

Conclusion

Embedded systems have requirements that differ significantly from general purpose computers. The main goal of an embedded system developer is to design a lowest cost system, that performs the desired tasks without failing. Algorithms can be implemented in hardware or software. While the hardware approach improves performance the software approach provides flexibility. Recent developments in hardware-software co-design permit tradeoffs between hardware and software for cost-effective embedded systems.

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Making of a Young Scientist

Several factors can influence the making of a scientist at various stages in his life. The formative young years are important, of course. Krishnan, in one of his articles in Tamil says: 'my first love for science came in my 4th form (class 9) in my high school in 1911. Even though my teacher was not a professional scientist, he was good at explaining science in a clear and captivating fashion. His lessons not only sunk deep into our mind but also made us crave for more science. Whether it is physics, geography or chemistry, his teaching style was unique. He did not simply reproduce the lessons from the book. He demonstrated many simple experiments for us and also encouraged us to do experiments ourselves. Very few teachers I know are of this type, and I feel fortunate to have had him as my first science teacher. This master teacher's name is Sri A Subramanya Iyer and he did not stay too long in my school.'

'My real involvement in science came after an year, when my physics teacher asked us to write an 'essay' about Archimides principle. At that time we had just learned the proof of this principle. But, in my article I wrote about an instrument that I constructed, on my own, for measuring the density of solids. A few days later I learned that my instrument is nothing new and it was invented by Nicho-

las many years ago – "the Nicholas hydrometer", by then text book material.'

'My whole hearted involvement in science came only after seven or eight years, when I got opportunities to read copies of research articles of Prof. C V Raman, then Palit Professor at Calcutta University, which appeared in *Nature*, *Philosophical Magazine* and other journals. This whole culture of eminent scientists publishing their work in 'Science Journals' and that some of our own scientists like Ramanujan, Raman are contributing first rate articles which are very much appreciated by the world came to me as an eye opener. This gave me a new feeling for science, scientists and the new world of science.'

KSK finished his article by saying: 'I relinquished the small job I had and decided to do research in physics and went to Prof. C V Raman at Calcutta. But, he did not agree for my starting research immediately. Only after learning various aspects of physics properly at Calcutta University for two years was I able to join his research group. I had the good fortune of having a five year 'Gurukula vasam' there. These five years turned out to be a festive season in my science life.'

G Baskaran