**General**

Missing files on git

Global labels?

Root sheet? What is your layout.

No folder of datasheets.

**Power**

Schottky diode taking the entire board’s current through it – make sure is rated correctly.

Cannot turn power on/off to sensors or to hard reset them.

C8 should be bigger.

LED resistors too small.

What is R6 for.

Battery is not DNP.

Add external connectors (01x02) for battery and Voltage out.

**Sensing**

Small resistors are going to drawer a lot of power.

Fuse is good form of safety – might be expensive.

Check if pullups are correct for both sensor and EEPROM as they are both on the same line.

Maybe consider redundant.

Is the parallel combination actually necessary.

1. **Adherence to Mr Pead’s basic requirements**
   1. **Rating:** 3/5
   2. **Missing requirements** (all other requirements are satisfied):

* 18650 battery holder is not DNP.
* It does not look like power components can be easily bypassed.
* lack of pin headers to use external power sources.
* USB connector is not a Micro USB
* Total cost of components is $56,76 which is just above the recommended budget.
* Extended component cost of $3 per part does not appear to be budgeted for.
  1. **Comments from**
     1. **General**

The market is currently favourable, putting our budget at around $80, however I can see that a few parts have been chosen that are quite expensive as well as I cannot see any extended component costs include – which are $3 a per component type as a reminder. For example, the FT231XS-R is $3.10 and is an extended part, bring the total cost to $18,50 while the total cost on your BOM is $15,50 for the same component.

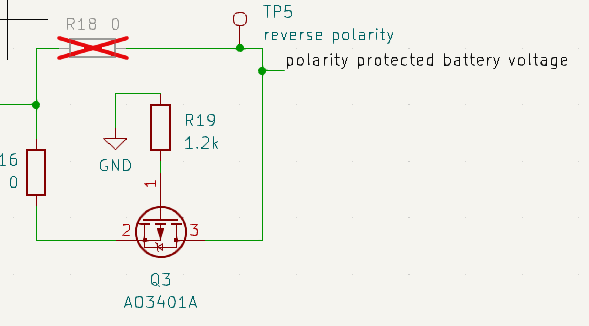
The Git repository is poorly documented and is missing a lot of files. We have chatted about this in person, the comment is just for completeness’ sake. I would advise uploading all KiCad files as well as a folder for datasheets of the components you use, which will make it more friendly for other engineers to read. To bulk add files to a git, you can just add the folder they are in using >git add [folder name].

* + 1. **Power**

It was suggested that an external connection point this puts across the battery so that we can easily supply 3.3 volts without needing to do difficult modifications to our circuit board. I suggest adding two pin headers one connected to the 3.3 Volt positive line and one connected to ground. do not populate these pin headers as we can do this in the lab and these pin headers are expensive.

I suggest selecting do not populate for components such as the battery that will not be populated. This can be done by clicking edit or tapping E while having your mouse hovered over the symbol on the schematic in kicad and then under attribute selecting the checkbox which says do not populate.

I also suggest creating a method which can be used to bypass components with zero ohm resistors on your circuit for extra safety in case a component breaks this is how I did it on my circuit.



With we can permanently remove it from the circuit by desoldering R16 and soldering R18. this will remove Q3 from the circuit and create a short-circuit to the next section of the circuit.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

The USB we are required to use is a micro-USB (JLC part no. C404969), they work pretty much the same so it should not be too hard to put in.

* + 1. **Sensing**

High level requirements have been met. Adding more sensors could be considered; they add more functionality to the board and act as a good failsafe if the sensors stop working for whatever reason. Additionally, with some research it’s not too difficult to find sensors that fit within budget.

1. **Adherence to Mr Pead’s debugger requirements**
   1. **Rating:** 4/5
   2. **Missing requirements**

* FTDI test lines
* Plug and detect.
* Must provide an easy 5 Volt power connection to the debugger.
  1. **Comments from**
     1. **Power**

There needs to be a 5 Volt power source from the USB straight to the debugger which should be added on the schematics.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

You do not have test points for the signal coming though the differential pair lines from the USB (D+ and D-) nor the USART signal going to the board. These might be helpful if your USB or FTDI fails so you are able to read/input a signal to these lines.

There are no test points for your EEPROM I2C lines. I would advise adding them so that another board may communication with your EEPROM and get its data, in case of a failure.

There is no system to plug and detect the USB. I would advise taking the 5V input from the USB and running it over a voltage divider to drop it down to 3V3, and then read that signal using a GPIO pin. The voltage divider resistors should be big to prevent power losses., i.e., 3.3MΩ and 1.7MΩ.

* + 1. **Sensing**

Test points for the digital communication lines and for the analogue sensor are present, but there is no connection directly to the 10 pin debugger. Additionally, jumpers could be added to disconnect the sensors in the instance that you want to push data directly into the microcontroller without risking damage to the sensing circuits.

1. **Schematic**
   1. **Rating:** 2/5
   2. **Comments from**
      1. **General**

There are a few global labels on the schematic; convention is that it’s generally better to use net labels and hierarchical labels.

On the schematic on the gitlab, there is no root sheet that links the various components together.

* + 1. **Power**

I am worried that the Scotts key diode will produce a lot of heat and could break. I suggest doing the calculations to see what the Max current that your circuit will draw is roughly and then calculating the amount of heat that will run through your Scotts key diode using the formula power is equal to voltage times current (P =VI). From the data sheet for the Scott key diet that you are using you can only have 400 mW through it.

I also suggest using bigger resistance for the LED's connected to the battery charger to help prevent them from breaking. The same calculation can be done to work out the current that should be drawn through those resistors. I suggest just using a 1K or even bigger resistors you will have dimmer LED's but it is less likely to break.

I also don't understand why capacitor C8 is 100 nano-farads. I would suggest using a bigger value capacitor such as 10 microfarads. During my vac ward I learned that the smaller value capacitors are used to decrease noise but as this is a power line we are more interested in stabilizing the power Produced and therefore one should use a bigger valued capacitor. Also the data sheet for this component suggests using a 10 microfarad capacitor.

I am also unsure to the use of resistor R6 and think it will just be a current draw But I'm not entirely sure if this might be there for a reason I am not aware of.

I was very impressed with your circuits and was very interested in your DC to DC converter as this seem to be a good solution to the problem.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

This is going to be long – I do apologise. In general, I would advise reading through the STM32F051C6 datasheet and looking at the STM32 dev board circuit diagram. Both can be found on the EEE2046F Vula site.

**Pins**

The BOOT0 and NSRT pins on the microcontroller are floating.

The BOOT0 pin, along with the BOOT1 bit, tells the microcontroller what mode to boot in. 0 for use current program, 1 for wipe program and look to BOOT1 for further action, you are welcome to do some research on these – they are not very clear in the datasheet.

The NSRT pin is dedicated to resetting your board and telling it to start again (based on the BOOT0 pin and BOOT1 bit). I would highly recommend putting a button to pull this pin low (resetting the board) for debugging purposes and restarting your program. I would advise additional buttons as well for further debugging and user input.

Only two of the seven power connection have been made. There are four voltage pins and three ground pins that are each linked to different functionalities on the microcontroller such as the ADC and GPIO clocks. I would advise connecting them all to their respective power and ground lines. You can find all of their functions on the STM32 datasheet.

The are no connections points for the STM link debugger. I assume this means you are planning on moving the STM32 board between the dev board and your HAT to debug it. I would advise against this as moving it between the two board over 40 times throughout the process of writing the code may get tedious and damage the connectors. The STM link debugger communicated through three channels: NSRT, SWDIO (PA13) and SWCLK (PA14). I would advise making pin headers on your board to receive these three lines at least and link them to your board.

There are a lot of floating pins that may cause ERC errors. A simple fix is to use ‘No-Connection Flags’ (press Q) which places an X on the pin which will tell the board that these are not floating.

**Wiring**

The are no redundant channels/wires to your microcontroller for any commination or sensor lines. These are not necessary, but I would advise them in case of a PCB or STM32 failure where one channel is not accessible.

The EEPROM chip is connect to 5V and from what I can see from your power schematic, you are unable to produce 5V from the battery. Thus, the EEPROM will only work when a USB is connected, and you will be unable to store data from your sensors in the field or remote location. I would advise changing it to be powered by 3V3 and confirm that that EEPROM can run on 3V3 power.

The UART connections are backwards. For UART/USART, there are transmission lines (Tx) and receiver (Rx) pins. When connecting between the FTDI and STM32, the transmission pin (Tx) should connect to a receiver pin (Rx) and vice versa.

I am unsure whether the Ferrite bead is necessary for the USB to FTDI connections so I will leave it up to your discretion. If it is not stricrly necessary, I would advise using a capacitor rather to save costs.

**Components**

The FTDI connect is a valid chip and will do the job, however it has a lot of unused functionality and is very expensive. I am using an HT42B534 series chip. They make a version purely dedicated to differential pair lines to UART which is only 8 pins and a lot cheaper. The exact model I am using is a HT42B534-2.

There are no pull-up resistors for your I2C lines between the EEPROM and microcontroller. I2C lines are recommended to have pull-up resistors attached to the lines, the EEPROM datasheet will give you some recommended values.

* + 1. **Sensing**

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1. **PCB Layout**
   1. **Rating:** 5/5
   2. **Comments from**
      1. **General**

We are using through hole test points; it is a different approach will allow us to solder wire to the board instead of just holding them there. Your approach is also completely valid.

* + 1. **Power**

It is difficult to see if you have use the correct width 4 tracks new PC D and for that reason. I will suggest that all power tracks are much thicker than any other tracks.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

Board layout looks clean, the USB could maybe be closer to the edge of the board. I would also advise against running traces between the pins of the microcontroller headers, as they might be misprinted and short circuit. Rather run them around the sides of it. Additionally, TP1 will be quite hard to access once the microcontroller is in place.

* + 1. **Sensing**

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1. **Silk Screen**
   1. **Rating:** 4/5
   2. **Comments from**
      1. **General**

Some of the component names are covered by the components themselves.

The team number, version, and team members are missing from the silk screen.

It would be worth labelling your test points to make it easier to debug.

* + 1. **Power**

If you have space I suggest adding labels to the different modular sections of your component E.G. the DC to DC converter and the battery charger.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

It might be worth labelling the pins on the microcontroller in silk screen: PA0, PA1, NSRT, etc. to make for easier debugging and reading of the circuit.

* + 1. **Sensing**

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1. **Low voltage protection circuit**
   1. **Rating:** 4/5
   2. **Comments from Power**

I'm very impressed that you found this DC to DC converter. I have read through the data sheet and I’m a little skeptical about the undervoltage lockout as it says it only locks out at 1.5 volts, but you indicate that this component only operates from 2.5 to 5 volts. However, I may be misreading something and suggest that you just double check this.

If your component does not have an undervoltage lockout here are two website links that I use to build my undervoltage lockout circuits. <https://www.analog.com/en/technical-articles/battery-protection-circuit.html>

<https://web.eecs.utk.edu/~afoshie/projects/UVLO/#design>

1. **Physical Board Design**
   1. **Rating: 4.5**/5
   2. **Comments from General**

Layout is appropriate.

1. **Test point and recovery approaches**
   1. **Rating:** 4/5
   2. **Comments from**
      1. **Power**

Test points are free to make, and I suggest using as many as possible. I think you have all the important test points but could put one on in between your Pmosfet and your DC to DC converter. I would also suggest converting your test point to through hole test points. This is a good idea in case you're in a pinch later and need to solder something on to your circuit.

* + 1. **Microcontroller**

There are a few more test points that can be added for the I2C lines and the USB differential pair and UART lines. Otherwise, there are sufficient test points.

There is no redundant routing for communication nor sensing lines which are no necessary but are advisable in the event of trace failure.

* + 1. **Sensing**

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