



UTAustinX: UT.6.01x Embedded Systems - Shape the World

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The external devices attached to the microcontroller provide functionality for the system. An **input port** is hardware on the microcontroller that allows information about the external world to be entered into the computer. The microcontroller also has hardware called an **output port** to send information out to the external world. Most of the pins shown in Figure 2.11 are input/output ports.

An **interface** is defined as the collection of the I/O port, external electronics, physical devices, and the software, which combine to allow the computer to communicate with the external world. An example of an input interface is a switch, where the operator toggles the switch, and the software can recognize the switch position. An example of an output interface is a light-emitting diode (LED), where the software can turn the light on and off, and the operator can see whether or not the light is shining. There is a wide range of possible inputs and outputs, which can exist in either digital or analog form. In general, we can classify I/O interfaces into four categories

Parallel - binary data are available simultaneously on a group of lines

Serial - binary data are available one bit at a time on a single line

Analog - data are encoded as an electrical voltage, current, or power

Time - data are encoded as a period, frequency, pulse width, or phase shift

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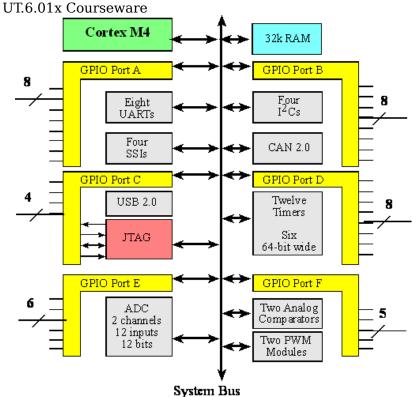


Figure 2.11. Architecture of TM4C123 microcontroller.

## Reading Assignment 2:

Download and open the data sheet for the TM4C123 microcontroller (/c4x/UTAustinX/UT.6.01x/asset/tm4c123gh6pm.pdf)

- 1) Look at the block diagram on page 46 to see how much RAM and ROM there is.
- 2) Look on page 647 to see how many I/O pins there are.

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