IE1206 Embedded Electronics



How to measure pulses?



• Pulses from numerous sensors

Numerous sensors have their output in the form of digital pulses: number, time, period time, frequency, duty cycle ... *Here are some examples* :

With the stream flow meter. The flow-ball followes the fluid and pass the photodiode each lap.

The sensor is used as fuel gauge, the number of pulses from the photodiode are summarized as fuel consumed.







Gear meter. Fluid moves in "tooth gaps". No leaks, can measure very small amounts of liquid (the resolution is the volume of a tooth gap). Used as a fuel gauge on gasoline stations. The number of turns is a measure of liquid quantity.



Propeller and turbine Meter





Pulse frequency is proportional to the flow rate.

eg. Pulse time

Torque meter.

When a torque is transferred with a rotating shaft, it will be (sheared so that the gear wheels rotate relative to each other. It will be an a measurable time difference between the pulses from the sensor elements, which detects teeth peaks passage.



The torque can be calculated from this time difference with knowledge of the shaft torsional stiffness.



Laser Scan Micrometer. Measured object diameter shades the laser light. A resolution of 1 μ m is possible. $D \propto \Delta t$



Inductive pulse sensor



There are some requirements on the magnetic properties.



Control of the internal combustion engine



eg. Pulse time, number



Speed and angle are measured against a gear ("starting ring gear") with an inductive pick up. The sensor produces a pulse for each tooth top. The speed. RPM, is calculated from the pulse duration between two peaks.

```
An "index mark" denotes the angle 0°.
(Alternatively, a cog can be "missing" at 0°).
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```

eg. Low pulse frequency

ABS brakes. When the wheel "locks up", it releases the grip to the ground. This the ABS system detects and then "reduces" the brake pressure.





An pulse sensor is integrated in the wheel bearing and gives a pulse frequency proportional to the wheel speed. "Locked" wheel is signified by low pulse rate.

Sensors are nowadays often integrated in pure machine products



Hub bearing unit with integrated ABS sensor. SKF.

Inductive ABS-sensor (coil)

The toothed metal wheel is embodied in the ball bearing plastic seal! (eg. SKF)



f Capacitive pressure sensor



Differential capacitor for pressure difference

Simple measurement equipment?



Six CMOS Schmitt-

trigger inverter

Two oscillators are constructed close to the differential capacitor. The frequencies f_1 and f_2 are measured. By forming the ratio between the frequencies then everything that affected both frequencies equally is suppressed (= can be shortend away).

Accurate measurement of f

Measurement of frequency can be done very accurate. More accurate than other measurements.

The pulse sensors emit pulses of highly variable appearance and frequencies - there is not a single measurement method that can cover all the measuring case.

PIC processor has three different Timer's and a CCP device for this. The processor clock can be generated with eight different methods.

Frequency Measurement





Quantization. *The counter onlu counts complete pulses.*

$$f = \frac{p \pm 1}{T_{\text{REF}}}$$
$$f = (p \pm 1) \cdot f_{\text{CLK}}$$

• Direct frequency measurement

the Number of positive edges p under one period of T_{REF} is counted $(T_{\text{REF}}=1/f_{\text{CLK}})$.

High measured frequency f_{MEAS} together with *long* measure time T_{REF} minimizes the impact of the quantization error.

Frequency Measurement

Lower frequency $f_{\text{MEAS}} > \frac{1}{4} f_{\text{CLK}}$



To measure lower frequencies requires that the measurement time is extended by dividing down the reference frequency f_{CLK} with a **prescaler**.



Alternatively, when measuring low frequencies one can do this indirectly by **measuring the period time**. The measurement frequency is obtained by mathematically invert the count.

During a period of the signal *n* clock pulses are counted.



Higher frequencies can be measured with **multiperiod time measurement**. The measured signal frequency is then divided down by a factor *k* before measurement (register only every 4 or every 16 of the edges).

• PIC processor is prepared for all these different measurement methods. (And many more ...)

Clock frequency accuracy

In addition to quantization, ie counting only the whole pulses, one will always have a relative error which is equal to the reference frequency error.

Eg. Wrist watch requires crystal. Crystals have typical error $\Delta f \pm 20$ ppM (parts per million). f = 4 MHz ± 80 Hz.

Wishes: clock may not lose more than 10 sek/month. $10s/(30[days]\cdot 24[hr]\cdot 60[min]\cdot 60[sec]) = 25 \text{ ppM}.$





Clock frequency accuracy

Eg. Stopwatch to use at a 800m race. (2 minutes total measurement time is probably enough) Wishes: resolution 0.01 sec. $1/(2[min]\cdot60[sek]\cdot100) = 1 \%$.



A RC-oscillator has typical a 5% error, if untrimmed. (R 1%, but C seldom better than 5%)

PIC16F690-processor internal RC-oscillator is **factory trimmed** to $\pm 1\%$. *Dthis is not enough* ... but perhaps we can finetune!



PIC-processor clock module



PIC-processor clock module

REGISTER 3-1: OSCCON: OSCILLATOR CONTROL REGISTER

U-0	R/W-1	R/W-1	R/W-0	R-1	R-0	R-0	R/W-0
—	IRCF2	IRCF1	IRCF0	OSTS ⁽¹⁾	HTS	LTS	SCS
bit 7 bit 0							

• At lab we use the default setting, 4 MHz – that makes it easy to calculate the execution time.



REGISTER 3-2: OSCTUNE: OSCILLATOR TUNING REGISTER

U-0	U-0	U-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0
—	—	—	TUN4	TUN3	TUN2	TUN1	TUN0
bit 7 bit 0							

10000(min) – **0**0000 (factory trim) – **0**1111(max)

• If you are able to "fine tune" so can the factory tuned frequency be adjusted in ± 16 small steps to $\approx \pm 0,5\%$. Now enough for the stopwatch! William Sandqvist william@kth.se



PIC processors can use external crystal. C1 and C2 can be omitted on the breadboard, but they are necessary on a PCB.



when it "springs" back it will suply the current.

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Q value.

Piezoelectric crystal



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External clock signal



PIC processors can use the external clock frequency signal.

If you have access to an exact frequency then the PIC processor to can be as accurate. (The picture shows such an external clock module, oscillator and crystal "all in one").



Atomic clock?

Radio Controlled Watches, from eg. Claes Ohlsson & co, are **phase locked** to an atomic standard in germany. So it can actually be possible to get extremely accurate reference frequency to low price!







Such a clock module gives a pulse per second (excluding sec No 60). A so-called PPS signal.

Low clock frequency RC

When the frequency accuracy is not that important

– external RC-circuit.

Data acquisition of one measurement per day does not require high clock frequencies. You can then change/increase the clock frequency of the program when the processor will report back!



• The lower the clock speed, the lower current consumption, and less risk that the PIC processor emits interferences.



Schmitt-trigger

PIC 16F690 Timer1



PIC 16F690 Timer1



PIC 16F690 Timer1

Timer 1 is a 16-bit timer/counter. You reach it through two 8-bit registers **TMR1H** and **TMR1L**. A flag **TMR1IF** will be set if the timer overflows. Must be reset if you want to know if this happens again. Timer1 can use its own oscillator – for a 32768 Hz watch crystal, or it could use the processor cloch. Timer 1 has then a **Prescaler** for {1:1,1:2,1:4,1:8}.

REGISTER 6-1: T1CON: TIMER 1 CONTROL REGISTER

0	0	prescaler		0	1	0	1
bit 7)			bit 0
T1GINV ⁽¹⁾	TMR1GE ⁽²⁾	T1CKPS1	T1CKPS0	T10SCEN	T1SYNC	TMR1CS	TMR10N
R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0	R/W-0

• Settings at our frequency measurment lab.

How to read from a 16-bit "Freerunning" Timer1?

Timer 1 is a 16-bit counter. It must be read as two 8-bit numbers, the 8 most significant bits **TMR1H** and the 8 last significant bits **TMR1L**. This can be a problem because the timer can "turn around" between the readings of 8-bit numbers. The following code shows the safe way:

```
long unsigned int time; char TEMPH; char TEMPL;
TEMPH = TMR1H; TEMPL = TMR1L;
if (TEMPH == TMR1H) // Timer1 not rolled over = good value
{
    time = TEMPH*256;
    time += TEMPL;
}
else // Timer1 rolled over - no new rollover for some time
    // lots of time to read new good values
{
    time = TMR1H*256;
    time += TMR1L;
}
```

How to write to a 16-bit "Freerunning" Timer1?

It can also be problematic to write to a 16-bit counter as it must be done as two 8-bit number.

This is the safe way :

```
TMR1L = 0; // clear low byte = no rollover for some time
TMR1H = 12345/256; // high byte of constant 12345
TMR1L = 12345%256; // low byte of constant 12345
```

The number **12345** fits in 16 bits. With integer division / and the och modulo operator % a constant can be split into two 8-bit parts 8at compilation time). One other way is to use hexadecimal constants:

 $12345_{10} = 3039_{16}$ TMR1H=0x30 TMR1L=0x39

CCP synchronized registers

ECCP-unit, Enhenced Capture/Compare/(PWM)

• One can avoid writing to and reading from Timer1 registers - there is *synchronized registers* in the ECCP unit for this!



ECCP Capture modes



When the Capture event occurs Timer1 is directly copied to the **CCPR1H** and **CCPR1L** registers where they can be read where they can be read in "peace ". Bit **CCP11F** signals when this happens. We must then reset this bit

REGISTER 11-1: CCP1CON: ENHANCED CCP1 CONTROL REGISTER





Setup Timer1

Timer1, as fast as possible:

// Setup TIMER1

/*

0.x.xx.x.x.x TMR1 gate not invert x.0.xx.x.x.x TMR1 gate not enable x.x.00.x.x.x TMR1 gate not enable x.x.00.x.x.x Prescale 1:1 x.x.xx.0.x.x TMR1-oscillator is shut off x.x.xx.1.x.x no input clock-synchronization x.x.xx.x.1.x.x no input clock-synchronization x.x.xx.x.x.0.x Use internal clock f_osc/4 x.x.xx.x.x.x.1 TIMER1 is ON */ Clear comment that T1CON = 0b0.0.00.0.1.0.1 ; Shows how the T1CON value is developed.

Setup ECCP

```
CCP1, capture time for positive edges :
```

```
// Setup CCP1
/*
    00.00.xxxx -- --
    xx.xx.0101 Capture each positive edge
*/
```

```
CCP1CON = 0b00.00.0101 ;
```

Wait for the edges

unsigned long T, f, t1, t2; 16-bit numbers

CCP1IF = 0 ; // reset the flag while (CCP1IF == 0) ; // wait for capture $t_1 = CCPR1H*256;$ t1 += CCPR1L;CCP1IF = 0 ; // reset the flag while (CCP1IF == 0) ; // wait for next capture $t_{2} = CCPR1H*256;$ $t_2 += CCPR1I_i$ t_1 t_2 $\Box \quad T = t_2 - t_1 \quad f = \frac{1}{T}$ T = t2 - t1; // calculate period f = 100000U/T;// calculate frequency



 $(100 - 63636) \mod (2^{16}) = 2000$

f=100000U/T

unsigned long T, f, t1, t2; /* long is max 65535 */
f = 1000000U/T;

- Scalefactor between *f* and *T* is 1000000. Timer1 is clocked with 1 MHz.
- If T=1 (T=1±1) the measured frquency is 1 MHz. f > 65535, to big for 16 bit.
- If T=10 (T=10±1) the measured frequency is 100 kHz. f > 65535, to big.
- If *T*=100 (T=100±1) the measured frequency is 10 kHz. *f* < 65535, ok.
- If *T*=1000 (T=1000±1) the measured frequency is 1 kHz. *f* < 65535, ok.
- If *T*=10000 (T=10000±1) measured frequency is 100 Hz. *f* < 65535, ok.
- If T > 65535 TMR1 overflows can be anything f = ?

Frequence measurement lab

PIC16F690 can distribute the processor clock $f_{OSC}/4 = 1$ MHz to the pin **CLKOUT**. Wit the cheap frequency divider chip 74HC4040 we will get 12 different frequencies for for measuring purposes!



Frequence measurement lab



¹⁶ V_{CC} Why is the readings so ¹⁵ Q_K incredibly precise ? ¹⁴ Q_J AH ¹² Q_H Have you got hold of a ¹¹ CLR Super PIC16F690?

•	PICk	it 2 UART Tool				
	9600)	.	Connec	t Disc	onnect 🔽 VDD
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	Disconnect
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	and
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00976	change testpoint
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	03906	Reconnect
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	03906	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	03906	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	03906	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00488	
	The	frequency	is	[Hz]:	00488	

	74HC4040	$f_{\rm CLK} = 1 {\rm MHz}$			
PIN	freq [Hz]	Uppmätt [Hz]	Kommentar		
1	$10^{6}/2^{12} = 244,1$				
2	$10^{6}/2^{6} = 15625$				
3	$10^{6}/2^{5} = 31250$				
4	10 ⁶ /2 ⁷ = 7812,5				
5	$10^{6}/2^{4} = 62500$				
6	$10^{6}/2^{3} = 125000$				
7	$10^{6}/2^{2} = 250000$				
9	$10^{6}/2 = 500000$				
12	$10^{6}/2^{9} = 1953,1$				
13	10 ⁶ /2 ⁸ = 3906,3	3906			
14	10 ⁶ /2 ¹⁰ = 976,6	976			
15	$10^{6}/2^{11} = 488,3$	488			

Something seems fishy ...