

Lab 5(a) Introduction to serial communications.

Introduction

This lab looks at the fundamentals of serial communications. In this lab you will:

- see how ascii characters are transmitted to a “dumb” terminal via the serial port(UART) of the microcontroller (MCU).
- modify a program so that it responds to serial communications “commands” from the dumb terminal connected to the receive pin of the MCU serial port.
- use button presses to control data transmission via the serial port.
- see serial communications waveforms on an oscilloscope.
- you will use the serial communication port to communicate with another microcontroller.

Instructions

Download the support files for this lab, build and test.

Study the various functions included in the file. Pay particular attention to the functions related to serial I/O.

You should notice that the LED turns on when you press L and off when you press M.

Add the following functions.

```
void WaitForBtnPress()
{
    while ( (GPIO0DATA & BIT1) != 0);
}

void WaitForBtnRelease()
{
    while ((GPIO0DATA & BIT1)==0);
}
```

Using these functions, modify the code so that it outputs 'L' and 'M' alternately when the user pushes the button - the button in question is the one beside the MCU. Partner up with another student. Run the new version of the program on your MCU and the original version on theirs. Connect the TX from your MCU to the RX of theirs. You should now be able to toggle their LED with button presses on your board. Additional instructions regarding this will be given in the laboratory.

