

EEL 4924 Electrical Engineering Design

(Senior Design)

Final Report

25 April 2012



Project Title:

The Ad-Flier!



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Sky Lights

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PROJECT ABSTRACT:



What are the three most important things to remember in advertising? Location, location, location! The Ad-Flier is a solution to two of the greatest problems currently faced in the college of engineering: first, the publication of more Go Gators banners and advertisements; second, an easier solution to the take-off and landing of autonomous unmanned aerial vehicles.

Team Sky Lights has found the opportunity to take out two UM Ibis' with one stone, by developing an easier solution for a control system on a standard Quadrocopter frame and removing all the nags of common air flight, our system will allow the most novice of fliers the ability to enter a coordinate path (created using Google Maps) and takeoff! It does this by separating the flight functions into two separate chips, one processor devoted to stabilization of the craft and controlling the motors, and the second devoted to attaining coordinates and calculating the alterations of the current path. This separation will allow the stabilizer to react more quickly to changes in the environment while still ensuring it is following a stated course. The navigation unit will contain on-board memory to store its course and (time permitting) also contain a communications system to provide 2-way transmissions for course alteration and telemetry.

So what does this all mean to the average Joe? While our football team is drowning out the Crimson Tide in Alabama, we can have our Ad-Fliers circling the stadium with Go Gators! and Enjoy Pepsi! logos attached, cheering our team and fans on to victory!

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PRODUCT FEATURES/OBJECTIVES

During specification, a series of requirements were placed to ensure adequate and safe operation of the craft.

1. A Manual Switch & Emergency Software Shutdown
 - a. The manual switch serves to ensure the craft will never engage when it is undesired. The manual switch is placed in-series between the battery and the main power junction to the Electronic-Speed-Controllers and the Flight Control Board
 - b. The Emergency Software Shutdown is a combination of two triggers: one if the device went outside of radio communications range, and second a direct shutdown command that could be activated if the device engaged in unwanted behavior.
2. Hover / Hold-Position
At a minimum, the device is required to engage in a mode where upon power-up, it will lift-off approximately one foot and hold its position in air. This requirement would prove the functionality of the stability controls implemented on the Flight Control Board.
3. Positional Sensing
By combining an 3-Axis accelerometer, gyroscope, and magnetometer, the Ad-Flier obtains a highly accurate and reliable vector of its current orientation in space. Coupled with a barometer to act as an altimeter, the device possesses all of the sensory inputs required to self-sustain itself in air while supplied with power.

HARDWARE OVERVIEW

MECHANICAL OVERVIEW

FRAME

X 525 Quadcopter frame was chosen to be the frame for the Quadcopter. The frame was made with a fiberglass base and aluminum rods to support the plus configuration. The ends of the rods are attached to mounts supported by springs that allow for softer landings. The fiberglass and hollow aluminum tubes allow the craft to be made lighter so smaller motors and a smaller battery can be used.

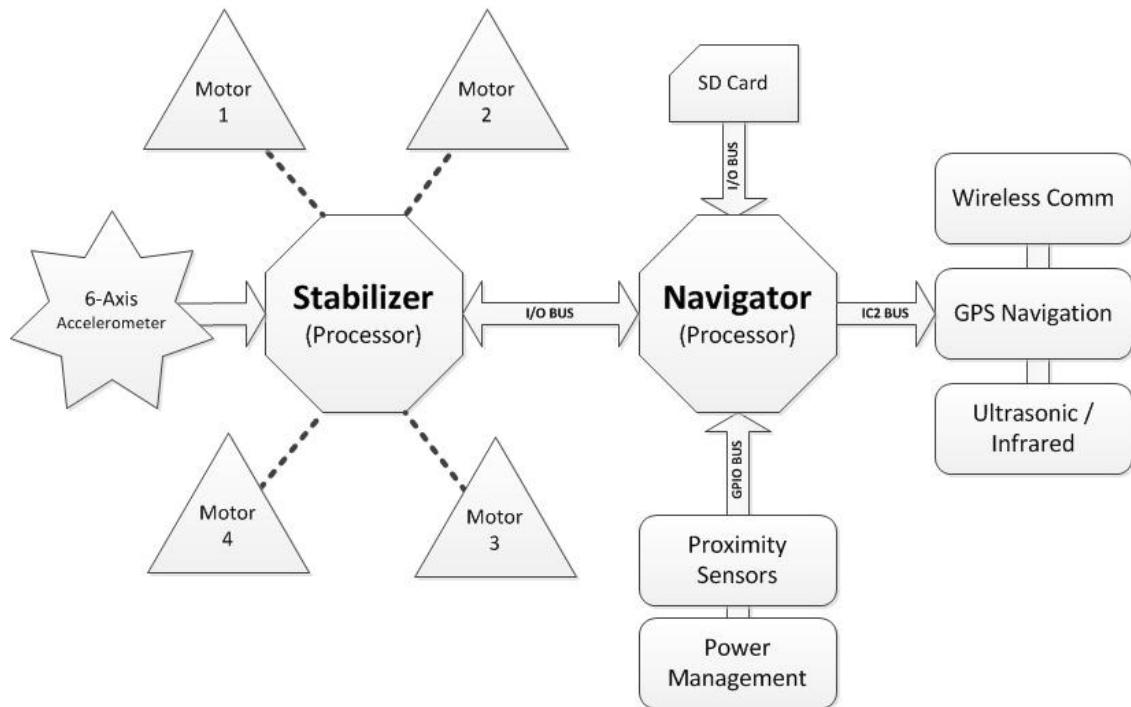
MOTORS

Four XXD 2212 KV1000 brushless motors were used. These motors take an 11.1 V power supply from the battery as well as the input signal from the ESC. The maximum efficiency of the motors was rated at 75%. They also have a no load speed of 10800 rpm and a load speed of 5880 rpm. Each motor weighs approximately 218g.

ESC

In order to control the motors, HobbyWing Skywalker 20A 2A-BEC Brushless ESCs were used. An ESC is an electronic servo controller. The ESC uses a 50 Hz PWM signal with a 1 to 2ms-pulse width to control the motor between 0 and 100% output. The ESC's had to be programmed using a programming card. This allowed control over the timing mode, the startup mode, and the cut off voltage. The cut off voltage was the most important parameter. If the battery reaches a certain low on the voltage the ESCs reduce the speed of the motor slowly so the battery does not drain below a dangerous level and so the Quadcopter doesn't instantly shut off and crash.

FLIGHT CONTROL BOARD OVERVIEW



CORE COMPONENTS

1. PIC32MX795F512L 32-Bit Microcontroller

This device serves as the central math processing unit and communication hub of the craft. It interfaces all of the long and short range communication systems, GPS sensors, and on-board digital storage devices to the FPGA.

2. EP2C8T144C8N Cyclone II FPGA by Altera

This device served by providing the logic functions necessary for implementing the PID controller and other stability control systems. It directly interfaced with the Electronic-Speed-Controllers for the motors to regulate speed.

POSITION SENSORS

1. Accelerometer – This sensor gives us the approximate angle the device is relative to a point of gravity. This position can change due to acceleration and would thus need another array of devices to guarantee its position.
2. Gyroscope – This sensor delivers the approximate rotation of the craft in degrees per second. This measurement is taken every 1/100th of a second and reported to the stability control on the craft. Since this sensor only gives you a rate of change measurement, it is coupled with the outputs of the accelerometer and the magnetometer to provide a highly-accurate positional vector.
3. Magnetometer – Focusing in on the magnetic poles of the earth, this sensor acts as a digital compass, delivering us a reading in Gauss of the largest magnetic field in the area. Since the motors often would cause interruptions and disturbances with this sensor, the sensitivity was carefully calibrated to average out the noise of the motors and still provide an accurate heading.
4. Barometer – This sensor provides the Flight Control Board with the relative pressure of its current location. This value is incredibly useful in calculating height at large intervals and was thus used as an altimeter when the ultrasonic sensors went out of range.

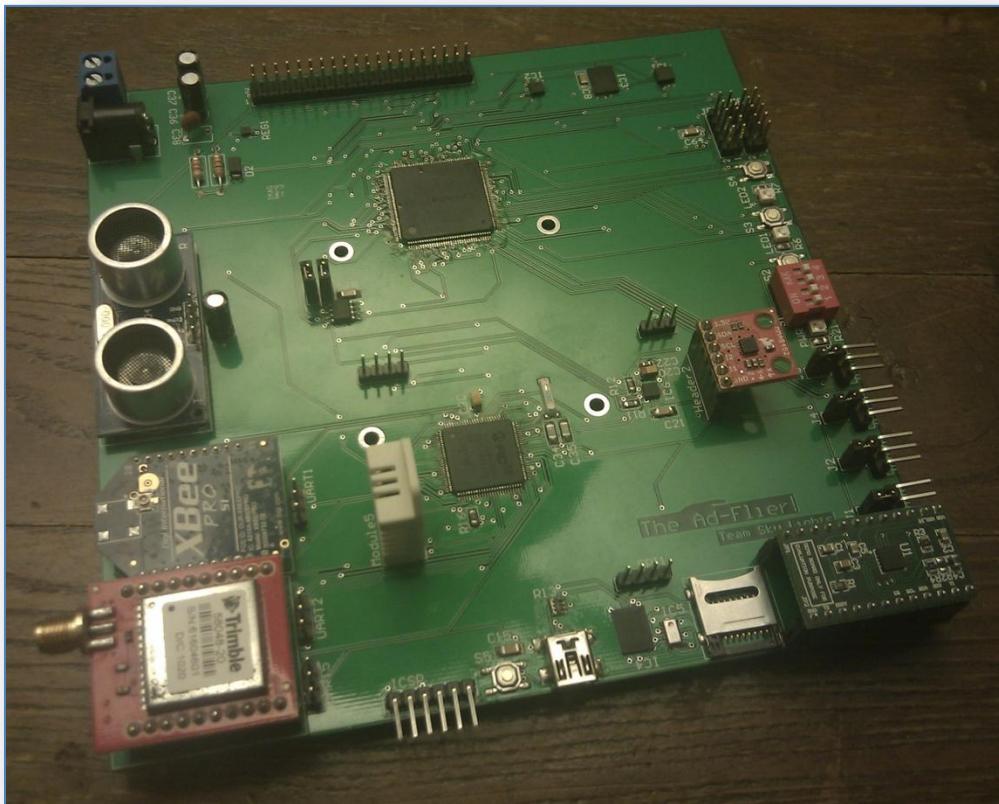
5. Humidity Sensor – The humidity sensor is a safety feature that will detect when the air surrounding the device becomes too rich with moisture to ensure safe operations of the craft. Specific concerns were related to moisture damaging operating circuits.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

1. The Flight Control Board is equipped with two means of communicating with the outside world. First, a Full-Speed USB port is provided to interface with the PIC Microcontrollers as a virtual serial port. This makes downloading information from the SD-Card or on-board Flash SRAM a snap.
2. The second, and main communication system, is the long-range XBee S1 Pro communication system. This device is capable of transmitting and receiving data at 57.6Kbps at incredible ranges. The XBee's receiving module is connected to the Base Station, which will be later discussed.

ON-BOARD STORAGE

1. The primary storage medium is the MicroSD card slot connected to the PIC32 Microcontroller. It is responsible for recording flight logs, sensor data, and to store photos from the camera board.
2. The Flight Control Board is also equipped with two 128MB Serial Flash SRAM chips; one connected to the FPGA and the other connected to the PIC32. Each is capable at operating at speeds up to 104Mbps which was well within the operating clock speeds of both devices. The FLASH SRAM modules were implemented to serve as short-term storage for data intensive mathematical processes for the FPGA or PIC.



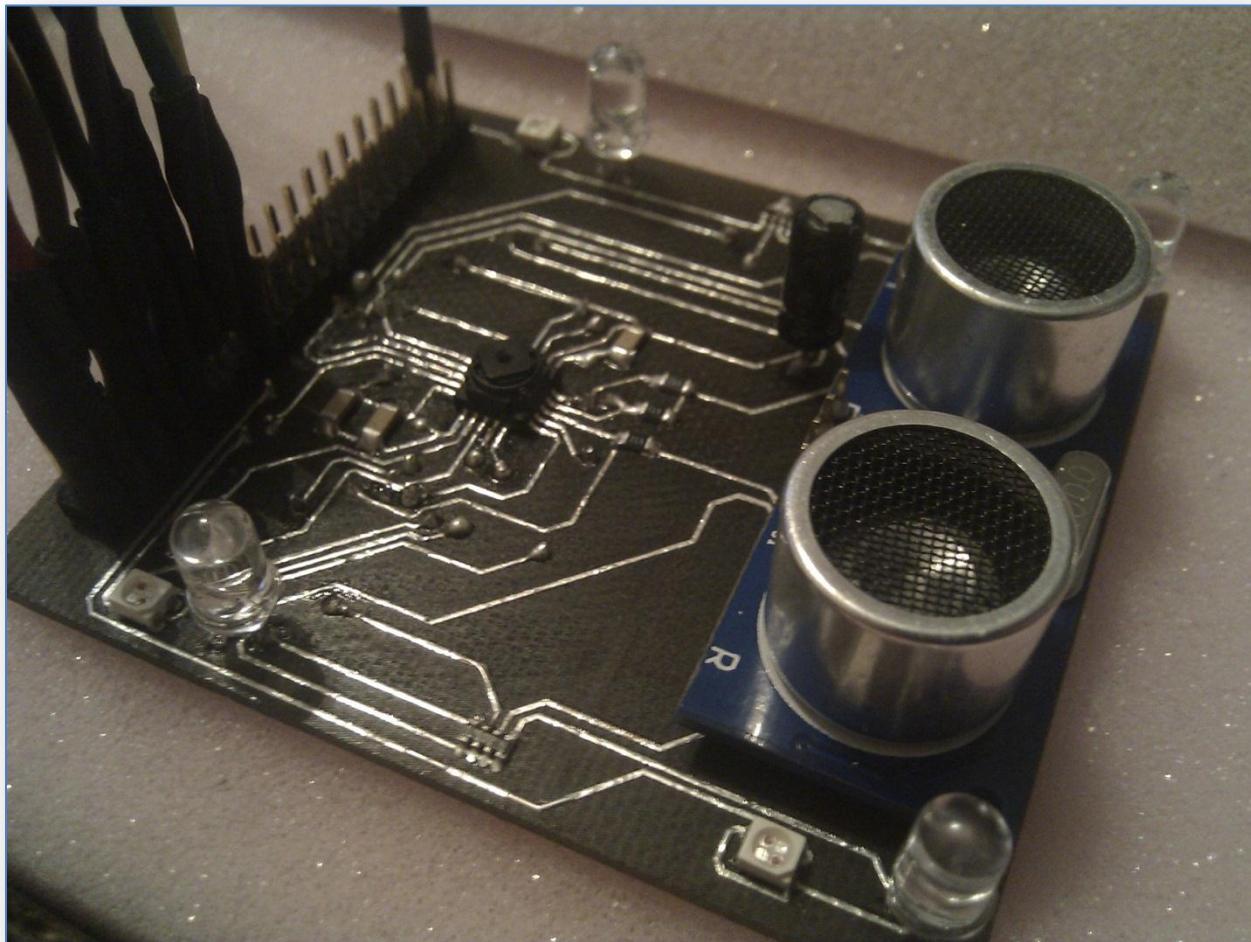
CAMERA BOARD OVERVIEW

0.3MP ON-BOARD CAMERA

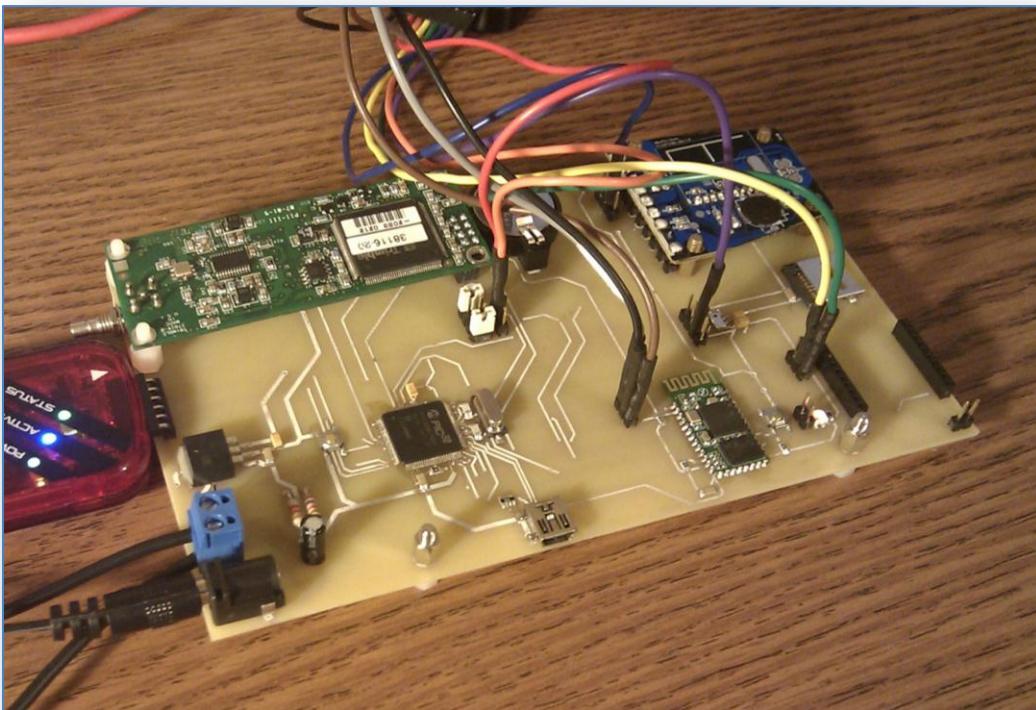
The bottom camera is capable of capturing images at up to 640x480 pixel resolution and outputs them in RGB format across a 50MHz databus. This is picked-up by the FPGA, processed, and stored as an image on the MicroSD card. The camera module serves as a future implementation of an automatic-landing mechanism, where an image will be taken and using image processing techniques, the FPGA will attempt to locate and align with a target.

LONG-RANGE ULTRASONIC RANGER

The Ad-Flier is equipped with two Ultrasonic rangefinders mounted on the top and bottom of the craft. Each has an operational range of up to 150cm (59.055 ft.) and a measuring angle of 30°.



BASE STATION OVERVIEW



CORE COMPONENTS

PIC32MX795F512L 32-Bit Microcontroller

This device serves as a hub for all ground-to-air communications. It fans-out the data stream coming from the Ad-Flier into several useable mediums and ensuring that the device is behaving safely. Should the device act out of accordance with its programming, the base station will have the ability to remotely terminate operations of the craft and either force an immediate shutdown, or allow the craft to hover down to the ground.

COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

1. USB Full-Speed Virtual Serial Port – This allows for quick transfers of information form the PIC to a connected PC. This also allows a future implementation of programming the PIC Microcontroller directly from the USB port instead of requiring an additional programmer.
2. XBee Long-Range S1 Wireless Module – This device allowed incredibly long-range communications with the Ad-Flier while in flight. Operating distance is reduced greatly when the craft is not in line-of-sight.
3. Bluetooth Serial Interface – This module specifically serves the role of debug output and operational commands to the craft from a connected PC. It is also designed to interface with the GUI Console to display the Ad-Flier's current position, heading, and other system information.
4. PlayStation II Wireless Remote Control – This module gives the user manual control of the craft and allows them to enjoy the full limits of what it is capable of.

RELATIVE SENSORS

1. Barometer – The relative barometric pressure sensor is used to obtain the relative pressure of ground. This is used in the Ad-Flier's height calculations as a basis. The barometer also features a built-in thermometer.
2. Global Positioning System – The Base Station features a Trimble GPS system which provides it with its current location. This allows the Ad-Flier to have an approximate location of where HOME is located and where it should return when the battery voltage drops below the desired threshold.

ON-BOARD STORAGE

1. The primary storage medium is the MicroSD card slot connected to the PIC32 Microcontroller. It holds flight logs, error reports, and other sensor data logs.

SOFTWARE OVERVIEW

THE PROPORTIONAL INTEGRAL DERIVATIVE CONTROLLER

In order to implement stabilization of the Quadcopter, several PID controllers were used. A PID controller, short for proportional, integral, derivative, is a useful control loop feedback mechanism. The controller works by first calculating an error. The error is the difference of the desired process variable and the measured process variable. In our case, there were three PID controllers used to control the angles of the axes, pitch, roll, and yaw. There was also one controller used to control altitude.

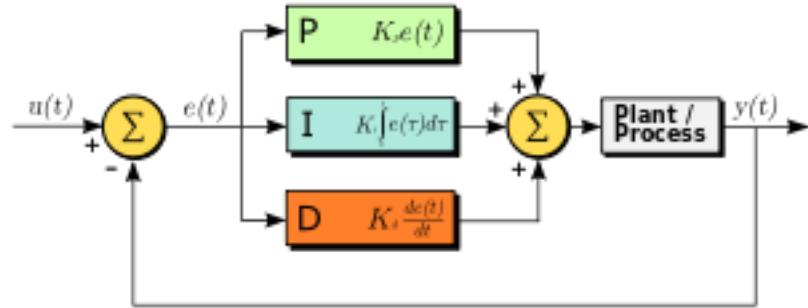
Pitch is the orientation of the machine with respect to the nose of the quad. A positive pitch degree indicates that the nose is pointed up and the device will fly backwards. A negative pitch angle indicates that the nose is pointed down and that the quad will fly forward. In our machine, positive pitch was a counterclockwise rotation in the positive y-axis. Stabilization of pitch was controlled by offsets to the front and rear motors.

Roll is the orientation of the machine with respect to the wings. A positive roll degree indicates that the right wing is higher and the quad will fly to the left. A negative roll angle indicates that the left wing is higher and the machine will drift to the right. In our machine, positive pitch indicates a counterclockwise rotation in the positive x-axis. Stabilization of pitch was controlled by offsets to the left and right motors.

Yaw is the orientation of the machine perpendicular to pitch and roll. In our machine this would be the z-axis. A positive yaw rotation would be a clockwise rotation about the positive z-axis, where the positive z-axis is the axis extending out of the top of the quad. Stabilization of yaw is controlled by increasing torque of either the front and back motor or the left and right motor with respect to the other pair of motors. This stabilization is possible in the quad because each pair of motors has either clockwise rotating props or counterclockwise rotating props. Each pair tends to make the craft rotate in a different direction.

The altitude was how high off the ground the quad was. Adding or subtracting the same amount of torque to each motor achieved stabilization of the altitude.

The inputs of the PID controllers were either angles or altitude and the outputs were all an 8 bit vector used in conjunction with the PWM module to change the speed of the motors. A typical block diagram of a PID controller, obtained from Wikipedia, can be seen in the figure below.



Block Diagram of a PID controller

In order to create the PID controller in VHDL the equations had to be discretized. The equation of the discrete PID controller is given as

$$u(t) = u(t-1) + K_c [e(t) - e(t-1)] + \frac{K_c T_i}{T_i} e(t) + \frac{K_c T_d}{T_d} [e(t) - 2e(t-1) + e(t-2)]$$

This is known as the velocity form of the PID equation. The terms with K and T were replaced with KP, KI, and KD. These are all constants that are separate for each separate controller. The constants are determined by tuning. In the process of tuning, KI, and KD are set equal to zero while KP is increased until oscillation in the desired controller output is achieved. Then KD is increased until the oscillations subside. Finally KI is increased until the steady state time is achieved in an acceptable time.

Tuning the PID controller proved to be a daunting task. First, implementing the equations in VHDL had to be done with integer math. This required a lot of changing of variables. Determining the limits for the PID controller was also challenging. For the limits, it was determined that a 30-degree error in either direction would cause the motor for the drooping side to operate at 80%. This greatly increases the speed before the quad flips over and becomes uncontrollable. Also, while tuning for pitch and roll takes place separately, when combined the angles of pitch and roll actually effect each other. This adds another level of complexity to the tuning process and makes the results less desirable. Scaling down the integer values used in the PID in order to achieve an 8 bit values that was actually proportional to the desired output was also a challenging task.

The PID controllers used can be seen in the code attachment.

PULSE WIDTH MODULATOR CONTROL SYSTEM

The PWM component was also composed in VHDL for use on the FPGA. The purpose of the PWM module was to convert the output from the PID controllers to a useful signal that was capable of controlling the motors. As

mention above, the motors are driven by an ESC. The ESC takes an input PWM signal to control the motor. This signal is composed of a 50 Hz frequency signal with varying pulse width for the duty cycle. The pulse width for the ESC input ranges from 1ms to 2ms. A 1ms pulse indicates 0% of the motor power. A 2ms pulse indicates 100% of the motor power.

The first step in the code was to create a 50 Hz signal from the 25.175 Mhz clock on the FPGA. Using a clock divider did this. The next step was to make an input to the module create different pulse widths for the output. The resolution of the PWM controller was 8 bits for a 1ms swing in output. This is .04% change in motor speed for each count in the input vector.

The only problem with the control of the motors is that all motors are not created the same. Each motor required a different offset value before it would actually turn on. This offset was accounted for by using the rangefinder to make sure that each motor initialized for the same input value plus offset to the PWM unit.

FPGA-MICROPROCESSOR INTERFACE

OVERVIEW

To allow communications between the PIC and FPGA, and allow the passing of nessecary data, a simple 8-bit parallel port communications system was constructed between the two devices. Using a handshake method, the PIC Microcontroller is able to either read a specified list of registers on the FPGA or write to a list of specified registers on the FPGA.

TESTED DATA RATES

When a continuous read/write test was performed, the PIC was able to transfer at a rate of 2.66Mbps

SENSORS

GYROSCOPE

The L3G4200D Gyroscope transfers 16-bit values across the SPI bus in 8-bit increments. It can achieve a maximum rate of 10MHz when in SPI Mode.

ACCELEROMETER

MAGNETOMETER

The HMC5883L Magnetometer communicates using the I2C line with rates up to 400KHz. The data is stored as 12-Bit ADC readings and need proper conversion back to Gauss before they can be used.

BAROMETER

The MPL115A1 Barometer communicates using the SPI bus at a max rate of 8 MHz Several iterations of conversions are needed before the data outputted is usable. The pressure readings are also significantly affected by the relative temperature and operating conditions.

BILL OF MATERIALS

Part	Manufacturer	Description
EP2C8T144C8N	Altera	Cyclone II FPGA
TCM8230MD	Toshiba	640x480 Camera Module
TCM8230MD	Toshiba	640x480 Camera Module
EP2C8T144C8N	Altera	Cyclone II FPGA
XBEE Pro S1	Digi International	Long-Range Wireless

PIC32MX795F512L	Microchip	32bit PIC Processor
Copernicus	Trimble	GPS Module
EPCS16SI8N	Altera	16MB FPGA Configuration SRAM
SD Card	EgoChina	SD Card
RF-2400W	Inhaos	Short Range Wireless
S25FL128P	Spansion	128MB 104MHz Flash Memory
HMC5883L	Honeywell	Magnetometer
RHT03	Maxdetect	Humidity Sensor
SST26VF032	Silicon Storage Technologies	32MB Serial Quad I/O Flash
MCP2200	Microchip	USB -> USART
HC-06	Itead Studio	SMD Bluetooth Module
MMA8452Q	Freescale Semiconductors	Accelerometer
L3G4200D	STMicroelectronics	Gyroscope
MPL115A1	Freescale Semiconductors	Pressure Sensor
DS1085	Maxim Semiconductors	Programmable Clock Synthesizer
HC-SR04	Itead Studio	Ultrasonic Ranger

DIVISION OF LABOR

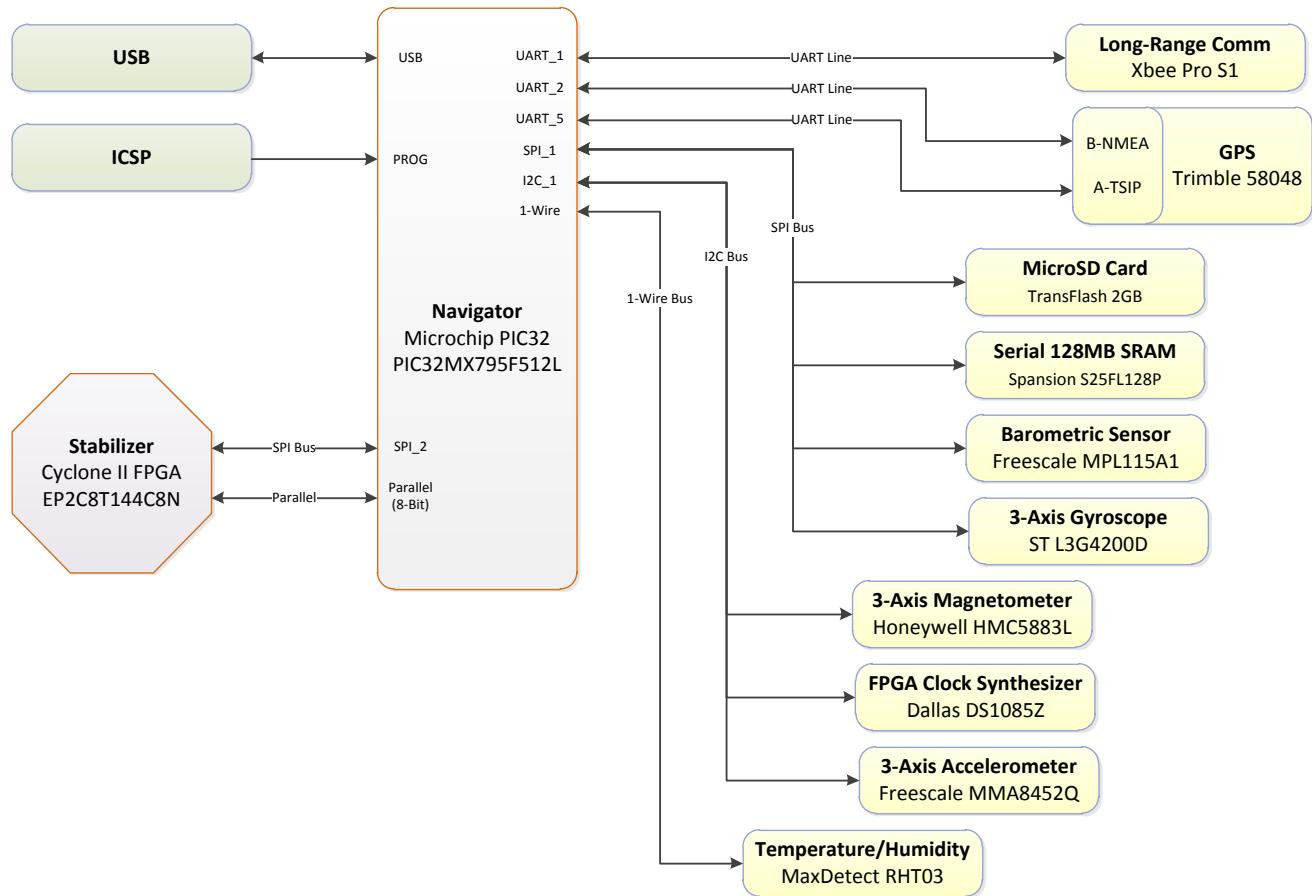
Item	Sal D'Acunto	Info	David Greene	Info
Process Flowcharts	50	FPGA Stabilization and Sensor Filter Design	50	PIC Navigation Processes
Parts Identification	50	Frame, Battery, etc...	50	PCB Hardware and Components
PCB Design	0		100	Flight Control Board and Base Station Board
FPGA Motor Control Programming	100	Creating the Pulse Width Modulation Structures and Controller in the FPGA	0	
FPGA Kalman Filter Design	100	Integration of Sensors into factoring current position	0	
FPGA PID Loop Control	100	Integration of Sensors into stabilizing based on current position	0	
FPGA Image Processing	0		100	Landing Pad Alignment and other Image Processing Tasks
PIC Programming	0		100	Navigator IC and Base Station
Frame Construction	100	Frame, Battery, PCB Mounting...	0	
Manual Controller Design (with PC Program)	0		100	For manual control of the craft with sensor outputs
Documentation	50		50	

GANTT CHART



APPENDIX

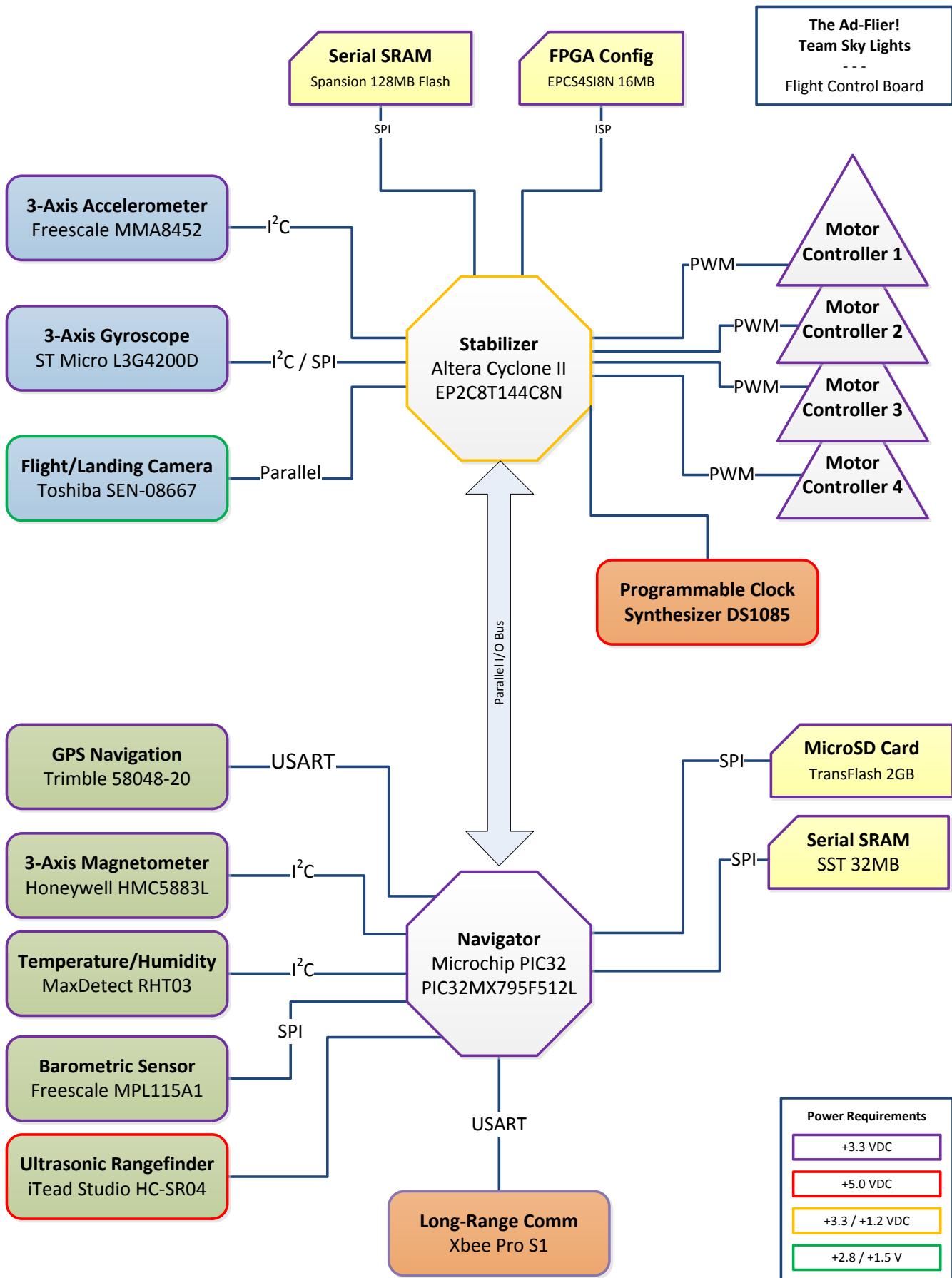
APPENDIX A – OVERVIEW OF THE FLIGHT CONTROL BOARD



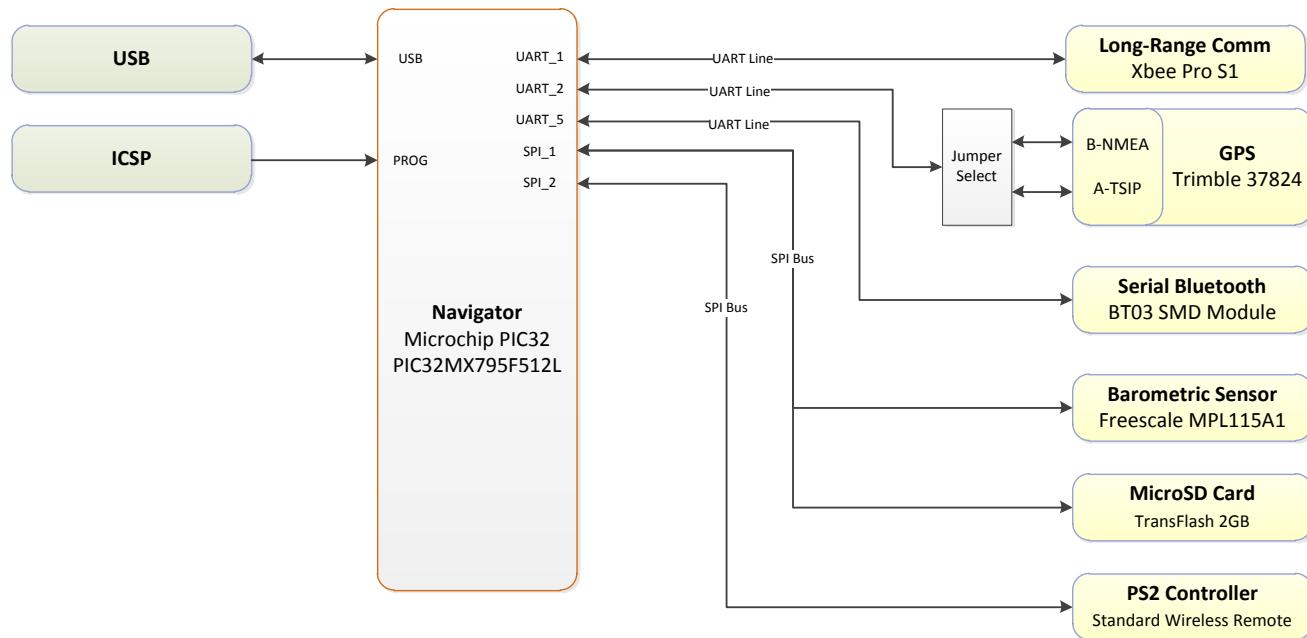
Ad-Flier – Flight Control Board

Connections Overview

Rev 1.2 – 3/28/2012



APPENDIX B – OVERVIEW OF THE BASE STATION BOARD



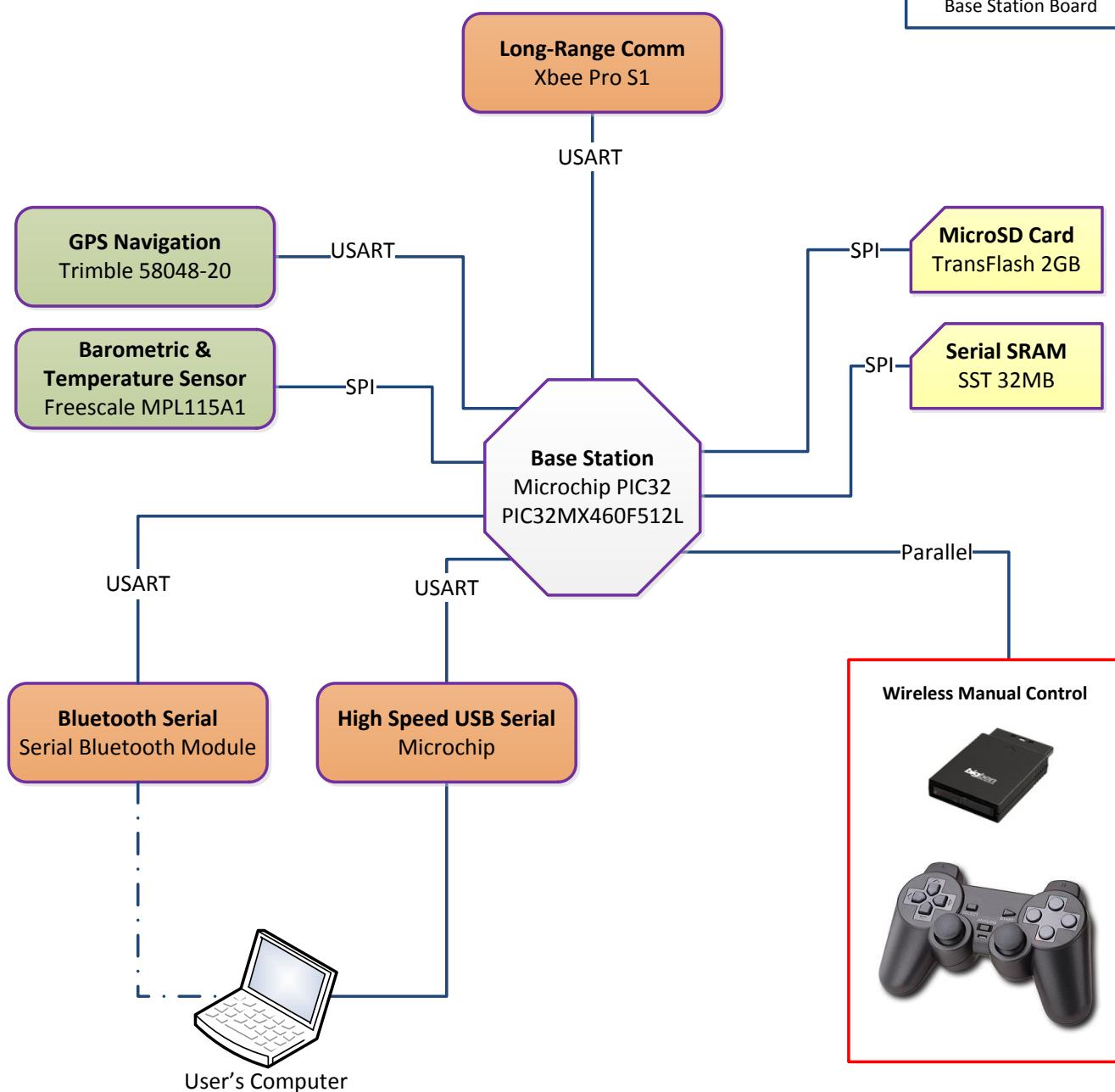
Ad-Flier – BaseStation Board

Connections Overview

Rev 1.2 – 3/28/2012

The Ad-Flier!
Team Sky Lights

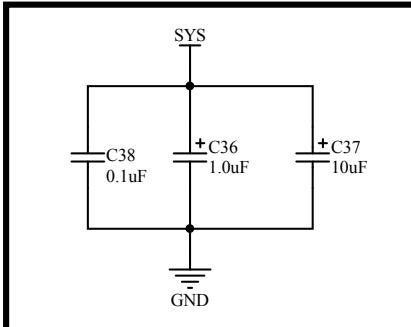
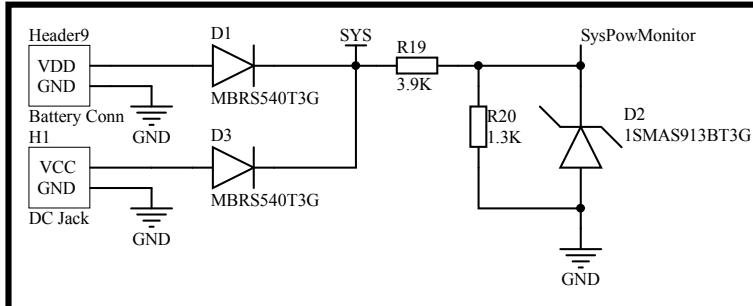
Base Station Board



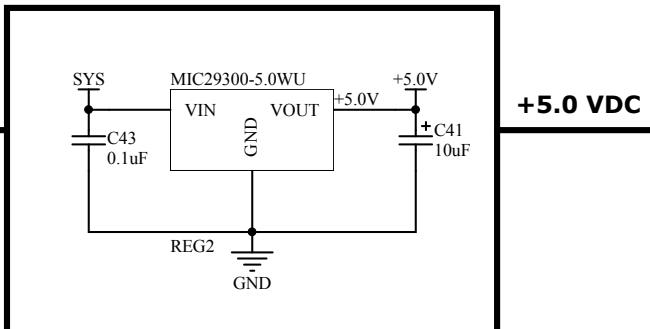
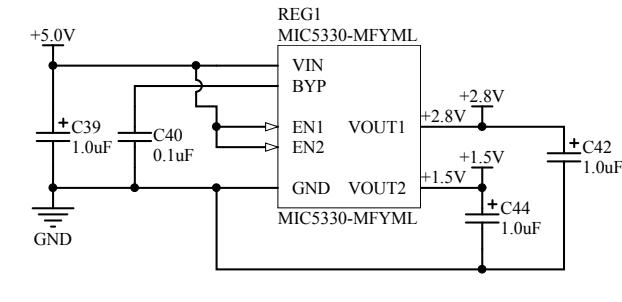
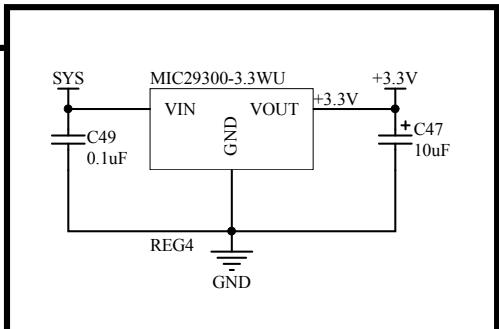
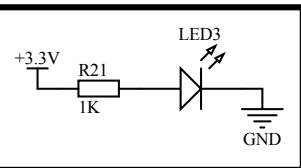
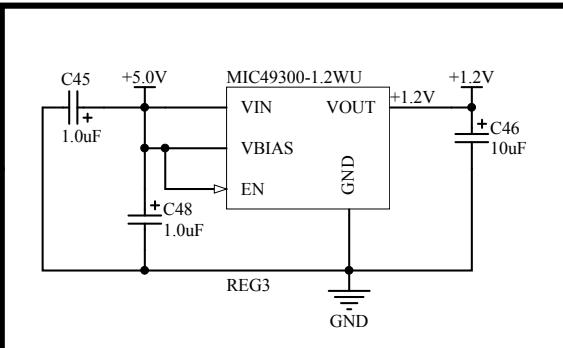
Power Requirements

+3.3 VDC

+5.0 VDC

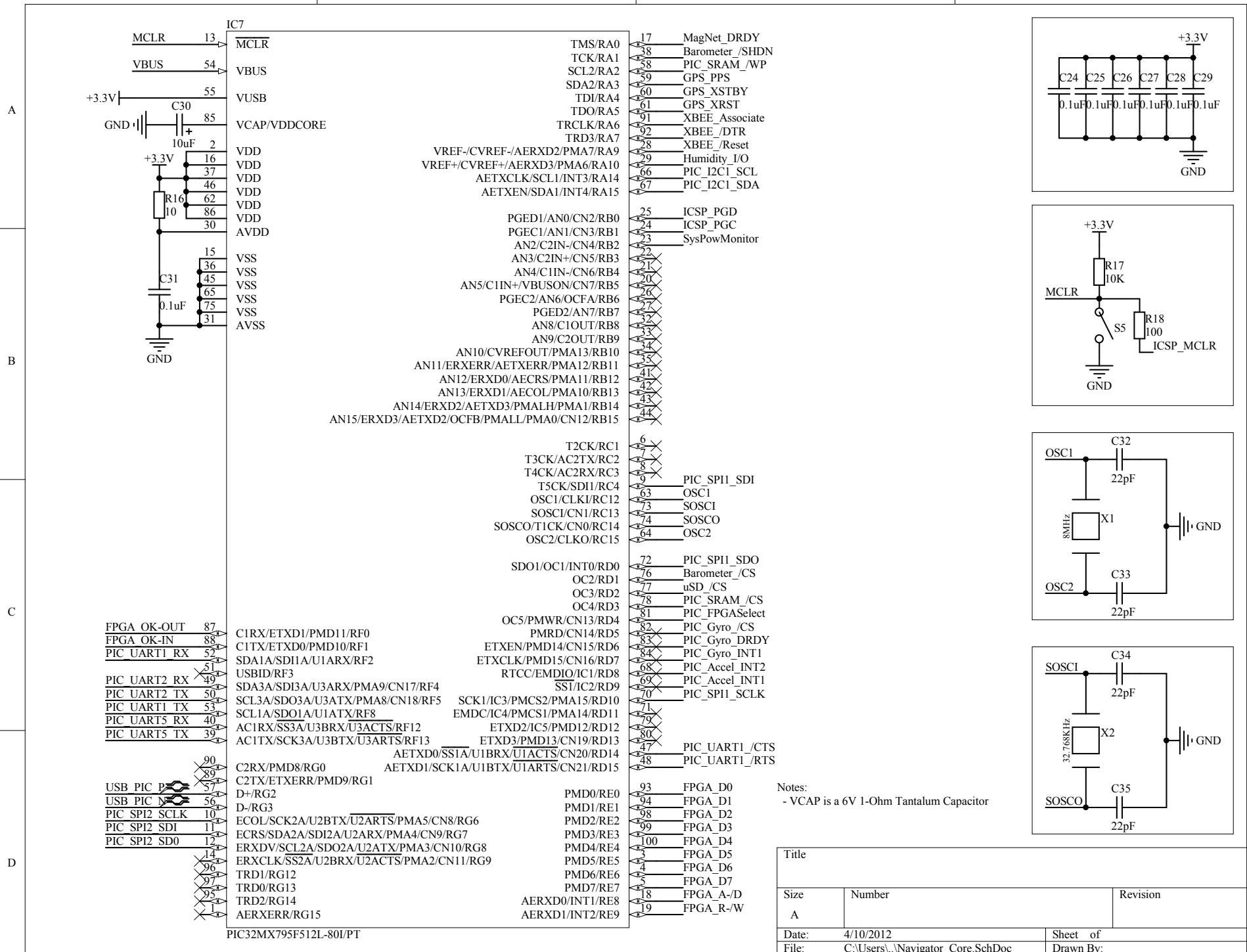
3S Lipo Battery**Power Input, Selection, and Monitoring****Power Rails:**

+5.0V Rated: 3000mA
+3.3V Rated: 3000mA
+2.8V Rated: 150mA
+1.5V Rated: 150mA
+1.2V Rated: 3000mA

+6 to +11.7 VDC**Battery -> 5.0 VDC****5.0 -> 2.8 & 1.5 VDC****Battery -> 3.3 VDC****5.0 -> 1.2 VDC**

Title

Size	Number	Revision
A		
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PIC SPI-1 Interface (PIC Peripherals)

PIC_SPI1_SCLK uSD_SCLK	PIC_SPI1_SDI uSD_SDO	PIC_SPI1_SDO uSD_SDI
PIC_SRAM_SCK	PIC_SRAM_SO	PIC_SRAM_SI
Barometer_SCLK	Barometer_DOUT	Barometer_DIN
PIC_Gyro_SPC	PIC_Gyro_SDO	PIC_Gyro_SDI

PIC SPI-2 Interface (PIC-FPGA Connection)

PIC_SPI2_SCLK PIC_SCLK	PIC_SPI2_SDI PIC_MISO	PIC_SPI2_SD0 PIC_MOSI
---------------------------	--------------------------	--------------------------

PIC I2C-1 Interface

PIC_I2C1_SCL	PIC_I2C1_SDA
Magnet_SCL	Magnet_SDA
DS1085_SCL	DS1085_SDA
PIC_Accel_SCL	PIC_Accel_SDA

PIC UART-2/5 Interface (Trimble GPS Module)

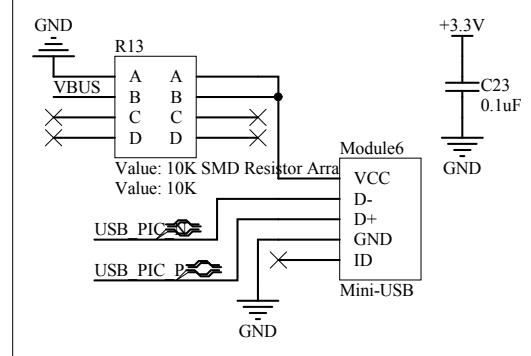
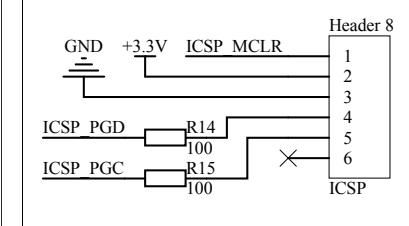
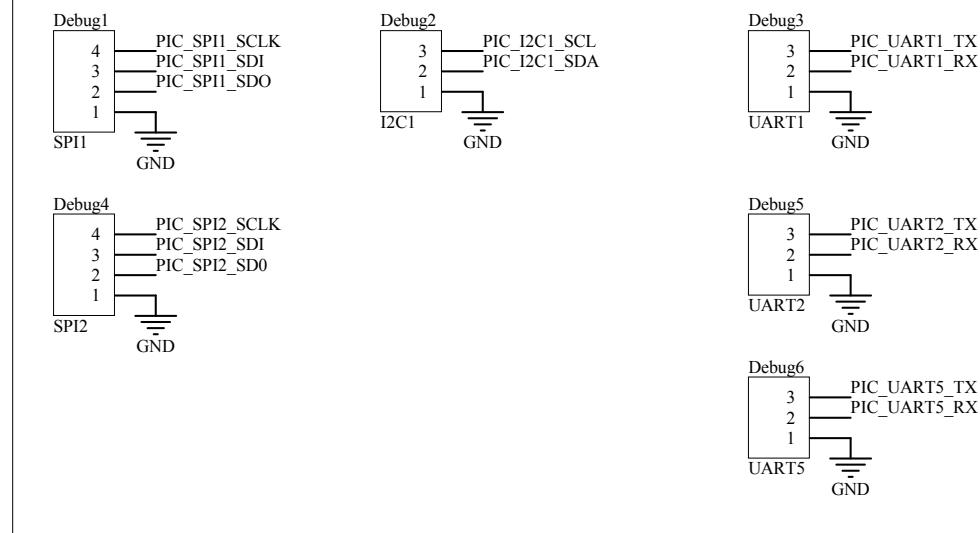
PIC_UART2_RX GPS_RXB	PIC_UART2_TX GPS_RXB
PIC_UART5_RX GPS_RXA	PIC_UART5_TX GPS_RXA

PIC UART-1 Interface (XBee Pro)

PIC_UART1_CTS XBEE_RTS	PIC_UART1_RTS XBEE_CTS
PIC_UART1_RX XBEE_DOUT	PIC_UART1_TX XBEE_DIN

PIC Control Lines

Humidity_I/O
MagNet_DRDY
PIC_FPGASelect
Barometer_CS
Barometer_SHDN
uSD_CS
PIC_SRAM_WP
PIC_SRAM_CS
GPS_PPS
GPS_XSTBY
GPS_XRST
XBEE_Associate
XBEE_DTR
XBEE_Reset

PIC32 USB Interface

In-Circuit Serial Programming Interface

Communication Debug Headers


Title

Size

A

Number

Revision

Date:

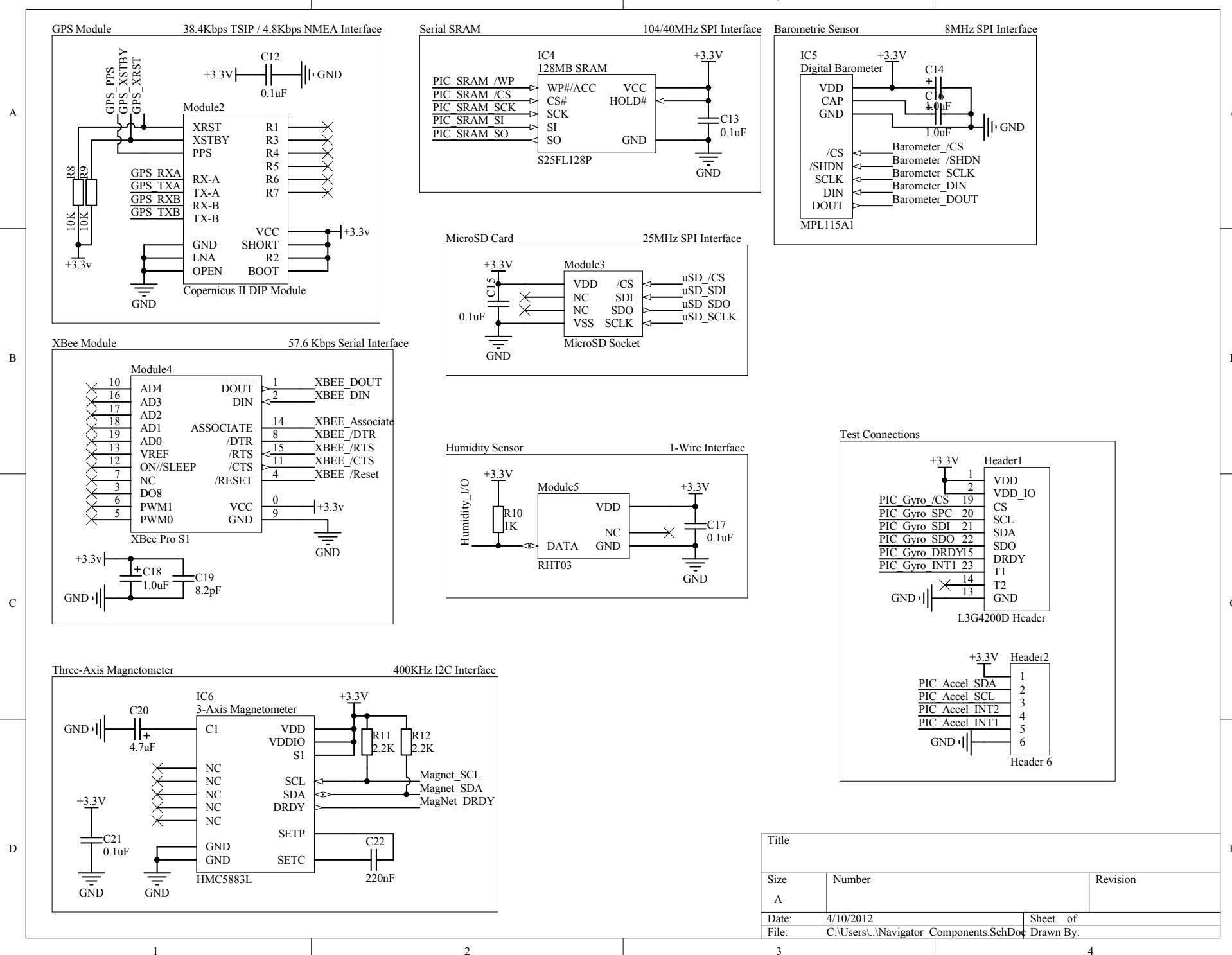
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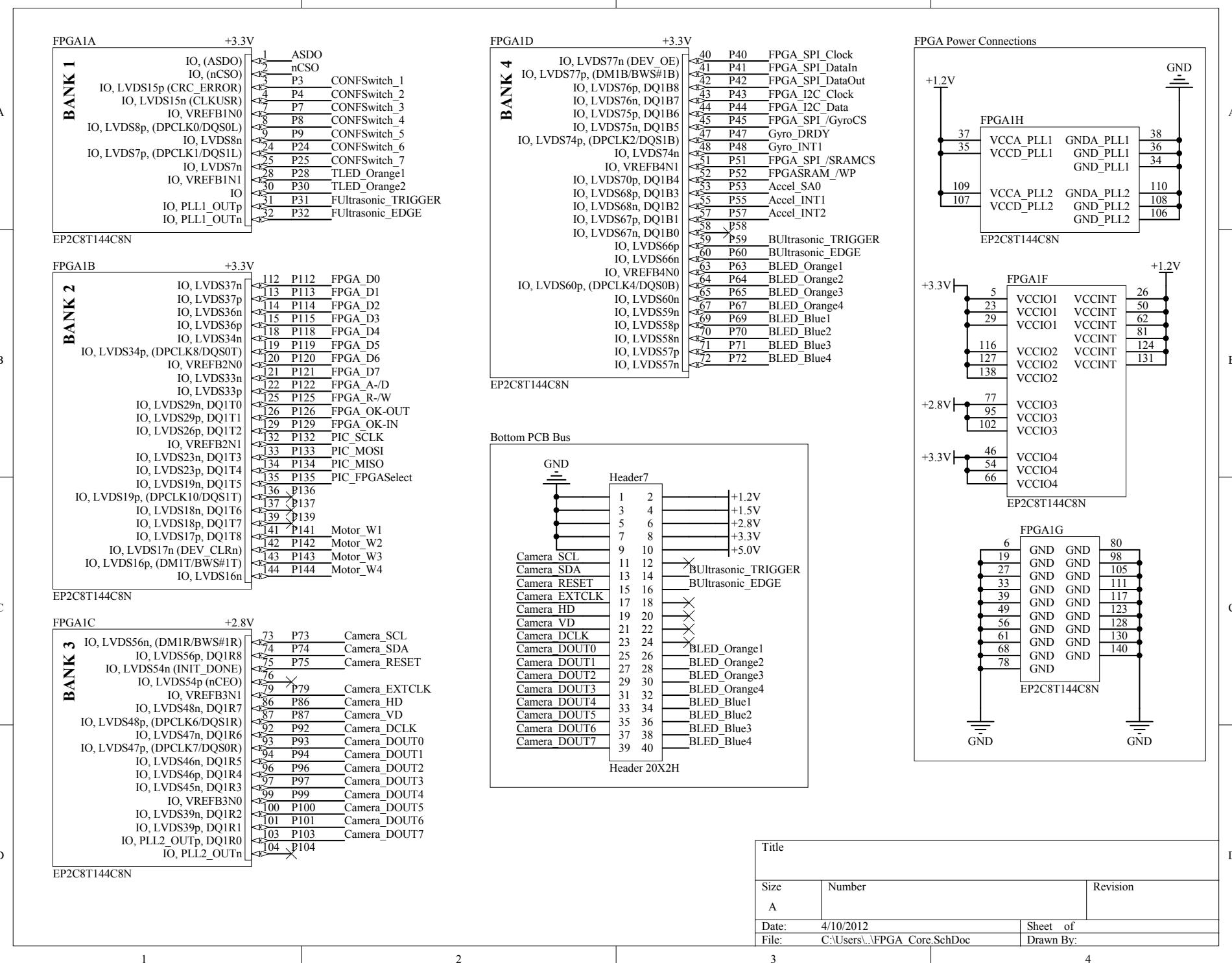
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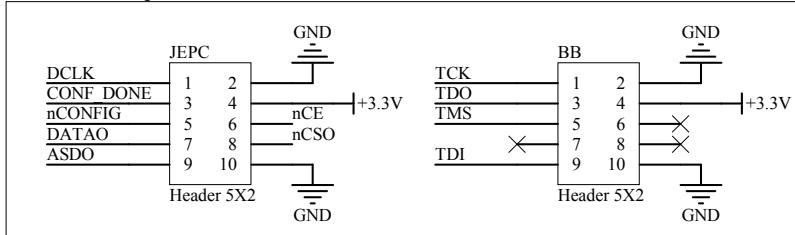
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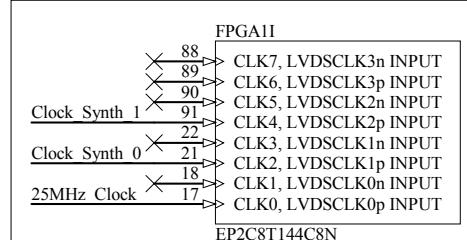




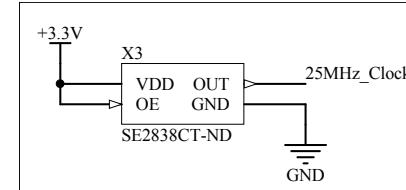
FPGA JTAG Configuration Headers



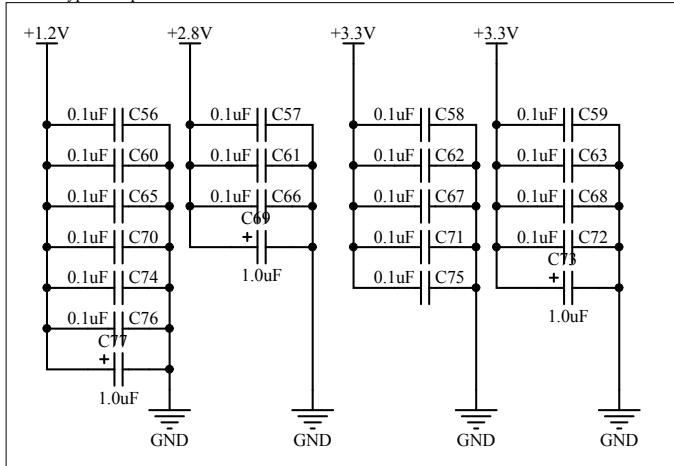
FPGA Clock Connections



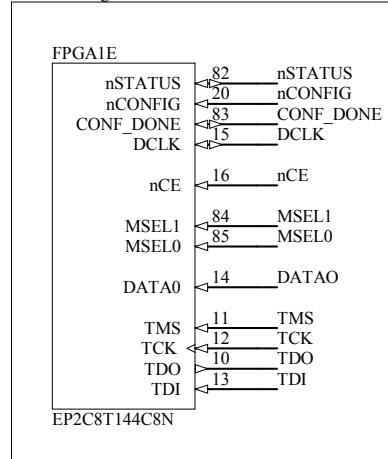
25.175MHz Master Clock



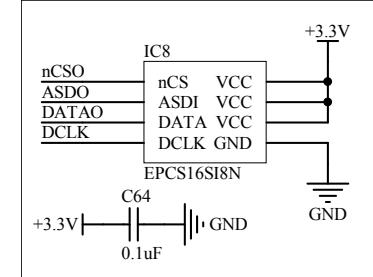
FPGA Bypass Capacitors



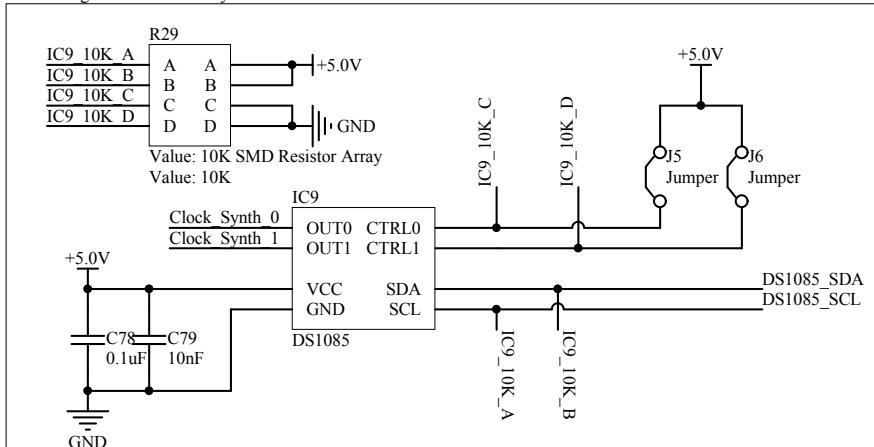
FPGA Configuration Connections



FPGA Configuration Memory



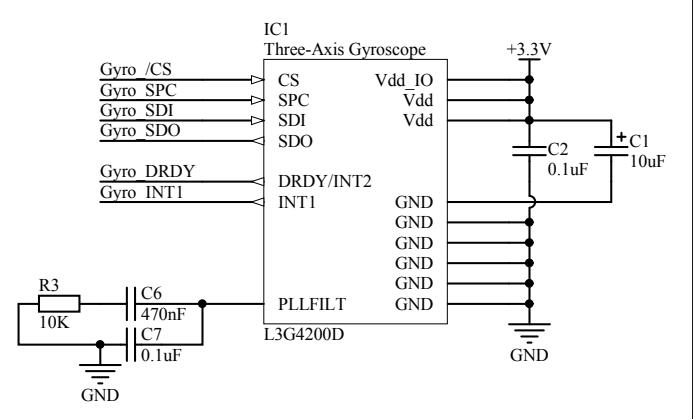
FPGA Programmable Clock Synthesizer



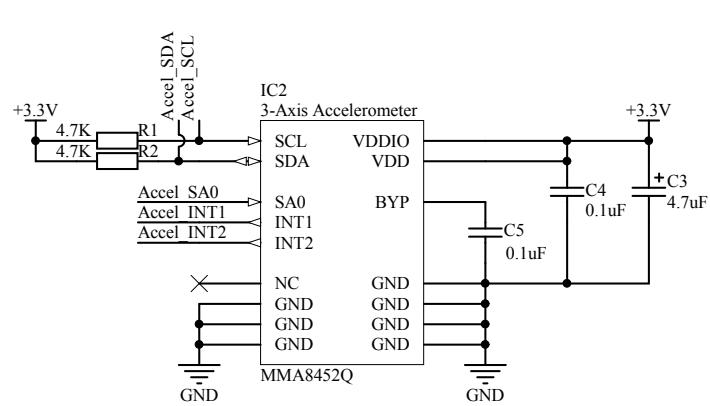
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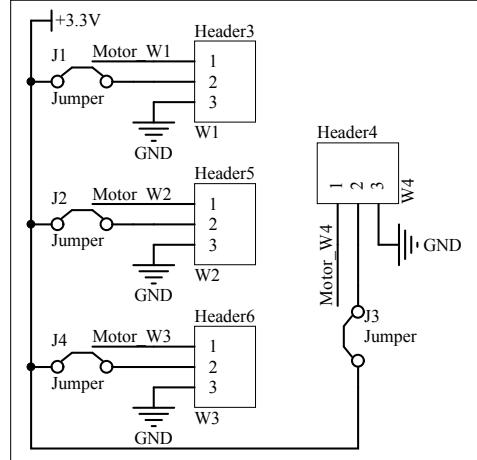
Gyroscope



Accelerometer



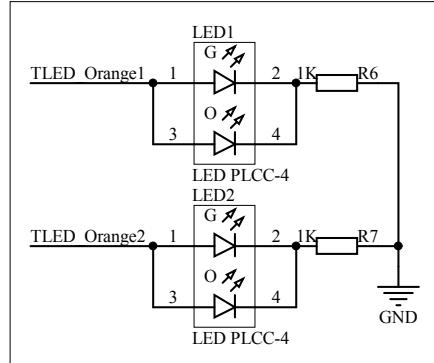
Motor ESC Connectors



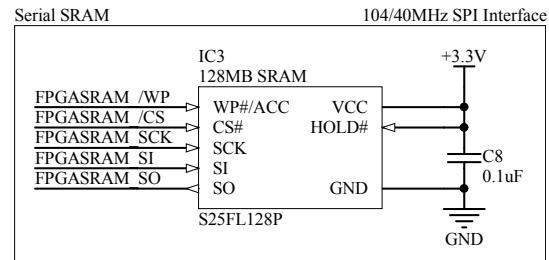
Data Bus Connections

FPGA SPI /GyroCS	Gyro_CS
FPGA SPI Clock	Gyro_SPC
FPGA SPI DataIn	Gyro_SD1
FPGA SPI DataOut	Gyro_SDO
FPGA SPI /SRAMCS	FPGASRAM_CS
FPGA SPI Clock	FPGASRAM_SCK
FPGA SPI DataIn	FPGASRAM_SI
FPGA SPI DataOut	FPGASRAM_SO
FPGA I2C Clock	Accel_SCL
FPGA I2C Data	Accel_SDA

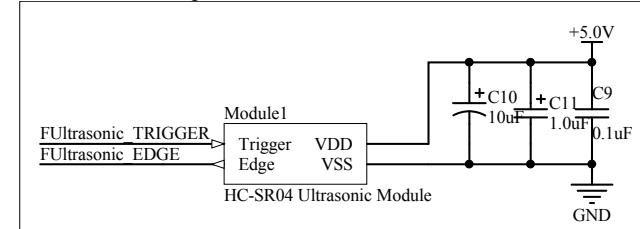
FPGA LED's



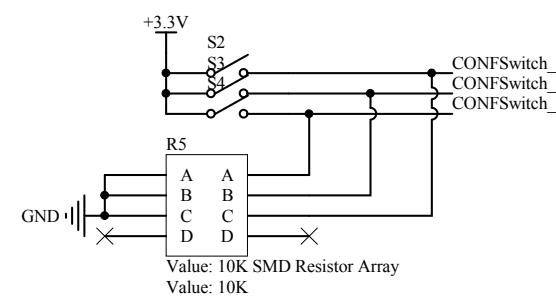
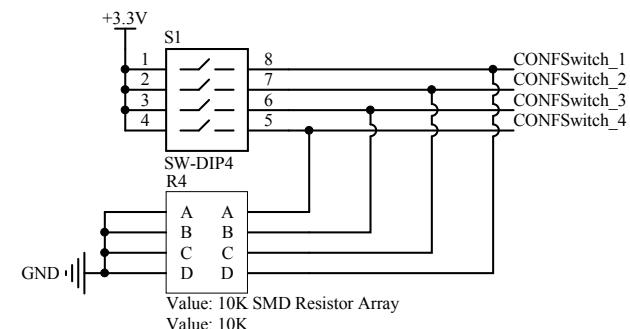
Serial SRAM



Forward Ultrasonic Ranger



FPGA Switches



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