Li-ion Battery Charger

Designer Reference Manual

M68HC08 Microcontrollers

For More Information On This Product,
Go to: www.freescale.com
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Glossary
Li-ion Battery Charger
Designer Reference Manual — Rev 0

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Section 1. System Overview

1.1 Contents

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1.2 Introduction

This manual describes a reference design of Li-ion battery charger for mobile phone cell by using a MC68HC908QY/QT MCU.

For Full MC68HC908QY specification, please refer to the data sheet, Motorola order number: MC68HC908QY/D.

1.3 Overview

The Motorola MC68HC908QY/QT is a member of the HC08 Family of microcontrollers (MCUs). The features of the MC68HC908QY/QT include a 4-channel Analog to Digital Converter and Timer module which can be set to generate PWM signals. This feature makes this MCU suitable for application such as a single cell Li-ion battery charger. The MC68HC908QY/QT is available in several packages with different memory size to fit into various applications. A Li-ion battery charger is demonstrated here using the MC68HC908QT2 with 8-pin PDIP package. The main features of this Li-ion battery charger reference design include:

- Capable to rapid charge a 3.6V Li-ion battery cell.
- Auto-detect of battery insertion.
System Overview

- Applied constant current and constant voltage charge method.
- Implemented trickle charge mode when battery voltage is too low.
- Charge cut off and signify battery full when charging current fall below 75mA.
- Over current, over voltage, over temperature protection.
- In-circuit programming for firmware upgrade

1.4 8-pin PDIP MC68HC908QT2 Feature

MC68HC908QT2 is an 8-pin MCU which has on-chip in-application programmable, 1536 bytes of user FLASH memory (with internal program/erase voltage generation). Good enough for small application like battery charger. It has 128 bytes RAM, 4 channel 8 bit ADC. The trimmable internal oscillator with accuracy +/- 5% helps to reduce the system cost of the application by eliminate the external crystal oscillation circuit. It has one 16 bit timer module with 2 timer channel which can generated PWM signals. Besides the Vdd and Vss pins, all other 6 pins can be used by the application. These pins are multiplex together with the I/O, ADC, KBI, TIM. It gives great flexibility for the user's application.
Section 2. Hardware and Firmware

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2.2 Hardware Descriptions

Figure 2-1. Li-ion Battery Charger Block Diagram

For More Information On This Product, Go to: www.freescale.com
2.2.1 Power supply to the MCU

Please refer to the schematic at 3.5 Schematics

The power input to the charger should be a regulated 5V, 1A supply to P1.

TL431 is used in this reference design to act as a voltage regulator with 1% accuracy to provide power to the micro-controller.

2.2.2 Charging control

Pin 7 of the MCU is the TCH0 which is configured as a PWM output. The PWM signal will control the on-off charging power to the battery, and thus control the charging current and voltage. Q2, D1, L1 and C4 form the bulk regulator will provide a smoother power source to charge the battery.

2.2.3 Sensing circuit.

Three ADC channels of the micro-controller are used to check battery's voltage, current and temperature.

Charging current is sensed at the B- of J1. When battery is under charging, charging current will flow through the sensing resistor R13 and R14. A voltage drop will appear on the resistor R13 and R14. It can be sensed at B-. Since R13//R14 is 0.5 ohms, so when a charge current is 300mA, then the voltage at B- will be 150mV.

The battery voltage is sensed by directly sensing the voltage at B+ point of J1.

When battery is under charging, it is required to subtract the voltage at B- in order to obtain the actual battery voltage across its terminals.

The battery's temperature can be sensed by sensing the voltage at terminal T of J1. The change of voltage is caused by the variation of resistance value of the NTC.
If the battery is built in with a NTC, the NTC Z1 on the demo board can be removed.

2.2.4 Charging status

PTA3 is used to control the on-off of two LEDs to indicate different charging status (see Table 2-1).

To turn on both LEDs, PTA3 is set as input. When set to output high, it will turn on the Green LED. When set as output low, it will turn on the Red LED.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>RED</th>
<th>GREEN</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fast Charge in progress</td>
<td>On</td>
<td>Off</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery is fully charged</td>
<td>Off</td>
<td>On</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Battery is not connected</td>
<td>On</td>
<td>On</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fault condition occurred</td>
<td>--Flashing--</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.2.5 In-Circuit-Programming

J2 contains the signals for the MCU68HC908QT2 to enter monitor mode for ICP. The ICP requires connecting J2 with a cable to the ICP adaptor board, which is plugged-into the M68HC08 Serial Programmer (M68SPGRM08) (see Figure 2-2). The signals from the J2 are Vdd, Vss, Vtst and OSC1 and PA0. Beside these signals, enter monitor mode also required PTA1 pull-up and PTA4 pull-down. When ICP, the jumper J3 must be opened to disconnect the filter cap, 0.1uF at PTA0/AD0.

The programming software is the PROG08SZ.exe from P&E. Select Class I for Target Hardware Type. The baud rate is 4800bps. The ICP support erase, programming and verify the firmware in the MCU.
QT2 is an 8pin MCU, although it is a small pin count MCU but it has all the critical features that a MCU needed. It has two channels of powerful timer, 4 ADC channels, maximum 6 I/Os. LVI, COP, external IRQ etc. The four 4 8-bit ADC channel and the powerful timer which can be config as PWM output make it suitable for working as a single cell Li-ion battery charger controller. In this Li-ion battery charger reference desgin, the design concept is to make the cost as low as possible but at the same time maintain all the necessary battery charger function and performance.
2.3 Firmware Description

2.3.1 Battery inserted detection.

Normally, a Lithium-ion battery has 3 terminals, B+, B- and T. The terminal T can be one of the terminals for temperature sensor or a dummy resistor. The battery charger can sense the voltage at the corresponding T of J1 (refer to charger schematic at 3.5). When the battery is removed, the voltage that appears at T will be pulled up to Vdd by the 10K resistor, i.e., it is in high state. When the battery is inserted, the voltage at T will be equal to $Z_1/(Z_1+10K) \times Vdd$. Charger can then sense insertion of the battery insertion by checking the voltage at T by ADC.

When battery insertion is detected, the firmware will go on to check the inserted battery’s voltage and temperature. If it falls in the valid range, then proceed to charging mode.

- $V_{bat} < 1.0V$: No charging, bad battery, flashing LEDs
- $V_{bat} > 4.0V$: Battery full, no charging, green LED on
- $1.0V < V_{bat} < 2.5V$: Trickle charge, red LED on
- $2.5V < V_{bat} < 4.0V$: Fast charge, red LED on
- $V_{temp} < 0 \, \text{C}$: No charging. Flashing LEDs
- $V_{temp} > 45 \, \text{C}$: No charging. Flashing LEDs
- $I_{\text{charge}} > 500mA$: Over current, stop charging, flashing LEDs

2.3.2 Trickle charge

If the battery voltage is <2.5V, then go to trickle charge. The current for trickle charge is set to 0.1C to 0.2C which equals to the 10% or 20% of the battery’s rate capacity, and the max. Charge time is 10 mins. If within 10 mins time, the battery voltage raise above 2.5V, then it means the battery is a good battery and the charger can then switch to fast charging.
mode. If the voltage does not raise up to 2.5V after 10 mins trickle charge, the charger will signify that the battery is a bad battery and stop the charging process.

2.3.3 Fast charge

The fast charging is divided into two states. They are constant current charging and constant voltage charging. A max charging time is also set for the fast charging mode.

2.3.3.1 Constant current charging

Constant current charging mode is a close loop control. The firmware continuously checks the charging current by sensing the voltage at the current sense resistors (R13, R14) and adjusts the duty of PWM output from MCU. The battery’s voltage is checked frequently. Whenever found the battery’s voltage reaches or above 4.1V, the charger will switch to constant voltage charging mode.

************************************************************************
* Constant Current Charging Control
*  R sense = 0.5 ohm, VrefH = 4.40V
*************************************************************************

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I (mA)</th>
<th>380</th>
<th>310</th>
<th>200</th>
<th>100</th>
<th>75</th>
<th>50</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I sense(mV)</td>
<td>190</td>
<td>155</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURRENT</td>
<td>$0B</td>
<td>$09</td>
<td>$06</td>
<td>$03</td>
<td>$02</td>
<td>$01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2.3.3.2 Constant voltage charging

In constant voltage charging state, the battery voltage is checked and maintained at 4.1V by controlling the duty of PWM output. The charging current will gradually decrease when the battery is close to battery full.
The battery is announced charge full and charging power is cut off when the charging current is less than 75mA.

******************************************************************************
* Check Battery voltage valid (ADC3)
* VrefH = 4.40V
******************************************************************************
* Battery(V)  1.0V  2.5V  4.0V  4.1V  4.2V
* VOLTAGE    $3A   $91   $E7   $EE   $F4
******************************************************************************

2.3.4 Safety protection

During charging, either in trickle charge, constant current charge or constant voltage charge, whenever found battery's voltage, current or temperature is out of range, the charger will cut off the charging power.

******************************************************************************
* Check Temperature
* R pull-up = 10Kohm (1%), VrefH = 4.40V
******************************************************************************
* T (degC)  50  45  40  25  10  0  -5
* R NTC(K)  3.63  4.40  5.356  10  19.85  32.33  42.81
* Tsense(V)  1.17  1.34  1.53  2.2  2.92  3.36  3.57
* Tsense    $44   $4E   $59   $7F   $A9   $C2   $CF
******************************************************************************

Hardware and Firmware Description
2.3.5 State diagram

At any stage, if battery removed, will go to START

Li-ion Battery Charger State Diagram

Figure 2-3. Li-ion Battery Charger State Diagram
2.4 Firmware files

Firmware is compiled under CASM08Z.EXE ver 3.16 from P&E Microcomputer System, Inc.

Table 2-2 summarizes the functions of each firmware files:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Files</th>
<th>Functions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>QT4CHGRDEMO.asm</td>
<td>Charger main program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC68HC908QT4.equ</td>
<td>QT4 registers and memory definitions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>QT4CHGR_INC.asm</td>
<td>Subroutines include files</td>
</tr>
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Section 3.

3.1 Contents

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<td>3.5</td>
<td>Schematics ......................................................... 21</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Test Description

The solution was tested with one 3.6V Li-ion battery cells using a +5V power supply (HP6236B)

3.3 Extra Features

There is a useful subroutine included in the file QY2CHGR_INC.asm. It is DSRL_OUT which is a serial RS232 data transmit routine. It uses PTA3 as the data line to serial out the data. The baud rate is 19200bps when the ICG of QT2 is trimmed at bus frequency 3.2MHz. The data line is output to a standard RS232 interface circuit that connected to the COM port of a PC. This routine is helpful in project development as developer can monitor the battery charging status and got the charging parameters such as voltage, temperature and current for analysis. Since ICG is used, some fine tune might need on the bit delay routines if the bus frequency cannot be tuned to exactly to 3.2MHz bus frequency. When calling this routine, the interrupt mask bit is set to avoid interrupt, and the mask interrupt bit will be clear before leave this subroutine. When development of the software is completed. The called of this routine is not necessary and should be removed and the PTA3 is set it back to control the LEDs.
3.4 Further Information

3.4.1 Related Documents

MC68HC908QT2 Technical Data
3.5 Schematics

QT2 Li-ion Battery Charger
Components Placement
PCB Layout
Component Side

PCB Layout
Soldering Side
Section 1. Glossary

A — See “accumulators (A and B or D).”

accumulators (A and B or D) — Two 8-bit (A and B) or one 16-bit (D) general-purpose registers in the CPU. The CPU uses the accumulators to hold operands and results of arithmetic and logic operations.

acquisition mode — A mode of PLL operation with large loop bandwidth. Also see ‘tracking mode’.

address bus — The set of wires that the CPU or DMA uses to read and write memory locations.

addressing mode — The way that the CPU determines the operand address for an instruction. The M68HC12 CPU has 15 addressing modes.

ALU — See “arithmetic logic unit (ALU).”

analogue-to-digital converter (ATD) — The ATD module is an 8-channel, multiplexed-input successive-approximation analog-to-digital converter.

arithmetic logic unit (ALU) — The portion of the CPU that contains the logic circuitry to perform arithmetic, logic, and manipulation operations on operands.

asynchronous — Refers to logic circuits and operations that are not synchronized by a common reference signal.

ATD — See “analogue-to-digital converter”.

B — See “accumulators (A and B or D).”

baud rate — The total number of bits transmitted per unit of time.

BCD — See “binary-coded decimal (BCD).”

binary — Relating to the base 2 number system.
Glossary

**binary number system** — The base 2 number system, having two digits, 0 and 1. Binary arithmetic is convenient in digital circuit design because digital circuits have two permissible voltage levels, low and high. The binary digits 0 and 1 can be interpreted to correspond to the two digital voltage levels.

**binary-coded decimal (BCD)** — A notation that uses 4-bit binary numbers to represent the 10 decimal digits and that retains the same positional structure of a decimal number. For example,

\[ 234 \text{ (decimal)} = 0010 \ 0011 \ 0100 \text{ (BCD)} \]

**bit** — A binary digit. A bit has a value of either logic 0 or logic 1.

**branch instruction** — An instruction that causes the CPU to continue processing at a memory location other than the next sequential address.

**break module** — The break module allows software to halt program execution at a programmable point in order to enter a background routine.

**breakpoint** — A number written into the break address registers of the break module. When a number appears on the internal address bus that is the same as the number in the break address registers, the CPU executes the software interrupt instruction (SWI).

**break interrupt** — A software interrupt caused by the appearance on the internal address bus of the same value that is written in the break address registers.

**bus** — A set of wires that transfers logic signals.

**bus clock** — See "CPU clock".

**byte** — A set of eight bits.

**CAN** — See "Motorola scalable CAN."

**CCR** — See “condition code register.”

**central processor unit (CPU)** — The primary functioning unit of any computer system. The CPU controls the execution of instructions.

**CGM** — See “clock generator module (CGM).”

**clear** — To change a bit from logic 1 to logic 0; the opposite of set.

**clock** — A square wave signal used to synchronize events in a computer.

**clock generator module (CGM)** — The CGM module generates a base clock signal from which the system clocks are derived. The CGM may include a crystal oscillator circuit and/or phase-locked loop (PLL) circuit.
**comparator** — A device that compares the magnitude of two inputs. A digital comparator defines the equality or relative differences between two binary numbers.

**computer operating properly module (COP)** — A counter module that resets the MCU if allowed to overflow.

**condition code register (CCR)** — An 8-bit register in the CPU that contains the interrupt mask bit and five bits that indicate the results of the instruction just executed.

**control bit** — One bit of a register manipulated by software to control the operation of the module.

**control unit** — One of two major units of the CPU. The control unit contains logic functions that synchronize the machine and direct various operations. The control unit decodes instructions and generates the internal control signals that perform the requested operations. The outputs of the control unit drive the execution unit, which contains the arithmetic logic unit (ALU), CPU registers, and bus interface.

**COP** — See "computer operating properly module (COP)."

**CPU** — See “central processor unit (CPU).”

**CPU12** — The CPU of the MC68HC12 Family.

**CPU clock** — Bus clock select bits BCSP and BCSS in the clock select register (CLKSEL) determine which clock drives SYSCLK for the main system, including the CPU and buses. When EXTALi drives the SYSCLK, the CPU or bus clock frequency ($f_o$) is equal to the EXTALi frequency divided by 2.

**CPU cycles** — A CPU cycle is one period of the internal bus clock, normally derived by dividing a crystal oscillator source by two or more so the high and low times will be equal. The length of time required to execute an instruction is measured in CPU clock cycles.

**CPU registers** — Memory locations that are wired directly into the CPU logic instead of being part of the addressable memory map. The CPU always has direct access to the information in these registers. The CPU registers in an M68HC12 are:

- A (8-bit accumulator)
- B (8-bit accumulator)
  - D (16-bit accumulator formed by concatenation of accumulators A and B)
- IX (16-bit index register)
- IY (16-bit index register)
Glossary

- SP (16-bit stack pointer)
- PC (16-bit program counter)
- CCR (8-bit condition code register)

**cycle time** — The period of the operating frequency: \( t_{\text{CYC}} = \frac{1}{f_{\text{OP}}} \).

D — See “accumulators (A and B or D).”

**decimal number system** — Base 10 numbering system that uses the digits zero through nine.

**duty cycle** — A ratio of the amount of time the signal is on versus the time it is off. Duty cycle is usually represented by a percentage.

ECT — See “enhanced capture timer.”

**EEPROM** — Electrically erasable, programmable, read-only memory. A nonvolatile type of memory that can be electrically erased and reprogrammed.

**EPROM** — Erasable, programmable, read-only memory. A nonvolatile type of memory that can be erased by exposure to an ultraviolet light source and then reprogrammed.

**enhanced capture timer (ECT)** — The HC12 Enhanced Capture Timer module has the features of the HC12 Standard Timer module enhanced by additional features in order to enlarge the field of applications.

**exception** — An event such as an interrupt or a reset that stops the sequential execution of the instructions in the main program.

**fetch** — To copy data from a memory location into the accumulator.

**firmware** — Instructions and data programmed into nonvolatile memory.

**free-running counter** — A device that counts from zero to a predetermined number, then rolls over to zero and begins counting again.

**full-duplex transmission** — Communication on a channel in which data can be sent and received simultaneously.

**hexadecimal** — Base 16 numbering system that uses the digits 0 through 9 and the letters A through F.

**high byte** — The most significant eight bits of a word.

**illegal address** — An address not within the memory map

**illegal opcode** — A nonexistent opcode.
index registers (IX and IY) — Two 16-bit registers in the CPU. In the indexed addressing modes, the CPU uses the contents of IX or IY to determine the effective address of the operand. IX and IY can also serve as a temporary data storage locations.

input/output (I/O) — Input/output interfaces between a computer system and the external world. A CPU reads an input to sense the level of an external signal and writes to an output to change the level on an external signal.

instructions — Operations that a CPU can perform. Instructions are expressed by programmers as assembly language mnemonics. A CPU interprets an opcode and its associated operand(s) and instruction.

inter-IC bus (I²C) — A two-wire, bidirectional serial bus that provides a simple, efficient method of data exchange between devices.

interrupt — A temporary break in the sequential execution of a program to respond to signals from peripheral devices by executing a subroutine.

interrupt request — A signal from a peripheral to the CPU intended to cause the CPU to execute a subroutine.

I/O — See “input/output (I/O).”

jitter — Short-term signal instability.

latch — A circuit that retains the voltage level (logic 1 or logic 0) written to it for as long as power is applied to the circuit.

latency — The time lag between instruction completion and data movement.

least significant bit (LSB) — The rightmost digit of a binary number.

logic 1 — A voltage level approximately equal to the input power voltage (V_{DD}).

logic 0 — A voltage level approximately equal to the ground voltage (V_{SS}).

low byte — The least significant eight bits of a word.

M68HC12 — A Motorola family of 16-bit MCUs.

mark/space — The logic 1/logic 0 convention used in formatting data in serial communication.

mask — 1. A logic circuit that forces a bit or group of bits to a desired state. 2. A photomask used in integrated circuit fabrication to transfer an image onto silicon.

MCU — Microcontroller unit. See “microcontroller.”
memory location — Each M68HC12 memory location holds one byte of data and has a unique address. To store information in a memory location, the CPU places the address of the location on the address bus, the data information on the data bus, and asserts the write signal. To read information from a memory location, the CPU places the address of the location on the address bus and asserts the read signal. In response to the read signal, the selected memory location places its data onto the data bus.

memory map — A pictorial representation of all memory locations in a computer system.

MI-Bus — See "Motorola interconnect bus".

microcontroller — Microcontroller unit (MCU). A complete computer system, including a CPU, memory, a clock oscillator, and input/output (I/O) on a single integrated circuit.

modulo counter — A counter that can be programmed to count to any number from zero to its maximum possible modulus.

most significant bit (MSB) — The leftmost digit of a binary number.

Motorola interconnect bus (MI-Bus) — The Motorola Interconnect Bus (MI Bus) is a serial communications protocol which supports distributed real-time control efficiently and with a high degree of noise immunity.

Motorola scalable CAN (msCAN) — The Motorola scalable controller area network is a serial communications protocol that efficiently supports distributed real-time control with a very high level of data integrity.

msCAN — See "Motorola scalable CAN".

MSI — See "multiple serial interface".

multiple serial interface — A module consisting of multiple independent serial I/O sub-systems, e.g. two SCI and one SPI.

multiplexer — A device that can select one of a number of inputs and pass the logic level of that input on to the output.

nibble — A set of four bits (half of a byte).

object code — The output from an assembler or compiler that is itself executable machine code, or is suitable for processing to produce executable machine code.

opcode — A binary code that instructs the CPU to perform an operation.

open-drain — An output that has no pullup transistor. An external pullup device can be connected to the power supply to provide the logic 1 output voltage.
operand — Data on which an operation is performed. Usually a statement consists of an operator and an operand. For example, the operator may be an add instruction, and the operand may be the quantity to be added.

oscillator — A circuit that produces a constant frequency square wave that is used by the computer as a timing and sequencing reference.

OTPROM — One-time programmable read-only memory. A nonvolatile type of memory that cannot be reprogrammed.

overflow — A quantity that is too large to be contained in one byte or one word.

page zero — The first 256 bytes of memory (addresses $0000–$00FF).

parity — An error-checking scheme that counts the number of logic 1s in each byte transmitted. In a system that uses odd parity, every byte is expected to have an odd number of logic 1s. In an even parity system, every byte should have an even number of logic 1s. In the transmitter, a parity generator appends an extra bit to each byte to make the number of logic 1s odd for odd parity or even for even parity. A parity checker in the receiver counts the number of logic 1s in each byte. The parity checker generates an error signal if it finds a byte with an incorrect number of logic 1s.

PC — See “program counter (PC).”

peripheral — A circuit not under direct CPU control.

phase-locked loop (PLL) — A clock generator circuit in which a voltage controlled oscillator produces an oscillation which is synchronized to a reference signal.

PLL — See “phase-locked loop (PLL).”

pointer — Pointer register. An index register is sometimes called a pointer register because its contents are used in the calculation of the address of an operand, and therefore points to the operand.

polarity — The two opposite logic levels, logic 1 and logic 0, which correspond to two different voltage levels, $V_{DD}$ and $V_{SS}$.

polling — Periodically reading a status bit to monitor the condition of a peripheral device.

port — A set of wires for communicating with off-chip devices.

prescaler — A circuit that generates an output signal related to the input signal by a fractional scale factor such as 1/2, 1/8, 1/10 etc.

program — A set of computer instructions that cause a computer to perform a desired operation or operations.
program counter (PC) — A 16-bit register in the CPU. The PC register holds the address of the next instruction or operand that the CPU will use.

pull — An instruction that copies into the accumulator the contents of a stack RAM location. The stack RAM address is in the stack pointer.

pullup — A transistor in the output of a logic gate that connects the output to the logic 1 voltage of the power supply.

pulse-width — The amount of time a signal is on as opposed to being in its off state.

pulse-width modulation (PWM) — Controlled variation (modulation) of the pulse width of a signal with a constant frequency.

push — An instruction that copies the contents of the accumulator to the stack RAM. The stack RAM address is in the stack pointer.

PWM period — The time required for one complete cycle of a PWM waveform.

RAM — Random access memory. All RAM locations can be read or written by the CPU. The contents of a RAM memory location remain valid until the CPU writes a different value or until power is turned off.

RC circuit — A circuit consisting of capacitors and resistors having a defined time constant.

read — To copy the contents of a memory location to the accumulator.

register — A circuit that stores a group of bits.

reserved memory location — A memory location that is used only in special factory test modes. Writing to a reserved location has no effect. Reading a reserved location returns an unpredictable value.

reset — To force a device to a known condition.

SCI — See "serial communication interface module (SCI)."

serial — Pertaining to sequential transmission over a single line.

serial communications interface module (SCI) — A module that supports asynchronous communication.

serial peripheral interface module (SPI) — A module that supports synchronous communication.

set — To change a bit from logic 0 to logic 1; opposite of clear.
shift register — A chain of circuits that can retain the logic levels (logic 1 or logic 0) written to them and that can shift the logic levels to the right or left through adjacent circuits in the chain.

signed — A binary number notation that accommodates both positive and negative numbers. The most significant bit is used to indicate whether the number is positive or negative, normally logic 0 for positive and logic 1 for negative. The other seven bits indicate the magnitude of the number.

software — Instructions and data that control the operation of a microcontroller.

software interrupt (SWI) — An instruction that causes an interrupt and its associated vector fetch.

SPI — See "serial peripheral interface module (SPI)."

stack — A portion of RAM reserved for storage of CPU register contents and subroutine return addresses.

stack pointer (SP) — A 16-bit register in the CPU containing the address of the next available storage location on the stack.

start bit — A bit that signals the beginning of an asynchronous serial transmission.

status bit — A register bit that indicates the condition of a device.

stop bit — A bit that signals the end of an asynchronous serial transmission.

subroutine — A sequence of instructions to be used more than once in the course of a program. The last instruction in a subroutine is a return from subroutine (RTS) instruction. At each place in the main program where the subroutine instructions are needed, a jump or branch to subroutine (JSR or BSR) instruction is used to call the subroutine. The CPU leaves the flow of the main program to execute the instructions in the subroutine. When the RTS instruction is executed, the CPU returns to the main program where it left off.

synchronous — Refers to logic circuits and operations that are synchronized by a common reference signal.

timer — A module used to relate events in a system to a point in time.

toggle — To change the state of an output from a logic 0 to a logic 1 or from a logic 1 to a logic 0.

tracking mode — A mode of PLL operation with narrow loop bandwidth. Also see ‘acquisition mode.’
two's complement — A means of performing binary subtraction using addition techniques. The most significant bit of a two’s complement number indicates the sign of the number (1 indicates negative). The two’s complement negative of a number is obtained by inverting each bit in the number and then adding 1 to the result.

unbuffered — Utilizes only one register for data; new data overwrites current data.

unimplemented memory location — A memory location that is not used. Writing to an unimplemented location has no effect. Reading an unimplemented location returns an unpredictable value.

variable — A value that changes during the course of program execution.

VCO — See "voltage-controlled oscillator."

vector — A memory location that contains the address of the beginning of a subroutine written to service an interrupt or reset.

voltage-controlled oscillator (VCO) — A circuit that produces an oscillating output signal of a frequency that is controlled by a dc voltage applied to a control input.

waveform — A graphical representation in which the amplitude of a wave is plotted against time.

wired-OR — Connection of circuit outputs so that if any output is high, the connection point is high.

word — A set of two bytes (16 bits).

write — The transfer of a byte of data from the CPU to a memory location.
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