



F` Software Framework

A Small Scale Component Framework for Space

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California Institute of Technology

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This software has been approved for open source release under NTR #49404.



What is F`?

- F` Flight Software Framework
 - Targeted for instruments, CubeSats and other smaller platforms
 - Currently baselined for JPL Sphinx Leon3 Avionics SOC
- A component-based architecture as well as a software framework to support it
 - Uses the concept of software components
- Designed from the ground up to be compact and reusable
- Includes framework, code generators, build tools, Command/Telemetry GUI, and unit test environment
- Designed to make it easier for developers to concentrate on mission-specific logic rather than common implementation patterns.



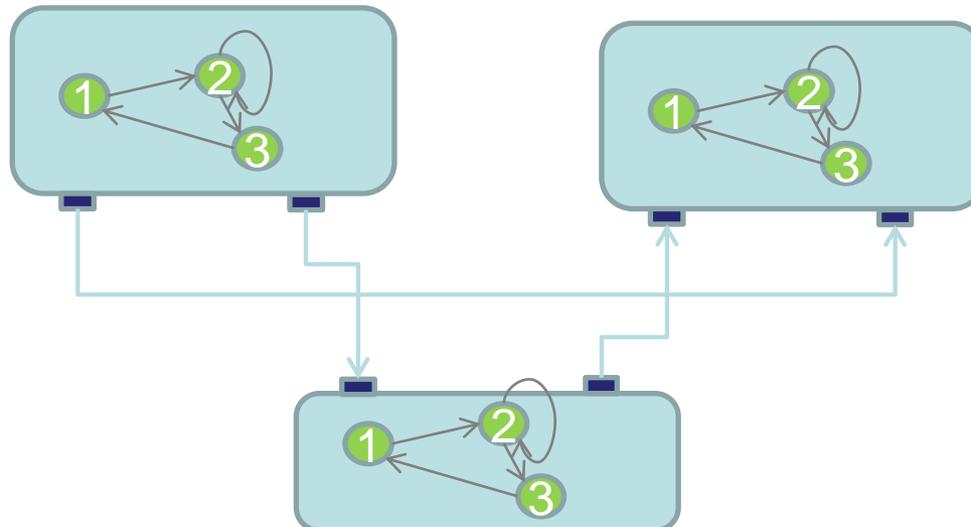
Where is it being used?

- Development
 - Developed under JPL technology exploration task (2013)
 - Matured under a number of JPL projects (2014-2017)
 - Using established JPL flight processes/analysis tools
- Flew on RapidScat (2014-2016)
 - Radar experiment on ISS
 - Very stable with no reported software bugs
- Flying on Asteria (Cubesat)
 - Asteroid detection technology demonstrator
- In development for:
 - Mars Helicopter Technology Development
 - Lunar Flashlight (Cubesat)
 - NEAScout (Cubesat)
- Available on GitHub
 - Reference example can be run on Linux, MacOS, Cygwin and most embedded ARM processors (e.g. Raspberry Pi)
 - <https://github.jpl.nasa.gov/FPRIME/fprime-sw.git>



F: A Reusable Component Architecture

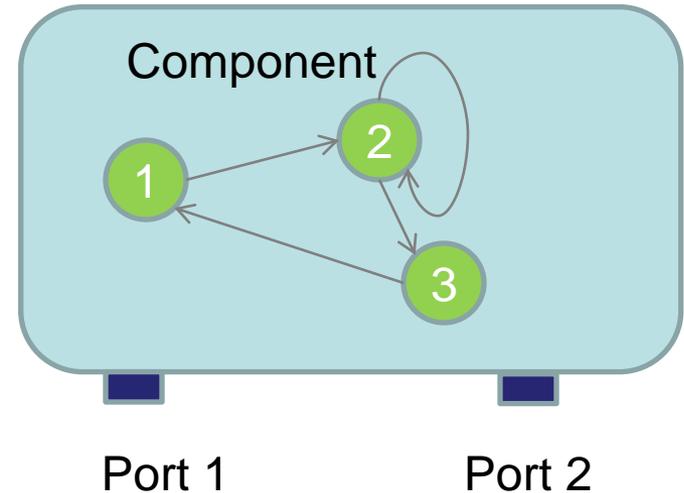
- Consists of components (behaviors) and ports (interconnections for data)
- Components are not dependent on other components, so can be easily reused.
- Components to fulfill different requirements (simulation vs. actual) can be substituted, even at run time.
- Components can have generic roles (commanding, telemetry, storage) which are not dependent on specific applications.





F` : A Framework for quick development

- F` provides a C++ framework and code generator that encapsulates:
 - Thread management
 - Inter-Process communication (IPC)
 - Commanding
 - Telemetry
 - Parameters
- Developer specifies common patterns in simple XML.
 - Code generator generates boiler-plate code.
 - Developer concentrates on domain-specific code.
 - Framework invokes user code automatically





F: A Framework for reuse

- Over time, a library of reusable components are being built:
 - For common facilities:
 - Rate group management
 - Command dispatching/sequencing
 - Telemetry storage
 - Ground interfaces
 - For specific hardware platforms:
 - Device drivers
 - Radios
 - GNC devices
 - Operating system adaptations
- A reusable ground system can be used
 - Framework has uniform data representations
 - Can be adapted to existing ground systems
 - Runs on JPL multi-mission ground system
 - Python-based lightweight ground system is provided with code



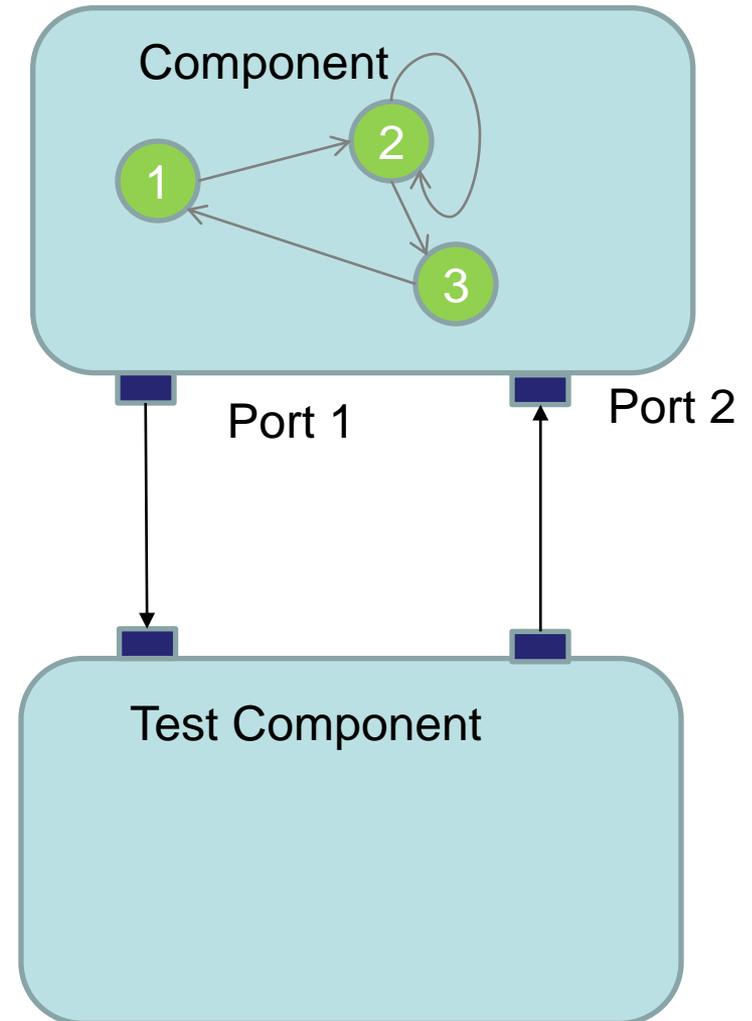
F` : A Portable Framework

- Code base is in portable, embedded C++
- Has abstraction layer for OS facilities such as:
 - Threads
 - Synchronization
 - Files
 - Time
- Data products are stored and transmitted in a portable representation
 - Allows interaction with ground system no matter the processor architecture
- Has been run on the following processor architectures:
 - X86, PPC, ARM, MSP430, Leon3
- Has been run on the following OSes:
 - VxWorks, RTEMS, Linux, MacOS, Cygwin, Raspberry Pi Raspbian
- Very compact
 - Framework classes ~1K compiled



F` : A Framework for testing

- F` components are decoupled from each other, so unit testing is easier
- F` code generator generates counterpart test component that can be connected.
- Test component “knows” the interfaces, commands, and telemetry
- Tester can invoke generated C++ functions to exercise component interfaces, commands.
- Telemetry automatically decoded and stored for checking in test component.



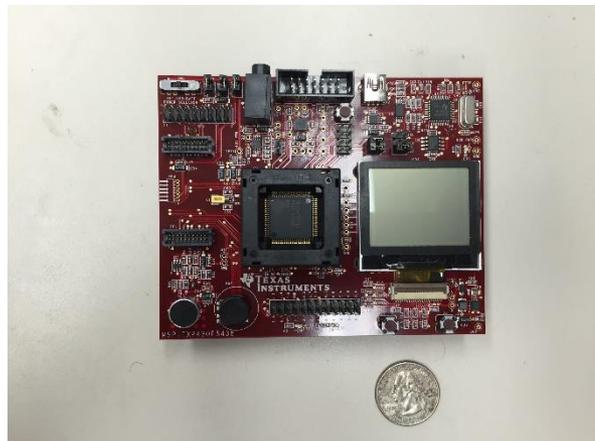


F: A Flight-ready Framework

- In 2015-2016, C&DH components were taken through flight software processes
 - Design, coding and testing reviews with LARS tools and code coverage
 - Design and code reviewed by peers
 - Code scrubbed by static analyzers (e.g. Coverity)
 - 100% coverage except certain assertions (default switch, etc)
 - Delivered with repeatable automated unit tests
 - Includes:
 - Rate Groups
 - Command handling
 - Command Sequencer
 - Telemetry Processing
 - Parameter storage
 - Event handling
 - File Uplink/Downlink
 - Telemetry Database
 - Health Monitor
 - File Manager
 - Socket “Ground” interface



Both Ends of the Scale



- TI MSP430 Microcontroller
- 24K RAM
 - 64K Flash



- Rack Mount PC
- Quad-core Xeon
 - 8GB RAM
 - Hard disk