

# UART: Universal Asynchronous Receiver & Transmitter

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Marten van Dijk and Syed Kamran Haider

Based on the Atmega328P datasheet and material  
from Bruce Land's video lectures at Cornell

# USART

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- USART communicates over a 3-wire cable: TX, RX, Gnd
- Designed for modems, a long time ago; protocol is slow
- HW allows full-duplex, i.e., HW can transmit and receive at exactly the same time
- Two Data registers: one for transmitting, the other for receiving data
- Baud rate in bits per second: 9600 Bd is approximately 0.1ms per bit
- The Baud rates of the receiving and transmitting devices need to match within 1.5%
- Each letter is sent one at a time.
- Each character has a unique ASCII value(8bit).
- RS232 protocol is designed to connect two devices together.

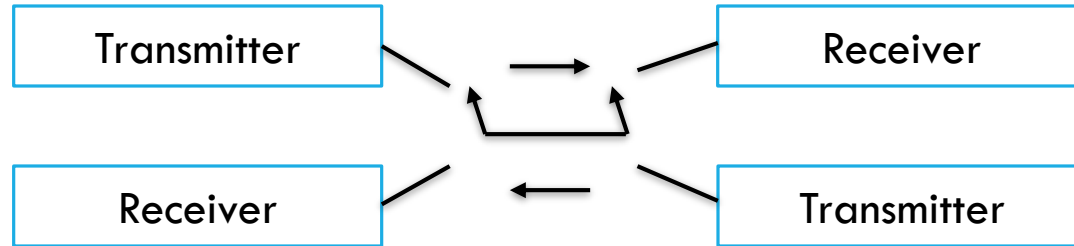
# Simple, Half, Full-Duplex Data Transfers

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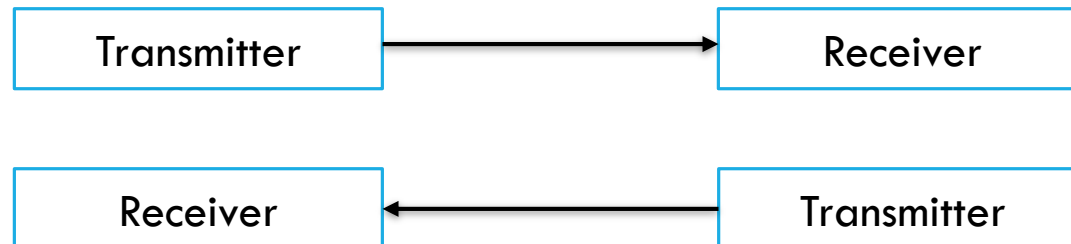
Simplex



Half-Duplex



Full-Duplex



# ASCII Table

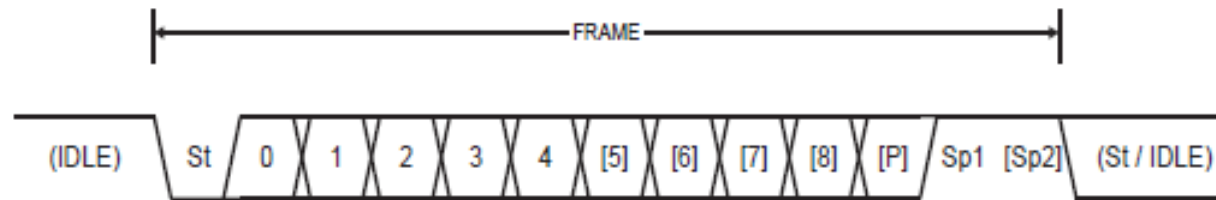
Dec	Hx	Oct	Char	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr	Dec	Hx	Oct	Html	Chr
0	0	000	<b>NUL</b> (null)	32	20	040	&#32;	<b>Space</b>	64	40	100	&#64;	<b>@</b>	96	60	140	&#96;	<b>`</b>
1	1	001	<b>SOH</b> (start of heading)	33	21	041	&#33;	<b>!</b>	65	41	101	&#65;	<b>A</b>	97	61	141	&#97;	<b>a</b>
2	2	002	<b>STX</b> (start of text)	34	22	042	&#34;	<b>"</b>	66	42	102	&#66;	<b>B</b>	98	62	142	&#98;	<b>b</b>
3	3	003	<b>ETX</b> (end of text)	35	23	043	&#35;	<b>#</b>	67	43	103	&#67;	<b>C</b>	99	63	143	&#99;	<b>c</b>
4	4	004	<b>EOT</b> (end of transmission)	36	24	044	&#36;	<b>\$</b>	68	44	104	&#68;	<b>D</b>	100	64	144	&#100;	<b>d</b>
5	5	005	<b>ENQ</b> (enquiry)	37	25	045	&#37;	<b>%</b>	69	45	105	&#69;	<b>E</b>	101	65	145	&#101;	<b>e</b>
6	6	006	<b>ACK</b> (acknowledge)	38	26	046	&#38;	<b>&amp;</b>	70	46	106	&#70;	<b>F</b>	102	66	146	&#102;	<b>f</b>
7	7	007	<b>BEL</b> (bell)	39	27	047	&#39;	<b>'</b>	71	47	107	&#71;	<b>G</b>	103	67	147	&#103;	<b>g</b>
8	8	010	<b>BS</b> (backspace)	40	28	050	&#40;	<b>(</b>	72	48	110	&#72;	<b>H</b>	104	68	150	&#104;	<b>h</b>
9	9	011	<b>TAB</b> (horizontal tab)	41	29	051	&#41;	<b>)</b>	73	49	111	&#73;	<b>I</b>	105	69	151	&#105;	<b>i</b>
10	A	012	<b>LF</b> (NL line feed, new line)	42	2A	052	&#42;	<b>*</b>	74	4A	112	&#74;	<b>J</b>	106	6A	152	&#106;	<b>j</b>
11	B	013	<b>VT</b> (vertical tab)	43	2B	053	&#43;	<b>+</b>	75	4B	113	&#75;	<b>K</b>	107	6B	153	&#107;	<b>k</b>
12	C	014	<b>FF</b> (NP form feed, new page)	44	2C	054	&#44;	<b>,</b>	76	4C	114	&#76;	<b>L</b>	108	6C	154	&#108;	<b>l</b>
13	D	015	<b>CR</b> (carriage return)	45	2D	055	&#45;	<b>-</b>	77	4D	115	&#77;	<b>M</b>	109	6D	155	&#109;	<b>m</b>
14	E	016	<b>SO</b> (shift out)	46	2E	056	&#46;	<b>.</b>	78	4E	116	&#78;	<b>N</b>	110	6E	156	&#110;	<b>n</b>
15	F	017	<b>SI</b> (shift in)	47	2F	057	&#47;	<b>/</b>	79	4F	117	&#79;	<b>O</b>	111	6F	157	&#111;	<b>o</b>
16	10	020	<b>DLE</b> (data link escape)	48	30	060	&#48;	<b>0</b>	80	50	120	&#80;	<b>P</b>	112	70	160	&#112;	<b>p</b>
17	11	021	<b>DC1</b> (device control 1)	49	31	061	&#49;	<b>1</b>	81	51	121	&#81;	<b>Q</b>	113	71	161	&#113;	<b>q</b>
18	12	022	<b>DC2</b> (device control 2)	50	32	062	&#50;	<b>2</b>	82	52	122	&#82;	<b>R</b>	114	72	162	&#114;	<b>r</b>
19	13	023	<b>DC3</b> (device control 3)	51	33	063	&#51;	<b>3</b>	83	53	123	&#83;	<b>S</b>	115	73	163	&#115;	<b>s</b>
20	14	024	<b>DC4</b> (device control 4)	52	34	064	&#52;	<b>4</b>	84	54	124	&#84;	<b>T</b>	116	74	164	&#116;	<b>t</b>
21	15	025	<b>NAK</b> (negative acknowledge)	53	35	065	&#53;	<b>5</b>	85	55	125	&#85;	<b>U</b>	117	75	165	&#117;	<b>u</b>
22	16	026	<b>SYN</b> (synchronous idle)	54	36	066	&#54;	<b>6</b>	86	56	126	&#86;	<b>V</b>	118	76	166	&#118;	<b>v</b>
23	17	027	<b>ETB</b> (end of trans. block)	55	37	067	&#55;	<b>7</b>	87	57	127	&#87;	<b>W</b>	119	77	167	&#119;	<b>w</b>
24	18	030	<b>CAN</b> (cancel)	56	38	070	&#56;	<b>8</b>	88	58	130	&#88;	<b>X</b>	120	78	170	&#120;	<b>x</b>
25	19	031	<b>EM</b> (end of medium)	57	39	071	&#57;	<b>9</b>	89	59	131	&#89;	<b>Y</b>	121	79	171	&#121;	<b>y</b>
26	1A	032	<b>SUB</b> (substitute)	58	3A	072	&#58;	<b>:</b>	90	5A	132	&#90;	<b>Z</b>	122	7A	172	&#122;	<b>z</b>
27	1B	033	<b>ESC</b> (escape)	59	3B	073	&#59;	<b>;</b>	91	5B	133	&#91;	<b>[</b>	123	7B	173	&#123;	<b>{</b>
28	1C	034	<b>FS</b> (file separator)	60	3C	074	&#60;	<b>&lt;</b>	92	5C	134	&#92;	<b>\</b>	124	7C	174	&#124;	<b> </b>
29	1D	035	<b>GS</b> (group separator)	61	3D	075	&#61;	<b>=</b>	93	5D	135	&#93;	<b>]</b>	125	7D	175	&#125;	<b>}</b>
30	1E	036	<b>RS</b> (record separator)	62	3E	076	&#62;	<b>&gt;</b>	94	5E	136	&#94;	<b>^</b>	126	7E	176	&#126;	<b>~</b>
31	1F	037	<b>US</b> (unit separator)	63	3F	077	&#63;	<b>?</b>	95	5F	137	&#95;	<b>_</b>	127	7F	177	&#127;	<b>DEL</b>

Source: [www.LookupTables.com](http://www.LookupTables.com)

# Frame Format

- To transmit a byte (i.e., one char) we need at least one start bit (receiving clock starts when falling edge is received), 8 data bits, and one stop bit: Total of 10 bits.

Figure 19-4. Frame Formats



**St** Start bit, always low.

**(n)** Data bits (0 to 8).

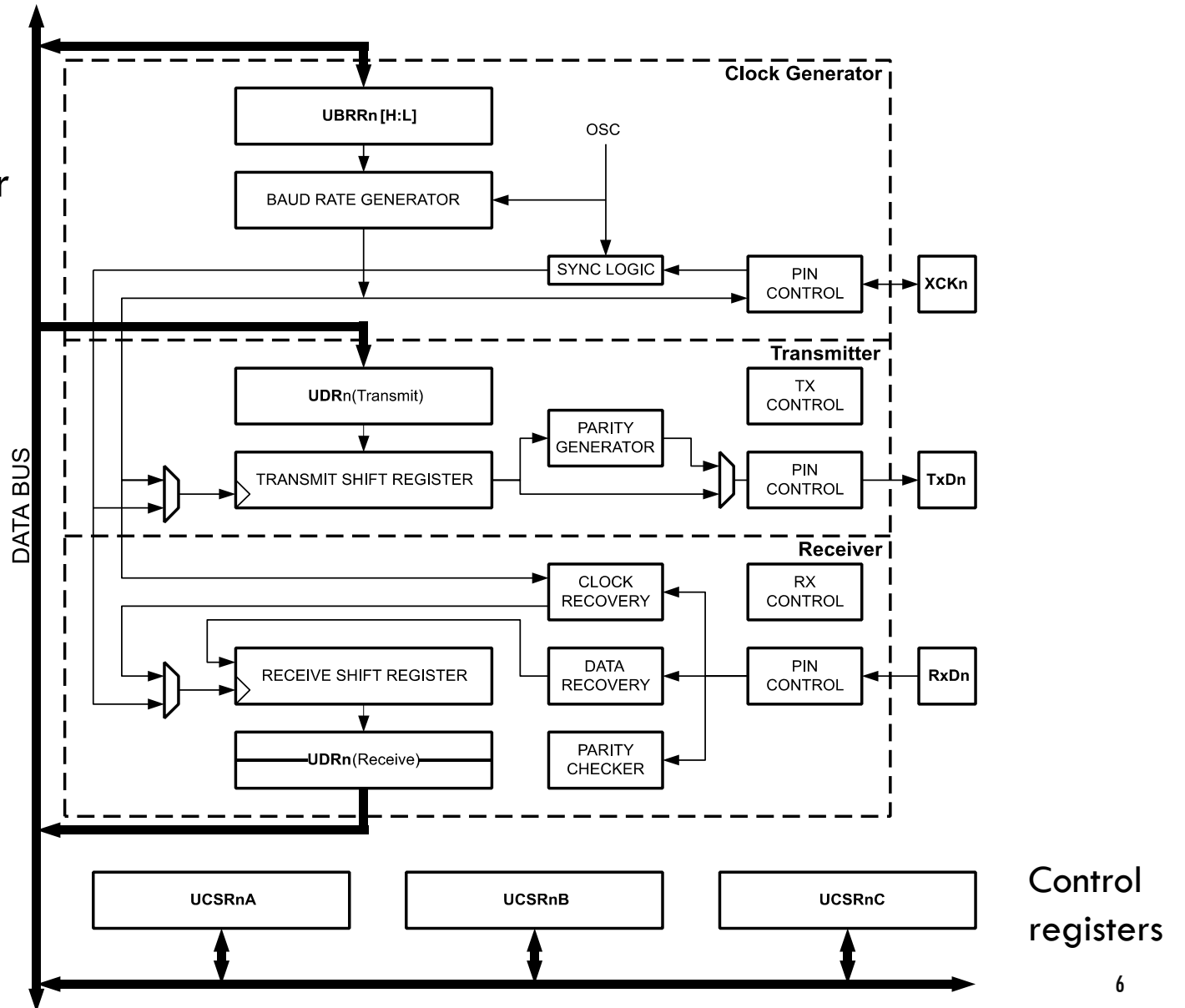
**P** Parity bit. Can be odd or even.

**Sp** Stop bit, always high.

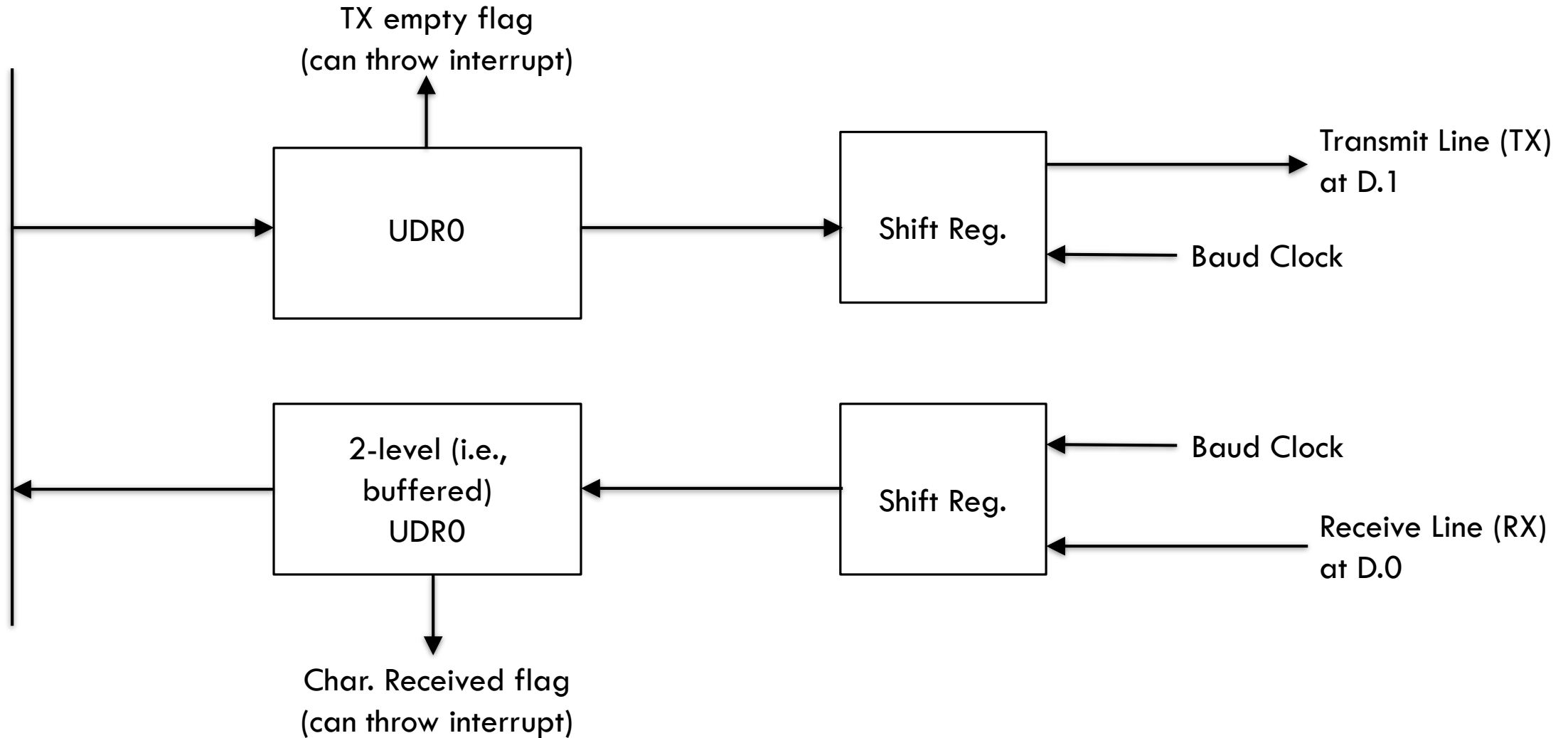
**IDLE** No transfers on the communication line (RxDn or TxDn). An IDLE line must be high.

# USART0 (Ch. 24 ATmega328PB Datasheet)

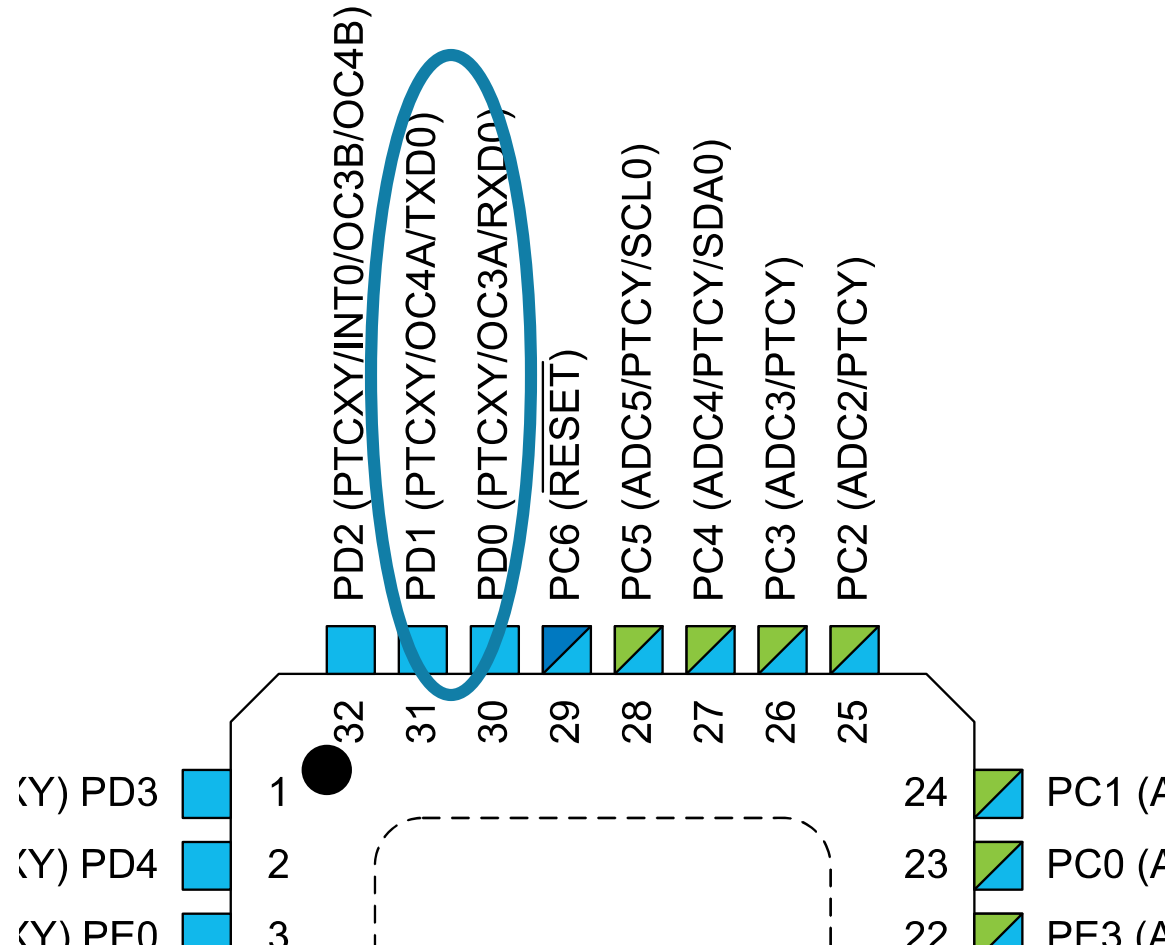
- USART = Universal Synchronous and Asynchronous serial Receiver and Transmitter
- Clock generator, Transmitter, Receiver
- Bolted on to the MCU



# USART



# TX and RX at PORTD





# UBRR0H and UBRR0L

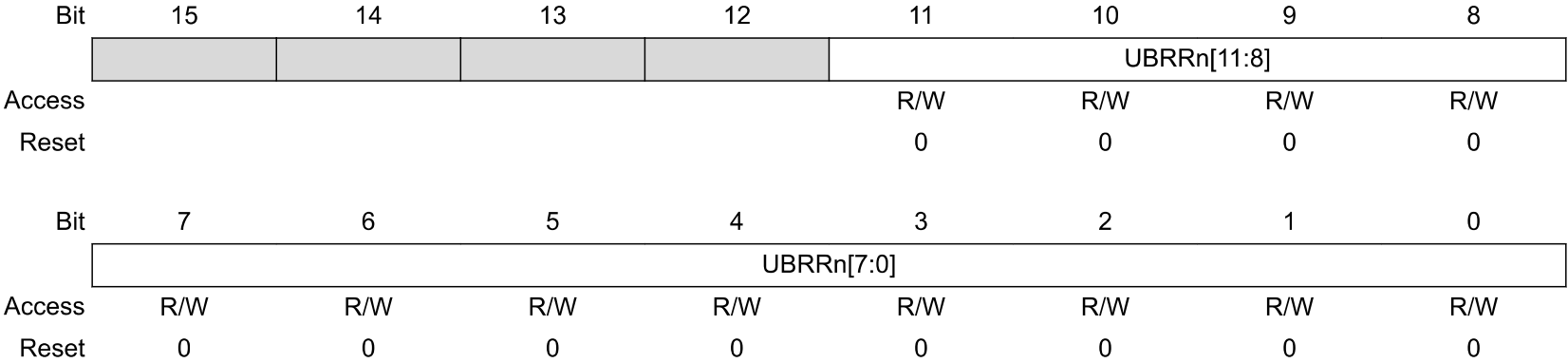
- Baud rate is translated relative to the system oscillator clock frequency  $f_{OSC}$  to two registers UBRR0H and UBRR0L, the high and low value of UBRR0 which is in the range [0,4095]

**Table 24-1. Equations for Calculating Baud Rate Register Setting**

Operating Mode	Equation for Calculating Baud Rate <sup>(1)</sup>	Equation for Calculating UBRRn Value
Asynchronous Normal mode (U2Xn = 0)      16 samples per bit	$BAUD = \frac{f_{osc}}{16(UBRRn + 1)}$	$UBRRn = \frac{f_{osc}}{16BAUD} - 1$
Asynchronous Double Speed mode (U2Xn = 1)      8 samples per bit	$BAUD = \frac{f_{osc}}{8(UBRRn + 1)}$	$UBRRn = \frac{f_{osc}}{8BAUD} - 1$
Synchronous Master mode	$BAUD = \frac{f_{osc}}{2(UBRRn + 1)}$	$UBRRn = \frac{f_{osc}}{2BAUD} - 1$

# UBRR0H and UBRR0L

Baud Rate [bps]	f <sub>osc</sub> = 16.0000 MHz			
	U2Xn = 0		U2Xn = 1	
	UBRRn	Error	UBRRn	Error
2400	416	-0.1%	832	0.0%
4800	207	0.2%	416	-0.1%
9600	103	0.2%	207	0.2%
14.4k	68	0.6%	138	-0.1%
19.2k	51	0.2%	103	0.2%
28.8k	34	-0.8%	68	0.6%
38.4k	25	0.2%	51	0.2%
57.6k	16	2.1%	34	-0.8%
76.8k	12	0.2%	25	0.2%
115.2k	8	-3.5%	16	2.1%
230.4k	3	8.5%	8	-3.5%
250k	3	0.0%	7	0.0%
0.5M	1	0.0%	3	0.0%
1M	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Max. <sup>(1)</sup>	1 Mbps		2 Mbps	



# UDR0 for Transmission and Receiving

---

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	TXB / RXB[7:0]							
Access	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W
Reset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

**Bits 7:0 – TXB / RXB[7:0]** USART Transmit / Receive Data Buffer

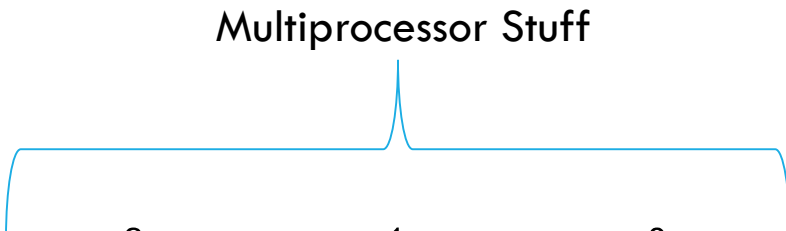
(The receive and transmit buffers RXB and TXB are different in HW; in SW their names, i.e. I/O addresses, are the same. The shared name UDR0 in read mode means that RXB is read, and UDR0 in write mode means that TXB is written. Notice that reading and writing of bits in UDR0 can be done simultaneously since they affect different hardware buffers!)

# Control register: UCSR0A

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	RXCn	TXCn	UDREN	FEn	DORn	UPEn	U2Xn	MPCMn
Access	R	R/W	R	R	R	R	R/W	R/W
Reset	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0

- RXC0: Receive character complete → There is something in the receive register worth reading
- TXC0: Transmit character compare → Is set when both entries in the Transmit Shift Register and Transmit Buffer (UDR0) are shifted out → Not very useful
- UDRE0: Transmit data empty → Goes high when 1 of the two buffers (see above) is empty → Time to refill
- FE0: Frame error if 4 samples of a bit do not match → Detects bad clock rate
- DOR0: Data overrun: If a new character is complete and RXC0 is still set, implies a lost char → SW did not read often enough
- UPE0: Parity error
- U2X0: Double speed (twice the baud rate) → reduces error checking (only 2 samples per bit)
- MPCM0: Multiple processor address mode (can connect more than 2 devices to the line)

# Control register: UCSROB



Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	RXCIE <sub>n</sub>	TXCIE <sub>n</sub>	UDRIE <sub>n</sub>	RXEN <sub>n</sub>	TXEN <sub>n</sub>	UCSZ <sub>n2</sub>	RXB8 <sub>n</sub>	TXB8 <sub>n</sub>
Access	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R	R/W
Reset	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

- RXCIE0: Receive character complete interrupt enable → You can write an ISR for this
- TXCIE0: Enables interrupt for both members in TX queue being empty
- UDRIE0: Enables interrupt if the first of the output pipeline is empty
- RXEN0: RX enable → Disables D.0 for general I/O (completely overrides any other I/O)
- TXEN0: TX enable → Disables D.1 for general I/O (completely overrides any other I/O)
- UCSZ02: see next slides

# Control register: UCSROC

Bit	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
	UMSELn[1:0]		UPMn[1:0]		USBSn	UCSZn1 / UDORDn	UCSZn0 / UCPHAn	UCPOLn
Access	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W	R/W
Reset	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0

**Table 24-10. USART Mode Selection**

UMSEL[1:0]	Mode
00	Asynchronous USART
01	Synchronous USART
10	Reserved
11	Master SPI (MSPIM) <sup>(1)</sup>

**Table 24-11. USART Mode Selection**

UPM[1:0]	ParityMode
00	Disabled
01	Reserved
10	Enabled, Even Parity
11	Enabled, Odd Parity

**Table 24-12. Stop Bit Settings**

USBS	Stop Bit(s)
0	1-bit
1	2-bit

# Control register: UCSROC

---

**Table 24-13. Character Size Settings**

UCSZ1[2:0]	Character Size
000	5-bit
001	6-bit
010	7-bit
011	8-bit
100	Reserved
101	Reserved
110	Reserved
111	9-bit

# Initialization

---

```
#define F_CPU 16000000UL
#define BAUD 9600
#define MYUBRR F_CPU/16/BAUD-1
int main()
{
    ...
    UART_Init(MYUBRR);
    ...
}

/* Function Body */
void UART_Init(unsigned int ubrr)
{
    UBRR0H = (unsigned char) (ubrr>>8);
    UBRR0L = (unsigned char) ubrr;
    UCSR0B = (1<<RXEN0) | (1<<TXEN0);
}
```



# Transmission (24.6 datasheet)

---

```
int USART_Transmit(char c)
{
    while ( !(UCSR0A & (1<<UDRE0)) ) ;
    UDR0 = c;

    return 0;
}
```

# Receiving

---

```
unsigned char USART_Receive(void)
{
    /* wait for data to be received */
    while ( !(UCSR0A & (1<<RXC0)) ) ;

    /* get and return received data from buffer */
    return UDR0;
}
```

# stdio.h

---

- `FILE *stdout;`
- `FILE *stdin;`
- `printf(fmt_str, ...);` - send string data
- `scanf("%s", buf);` - read string data
- `getchar();` - read one character
- `putchar(c);` - send one character

# stdio.h

---

```
#include <stdio.h>
#include <string.h>
#include "uart.h"

int main()
{
    uart_init();
    while(1) {
        char buf[100];
        ...
        scanf("%s", buf);
        if (strcmp(buf, "Hello") == 0) {
            ...
        }
    }
}
```

# Transmission (24.6 datasheet & uart.c)

```
int uart_putchar(char c, FILE *stream)
{
    /* Alarm (Beep, Bell) */
    if (c == '\a')
    {
        fputs("*ring*\n", stderr);
        return 0;
    }

    /* Newline is translated into a CR */
    if (c == '\n')
        uart_putchar('\r', stream);

    loop_until_bit_is_set(UCSR0A, UDRE0);
    UDR0 = c;

    return 0;
}
```

```
/* avr/io.h implements useful macros besides
 * defining names for bit positions,
 * registers like DDx etc.
 */

#define _BV(bit) (1 << (bit))
#define bit_is_set(sfr, bit) \
    (_SFR_BYTE(sfr) & _BV(bit))
#define bit_is_clear(sfr, bit) \
    (!(_SFR_BYTE(sfr) & _BV(bit)))
#define loop_until_bit_is_set(sfr, bit) \
    do { } while (bit_is_clear(sfr, bit))
#define loop_until_bit_is_clear(sfr, bit) \
    do { } while (bit_is_set(sfr, bit))
```

# Receiving

---

- `int uart_getchar(FILE *stream)` in `uart.c` is a simple line-editor that allows to delete and re-edit the characters entered, until either CR or NL is entered
- printable characters entered will be echoed using `uart_putchar()`
  - So you can see the character received by the MCU and you can verify whether the transmission was without error if you recognize the character as the transmitted one (as pressed by the keyboard)
- The core part in `uart_getchar` is

```
int uart_getchar(FILE *stream)
{
    ...
    while ( !(UCSR0A & (1<<RXC0)) ) ;
    c = UDR0;
    ...
    uart_putchar(c, stream);
    ...
}
```

# Connections

- Connect the board as in Fig.1. The configuration is same as Lab 3.
- You should disconnect LEDs connected to PD0 and PD1
- PD0 and PD1 are used as Tx and Rx pin for UART. So, you can't use those for other purposes while using UART. If you don't disconnect those LEDs, then those could blink/ be turned on while using UART.

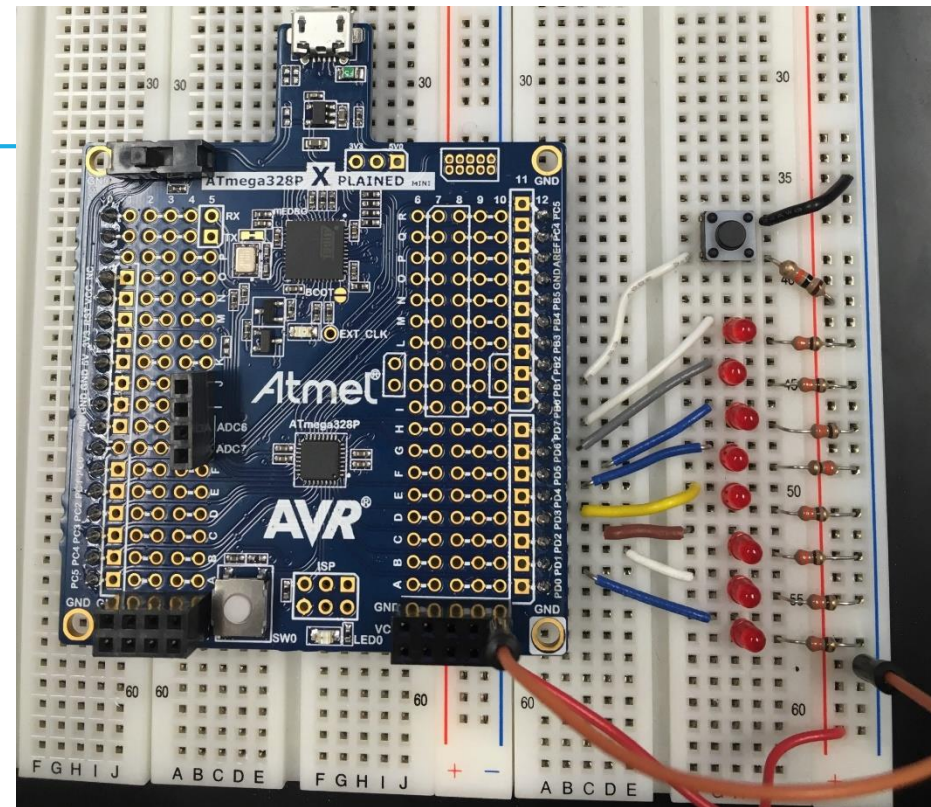


Fig1. Connections for GPIO and UART.

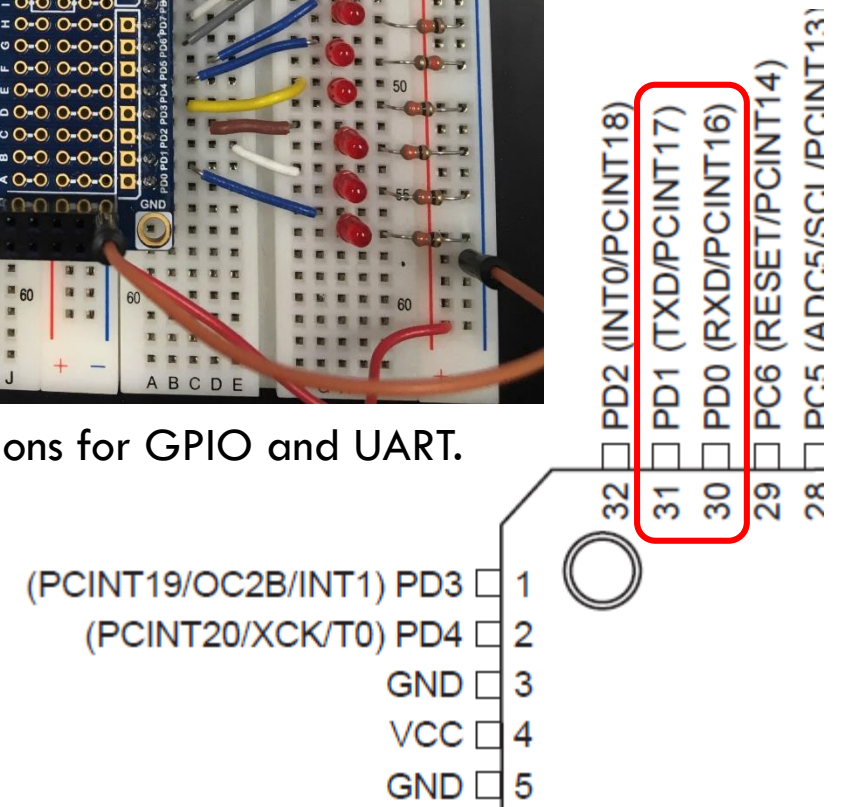


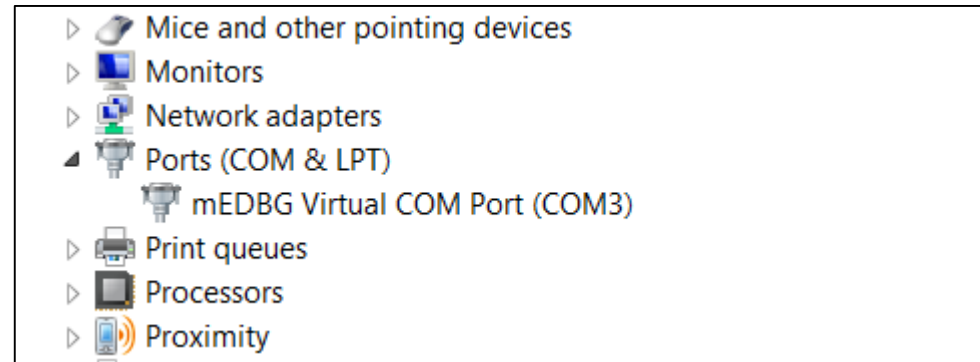
Fig2. UART Tx and Rx  
Shared with PD0 and PD1

# UART Setup: COM Port Identification (1)

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In order to setup UART communication between the Xplained mini and your PC, we first need to identify and setup the COM port used by Xplained Mini board

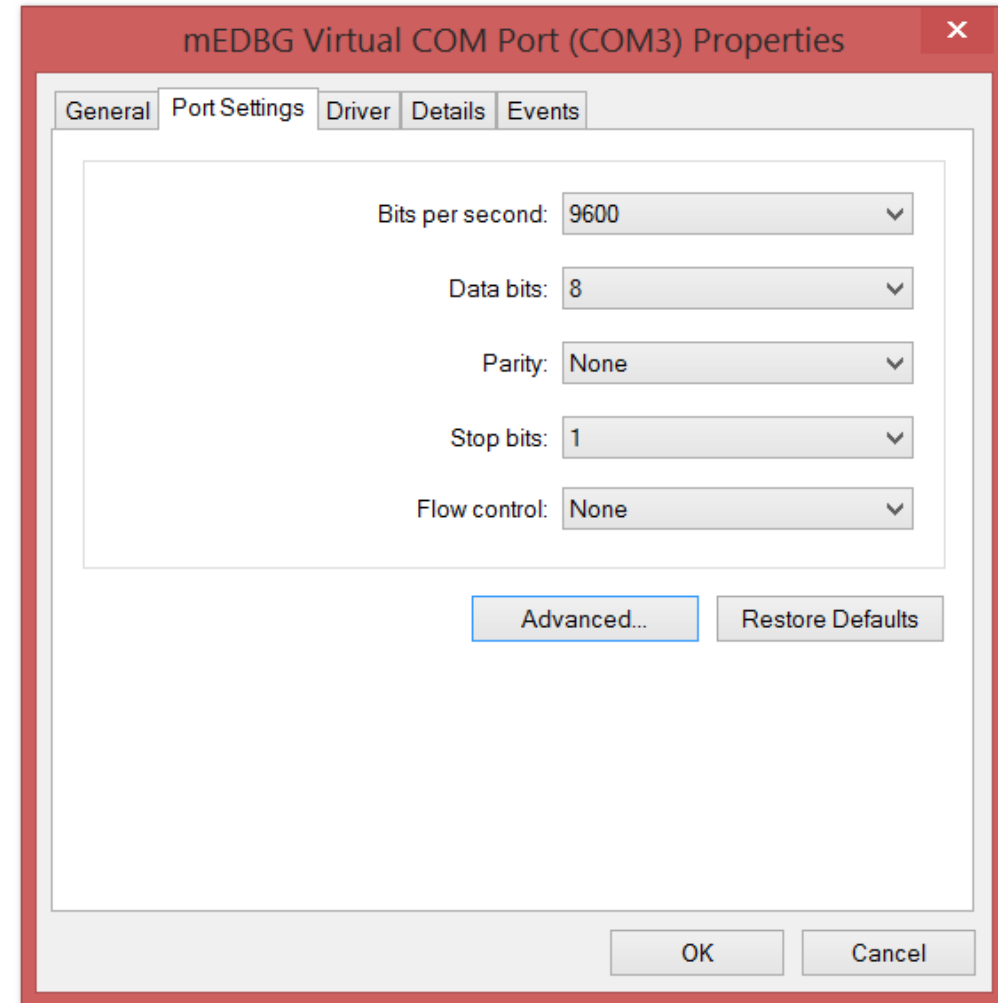
- Connect the Xplained Mini board to your computer via USB cable
- Go to: Control Panel → Device Manager
- Expand the Ports (COM & LPT) section as shown in the figure below.
- Note down the Port number shown against mEDBG Virtual COM Port, i.e. COM3 in the figure below.





# UART Setup: COM Port Identification (2)

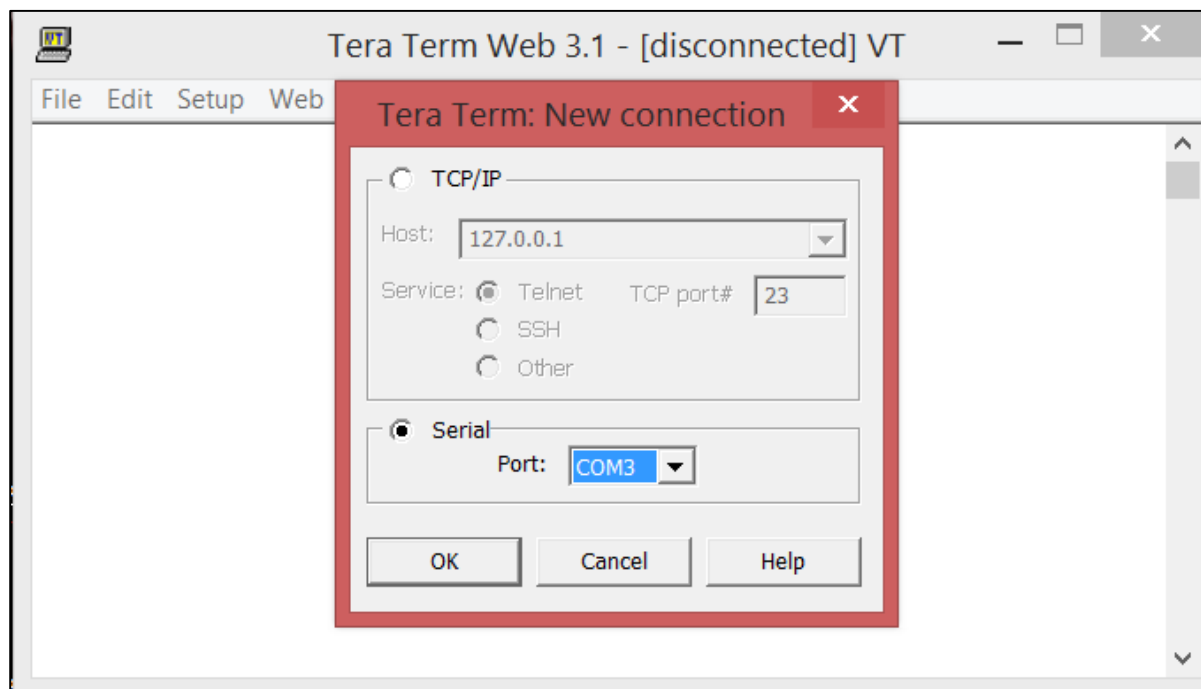
- Double Click to open the Properties window of mEDBG Virtual COM Port.
- Make sure the Port Settings are the same as shown below.
- If necessary, the COM Port number can be changed under Advanced tab. However, generally the default COM Port number works just fine.



# UART Setup: TeraTerm Pro

We will use TeraTerm Pro terminal to send/receive data to Xplained Mini over UART

1. Download [ttpro313.zip](#) file posted under Resources on Piazza
2. Unzip the file and run the application **ttermpro.exe**
3. In the New Connection window, select Serial and select your mEDBG COM Port number, e.g. COM3 (refer to the previous slide) and click OK.



Source: Presentation from Marten Van Dijk

# UART Setup: Using uart.h Library

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- In order to facilitate you, we provide a library file “uart.c” which defines some useful basic UART functions.
  - “uart.h” and “uart.c” can be downloaded from Piazza under Resources.
  - Files are also available in huskyCT in the folder supplementary files.
- The corresponding prototypes of the functions are declared in “uart.h” file which comes along with “uart.c” file.
- In order to use the function provided by “uart.c”, you need to:
  1. Add “uart.c” and “uart.h” files in your Atmel Studio project source files
  2. Include “uart.h” as a header file in your code, i.e. `#include "uart.h"`

# Adding Header and C Files to a Project

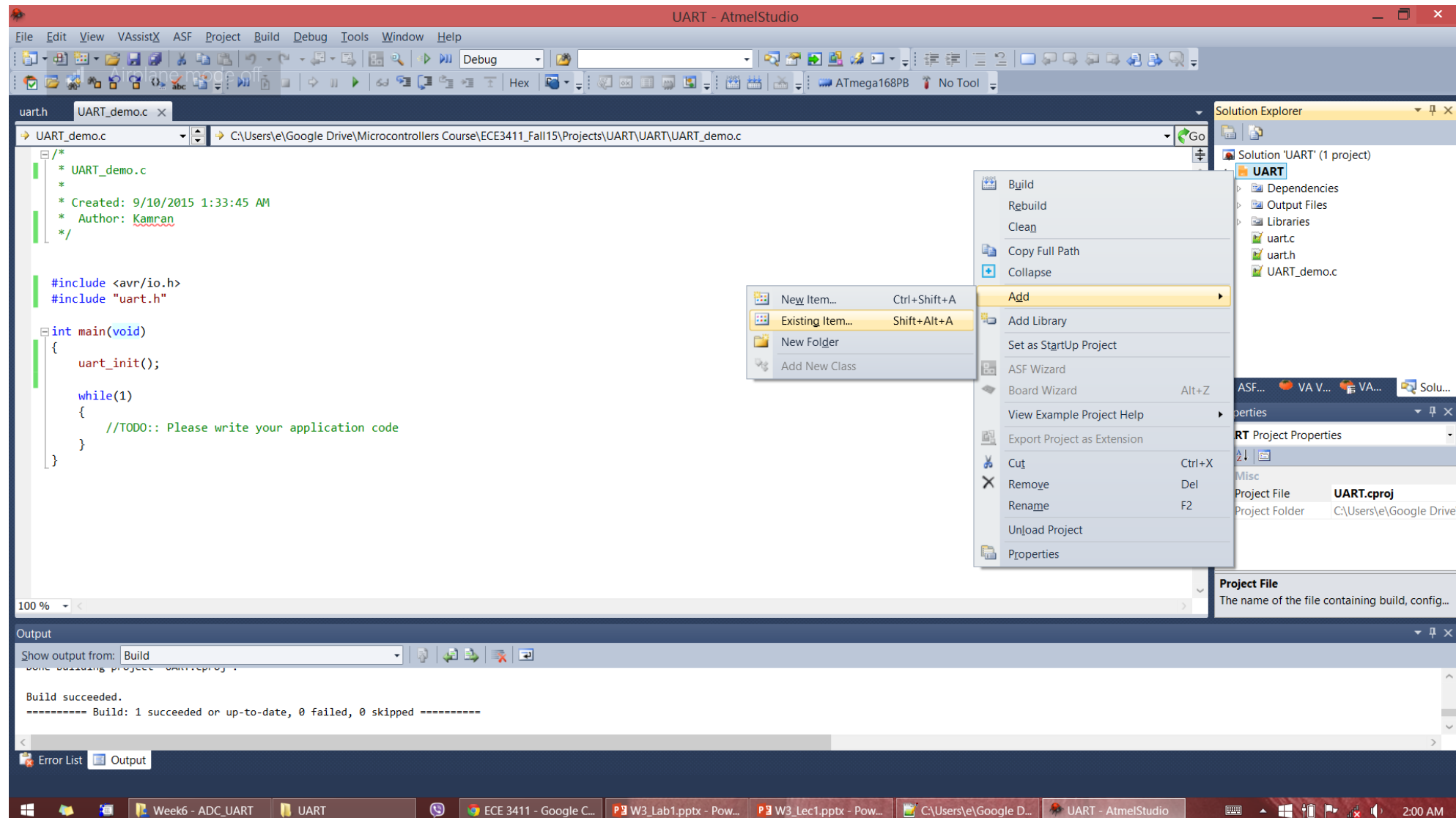
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- Often, it is more convenient to include files within your project that contain definitions and functions that you will use frequently.
- This reduces the length of your main c file and eliminates the need for copying and pasting functions you've already written in the past.
- Suppose we want to add “uart.c” and “uart.h” to a project:
  1. Create a new project in Atmel Studio.
  2. Copy the files “uart.c” and “uart.h” into the project directory.
  3. In the ‘Solution Explorer’ window, right click on the project’s name → Add → Existing Item ...
  4. Select “uart.c” and “uart.h” and click “Add”.
  5. Don’t forget to declare/include the header file in you code by calling `#include “uart.h”`
- See the next few slides for illustration

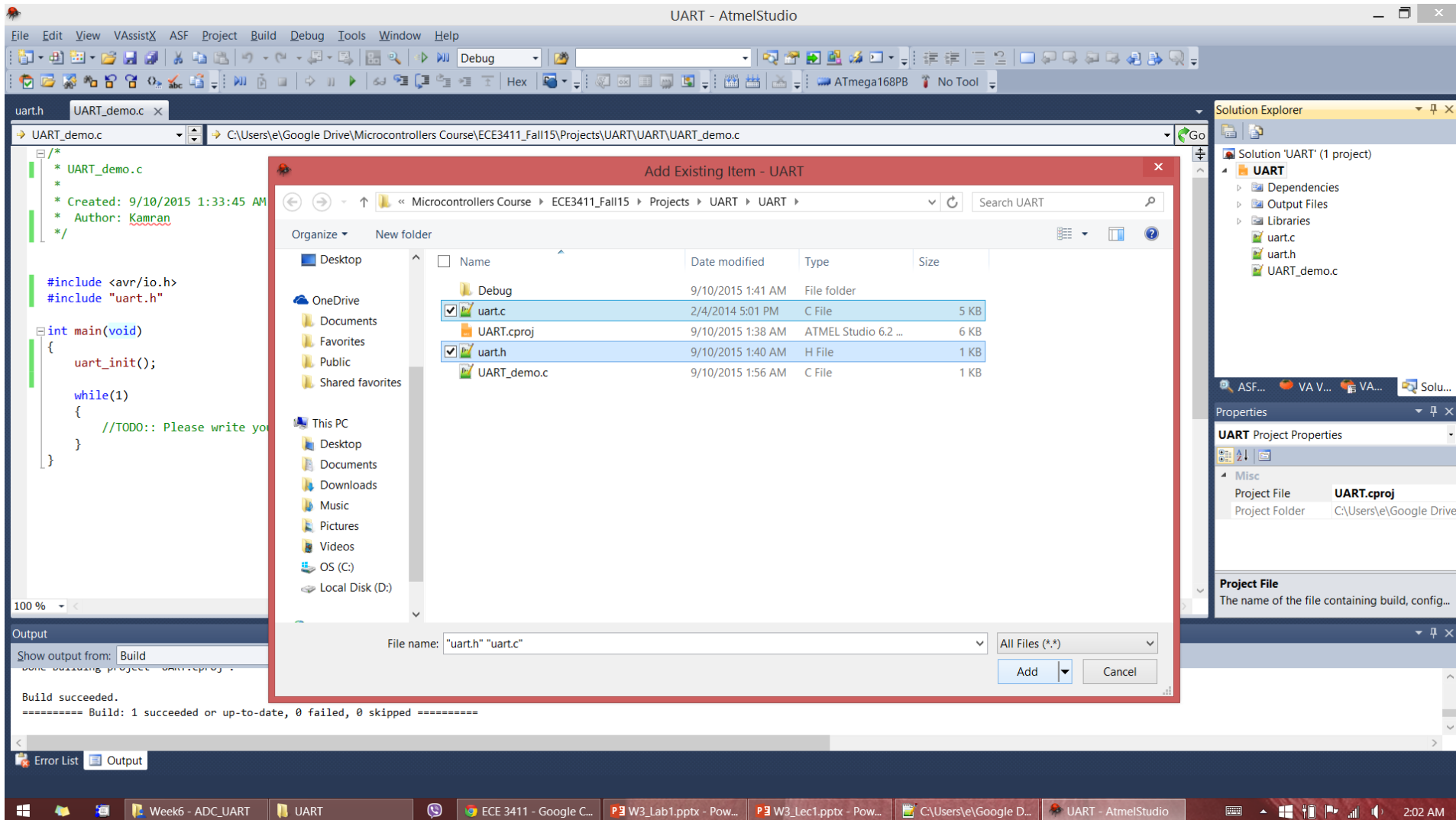
# Using uart.c

```
#include "uart.h"
...
FILE uart_str = FDEV_SETUP_STREAM(uart_putchar, uart_getchar, _FDEV_SETUP_RW);
...
int main(void)
{
    uart_init();                // Initialize UART
    stdout = stdin = stderr = &uart_str; // Set File outputs to point to UART stream
    ....
    // Can use fprintf and fscanf anywhere: here or in subroutines
    ...
    return 0;
}
```

# Adding Header and C Files to a Project



# Adding Header and C Files to a Project



# Task 1: Blinking a single LED

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- Blink a single LED at two different rates based on a push switch.
  - When the switch is not pressed, LED should blink at 2Hz frequency.
  - As long as the switch is pressed, LED should blink at 8Hz frequency.
- The blinking duty cycle should be 50%
  - E.g. for 2Hz frequency, the LED should be on for  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  of a second, then off for next  $1/4^{\text{th}}$  of a second and so on.
- You may use the on-board LED and push switch for this task.



# Task 2: Changing LED Mode using UART → Need to demo

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Extend Task 1 such that the blinking frequency of the LED can be switched between 2Hz and 8Hz depending upon the string entered from the UART Terminal.

- The LED starts blinking at 2Hz
- After every 10 seconds, the program prints the message on terminal:  
“Do you want to change the LED mode? (Yes/No)”
- If the user enters “Yes”, the LED blinking rate switches to the other frequency
  - E.g. if currently the frequency is 2Hz then it switches to 8Hz and vice versa
- If user enters “No” then the frequency stays the same.
- You may use the on-board LED for this task.