



## Using the UART interfaces in the SPEAr embedded MPU family

---

### Introduction

The SPEAr embedded MPU family is a family of configurable MPUs, based on the ARM926 CPU core. Each member of the SPEAr MPU family has one or more embedded ARM PL011 UARTs for asynchronous communications. This application note describes how to configure the UART and transmit and receive data.

A Linux driver is available in the SPEAr Linux support package (LSP), refer to the SPEAr Linux support package (LSP) user manual (UM0851) for a description of how to use this driver.

[Section 10](#) of this application note describes an OS independent hardware abstraction layer (HAL) for the SPEAr UART which you can use as a starting point for developing your own HAL code.

# Contents

- 1 Purpose and scope ..... 4**
- 2 UART signals ..... 5**
  - 2.1 SPEAr600 ..... 5
  - 2.2 SPEAr300 ..... 5
  - 2.3 SPEAr310 ..... 6
  - 2.4 SPEAr320 ..... 7
- 3 Clock source and frequency ..... 9**
  - 3.1 Clock related registers ..... 9
- 4 Changing the UART baud rate on the fly ..... 10**
  - 4.1 Baud rate related registers ..... 10
- 5 UART protocol flow control ..... 11**
- 6 UART controller data flow ..... 12**
  - 6.1 UART data registers ..... 12
- 7 UART interrupts ..... 14**
  - 7.1 Interrupt Sources ..... 14
  - 7.2 Interrupt types ..... 14
    - 7.2.1 UARTRXINTR ..... 14
    - 7.2.2 UARTTXINTR ..... 15
    - 7.2.3 UARTRTINTR ..... 15
    - 7.2.4 UARTMSINTR ..... 15
    - 7.2.5 UARTEINTR ..... 15
    - 7.2.6 UARTINTR ..... 15
  - 7.3 Interrupt related registers ..... 16
- 8 DMA interface ..... 17**
  - 8.1 DMA operation ..... 17
  - 8.2 DMA registers ..... 18

---

<b>9</b>	<b>UART modem operation</b> .....	<b>19</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>OS-independent SPEAr UART HAL</b> .....	<b>21</b>
10.1	SetBaseDevice() .....	21
10.2	GetBaudDivisor() .....	21
10.3	UART_Init() .....	22
10.4	UART_Configure() .....	22
10.5	UART_Transmit() .....	23
10.6	UART_Receive() .....	23
10.7	UART_Disable() .....	24
10.8	UART_IsTxFIFOFull() .....	24
10.9	UART_IsTxFIFOEmpty() .....	24
10.10	UART_IsRxFIFOFull() .....	24
10.11	UART_IsRxFIFOEmpty() .....	24
10.12	UART_IntEnable() .....	24
10.13	UART_IntDisable() .....	25
10.14	UART_IntClear() .....	25
10.15	UART_GetIntSrc() .....	25
	<b>Appendix A Acronyms</b> .....	<b>26</b>
	<b>Revision history</b> .....	<b>27</b>

# 1 Purpose and scope

UART is one of the most commonly used serial interface peripherals. It is also known as the serial communications interface, or SCI. The most common use of the UART is to communicate to a PC serial port using the RS-232 protocol.

RS-232 is a standard electrical interface for serial communications defined by the Electronic Industries Association ("EIA").

Serial communications include most network devices, keyboards, mice, modems, and terminals. When referring to serial devices or ports, they are either labeled as data communications equipment ("DCE") or data terminal equipment ("DTE").

The UART can transmit and receive data serially. It is often necessary to regulate the flow of data when transferring data between two serial interfaces. The first method is often called "software" flow control and uses special characters to start (XON or DC1) or stop (XOFF or DC3) the flow of data. The second method is called "hardware" flow control and uses the RS-232 CTS and RTS signals instead of special characters. Because hardware flow control uses a separate set of signals, it is much faster than software flow control which needs to send or receive multiple bits of information to do the same thing.

## 2 UART signals

SPEAr600 has 2 UARTs. SPEAr300, SPEAr310 and SPEAr320 have 1, 6 and 3 UARTs respectively. The following tables list the UART pin connections and register base addresses for each case.

### 2.1 SPEAr600

**Table 1. External pin connection on SPEAr600**

Signal name	Ball	Direction	Function	Pin type
UART1_TXD	AA19	Output	Serial Data Out	TTL output buffer 3.3 V capable, 4 mA
UART2_TXD	AA20	Output		
UART1_RXD	AB19	Input	Serial Data In	TTL input buffer 3.3 V tolerant, PD
UART2_RXD	AB20	Input		

**Table 2. Memory map on SPEAr600**

Peripheral	Start address	End address
UART1	0xD000.0000	0xD007.FFFF
UART2	0xD008.0000	0xD00F.FFFF

### 2.2 SPEAr300

**Table 3. External pin connection**

Signal	Ball	Direction	Function	Pin type
RX DATA	D1	Input	Shared I/O	TTL output buffer 3.3 V capable, up to 10 mA TTL input buffer 3.3 V tolerant, PU/PD
TX DATA	E4	Output		
RTS	B8	I/O		
CTS	A8			
DTR	D9			
DSR	B9			
DCD	A9			
RI	C9			

**Table 4. Memory map on SPEAr300**

Peripheral	Start address	End address
UART	0xD000.0000	0xD007.FFFF

In SPEAr300, the device offers several different PL\_GPIO sharing modes. Different blocks/IPs are available in different configuration modes.

This has an effect on the above mentioned UART signals also. Not all SPEAR300 UART signals in [Table 3](#) are available in all configurations.

This is because for many applications UART is used in NULL modem mode and only UART\_RX & UART\_TX are sufficient.

There are 13 possible UART configurations in SPEAr300 which can be selected by RAS control register 2.

In configuration 1 & configuration 2, the UART with modem control lines is available.

In configurations 3 to 13, the UART without modem control lines is available (see [Table 6](#)).

**Table 5. UART configurations for SPEAr300**

Signal	Configuration 1	Configuration 2	Configurations 3 to 13
PL_GPIO[42]	UART_DTR	UART_DTR	-
PL_GPIO[41]	UART_RI	UART_RI	-
PL_GPIO[40]	UART_DSR	UART_DSR	-
PL_GPIO[39]	UART_DCD	UART_DCD	-
PL_GPIO[38]	UART_CTS	UART_CTS	-
PL_GPIO[37]	UART_RTS	UART_RTS	-
PL_GPIO[3]	UART_RX	UART_RX	UART_RX
PL_GPIO[2]	UART_TX	UART_TX	UART_TX

*Note:* On PL\_GPIO[3] and PL\_GPIO[2] UART\_RX and UART\_TX are multiplexed with external memory controller (FSMC) signals /E4 and /E3 respectively.

## 2.3 SPEAr310

In SPEAr310 the external pin connections of UART1 are the same as in SPEAr300.

You can configure the device to have either

- up to 6 UARTs without modem control lines or
- 1 UART with modem control lines.

Refer to [Table 3](#).

**Table 6. UART configurations for SPEAr310**

Signal	Ball	Alternate function	RAS normal mode	Pin type
PL_GPIO[44]	A10	-	UART5_TX	TTL output buffer 3.3 V capable, up to 10 mA TTL input buffer 3.3 V tolerant, PU/PD
PL_GPIO[43]	E9	-	UART5_RX	
PL_GPIO[42]	D9	UART0_DTR	UART5_TX	
PL_GPIO[41]	C9	UART0_RI	UART5_RX	
PL_GPIO[40]	B9	UART0_DSR	UART4_TX	
PL_GPIO[39]	A9	UART0_DCD	UART4_RX	
PL_GPIO[38]	A8	UART0_CTS	UART3_TX	
PL_GPIO[37]	B8	UART0_RTS	UART3_RX	
PL_GPIO[3]	D1	UART0_RX	UART0_RX	
PL_GPIO[2]	E4	UART0_TX	UART0_TX	
PL_GPIO[1]	E3		UART1_TX	
PL_GPIO[0]	F3		UART1_RX	

**Table 7. Memory map on SPEAr310**

Peripheral	Start address	End address
UART1	0xD000.0000	0xD007.FFFF
UART2	0xB200.0000	0xB207.FFFF
UART3	0xB208.0000	0xB20F.FFFF
UART4	0xB210.0000	0xB217.FFFF
UART5	0xB218.0000	0xB21F.FFFF
UART6	0xB220.0000	0xB227.FFFF

## 2.4 SPEAr320

In SPEAr320 the external pin connections of UART1 are the same as the UART in SPEAr300. Refer to [Table 3](#).

You can configure the device to have:

- up to 3 UARTs, 1 without modem control lines and 2 with modem control lines.

**Table 8. UART configurations for SPEAr320**

Signal	Ball	Alternate function	Config. 1	Config. 2	Config. 3	Config. 4
PL_GPIO[44]	B10				UART1_DCD	
PL_GPIO[44]	A10	-			UART1_DSR	
PL_GPIO[43]	E9	-			UART1_RTS	

**Table 8. UART configurations for SPEAr320 (continued)**

Signal	Ball	Alternate function	Config. 1	Config. 2	Config. 3	Config. 4
PL_GPIO[42]	D9	UART0_DTR				
PL_GPIO[41]	C9	UART0_RI				
PL_GPIO[40]	B9	UART0_DSR				
PL_GPIO[39]	A9	UART0_DCD				
PL_GPIO[38]	A8	UART0_CTS				
PL_GPIO[37]	B8	UART0_RTS				
PL_GPIO[36]	C8				UART1_CTS	UART1_CTS
PL_GPIO[35]	D8				UART1_DTR	UART1_DTR
PL_GPIO[34]	E8				UART1_RI	UART1_RI
PL_GPIO[33]	E7					UART1_DCD
PL_GPIO[32]	D7					UART1_DSR
PL_GPIO[31]	C7					UART1_RTS
PL_GPIO[29]	A7	UART1_TX	UART1_TX	UART1_TX	UART1_TX	UART1_TX
PL_GPIO[28]	A6	UART1_RX	UART1_RX	UART1_RX	UART1_RX	UART1_RX
PL_GPIO[3]	D1	UART0_RX				
PL_GPIO[2]	E4	UART0_TX				
PL_GPIO[1]	E3		UART2_TX	UART2_TX	UART2_TX	UART2_TX
PL_GPIO[0]	F3		UART2_RX	UART2_RX	UART2_RX	UART2_RX

**Table 9. Memory map on SPEAr300**

Peripheral	Start address	End address
UART1	0xD000.0000	0xD007.FFFF
UART2	0xA300.0000	0xA3FF.FFFF
UART3	0xA400.0000	0xA4FF.FFFF



## 3 Clock source and frequency

The reference clock provided to the UART has a frequency ranging from 1.42 MHz to 542.72 MHz.

An auxiliary clock source can also be selected using the Auxiliary clock synthesizer registers. These are a group of read / write registers in the Miscellaneous register block which can be used to enable an auxiliary source clock for some of the SPEAR's internal peripherals, including the UART. The clock synthesizer is a digital signal generator. It is used to act as a fractional clock divider.

### 3.1 Clock related registers

- **PERIPHERAL CLOCK CONFIGURE REGISTER** is a R/W register used to select the peripheral clock source. The `uart_clkssel` bit in this register allows you selected the UART clock source as follows:
  - '0' 48 MHz (default clock)
  - '1' UART Clock SynthesizerOffset Value: 0x028.
- **PERIP1\_CLK\_ENB REGISTER** is a R/W register using to enable/disable the peripheral.
  - In **SPEAr300**, there is a single `uart_clkenb` bit which enables and disables the UART-1 clock.
  - In **SPEAr600**, there are 2 clock enable bits, `uart1_clkenb` and `uart2_clkenb` which enable and disable the UART-1 and UART-2 clock, respectively.Offset Value: 0x02C.

## 4 Changing the UART baud rate on the fly

The baud rate and line control registers (UARTIBRD, UARTFBRD and UARTLCR\_H) form a single 30-bit wide register named UARTLCR, which is updated on a single write strobe generated by a UARTLCR\_H write. So, in order to change the baud rate of the UART on the fly, you need to perform the following two steps:

1. Modify the contents of the UARTIBRD and UARTFBRD registers as per the required baud rate.
2. Perform a dummy write to the UARTLCR\_H register.

### 4.1 Baud rate related registers

- **UART INTEGER BAUD RATE REGISTER (UARTIBRD)** is a 16-bit RW register which indicates the integer part of the baud rate divisor value.  
Offset Value: 'h024
- **UART FRACTIONAL BAUD RATE REGISTER (UARTFBRD)** is a 6-bit RW register which indicates the fractional part of the baud rate divisor value.  
Offset Value: 'h028
- **UART LINE CONTROL REGISTER (UARTLCR\_H)** is a 16-bit RW register which accesses bits 29 to 22 of the UART bit rate and line control register UARTLCR.  
Offset Value: 'h02C

## 5 UART protocol flow control

Flow control refers to the control of data flow between modems, or between the modem and a computer. It handles the data in the FIFO buffer and starts and stops data flow between the modems. Often, one modem may be sending data much faster than the other is able to receive. Flow control allows the slower device to tell the faster device to pause and resume data transmission.

There are two ways to handle flow control: **hardware** (RTS/CTS or DTR/DSR) and **software** (Xon/Xoff or DC1/DC3):

- Hardware flow control is performed using the RTS and CTS signals. These signals may be software controlled.
- Software flow control means sending an XOFF character to stop transmission, and another character to start transmission.

The flow of data bytes in the cable between 2 serial ports is bi-directional so there are 2 different flows (and wires) to consider:

- Byte flow from the computer to the modem
- Byte flow from the modem to the computer.

**HARDWARE FLOW CONTROL** uses two dedicated "modem control" wires to send the "stop" and "start" signals. Hardware flow control at the serial port works like this:

The two pins, RTS (Request to send) and CTS (Clear to send) are used. When the computer is ready to receive data it asserts RTS by putting a positive voltage on the RTS pin (meaning "Request To Send to me"). When the computer is not able to receive any more bytes, it negates RTS by asserting negative voltage on the pin saying: "stop sending to me". The RTS pin is connected by the serial cable to another pin on the modem, printer, terminal, etc. This other pin's only function is to receive this signal. For a printer, another PC, or a non-modem device, this "other" pin is usually a CTS pin so a "crossover" or "null modem" cable is required. This cable connects the CTS pin at one end with the RTS pin at the other end (two wires since each end of the cable has a CTS pin).

For the opposite direction of flow a similar scheme is used. For a non-modem, the RTS pin sends the signal. Some non-modems may use other pins for flow control such as the DTR pin instead of RTS.

**SOFTWARE FLOW CONTROL** uses the main receive and transmit data wires to send the start and stop signals. It inserts the ASCII control characters DC1 (start) and DC3 (stop) into the stream of data. Software flow control is slower than hardware flow control and it does not allow the sending of binary data unless special precautions are taken. For example, you need to be able to distinguish between an occurrence of a control code like DC3 when it means a flow control stop and a DC3 that is part of the binary data payload.

## 6 UART controller data flow

Figure 1. UART controller data flow

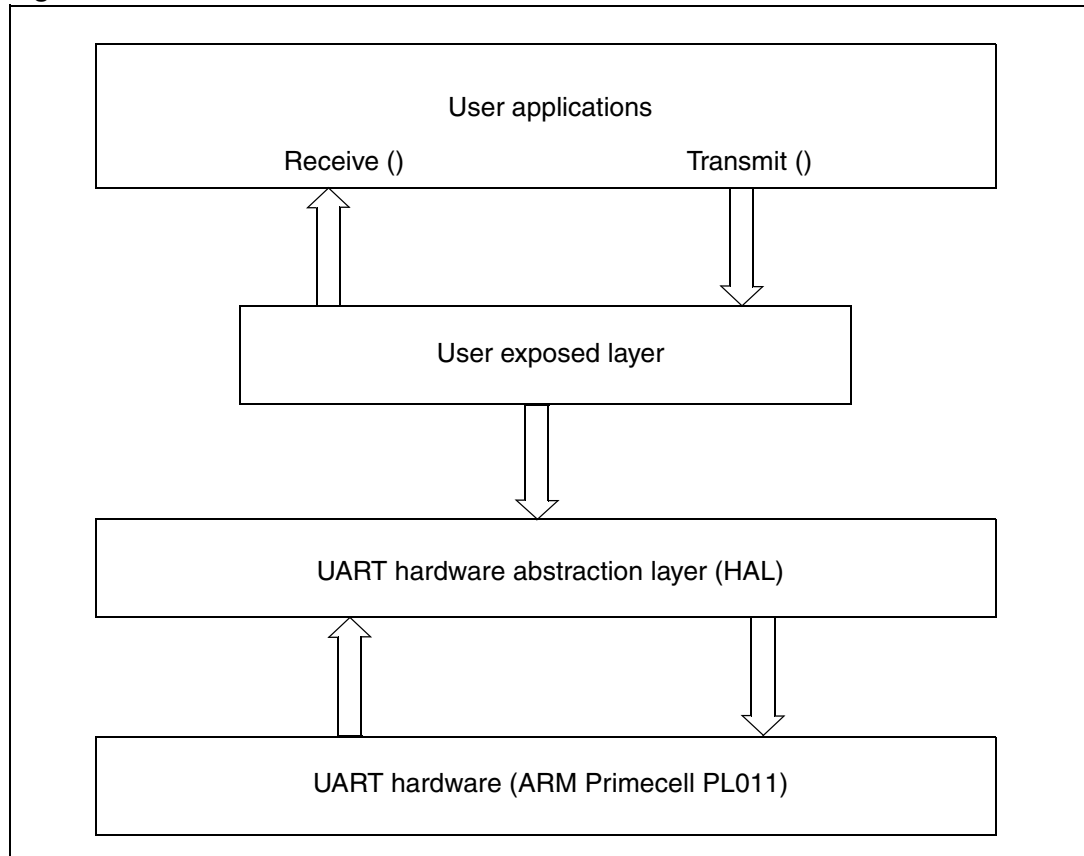


Figure 1 illustrates how data flows from user space down to the hardware interfaces and flows back up.

The reading and writing processes use the HAL functions which are exposed to the user. Then the corresponding APIs of the UART hardware layer are called for the transmission and reception of data. The direction of transmission and reception are as shown in Figure 1.

### 6.1 UART data registers

#### SPEAr300

Base Address for UART: 0xD0000000

#### SPEAr600

Base Address for UART1: 0xD0000000

Base Address for UART2: 0xD0080000

Offset Value: 'h000

This is a 16-bit read/write register which contains data:

- In transmit mode, if FIFOs are enabled, data written to this location is pushed into the transmit FIFO. If FIFOs are not enabled, data is stored in the transmitter holding register.
- In receive mode, if FIFOs are enabled, the data byte and the 4-bit status (break, frame, parity and overrun) is pushed into the 12-bit receive FIFO. If FIFOs are not enabled, data byte and status are stored in the receiving holding register.

# 7 UART interrupts

UART generates individual maskable active HIGH interrupts. A combined interrupt output is generated as an OR function of the individual interrupt requests and mapped on IRQ19 of the vectored interrupt controller VIC in the case of SPEAr300, and on IRQ24 and IRQ25 in the case of SPEAr600.

## 7.1 Interrupt Sources

**Table 10. Interrupt sources**

Name	Source	Combined Outputs
UARTRXINTR	Receive FIFO	UARTEINTR (to Vectored interrupt controller VIC IRQ)
UARTTXINTR	Transmit FIFO	
UARTRTINTR	Receive timeout in Receive FIFO	
UARTRIINTR	nUARTRI modem status line change	
UARTCTSINTR	nUARTCTS modem status line change	
UARTDCDINTR	nUARTDCS modem status line change	
UARTDSRINTR	nUARTDSR modem status line change	
UARTOEINTR	Overrun Error	
UARTBEINTR	Break Error (in reception)	
UARTPEINTR	Parity Error in the Received Character	
UARTFEINTR	Framing Error in Received Character	

## 7.2 Interrupt types

### 7.2.1 UARTRXINTR

This interrupt is asserted when one of the following events occurs:

- If the FIFOs are enabled (FEN bit set to 'b1 in UARTLCR\_H register) and the Receive FIFO reaches the programmed trigger level (RXIFLSEL in UARTIFLS register). The interrupt is then cleared by reading data from the Receive FIFO until it becomes less than the trigger level, or by clearing the interrupt (writing a 'b1 to the corresponding bit of the UARTICR register).
- If the FIFOs are disabled and data is received thereby filling the location. The interrupt is then cleared by performing a single read of the Receive FIFO, or by clearing the interrupt (writing a 'b1 to the corresponding bit of the UARTICR register).

### 7.2.2 UARCTXINTR

This interrupt is asserted when one of the following events occurs:

- If the FIFOs are enabled (FEN bit set to 'b1 in UARTLCR\_H register) and the Transmit FIFO reaches the programmed trigger level (TXIFLSEL in UARTIFLS register). The interrupt is then cleared by writing data to the Transmit FIFO until it becomes greater than the trigger level, or by clearing the interrupt (writing a 'b1 to the corresponding bit of the UARTICR register).
- If the FIFOs are disabled and there is no data in the transmitter single location. The interrupt is then cleared by performing a single write to the Transmit FIFO, or by clearing the interrupt (writing a 'b1 to the corresponding bit of the UARTICR register).

### 7.2.3 UARTRTINTR

This interrupt is asserted when the Receive FIFO is not empty, and no further data is received over a 32-bit period. The interrupt is then cleared either when the Receive FIFO becomes empty through reading all the data (or by reading the holding register), or by clearing the interrupt (writing a 'b1 to the corresponding bit of the UARTICR register).

### 7.2.4 UARTMSINTR

It represents the modem status interrupt that is a combined interrupt of the four individual modem status lines (nUARTRI, nUARTCTS, nUARTDCS and nUARTDSR). This interrupt is then asserted if any of the modem status lines change.

### 7.2.5 UARTEINTR

This error interrupt is triggered when there is an error in the reception of the data. The interrupt can be caused by a number of different error conditions, such as overrun, break, parity and framing.

### 7.2.6 UARTINTR

It is the OR logical function of all the individual masked interrupt sources. That is, this interrupt is asserted if any of the individual interrupts are asserted and enabled.

## 7.3 Interrupt related registers

These are the registers which are used for handling interrupts:

- **INTERRUPT FIFO LEVEL SELECT REGISTER** is a 16-bit read-write register. This register defines the FIFO level at which the UARTTXINTR and UARTRXINTR interrupts are triggered.  
Offset Value: 'h034
- **INTERRUPT MASK SET/CLEAR REGISTER** allows masking and clearing of each UART interrupt source. Reading from this 16 bit read/write register gives the current value of the mask on relevant interrupt.  
Offset Value: 'h038
- **RAW INTERRUPT STATUS REGISTER** is a read-only register. This register gives the current raw status value of the corresponding interrupt.  
Offset Value: 'h03C
- **INTERRUPT CLEAR REGISTER** is 16 bit write only register. Writing logic 1 to the relevant bit clears the corresponding interrupt.  
Offset Value: 'h044
- **MASKED INTERRUPT STATUS REGISTER** is a 16 bit read-only register which gives current masked status value of the corresponding interrupt.  
Offset Value: 'h040



## 8 DMA interface

DMA allows devices to transfer data without subjecting the processor to a heavy overhead. Otherwise, the processor would have to copy each piece of data from the source to the destination, making it unavailable for other tasks.

SPEAr300 and SPEAr600 provide an ARM PrimeCell® DMA controller (DMAC) able to service up to 8 independent DMA channels for serial data transfers between single source and destination (for example, memory-to-memory, memory-to-peripheral, peripheral-to-memory, and peripheral-to-peripheral).

The UART provides a DMA Interface for connecting to a DMA controller. The DMA operation of the UART is controlled through the UART DMA control register. When the UART is in FIFO disabled mode (where both FIFOs act like a one-byte holding register), only DMA single transfer mode can operate, since only one character can be transferred to or from the FIFO at any time.

- For transmit:

DMA transfers data from a source address to the transmit FIFO. When the transmit FIFO is full, then DMA goes into wait state. Then, the UART transmits the data from the transmit FIFO to the destination address. When there is at least one empty location in the transmit FIFO then DMA comes out of wait state and again starts transferring data to the transmit FIFO. In transmit mode, one character consists of up to 8 bits.

- For receive:

DMA transfers data from the receive FIFO to the address where the data received is to be stored. The reception process with DMA occurs when the receive FIFO contains at least one character. When the receive FIFO is empty, then DMA goes into wait state until there is at least one character in the receive FIFO for the reception process to occur. In receive mode, one character consists of up to 12 bits.

The burst transfer and single transfer request signals are not mutually exclusive, so they can both be asserted at the same time. For example, when there is more data than the watermark level in the receive FIFO, the burst transfer request and the single transfer request are asserted. When the amount of data left in the receive FIFO is less than the watermark level, only the single request is asserted. This is useful for situations where the number of characters left to be received in the stream is less than a burst.

### 8.1 DMA operation

First of all, the DMA clock is enabled. In **transmission**, the TX interrupt is enabled. Then, DMA is enabled by the DMACConfiguration register. Setting the relevant bit in the DMACIntTCClear register or in the DMACIntErrClr register, respectively, clears the interrupt request. The DMA channel to be used is selected, corresponding to which the registers of that channel are configured. For example, channel 0 is selected, then the DMACC0SrcAddr register contains the source address of the data which is to be transmitted. DMACC0DestAddr register contains the address of TX FIFO.

In **reception**, the RX interrupt is enabled. Then DMA is enabled and all the pending interrupts on DMA are cleared. For channel 0, the DMACC0SrcAddr contains the address of RX FIFO and DMACC0DestAddr contains the address where the data is to be received.

## 8.2 DMA registers

- **UART DMA control register** is a 16-bit read/write register. The bits of this register enable and disable the DMA for the transmit and receive FIFOs. It also changes the DMA request outputs when an UART error interrupt is asserted.  
Offset Value: 'h048
- **DMACConfiguration register** is a RW register which is used to configure the operation of the DMAC. It enables the DMAC.  
Offset Value: 0x030
- **DMACIntTCClear (interrupt terminal count clear) register** is a WO register which is used to clear a terminal count interrupt request.  
Offset Value: 0x008
- **DMACIntErrClr (interrupt error clear) REGISTER** is a WO register which is used to clear an error interrupt request.  
Offset Value: 0x010
- **DMACnSrcAddr (channel n source address) register** is a RW register which contains the current source address of the data to be transferred over the n-th DMA channel.  
Offset Value:  $0x100 + (n \cdot 0x020)$
- **DMACnDestAddr (channel n destination address) register** is a RW register which contains the current destination address of the data to be transferred over the n-th DMA channel.  
Offset Value:  $0x104 + (n \cdot 0x020)$
- **DMACnLLI (channel n linked list item) register** is a RW register which contains the address of the next Linked List Item (LLI). If next LLI is 0, then the current LLI is last in the chain, and the DMA channel is disabled after all DMA transfers associated with it are completed.  
Offset Value:  $0x108 + (n \cdot 0x020)$
- **DMACnControl REGISTER** is a RW register which contains control information about the DMA channel n, such as transfer size, burst size and transfer width.  
Offset Value:  $0x10C + (n \cdot 0x020)$
- **DMACnConfiguration REGISTER** is a RW register which is used to configure the relevant DMA channel.  
Offset Value:  $0x110 + (n \cdot 0x020)$

## 9 UART modem operation

The UART can support both data terminal equipment (DTE) and data communication equipment (DCE) modes of operation. [Table 11](#) gives a description of the signals in each mode.

**Table 11. Modem input/output signals in DTE and DCE modes**

Signal	Description	
	DTE	DCE
nUARTCTS	Clear to Send	Request to Send
nUARTDSR	Data Set Ready	Data Terminal Ready
nUARTDCD	Data Carrier Detect	-
nUARTRI	Ring Indicator	-
nUARTRTS	Request to Send	Clear to Send
nUARTDTR	Data Terminal ready	Data Set Ready
nUARTOUT1	-	Data Carrier Detect
nUARTOUT2	-	Ring Indicator

Two dedicated "modem control" wires are used in hardware flow control to send the "stop" and "start" signals. When the computer is ready to receive data it asserts RTS by putting a positive voltage on the RTS pin. When the computer is not able to receive any more bytes, it negates RTS by asserting a negative voltage on the pin. The RTS pin is connected by the serial cable to another pin on the modem. This other pin's only function is to receive this signal.

This "other" pin will be the modem's RTS pin. For a modem, a straight-thru cable is used.

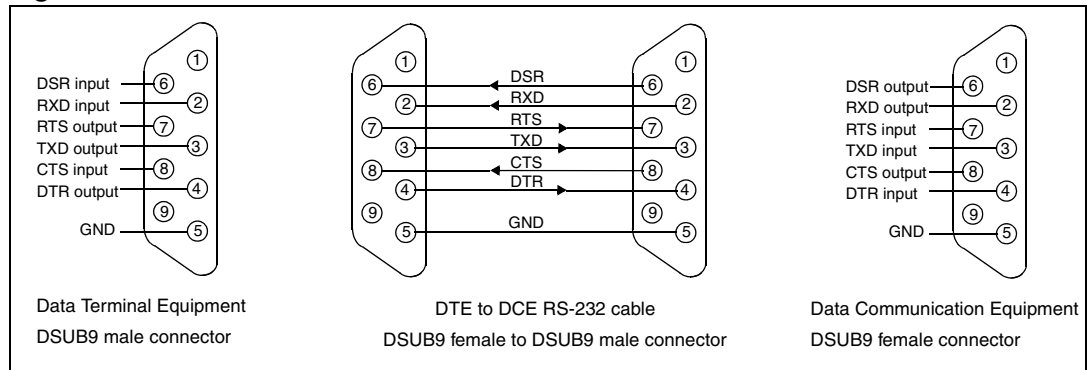
For the opposite direction of flow a similar scheme is used. The CTS pin is used to send the flow control signal to the CTS pin on the PC.

Thus modems and non-modems have the roles of their RTS and CTS pins interchanged.

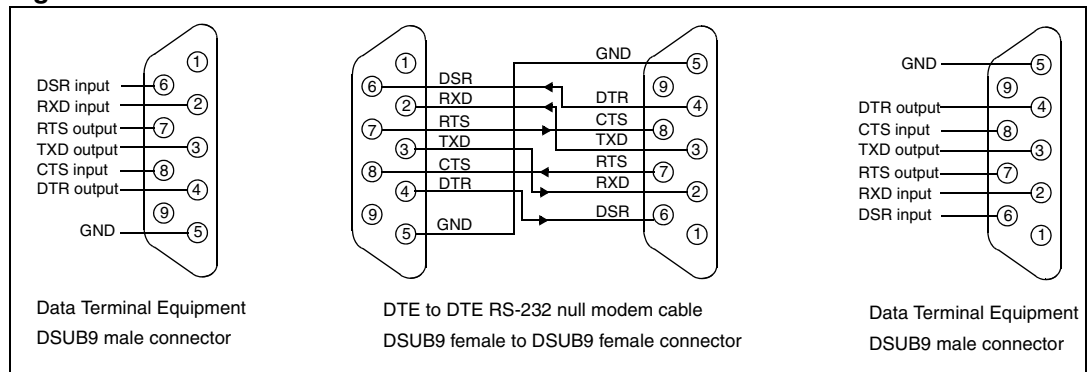
RS-232 hardware handshaking has been specified in terms of communication between Data Terminal Equipment (DTE) and Data Communications Equipment (DCE).

Most RS-232 connections use 9-pin DSUB connectors. A DTE uses a male connector and a DCE uses a female connector.

**Figure 2. DTE to DCE connection**



**Figure 3. DTE to DTE connection**



## 10 OS-independent SPEAr UART HAL

This section describes an OS independent hardware abstraction layer (HAL) for the SPEAr UART which you can use as a starting point for developing your own HAL code.

### 10.1 SetBaseDevice()

This API sets the base address of the UART.

```
static t_UARTError SetBaseDevice(volatile u32 *SPEAR_UART_APB_BASE,
struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

- UARTId: Identify the UART device

If the UARTId is UART0 or UART1, then it is a valid input for it otherwise it is said to be an invalid UART ID.

### 10.2 GetBaudDivisor()

This function returns the integer and fractional values of the baud rate divisor.

```
static u32 GetBaudDivisor(t_UARTBaudRate BaudRate, u32
*IntegralVal)
```

- BaudRate: Baud rate to be configured
- IntegralVal - Baud rate divisor's integral value

Baud rate is a constant value & can be selected from the table given below

**Table 12. Baud rate values**

Option	Value
BAUD110	110
BAUD300	300
BAUD1200	1200
BAUD2400	2400
BAUD4800	4800
BAUD9600	9600
BAUD19200	19200
BAUD38400	38400
BAUD57600	57600
BAUD115200	115200
BAUD230400	230400
BAUD460800	460800

### 10.3 UART\_Init()

This routine is used to initialize the UART. This function sets the default settings and enables the UART.

```
t_UARTError UART_Init(struct spear_uart **uart_device, t_UARTId
UARTId)
```

This function sets the default settings as shown in the example below:

```
struct spear_uart_config *dev;
    dev->FIFOStatus          = FIFO_ENABLE;
        dev->BaudRate        = BAUD115200;
        dev->WordLength      = DATA8;
        dev->StopBitSelect   = STOP1;
    dev->ParitySelect        = PARITY_DISABLE;
        dev->TxWatermarkLevel = OneByTwo;
        dev->RxWatermarkLevel = OneByTwo;
        dev->TxEnable        = TRUE;
        dev->RxEnable        = TRUE;
    dev->UARTId              = UARTId;
```

### 10.4 UART\_Configure()

This function is used to configure a UART device. It first disables the UART, then finds the integral and fractional baud rate and configures the line control register, control register and various interrupt registers, etc. and finally enables the UART.

```
t_UARTError UART_Configure(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

- UARTId: Identify the UART device
- Config: Configuration information

The configuration information is selected as follows:

- ParitySelect: If it is already zero, this means that odd parity is selected. If EVEN then even parity is selected, otherwise invalid parity is selected.
- WordLength: Its value can be chosen from the table given below:

**Table 13. WordLength values**

Option	Value
DATA8	WORD_LENGTH_8
DATA7	WORD_LENGTH_7
DATA6	WORD_LENGTH_6
DATA5	Already zero

Apart from the above table, if any other option is given then it is an invalid word length option.

- StopBitSelect: If it is already zero then OneStopBit. If it is equal to STOP2 then two stop bits otherwise invalid stop bit select.
- FIFOStatus: Its valid inputs are FIFO\_Enable or FIFO\_Disable (already zero), otherwise it is a case of invalid FIFO status.
- TxWatermarkLevel: The interrupt FIFO level is already set to 1/8

**Table 14. TxWatermarkLevel values**

Option	Value
OneByEight	-
OneByFour	TX_FIFO_TRIG_1BY4
OneByTwo	TX_FIFO_TRIG_1BY2
ThreeByFour	TX_FIFO_TRIG_3BY4
SevenByEight	TX_FIFO_TRIG_7BY8

- RxWatermarkLevel: The Interrupt FIFO Level is already set to 1/8

**Table 15. RxWatermarkLevel values**

Option	Value
OneByEight	-
OneByFour	RX_FIFO_TRIG_1BY4
OneByTwo	RX_FIFO_TRIG_1BY2
ThreeByFour	RX_FIFO_TRIG_3BY4
SevenByEight	RX_FIFO_TRIG_7BY8

## 10.5 UART\_Transmit()

This API allows to start transmit a given number of characters. It writes character by character.

```
t_UARTError UART_Transmit(struct spear_uart_config *dev, u32
NumOfCharToTx, char *Buffer)
```

- NumOfCharToTx: This is the number of characters to be transmitted
- Buffer: This is the pointer to the characters to be transmitted

## 10.6 UART\_Receive()

This routine is used to start receiving a given number of characters. It reads character by character.

```
t_UARTError UART_Receive(struct spear_uart_config *dev, u32
NumOfCharToRx, char *Buffer, u32 *NumOfCharRx, t_UARTRxError
*RxError)
```

- NumOfCharToRx: This is the number of characters to be received
- Buffer: This is the pointer to the buffer where the data is stored
- NumOfCharRx: This is the number of characters received before error is encountered
- RxError: This is the status of error occurred during the reception- framing, parity, break, overrun or no error.

## 10.7 UART\_Disable()

This function is used to disable the UART. It stops the transmission or reception process after transferring the current byte.

```
t_UARTError UART_Disable(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

- UARTId: identify the UART device

## 10.8 UART\_IsTxFIFOFull()

This API is used to check whether the Tx FIFO is full.

```
t_bool UART_IsTxFIFOFull(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

## 10.9 UART\_IsTxFIFOEmpty()

This function is used to check whether the Tx FIFO is empty.

```
t_bool UART_IsTxFIFOEmpty(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

## 10.10 UART\_IsRxFIFOFull()

This function is used to check whether the Rx FIFO is full.

```
t_bool UART_IsRxFIFOFull(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

## 10.11 UART\_IsRxFIFOEmpty()

This function is used to check whether the Rx FIFO is empty.

```
t_bool UART_IsRxFIFOEmpty(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

## 10.12 UART\_IntEnable()

This API is used to enable the interrupt on the specified UART device.

```
t_UARTError UART_IntEnable(struct spear_uart_config *dev,
t_UARTIntType IntType)
```

- IntType: identify the interrupt type



All the interrupts required to be enabled should be ORed first and then passed into this argument.

### 10.13 UART\_IntDisable()

This routine disables the interrupt on the specified UART.

```
t_UARTError UART_IntDisable(struct spear_uart_config *dev,  
t_UARTIntType IntType)
```

- IntType: identify the interrupt type

All the interrupts required to be disabled should be ORed first and then passed into this argument.

### 10.14 UART\_IntClear()

This function clears the interrupt of the specified UART.

```
t_UARTError UART_IntClear(struct spear_uart_config *dev,  
t_UARTIntType IntType)
```

- IntType: identify the interrupt type

All the interrupts required to be cleared should be ORed first and then passed into this argument.

### 10.15 UART\_GetIntSrc()

This routine is used to get the source of the interrupt.

```
u32 UART_GetIntSrc(struct spear_uart_config *dev)
```

- UARTId: identify the UART device

## Appendix A Acronyms

**Table 16. List of acronyms**

Acronym	Definition
ARM	Advanced RISC machine
SPEAr	Structured processor enhanced architecture
SoC	System-on-chip
AMBA	ARM microcontroller bus architecture
APB	Advanced peripheral bus
RI	Ring indicator
DCD	Data carrier detect
DSR	Data set ready
CTS	Clear to send
RTS	Request to send
DTR	Data transmit ready
LBE	Loop back enable
RXIM	Receive interrupt mask
TXIM	Transmit interrupt mask
FEN	FIFO enable
BRK	Send break
DMA	Direct memory access

## Revision history

**Table 17. Document revision history**

Date	Revision	Changes
15-Dec- 2009	1	Initial release

**Please Read Carefully:**

Information in this document is provided solely in connection with ST products. STMicroelectronics NV and its subsidiaries ("ST") reserve the right to make changes, corrections, modifications or improvements, to this document, and the products and services described herein at any time, without notice.

All ST products are sold pursuant to ST's terms and conditions of sale.

Purchasers are solely responsible for the choice, selection and use of the ST products and services described herein, and ST assumes no liability whatsoever relating to the choice, selection or use of the ST products and services described herein.

No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property rights is granted under this document. If any part of this document refers to any third party products or services it shall not be deemed a license grant by ST for the use of such third party products or services, or any intellectual property contained therein or considered as a warranty covering the use in any manner whatsoever of such third party products or services or any intellectual property contained therein.

**UNLESS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN ST'S TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE ST DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS OR IMPLIED WARRANTY WITH RESPECT TO THE USE AND/OR SALE OF ST PRODUCTS INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE (AND THEIR EQUIVALENTS UNDER THE LAWS OF ANY JURISDICTION), OR INFRINGEMENT OF ANY PATENT, COPYRIGHT OR OTHER INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT.**

**UNLESS EXPRESSLY APPROVED IN WRITING BY AN AUTHORIZED ST REPRESENTATIVE, ST PRODUCTS ARE NOT RECOMMENDED, AUTHORIZED OR WARRANTED FOR USE IN MILITARY, AIR CRAFT, SPACE, LIFE SAVING, OR LIFE SUSTAINING APPLICATIONS, NOR IN PRODUCTS OR SYSTEMS WHERE FAILURE OR MALFUNCTION MAY RESULT IN PERSONAL INJURY, DEATH, OR SEVERE PROPERTY OR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE. ST PRODUCTS WHICH ARE NOT SPECIFIED AS "AUTOMOTIVE GRADE" MAY ONLY BE USED IN AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATIONS AT USER'S OWN RISK.**

Resale of ST products with provisions different from the statements and/or technical features set forth in this document shall immediately void any warranty granted by ST for the ST product or service described herein and shall not create or extend in any manner whatsoever, any liability of ST.

ST and the ST logo are trademarks or registered trademarks of ST in various countries.

Information in this document supersedes and replaces all information previously supplied.

The ST logo is a registered trademark of STMicroelectronics. All other names are the property of their respective owners.

© 2009 STMicroelectronics - All rights reserved

STMicroelectronics group of companies

Australia - Belgium - Brazil - Canada - China - Czech Republic - Finland - France - Germany - Hong Kong - India - Israel - Italy - Japan - Malaysia - Malta - Morocco - Philippines - Singapore - Spain - Sweden - Switzerland - United Kingdom - United States of America

[www.st.com](http://www.st.com)