Features

- **2-Phase 1 A Stepping Motor Driver**
- **Compensated Half Step Operation**
- **Chopper Current Control**
- **Unidirectional Single Wire Bus Interface with Error Feedback**
- **Intelligent Travel Operation Control**
- **Referencing by Extending or Retracting**

Application

• **Dynamic Headlamp Adjustment**

Benefits

- **Error Recognition with Feedback**
- **Short Circuit Protected Outputs**
- **Overtemperature Warning and Shut Off**
- **Supply Voltage Supervision**

Electrostatic sensitive device. Observe precautions for handling.

Description

The circuit serves to control a stepping motor for dynamic headlamp beam adjustment in automobiles. Two chopper-controlled H-bridges serve as the stepping motor driver. The circuit receives the commands to control the stepping motor by means of a unidirectional serial single-wire bus.

An integrated process control independently moves the stepping motor into the new desired position. This allows it to be automatically accelerated and slowed down. The stepping motor is operated in compensated half-step operation. The maximum clock frequency at which the stepping motor is operated depends on the supply voltage, the chip temperature, the operating mode, and position difference.

Intelligent Stepper Motor Driver

ATA6830

Rev. 4575C–BCD–05/03

Figure 1. Block Diagram

Pin Configuration

Figure 2. Pinning QFN 28

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Pin Description

Functional Description

Analog Part Figure 3. Analog Blocks

The circuit contains an integrated 5 V regulator to supply the internal logic and analog circuit blocks. The regulator uses an adjusted bandgap as voltage reference. Also all other parts that require an excellent voltage reference, such as the voltage monitoring block refer to the bandgap.

The bias generator derives its accurate currents from an external reference resistor. The oscillator is used for clocking the digital system. All timings like the baud rate, the step duration and the chopper frequency are determined from it. An external capacitor is used for generating the frequency.

The voltage monitoring enables the circuit to drive the stepping motor at different battery voltage levels. According to the battery voltage the stepping motor will be accelerated to a maximum step velocity. In case of under or over voltage the motor will shut off. A temperature monitoring is used for shut off at overtemperature conditions and current boost in case of low temperature.

Digital Part

Figure 4. Digital Blocks

[Figure 4](#page-4-0) shows all digital blocks of the circuit. The stepping motor will be controlled by commands via the bus input pin. An analog comparator is used as a level shifter at the input. There is also a possibility of clamping the bus pin to ground. This will be used after detecting an error to feedback this to the microcontroller.

The next block is a UART. Its task is clock recovery and data recognition of the incoming bit stream. For clock recovery a special bitstream is used after each power on. The generated bitstream will be analyzed and after a correct parity check interpreted for execution.

A sophisticated cruise control generates all control signals for the two H-bridge drivers. It uses an internal step-time table for accelerating and decelerating the stepping motor depending on the actual and desired position and the temperature and voltage levels. Exception handling is integrated to interpret and react on the temperature, supply voltage, and coil-current signals from the analog part.

Stepping Motor Driver

Figure 5. H-bridge Driver Stage

[Figure 5](#page-5-0) shows the diagram of one H-bridge driver stage. It consists of two NMOS and two PMOS power transistors. An external shunt is used for measuring the current flowing through the motor coil. Additional comparators and current sensing circuitry is integrated for error detection.

Data Communication The circuit receives all commands for the stepping motor via a single wire bus. In idle mode the bus pin is pulled up by an internal current source near to VBAT voltage. During the transmission the external transmitter has to pull down the bus level to send information about data and clock timing. The used baud rate has to be about 2400 baud. Because of oscillator tolerances a synchronization sequence has to be sent at the beginning of data transfer.

> [Figure 6](#page-6-0) shows the pattern used for this sequence. The circuit uses the 1-0-1-0 sequences for adjusting the internal bit time. Later on during data transfer every 1-0-1-0 sequence coming up randomly is used for resynchronization. Thus all tolerances that occur during operation will be eliminated.

> To obtain a synchronization of up to 15% oscillator tolerance the pattern has to be sent at least 4 times.

Between two commands a pause has to be included. This is necessary for a clear recogition of a new message frame (command). [Figure 7](#page-6-1) shows the timing diagram of two commands.

Every command consists of 16 bits. They will be sent with two bytes. [Figure 8](#page-6-2) shows the message frame. The high byte is sent first, immediately followed by the low byte. Every byte starts with a start bit and ends with a parity bit and a stop bit. The first start bit (level 0) after a pause (level 1) indicates the beginning of a new message frame. The value of the parity bit has to be odd, i.e., the crossfooting of the byte including the parity bit is odd. If a data packet is not recognized due to a transmission error (parity error), the entire command is rejected.

Figure 8. Command Bits

Bus Commands There are different commands for controlling the stepping motor. [Table 1](#page-7-0) shows a list of all implemented commands and their meanings. The first command, the synchronization sequence, is described above. The second group of commands are the reference commands. A reference run command causes the stepping motor to make an initial run. It is used to establish a defined start position for the following position commands. The way the reference run is executed will be described later. There are two reference run commands. The difference is the turn direction of the stepping motor. This makes the circuit more flexible for different applications. The turn direction is coded in the 4 identifier bits.

Table 1. Bus Commands

The last class of commands are the position commands. Every new position will be sent as an absolute value. This makes the transmission more safe in terms of losing a position command. The next received command tells the stepping motor the right position again. For the position data there are 10 bits available (D0 to D9).

The maximum possible step count to be coded with 10 bit is 1024. Though position commands up to 1024 will be executed, it´s prohibited to use values higher than 698, as this is the step count of the reference run. For details see chapter "Reference Run".

There are 4 new position commands. They differ in the identifier and in the modus bits. The identifier fixes the turn direction. For test purposes there are new position commands with a different mode. In this mode the stepping motor works with a reduced coil current. This may be used for end tests in the production of the application.

Any command with modus or identifier different to the first reference run will be ignored. Thus it is also not possible to change modus or identifier by performing a second reference run.

Power-up Sequence After power-up the circuit has to be synchronized and a reference run has to be executed before a position command can be carried out. [Figure 9](#page-8-0) shows a timing diagram on how the necessary sequences follow each other.

Figure 9. Necessary Commands after Power-up

The first sequence is the synchronization sequence. Its pattern [\(Figure 6\)](#page-6-0) should be sent at least 4 times to be sure that the following commands will be recognized. If there are distortions on the bus it is helpful to send this sequence more than 4 times. A RC lowpass filter at the bus pin [\(Figure 16](#page-19-0)) helps to reduce distortsions.

After synchronization the stepping motor has to make the reference run to initialize its zero position. The first reference run will only be executed if the circuit recognizes this command three times in series. This function is implemented contributing to the importance of the reference run. After the reference run the circuit will switch to normal operation. To perform a reference run during normal operation, the command has to be sent only once. [Figure 10](#page-9-0) shows the state diagram for the implemented sequence processor.

Figure 10. Flow Diagram for the Power-up Sequence

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Reference Run In normal operation, new position commands are transmitted as absolute values. To drive the stepping motor to these absolute positions, the circuit has to know the motor's zero position. Therefore, the stepping motor has to perform a reference run after each power-up in which it is extended or retracted to its limit stop. Before the execution of the reference run, the motor is supplied with hold current.

> As the actual position is not known at the beginning of the reference run the whole position range has to be passed. To optimize performance for smaller actuators, the reference run has been reduced to 698 steps. Therefore, it is prohibited to access positions higher than 698, because in a following reference run the stepping motor would not reach its zero position.

> If it is necessary that the entire range up to position 1024 can be used, the reference run has to be executed twice. Since any command during reference run is ignored, the second reference command has to be sent about 2.4 s after the first command.

> To avoid any possible mistake, e.g., the loss of a step during the reference run or the bouncing at the limit stop, there is a special run to be executed. This is shown in [Table 2.](#page-10-0)

Phase	Action		Int. Counter	Steptime
	Ramp up to 446 Hz step frequency	Drive	704	$3300 \mu s$
		through	703	$2895 \,\mu s$
			702	$2540 \,\mu s$
		the	701	$2240 \,\mu s$
	Drive at constant speed	whole	700 to 11	$2240 \,\mu s$
	Ramp down to minimum step	range	10	$2240 \,\mu s$
	frequency (303 Hz)		9	2549 µs
\mathbf{H}		(698) steps)	8	2895 µs
Ш			7 to 6	$3300 \mu s$
IV	Wait for 6×3300 µs with the last coil current		6	3300 µs
\vee	Perform another 6 steps with 3300 us		5 to 0	$3300 \text{ }\mu\text{s}$
VI	Wait for 5×3300 µs with the last coil current		0	$3300 \,\mu s$
VII	Set current to hold current; normal operation		varied	varied

Table 2. Reference Run Course

Cruise Control The travel operation control independently moves the stepping motor into its new position. To reach the new position as fast as possible but without abrupt velocity changes, the stepping motor is accelerated or slowed down depending on the difference between actual and nominal position. If this difference is huge the stepping frequency will increase (acceleration). When the new position is nearly reached, the frequency will decrease again (deceleration). In the case of a new nominal position opposite to the direction of the motion being from the microcontroller, the stepping frequency will decrease to its starting value (300 Hz) before the direction can turn. The cruise control is shown in [Figure 11.](#page-11-0)

The possible stepping frequencies for velocity control are shown in [Table 3.](#page-11-1)

If the chip temperature exceeds the overtemperature warning threshold, the step speed is reduced to 300 Hz. If the chip temperature rises further the output driver is shut off.

$\bm{{\mathsf{v}}}_{\texttt{BAT}}$	Maximum Step Frequency at Rising Voltage	Maximum Step Frequency $(V_{BAT}$ once > 10.5 V)
< 9 V	No operation	No operation
9 V to 9.5 V	No operation	300 Hz (3.33 ms)
9.5 V to 10 V	No operation	500 Hz (2.03 ms)
10 V to 10.5 V	No operation	680 Hz (1,47 ms)
10.5 V to 11 V	850 Hz (1.17 ms)	850 Hz (1.17 ms)
>11 V	1000 Hz (1 ms)	1000 Hz (1 ms)
>20V	No operation	No operation

Table 4. Maximum Step Frequency

Step Operation The stepping motor is operated in halfstep-compensation mode. The current for both coils is shown in [Figure 12](#page-12-1). The current levels are increased when the temperature is below 0°C to secure operation. For final tests at the end of the application production line the currents are reduced.

Bridge Current Control The bridge current is controlled by a chopper current control, shown in [Figure 13](#page-13-0). The current is turned on every 40 µs (25 kHz chopper frequency). The current flow in the Hbridge is shown in [Figure 14a](#page-13-1). After a blanking time of 2.5 µs to suppress turn-on peaks the current is measured via the shunt voltage. As soon as the current has reached its nominal value it is turned off again. The current flow in this state is shown in [Figure 14](#page-13-1)b.

Figure 13. Chopper Current Control

Exception Handling During operation, different exceptional states or errors can arise to which the circuit must correspondingly react. These are described below:

• Supply voltage below 9 V

Travel operation is suspended for the duration of the undervoltage. The output current will be set to zero. When the supply voltage rises above 10.5 V, travel operation restarts.

• Supply voltage above 20 V

Travel operation is suspended for the duration of the undervoltage. The output current will be set to zero. When the supply voltage falls below 20 V, travel operation restarts.

• Overtemperature warning

The maximum stepping speed is reduced to 300 Hz. This ensures a safe shut-off procedure if the temperature increases to shut-off temperature.

• Overtemperature shut-off

Travel operation is suspended when overtemperature is detected. An error signal is sent to the bus master via the bus. Operation can only restart after the supply voltage is shut off.

• Interruption of a stepping motor winding

The motor windings are only checked for interruption when supplied with hold current, not during drive operation. The corresponding output is shut off. The other coil winding is supplied with hold current. An error signal is sent. Operation can only restart after the supply voltage is shut off.

Short circuit of a stepping motor winding

The corresponding output is shut off. The other coil winding is supplied with hold current. An error signal is sent. Operation can only restart after the supply voltage is shut off.

• Short circuit of an output to ground or V_{BAT}

The corresponding output is shut off. The other coil winding is supplied with hold current. An error signal is sent. Operation can only restart after the supply voltage is shut off.

An error signal is sent to the microcontroller by clamping the bus to ground for 3 seconds. If the error should occur during a data transmission, the above described reactions will happen immediately except for the clamping. This will take place about 200 µs after the end of the stopbit of the lowbyte to guarantee a correct command recognintion in the second headlamp. The error signal timing is shown in [Figure 15](#page-14-0).

Absolute Maximum Ratings

Thermal Resistance

Operating Range

Electrical Characteristics

*) Type means: A = 100% tested, B = 100% correlation tested, C = Characterized on samples, D = Design parameter

Note: 1. cmd = command

Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

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Electrical Characteristics (Continued)

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Note: $1. \text{cmd} = \text{command}$

Soldering Recommendations

Figure 16. Application Circuit

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Table 5. Bill of Material

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Ordering Information

Package Information

The package is a thermal power package MLF 7 \times 7 with a soldered leadframe and 28 pins. The overall size is 7 \times 7 mm².

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