder: For generating C code from Simulink models
- Embedded Coder Support Package for TI C2000: Provides support for TI's C2000 series processors
 - TI C2000 Code Generation Tools: Includes libraries and drivers optimized for F28335
 - ControlSUITE / C2000Ware: TI's software suite that contains peripheral drivers, example projects, and documentation

Setting Up the Development Environment

Step 1: Install MATLAB, Simulink, and Support Packages

- Download and install MATLAB R202X or later.
- Install Simulink and ensure the Embedded Coder license is activated.
- From MATLAB, open the Add-On Explorer and install:
 - Simulink Coder
 - Support Package for TI C2000 Processors

Step 2: Install TI's C2000 Software Suite

- Download C2000Ware from Texas Instruments' website.
- Install the suite, which includes peripheral drivers, project examples, and libraries.

Step 3: Configure Code Composer Studio

- Download and install CCS (preferably the latest version compatible with your setup).
- Ensure CCS recognizes your debugger/emulator hardware.

Creating Your First Simulink Model for F28335

Step 1: Launch Simulink and Create a New Model

- Open MATLAB, then launch Simulink.
- Create a new blank model or use a template suited for embedded control.

Step 2: Design Your Control Algorithm

- Use Simulink blocks to build your control logic.
- Common blocks include:
 - Gain blocks for proportional control
 - Sum blocks for error calculation
 - Saturation blocks to limit signals
 - PWM Generator blocks for motor control
 - ADC blocks for sensor input simulation

Note: For actual deployment, real peripheral I/O blocks will be used, which are supported by the hardware support package.

Step 3: Configure the Model for Code Generation

- Set the model configuration parameters:
 - Hardware Implementation: Select TI C2000 F28335
 - System Target File: Choose `ert.tlc` or the specific TI C2000 target
- Code Generation Settings:
 - Optimization level
 - Inline parameters
 - Data type settings
 - Real-time workshop options

Configuring Simulink Coder for F28335

Step 1: Set Up Hardware Parameters

- In the model configuration parameters, navigate to Hardware Implementation.
- Select C2000 as the hardware.
- Choose TI F28335 from the list of supported devices.

Step 2: Define Build and Deployment Options

- Specify build folder locations.
- Choose whether to generate code as standalone or with external mode support for real-time monitoring.
- Enable Generate Code Only if you want to compile and flash later.

Step 3: Integrate Peripheral Drivers

- Use the support package to include peripheral-specific blocks.
- For example, integrate ADC input blocks for sensor readings or PWM output blocks for motor control.
- These blocks interface directly with the C2000 hardware drivers, ensuring optimized code.

Generating and Building the Code

Step 1: Model Verification

- Run simulation within Simulink to verify logic.
- Use external mode for real-time parameter tuning if hardware is connected.

Step 2: Generate C Code

- Click Build Model or Generate Code.
- Simulink Coder will produce C source files, header files, and a makefile or CCS project.

Step 3: Compile in CCS

- Open the generated CCS project.
- Build the project to compile code into an executable firmware.

Step 4: Flash the Firmware onto F28335

- Connect your JTAG emulator.
- Use CCS to program the microcontroller.
- Verify successful flashing through debugger or serial output.

Deploying and Running the Control Algorithm

- After flashing, reset the board.
- Use serial communication or external mode (if configured) for monitoring.
- Observe real-time behavior, tweak parameters, and fine-tune your control algorithm as needed.

Optimizations and Best Practices

- Data Type Optimization: Use fixed-point data types for faster execution and lower memory footprint.
- Interrupt Management: Configure interrupts properly to ensure deterministic timing.
- Memory Allocation: Optimize RAM usage by configuring data storage in on-chip memory.
- Code Size Reduction: Use code optimization settings to minimize footprint, especially for embedded deployment.

Troubleshooting Common Issues

- Code Generation Errors: Ensure all support packages are correctly installed and compatible.
- Hardware Recognition Problems: Verify debugger connections and power supply.
- Compilation Failures: Check compiler paths and environment variables.
- Peripheral Initialization Failures: Confirm peripheral drivers are correctly integrated and configured.

Additional Resources

- MathWorks Documentation: In-depth guides on Simulink Coder and embedded target configuration.
- Texas Instruments C2000 Documentation: Hardware manuals, peripheral driver guides, and example projects.
- Community Forums: MATLAB and TI community forums for troubleshooting and sharing experiences.
- Example Projects: Use TI's and MathWorks' example models to accelerate learning.

Conclusion

Getting started with Simulink Coder for the TI F28335 platform is an empowering process that simplifies complex embedded control development. By leveraging MATLAB's intuitive modeling environment, integrated peripheral support, and optimized code generation, engineers can rapidly prototype, test, and deploy high-performance control algorithms on the C2000 microcontroller.

While initial setup and configuration require attention to detail, the long-term benefits of streamlined development, easier debugging, and maintainable code are well worth the effort. With practice, you can develop sophisticated control systems that meet the demanding requirements of real-time embedded applications.

Embark on your journey with Simulink Coder and F28335 today, and transform your control concepts into real-world solutions!

Question What are the initial steps to get started with Simulink Coder on the TI F28335 microcontroller? **Answer** Begin by installing MATLAB and Simulink along with the Embedded Coder and Simulink Coder toolboxes. Next, set up the TI C2000 support package, configure the F28335 target hardware, and create a Simulink model suitable for code generation. Finally, configure the code generation parameters and deploy the generated code onto the F28335 hardware. **How do I configure Simulink Coder for F28335 target hardware?** In Simulink, open the Configuration Parameters, select 'Hardware Implementation,' and choose 'Texas Instruments C2000' as the hardware board. Then, select 'F28335' as the specific device. Ensure that the correct toolchain and build options are set, and specify the target hardware settings to match your F28335 setup. **What are common issues faced when generating code for F28335 using Simulink Coder?** Common issues include incompatible model blocks, incorrect hardware configuration, missing or outdated support packages, and compiler errors. Ensuring the support package is up to date, verifying hardware settings, and validating the model for compatibility can help resolve these problems. **Can I simulate F28335 code directly in Simulink before deploying?** Yes, you can perform hardware-in-the-loop (HIL) simulations or use Rapid Accelerator mode to simulate the model with embedded code. However, for accurate hardware-specific behavior, deploying code to the actual F28335 hardware and testing is recommended. **What libraries or toolboxes are required for Simulink Coder to target F28335?** You need the Embedded Coder or Simulink Coder along with the Texas Instruments C2000 support package. These provide the necessary libraries and code generation support for the F28335 microcontroller. Additionally, ensure that the MATLAB Coder is installed for any custom code generation needs. **Are there example models available for getting started with Simulink Coder on F28335?** Yes, MathWorks and Texas Instruments provide example models and tutorials specifically for C2000 devices like the F28335. These examples cover basic motor control, PWM generation, and ADC interfacing, serving as excellent starting points for your projects.

Related keywords: Simulink Coder, F28335, embedded code generation, DSP code, MATLAB

Simulink, real-time simulation, motor control, code optimization, target configuration, embedded systems