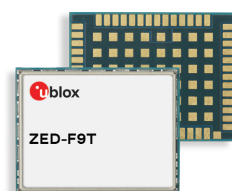


ZED-F9T

u-blox F9 high accuracy timing module

Integration manual



Abstract

This document describes the features and application of ZED-F9T, a multi-band GNSS module offering nanosecond level timing accuracy.

Document information

Title	ZED-F9T	
Subtitle	u-blox F9 high accuracy timing module	
Document type	Integration manual	
Document number	UBX-19005590	
Revision and date	R04	25-Feb-2020
Document status	Early production information	

This document applies to the following products:

Product name	Type number	Firmware version	PCN reference
ZED-F9T	ZED-F9T-00B-01	TIM 2.01	UBX-19057484

u-blox reserves all rights to this document and the information contained herein. Products, names, logos and designs described herein may in whole or in part be subject to intellectual property rights. Reproduction, use, modification or disclosure to third parties of this document or any part thereof without the express permission of u-blox is strictly prohibited.

The information contained herein is provided "as is" and u-blox assumes no liability for the use of the information. No warranty, either express or implied, is given with respect to, including but not limited to, the accuracy, correctness, reliability and fitness for a particular purpose of the information. This document may be revised by u-blox at any time. For most recent documents, please visit www.u-blox.com.

Copyright © 2020, u-blox AG.

u-blox is a registered trademark of u-blox Holding AG in the EU and other countries.

Contents

1 Integration manual structure.....	6
2 System description.....	7
2.1 Overview.....	7
2.1.1 Differential timing.....	7
2.2 Architecture.....	8
2.2.1 Block diagram.....	8
3 Receiver functionality.....	9
3.1 Receiver configuration.....	9
3.1.1 Changing the receiver configuration.....	9
3.1.2 Default GNSS configuration.....	9
3.1.3 Default interface settings.....	10
3.1.4 Basic receiver configuration.....	10
3.1.5 Differential timing mode configuration.....	12
3.1.6 Legacy configuration interface compatibility.....	15
3.1.7 Navigation configuration.....	16
3.2 Geofencing.....	20
3.2.1 Introduction.....	20
3.2.2 Interface.....	21
3.2.3 Geofence state evaluation.....	21
3.2.4 Using a PIO for geofence state output.....	21
3.3 Communication interfaces.....	21
3.3.1 UART interfaces.....	22
3.3.2 I2C interface.....	23
3.3.3 SPI interface.....	26
3.3.4 USB interface.....	27
3.4 Predefined PIOs.....	28
3.4.1 D_SEL.....	28
3.4.2 RESET_N.....	28
3.4.3 SAFEBOOT_N.....	28
3.4.4 TIMEPULSE.....	28
3.4.5 EXTINT.....	29
3.5 Antenna supervisor.....	29
3.5.1 Antenna voltage control - ANT_OFF.....	30
3.5.2 Antenna short detection - ANT_SHORT_N.....	30
3.5.3 Antenna short detection auto recovery.....	31
3.5.4 Antenna open circuit detection - ANT_DETECT.....	31
3.6 Multiple GNSS assistance (MGA).....	32
3.6.1 Authorization.....	32
3.6.2 Multiple servers.....	32
3.6.3 Preserving information during power-off.....	32
3.6.4 AssistNow Online.....	33
3.7 Clocks and time.....	36
3.7.1 Receiver local time.....	36
3.7.2 Navigation epochs.....	37

3.7.3 iTOW timestamps.....	37
3.7.4 GNSS times.....	38
3.7.5 Time validity.....	38
3.7.6 UTC representation.....	39
3.7.7 Leap seconds.....	39
3.7.8 Real time clock.....	40
3.7.9 Date.....	40
3.8 Timing functionality.....	41
3.8.1 Time pulse.....	41
3.8.2 Timemark.....	44
3.9 Security.....	45
3.9.1 Spoofing detection / monitoring.....	45
3.9.2 Jamming/interference indicator.....	46
3.9.3 GNSS receiver integrity.....	47
3.10 u-blox protocol feature descriptions.....	47
3.10.1 Broadcast navigation data.....	47
3.11 Forcing a receiver reset.....	54
4 Design.....	55
4.1 Pin assignment.....	55
4.2 Power supply.....	57
4.2.1 VCC: Main supply voltage.....	57
4.2.2 V_BCKP: Backup supply voltage.....	57
4.2.3 ZED-F9T power supply.....	58
4.3 ZED-F9T minimal design.....	58
4.4 Antenna.....	59
4.4.1 Antenna bias.....	61
4.5 EOS/ESD precautions.....	63
4.5.1 ESD protection measures.....	63
4.5.2 EOS precautions.....	64
4.5.3 Safety precautions.....	64
4.6 Electromagnetic interference on I/O lines.....	64
4.6.1 General notes on interference issues.....	65
4.6.2 In-band interference mitigation.....	65
4.6.3 Out-of-band interference.....	66
4.7 Layout.....	66
4.7.1 Placement.....	66
4.7.2 Package footprint, copper and paste mask.....	66
4.7.3 Layout guidance.....	68
4.8 Design guidance.....	70
4.8.1 General considerations.....	70
4.8.2 Backup battery.....	70
4.8.3 RF front-end circuit options.....	70
4.8.4 Antenna/RF input.....	71
4.8.5 Ground pads.....	72
4.8.6 Schematic design.....	72
4.8.7 Layout design-in guideline.....	72
5 Product handling.....	73
5.1 ESD handling precautions.....	73
5.2 Soldering.....	73

5.3 Tapes.....	76
5.4 Reels.....	77
5.5 Moisture sensitivity levels.....	77
Appendix.....	78
A Glossary.....	78
Related documents.....	79
Revision history.....	80

1 Integration manual structure

This document provides a wealth of information to enable a successful design with the ZED-F9T module. The manual is structured according to system, software and hardware aspects.

The first section, "System description" outlines the basics of the ZED-F9T timing receiver.

The following section "Receiver functionality" provides an exhaustive description of the receiver's functionality. Beginning with the new configuration concept both existing and new users should read this section to understand the new messages employed. Most of the following sub-sections should be familiar to existing users of u-blox positioning products, however some changes are introduced owing to the new configuration concept.

The sections from "Design" onwards addresses hardware options when designing the ZED-F9T into a new product. This part gives power supply recommendations and provides guidance for circuit design and PCB lay-out assistance. An antenna section provides design information and recommendation for this important component. A final "Design guidance" section helps the designer to check that crucial aspects of the design-in process have been carried out.

The final section addresses the major product handling concerns giving guidance on ESD precautions, production soldering considerations and module delivery tape and reel information.

2 System description

2.1 Overview

The ZED-F9T is a multi-band GNSS module offering 5 ns (1-sigma) timing accuracy with unparalleled low power consumption.

The ZED-F9T incorporates the u-blox F9 multi-band platform in a small surface mount device with a form factor of 22 x 17 mm.

2.1.1 Differential timing

The u-blox ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver takes local timing accuracy to the next level with its differential timing mode.

In differential timing mode correction data is exchanged with other neighboring ZED-F9T timing receivers via a communication network. In differential timing mode the ZED-F9T can operate either as a master reference station, or as a slave station.

When ZED-F9T acts as a master reference timing station, it sends RTCM 3.3 differential corrections to slave receivers.

When ZED-F9T acts as a slave receiver, it receives differential corrections RTCM 3.3 messages and aligns its time pulse to the master reference station.

2.2 Architecture

The ZED-F9T receiver provides all the necessary RF and baseband processing to enable multi-band, multi-constellation operation. The block diagram below shows the key functionality.

2.2.1 Block diagram

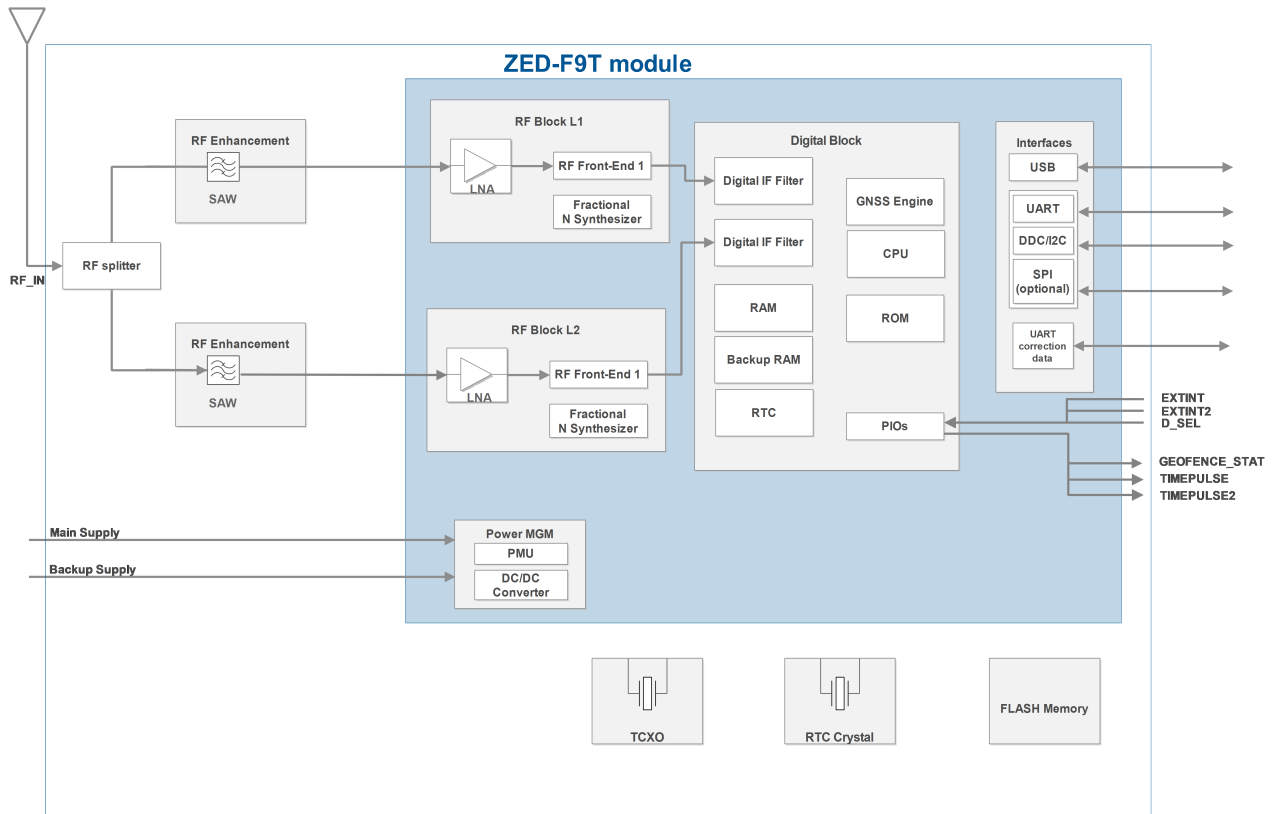


Figure 1: ZED-F9T block diagram



An active antenna is mandatory with the ZED-F9T.

3 Receiver functionality

This section describes the ZED-F9T operational features and their configuration.

3.1 Receiver configuration

The ZED-F9T is fully configurable with UBX configuration interface keys. The configuration database in the receiver's RAM holds the current configuration, which is used by the receiver at run-time. It is constructed on start-up of the receiver from several sources of configuration. The configuration interface and the available keys are described fully in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

A configuration setting stored in RAM remains effective until power-down or reset. If stored in BBR (battery backed RAM), the setting will be used as long as the backup battery supply remains. Configuration settings can be saved permanently in flash memory.



The configuration interface has changed from earlier u-blox positioning receivers. There is some backwards compatibility, however, users are strongly advised to adopt the configuration interface described in this document. See legacy UBX-CFG message fields reference section in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

Configuration interface settings are held in a database consisting of separate configuration items. An item is made up of a pair consisting of a key ID and a value. Related items are grouped together and identified under a common group name: CFG-GROUP-*; a convention used in u-center and within this document. Within u-center, a configuration group is identified as "Group name" and the configuration item is identified as the "item name" under the "Generation 9 Configuration View" - "Advanced Configuration" view.

The UBX messages available to change or poll the configurations are the UBX-CFG-VALSET, UBX-CFG-VALGET, and UBX-CFG-VALDEL messages. For more information about these messages and the configuration keys see the configuration interface section in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

3.1.1 Changing the receiver configuration

All configuration messages, including legacy UBX-CFG messages, will result in a UBX-ACK-ACK or UBX-ACK-NAK response. If several configuration messages are sent without waiting for this response then the receiver may pause processing of input messages until processing of a previous configuration message has been completed. When this happens a warning message "wait for cfg ACK" will be sent to the host.

3.1.2 Default GNSS configuration

The ZED-F9T default GNSS configuration is set as follows:

- GPS: L1C/A, L2C
- GLONASS: L1OF, L2OF
- Galileo: E1B/C, E5b
- BeiDou: B1I, B2I
- QZSS: L1C/A, L2C

SBAS is also supported but not enabled in the default GNSS configuration. SBAS is not recommended for timing applications.

For more information about default configuration, see the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

3.1.3 Default interface settings

Interface	Settings
UART1 output	38400 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit. NMEA GGA, GLL, GSA, GSV, RMC, VTG, TXT (and no UBX) messages are output by default.
UART1 input	38400 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit. UBX, NMEA and RTCM 3.3 messages are enabled by default.
UART2 output	38400 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit. No host interface (UBX). Configured by default to allow RTCM 3.3 as an output protocol. NMEA can also be configured as an output protocol.
UART2 input	38400 baud, 8 bits, no parity bit, 1 stop bit. No host interface support (UBX) . RTCM 3.3 protocol enabled by default.
USB output	NMEA GGA, GLL, GSA, GSV, RMC, VTG, TXT (and no UBX) messages are output by default.
USB input	UBX, NMEA, RTCM 3.3 protocols enabled by default.
I2C	Fully compatible with the I2C ¹ industry standard, available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules, operated in slave mode only. Default messages activated as in UART1. Input/output protocols available as in UART1. Maximum bit rate 400 kb/s.
SPI	Allow communication to a host CPU, operated in slave mode only. Default messages activated as in UART1. Input/output protocols available as in UART1. SPI is not available unless D_SEL pin is set to low (see the D_SEL section).

Table 1: Default interface settings



Refer to the u-blox ZED-F9T Interface description [2] for information about further settings.

By default the ZED-F9T outputs NMEA 4.10 messages that include satellite data for all GNSS bands being received. This results in a high NMEA load output for each navigation period. Make sure the UART1 baud rate being used is sufficient for the selected navigation rate and the number of GNSS signals being received.

3.1.4 Basic receiver configuration

This section summarizes the basic receiver configuration most commonly used.

3.1.4.1 Communication interface configuration

Several configuration groups allow operation mode configuration of the various communication interfaces. These include parameters for the data framing, transfer rate and enabled input/output protocols. See [Communication interfaces](#) section for details. The configuration groups available for each interface are:

Interface	Configuration groups
UART1	CFG-UART1-*, CFG-UART1INPROT-*, CFG-UART1OUTPROT-*
UART2	CFG-UART2-*, CFG-UART2INPROT-*, CFG-UART2OUTPROT-*
USB	CFG-USB-*, CFG-USBINPROT-*, CFG-USBOUTPROT-*
I2C	CFG-I2C-*, CFG-I2CINPROT-*, CFG-I2COUTPROT-*
SPI	CFG-SPI-*, CFG-SPIINPROT-*, CFG-SPIOUTPROT-*

Table 2: Interface configurations

3.1.4.2 Message output configuration

The rate of NMEA, UBX and RTCM protocol output messages are configurable.

¹ I2C is a registered trademark of Philips/NXP

If the rate configuration value is zero, then the corresponding message will not be output. Values greater than zero indicate how often the message is output.

For periodic output messages the rate relates to the event the message is related to. For example, the UBX-NAV-PVT (navigation position velocity and time solution) is related to the navigation epoch. If the rate of this message is set to one (1), it will be output for every navigation epoch. If the rate is set to two (2), it will be output every other navigation epoch. The rates of the output messages are individually configurable per communication interface. See the CFG-MSGOUT-* configuration group.

Some messages, such as UBX-MON-VER, are not periodic and will only be output as an answer to a poll request.

The UBX-INF-* and NMEA-Standard-TXT information messages are non-periodic output messages that do not have a message rate configuration. Instead they can be enabled for each communication interface via the CFG-INFMSG-* configuration group.



All message output is additionally subject to the protocol configuration of the communication interfaces. Messages of a given protocol will not be output until the protocol is enabled for output on the interface (see the previous section).

3.1.4.3 GNSS signal configuration

The GNSS constellations and bands are configurable with configuration keys from configuration group CFG-SIGNAL-*. Each GNSS constellation can be enabled or disabled independently. A GNSS constellation is considered to be enabled when the constellation enable key is set and at least one of the constellation's band keys is enabled.

3.1.4.4 Antenna supervisor configuration

This section describes the antenna supervisor configuration, its use and restrictions.

The antenna supervisor is used to control an active antenna. The configuration of the antenna supervisor allows the following:

- Control voltage supply to the antenna, which allows the antenna supervisor to cut power to the antenna in the event of a short circuit or optimize power to the antenna in power save mode
- Detect a short circuit in the antenna and auto recover the antenna supply in such event
- Detect an open antenna, which can be used to tell if the antenna has been disconnected

See the table below for a description of the configuration items related to the antenna supervisor operation.

Configuration item	Description	Comments
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_VOLTCTRL	Enable active antenna voltage control	
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_SHORTDET	Enable short circuit detection	
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_SHORTDET_POL	Short antenna detection polarity	Set to 1 if the required logic polarity is active-low (default)
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_OPENDET	Enable open circuit detection	
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_OPENDET_POL	Open antenna detection polarity	Set to 1 if the required logic polarity is active-low (default)
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_PWRDOWN	Power down antenna supply if short circuit is detected	
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_PWRDOWN_POL	Power down antenna logic polarity	Set to 1 if the required logic polarity is active-high (default)

Configuration item	Description	Comments
CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_RECOVER	Enable auto recovery in the event of a short circuit	To use this feature, short circuit detection should be enabled. See CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_SHORTDET
CFG-HW-ANT_SUP_SWITCH_PIN	PIO-Pin (PIO number) used for switching antenna supply	It is recommended that you use the default PIO and assigned pin
CFG-HW-ANT_SUP_SHORT_PIN	PIO-Pin (PIO number) used for detecting a short-circuit in the antenna supply	It is recommended that you use the default PIO and assigned pin
CFG-HW-ANT_SHORT_THR	Defines the threshold for the antenna supervisor when a short status is detected.	Only applicable for the discrete antenna supervisor (based on MADC).
CFG-HW-ANT_OPEN_THR	Defines the threshold for the antenna supervisor when a open status is detected.	Only applicable for the discrete antenna supervisor (based on MADC).
CFG-HW-ANT_ENGINE	With this configuration key, the antenna supervisor engine can be selected.	Default value is "EXT".

Table 3: Antenna supervisor configuration

It is possible to obtain the status of the antenna supervisor through the UBX-MON-RF message. Moreover, any changes in the status of the antenna supervisor are reported to the host interface in the form of notice messages. See the ZED-F9T Interface description [2] for *antStatus* and *antPower* field description.

Status	Description
OFF	Antenna is off
ON	Antenna is on
DONTKNOW	Antenna power status is not known

Table 4: Antenna power status

3.1.5 Differential timing mode configuration

In differential timing mode the ZED-F9T can operate either as a master reference station or as a slave station. Using the RTCM3 protocol, the master sends timing corrections to the slave via a communication link enabling the slave to compute its time relative to the master with high accuracy.

This section describes how to configure the ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver as a master reference station and as slave station. The section begins with a note describing the RTCM protocol and corresponding supported message types.

3.1.5.1 RTCM corrections

RTCM is a binary data protocol for communication of GNSS correction information. The ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver supports RTCM as specified by RTCM 10403.3, Differential GNSS (Global Navigation Satellite Systems) Services – Version 3 (October 7, 2016).

The RTCM specification is currently at version 3.3 and RTCM version 2 messages are not supported by this standard.

To modify the RTCM input/output settings, see the configuration section in the u-blox ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

3.1.5.2 List of supported RTCM input messages

Message	Description
RTCM 1005	Stationary RTK reference station ARP
RTCM 1077	GPS MSM7

Message	Description
RTCM 1087	GLONASS MSM7
RTCM 1097	Galileo MSM7
RTCM 1127	BeiDou MSM7
RTCM 1230	GLONASS code-phase biases
RTCM 4072.1	Additional reference station information

Table 5: ZED-F9T supported input RTCM version 3.3 messages

3.1.5.3 List of supported RTCM output messages

Message	Description
RTCM 1005	Stationary RTK reference station ARP
RTCM 1077	GPS MSM7
RTCM 1087	GLONASS MSM7
RTCM 1097	Galileo MSM7
RTCM 1127	BeiDou MSM7
RTCM 1230	GLONASS code-phase biases
RTCM 4072.1	Additional reference station information

Table 6: ZED-F9T supported output RTCM version 3.3 messages

3.1.5.4 Timing receiver position

Time mode is a special receiver mode where the position of the receiver is known and fixed and only the time and frequency is calculated using all available satellites. This mode allows for maximum time accuracy, for single-SV solutions, and also for using the receiver as a stationary reference station.

In order to use time mode, the receiver's position must be known as exactly as possible. Errors in the fixed position will translate into time errors depending on the satellite constellation.

The following procedures can be used to initialize the timing receiver position:

- Using built-in survey-in procedure to estimate the position.
- Entering coordinates independently generated or taken from an accurate position such as a survey marker.

3.1.5.4.1 Survey-in

Survey-in is a procedure that is carried out prior to entering Time mode. It estimates the receiver position by building a weighted mean of all valid 3D position solutions.

Two major parameters are required when configuring:

- A **minimum observation** time defines the minimum observation time independent of the actual number of fixes used for the position estimate. Values can range from one day for high accuracy requirements to a few minutes for coarse position determination.
- A **3D position standard deviation** defines a limit on the spread of positions that contribute to the calculated mean.

Survey-in ends when both requirements are successfully met. The Survey-in status can be queried using the UBX-TIM-SVIN message.



The timing receiver should not be fed RTCM corrections while it is in survey-in mode.

To configure a timing receiver into Survey-in mode (CFG-TMODE-MODE=SURVEY_IN), the following items are required:

Configuration item	Description
CFG-TMODE-MODE	Receiver mode (disabled, survey-in or fixed)
CFG-TMODE-SVIN_MIN_DUR	Survey-in minimum duration
CFG-TMODE-SVIN_ACC_LIMIT	Survey-in position accuracy limit. The accuracy of given coordinates in 0.0001 meters (i.e. value 100 equals 1 cm)

Table 7: Configuration items used for setting a timing receiver into Survey-in mode


Set the configuration items shown above into flash memory to perform a survey-in procedure automatically upon start-up.

3.1.5.4.2 Fixed position

Here the timing receiver position coordinates are entered manually. Any error in the timing receiver position will directly translate into timing errors.

To configure into Fixed mode (CFG-TMODE-MODE=FIXED), the following items are relevant:

Configuration item	Description
CFG-TMODE-MODE	Receiver mode (disabled or survey-in or fixed)
CFG-TMODE-POS_TYPE	Determines whether the ARP position is given in ECEF or LAT/LON/HEIGHT
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_X	ECEF X coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in centimeters
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Y	ECEF Y coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in centimeters
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Z	ECEF Z coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in centimeters
CFG-TMODE-LAT	Latitude of the ARP position, coordinate in 1e-7 degrees
CFG-TMODE-LON	Longitude of the ARP position, coordinate in 1e-7 degrees
CFG-TMODE-HEIGHT	Height of the ARP position, coordinate in centimeters
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_X_HP	High-precision ECEF X coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in 0.1 millimeters
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Y_HP	High-precision ECEF Y coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in 0.1 millimeters
CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Z_HP	High-precision ECEF Z coordinate of the ARP position, coordinate in 0.1 millimeters
CFG-TMODE-LAT_HP	High-precision latitude of the ARP position, coordinate in 1e-9 degrees
CFG-TMODE-LON_HP	High-precision longitude of the ARP position, coordinate in 1e-9 degrees
CFG-TMODE-HEIGHT_HP	High-precision height of the ARP position, coordinate in 0.1 millimeters
CFG-TMODE-FIXED_POS_ACC	Fixed position 3D accuracy estimate

Table 8: Configuration items used for setting a timing receiver into fixed mode

Once the receiver is set in fixed mode, select the position format to use: either LLH or ECEF with optional high precision (mm) coordinates compared to the standard cm value.

For example, with CFG-TMODE-POS_TYPE=ECEF the timing receiver antenna position can be entered to cm precision using CFG-TMODE-ECEF_X, CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Y, CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Z. For high precision (mm) coordinates use CFG-TMODE-ECEF_X_HP, CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Y_HP, CFG-TMODE-ECEF_Z_HP. The same applies with corresponding coordinates used with CFG-TMODE-POS_TYPE=LLH.



If the timing receiver is moved during operation then new position coordinates must be configured.

3.1.5.5 Master reference station

When the ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver acts as a master timing station, it sends RTCM 3.3 differential corrections to slave receivers. Corrections are generated after a timing fix calculation in order to remove the master receiver's clock offset.

3.1.5.5.1 Master reference station: RTCM output configuration

At this point the timing receiver should report a TIME fix, not a 3D fix.

The desired RTCM messages must be selected and configured on UART1 rate 1:

- RTCM 1005 Stationary RTK reference station ARP
- RTCM 1077 GPS MSM7
- RTCM 1088 GLONASS MSM7
- RTCM 1097 Galileo MSM7
- RTCM 1127 BeiDou MSM7
- RTCM 1230 GLONASS code-phase biases
- RTCM 4072 Additional reference station information

The configuration messages for these are shown in the [Table 9](#).

The following configuration items output the recommended messages for a default satellite constellation setting. Note that these are given for the UART1 interface:

Configuration item	Description
CFG-UART1OUTPROT-NMEA	CFG-UART1OUTPROT-NMEA to 0
CFG-UART1OUTPROT-RTCM3X	CFG-UART1OUTPROT-RTCM3X to 1
CFG-UART1OUTPROT-UBX	CFG-UART1OUTPROT-UBX to 0
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1005_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1005 message on port UART1: RTCM base station message
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1077_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1077 message on port UART1: RTCM GPS MSM7
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1087_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1087 message on port UART1: RTCM GLONASS MSM7
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1097_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1097 message on port UART1: RTCM Galileo MSM7
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1127_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1127 message on port UART1: RTCM Additional reference station information
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE1230_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE1230 message on port UART1: RTCM GLONASS code-phase biases
CFG-MSGOUT-RTCM_3X_TYPE4072_1_UART1	Output rate of the RTCM-3X-TYPE4072.1 message on port UART1: RTCM Additional reference station information

Table 9: Configuration items used for setting a master reference station

3.1.5.6 Slave station

When the ZED-F9T acts as a slave receiver, it receives differential corrections RTCM 3.3 messages from a master reference station and aligns its time pulse to it.

Connect the slave receiver to the reference server or to the NTRIP server. When the slave receives the configured RTCM correction stream, it will automatically start using the corrections.



Reception of RTCM 4072.1 is required to start using differential correction data.

3.1.6 Legacy configuration interface compatibility

There is some backwards-compatibility for the legacy UBX-CFG configuration messages. It is strongly recommended to adopt the new configuration interface, as the legacy configuration messages support will be removed in the future.

See Legacy UBX-CFG message fields reference section in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

3.1.7 Navigation configuration

This section presents various configuration options related to the navigation engine. These options can be configured through various configuration groups, such as CFG-NAVSPG-*, CFG-ODO-*, and CFG-MOT-*.

3.1.7.1 Platform settings

u-blox receivers support different dynamic platform models (see in the table below) to adjust the navigation engine to the expected application environment. These platform settings can be changed dynamically without performing a power cycle or reset. The settings improve the receiver's interpretation of the measurements and thus provide a more accurate position output. Setting the receiver to an unsuitable platform model for the given application environment is likely to result in a loss of receiver performance and position accuracy.

The dynamic platform model can be configured through the CFG-NAVSPG-DYNMODEL configuration item. The supported dynamic platform models and their details can be seen in [Table 10](#) and [Table 11](#) below.

Platform	Description
Portable (default)	Applications with low acceleration, e.g. portable devices. Suitable for most situations.
Stationary	Used in timing applications (antenna must be stationary) or other stationary applications. Velocity restricted to 0 m/s. Zero dynamics assumed.
Pedestrian	Applications with low acceleration and speed, e.g. how a pedestrian would move. Low acceleration assumed.
Automotive	Used for applications with equivalent dynamics to those of a passenger car. Low vertical acceleration assumed.
At sea	Recommended for applications at sea, with zero vertical velocity. Zero vertical velocity assumed. Sea level assumed.
Airborne <1g	Used for applications with a higher dynamic range and greater vertical acceleration than a passenger car. No 2D position fixes supported.
Airborne <2g	Recommended for typical airborne environments. No 2D position fixes supported.
Airborne <4g	Only recommended for extremely dynamic environments. No 2D position fixes supported.
Wrist	Only recommended for wrist-worn applications. Receiver will filter out arm motion.

Table 10: Dynamic platform models

Platform	Max altitude [m]	Max horizontal velocity [m/s]	Max vertical velocity [m/s]	Sanity check type	Max position deviation
Portable	12000	310	50	Altitude and velocity	Medium
Stationary	9000	10	6	Altitude and velocity	Small
Pedestrian	9000	30	20	Altitude and velocity	Small
Automotive	6000	100	15	Altitude and velocity	Medium
At sea	500	25	5	Altitude and velocity	Medium
Airborne <1g	50000	100	100	Altitude	Large
Airborne <2g	50000	250	100	Altitude	Large
Airborne <4g	50000	500	100	Altitude	Large
Wrist	9000	30	20	Altitude and velocity	Medium

Table 11: Dynamic platform model details

If a sanity check against a limit of the dynamic platform model fails, then the position solution is invalidated. [Table 11](#) above shows the types of sanity checks which are applied for a particular dynamic platform model.

3.1.7.2 Navigation input filters

The navigation input filters in CFG-NAVSPG-* configuration group provide the input data of the navigation engine.

Configuration item	Description
CFG-NAVSPG-FIXMODE	By default, the receiver calculates a 3D position fix if possible but reverts to 2D position if necessary (auto 2D/3D). The receiver can be forced to only calculate 2D (2D only) or 3D (3D only) positions.
CFG-NAVSPG-CONSTR_ALT, CFG-NAVSPG-CONSTR_ALTVAR	The fixed altitude is used if fixMode is set to 2D only. A variance greater than zero must also be supplied.
CFG-NAVSPG-INFIL_MINELEV	Minimum elevation of a satellite above the horizon in order to be used in the navigation solution. Low elevation satellites may provide degraded accuracy, due to the long signal path through the atmosphere.
CFG-NAVSPG-INFIL_NCNOTHRS, CFG-NAVSPG-INFIL_CNOTHRS	A navigation solution will only be attempted if there are at least the given number of SVs with signals at least as strong as the given threshold.

Table 12: Navigation input filter parameters

If the receiver only has three SVs for calculating a position, the navigation algorithm uses a constant altitude to compensate for the missing fourth SV. When a SV is lost after a successful 3D fix (min. four SVs available), the altitude is kept constant at the last known value. This is called a 2D fix.

 u-blox receivers do not calculate any navigation solution with less than three SVs.

3.1.7.3 Navigation output filters

The result of a navigation solution is initially classified by the fix type (as detailed in the `fixType` field of UBX-NAV-PVT message). This distinguishes between failures to obtain a fix at all ("No Fix") and cases where a fix has been achieved, which are further subdivided into specific types of fixes (e.g. 2D, 3D, dead reckoning).

 The ZED-F9T firmware does not support the dead reckoning position fix type.

Where a fix has been achieved, a check is made to determine whether the fix should be classified as valid or not. A fix is only valid if it passes the navigation output filters as defined in CFG-NAVSPG-OUTFIL. In particular, both PDOP and accuracy values must be below the respective limits.

 Important: Users are recommended to check the `gnssFixOK` flag in the UBX-NAV-PVT or the NMEA valid flag. Fixes not marked valid should not be used.

UBX-NAV-STATUS message also reports whether a fix is valid in the `gpsFixOK` flag. These messages have only been retained for backwards compatibility and users are recommended to use the UBX-NAV-PVT message.

3.1.7.3.1 Speed (3D) low-pass filter

The CFG-ODO-OUTLPVEL configuration item offers the possibility to activate a speed (3D) low-pass filter. The output of the speed low-pass filter is published in the UBX-NAV-VELNED message (`speed` field). The filtering level can be set via the CFG-ODO-VELLPGAIN configuration item and must be comprised between 0 (heavy low-pass filtering) and 255 (weak low-pass filtering).

 The internal filter gain is computed as a function of speed. Therefore, the level as defined in the CFG-ODO-VELLPGAIN configuration item defines the nominal filtering level for speeds below 5 m/s.

3.1.7.3.2 Course over ground low-pass filter

The CFG-ODO-OUTLPCOG configuration item offers the possibility to activate a course over ground low-pass filter when the speed is below 8 m/s. The output of the course over ground (also named heading of motion 2D) low-pass filter is published in the UBX-NAV-PVT message (`headMot` field), UBX-NAV-VELNED message (`heading` field), NMEA-RMC message (`cog` field) and NMEA-VTG message (`cogt` field). The filtering level can be set via the CFG-ODO-COGLPGAIN configuration item and must be comprised between 0 (heavy low-pass filtering) and 255 (weak low-pass filtering).



The filtering level as defined in the CFG-ODO-COGLPGAIN configuration item defines the filter gain for speeds below 8 m/s. If the speed is higher than 8 m/s, no course over ground low-pass filtering is performed.

3.1.7.3.3 Low-speed course over ground filter

The CFG-ODO-USE_COG activates this feature and the CFG-ODO-COGMAXSPEED, CFG-ODO-COGMAXPOSACC configuration items offer the possibility to configure a low-speed course over ground filter (also named heading of motion 2D). This filter derives the course over ground from position at very low speed. The output of the low-speed course over ground filter is published in the UBX-NAV-PVT message (`headMot` field), UBX-NAV-VELNED message (`heading` field), NMEA-RMC message (`cog` field) and NMEA-VTG message (`cogt` field). If the low-speed course over ground filter is not configured, then the course over ground is computed as described in section [Freezing the course over ground](#).

3.1.7.4 Static hold

Static hold mode allows the navigation algorithms to decrease the noise in the position output when the velocity is below a pre-defined "Static Hold Threshold". This reduces the position wander caused by environmental factors such as multi-path and improves position accuracy especially in stationary applications. By default, static hold mode is disabled.

If the speed drops below the defined "Static Hold Threshold", the static hold mode will be activated. Once static hold mode has been entered, the position output is kept static and the velocity is set to zero until there is evidence of movement again. Such evidence can be velocity, acceleration, changes of the valid flag (e.g. position accuracy estimate exceeding the position accuracy mask, see also section [Navigation output filters](#)), position displacement, etc.

The CFG-MOT-GNSSDIST_THRS configuration item additionally allows for configuration of distance threshold. If the estimated position is farther away from the static hold position than this threshold, static mode will be quit. The CFG-MOT-GNSSSPEED_THRS configuration item allows you to set a speed that the static hold will release.

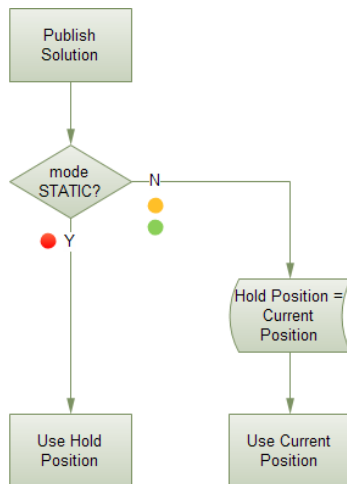


Figure 2: Position publication in static hold mode

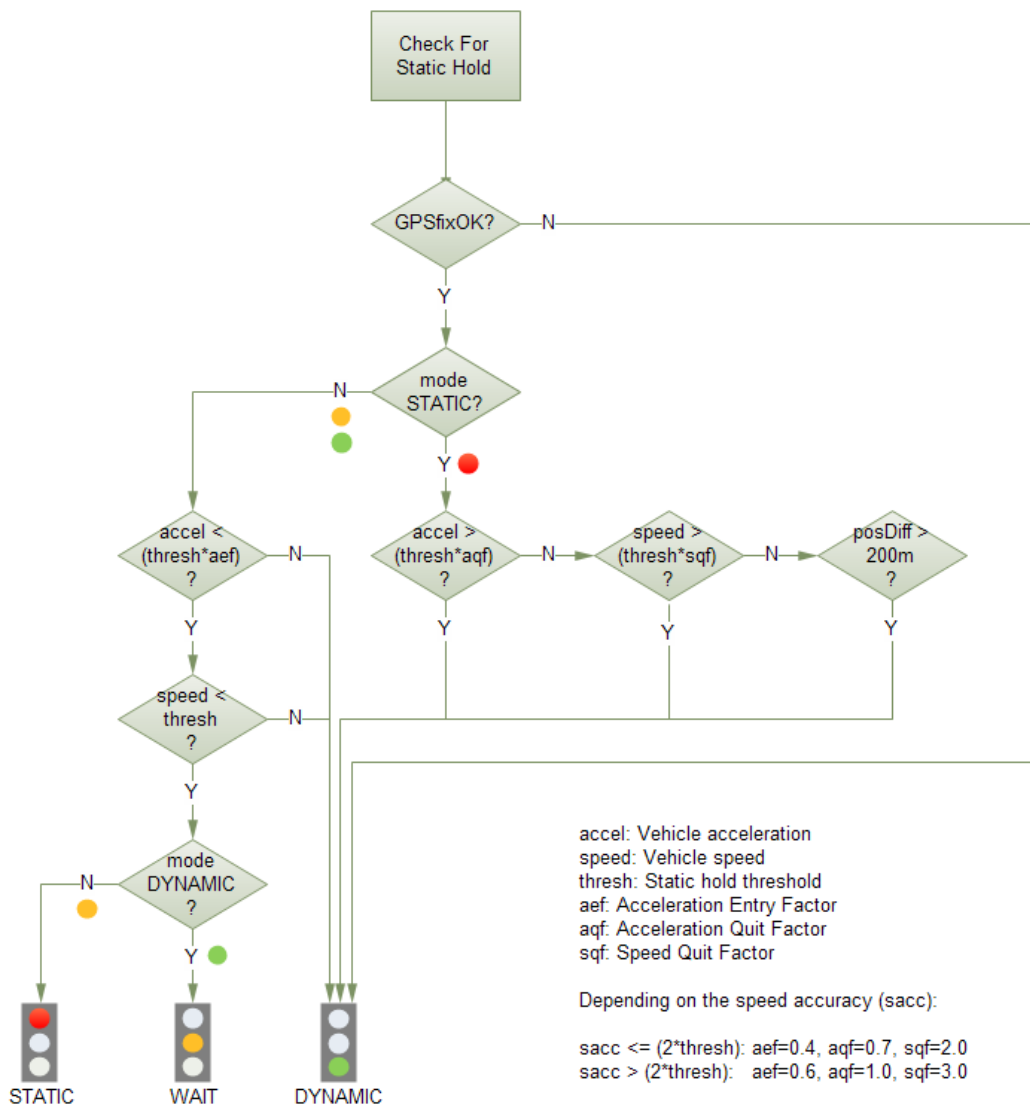


Figure 3: Flowchart of the static hold mode

3.1.7.5 Freezing the course over ground

If the low-speed course over ground filter is deactivated or inactive (see section [Low-speed course over ground filter](#)), the receiver derives the course over ground from the GNSS velocity information. If the velocity cannot be calculated with sufficient accuracy (e.g., with bad signals) or if the absolute speed value is very low (under 0.1 m/s) then the course over ground value becomes inaccurate too. In this case the course over ground value is frozen, i.e. the previous value is kept and its accuracy is degraded over time. These frozen values will not be output in the NMEA messages NMEA-RMC and NMEA-VTG unless the NMEA protocol is explicitly configured to do so (see NMEA protocol configuration in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2]).

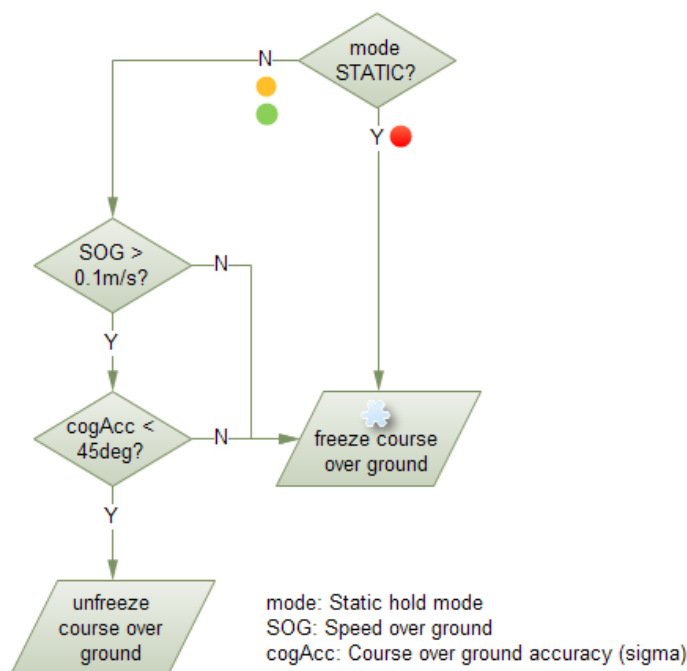


Figure 4: Flowchart of the course over ground freezing

3.2 Geofencing

3.2.1 Introduction

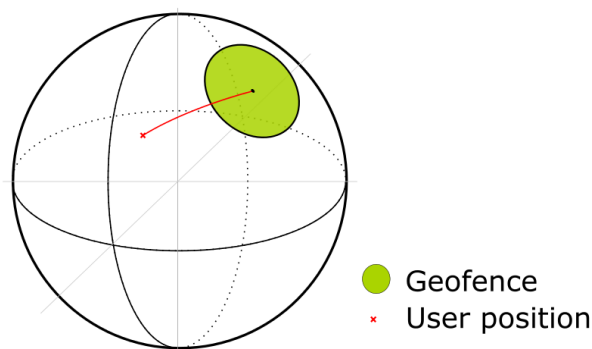


Figure 5: Geofence

The geofencing feature allows for the configuration of up to four circular areas (geofences) on the Earth's surface. The receiver will then evaluate for each of these areas whether the current position lies within the area or not and signal the state via UBX messaging and PIO toggling.

3.2.2 Interface

Geofencing can be configured using the CFG-GEOFENCE-* configuration group. The geofence evaluation is active whenever there is at least one geofence configured.

The current state of each geofence plus the combined state is output in UBX-NAV-GEOFENCE with every navigation epoch.

Additionally the user can configure the receiver to output the combined geofence state on a physical pin (assigned to a PIO being used for geofence state indication).

3.2.3 Geofence state evaluation

With every navigation epoch the receiver will evaluate the current solution's position versus the configured geofences. There are three possible outcomes for each geofence:

- *Inside* - The position is inside the geofence with the configured confidence level
- *Outside* - The position lies outside of the geofence with the configured confidence level
- *Unknown* - There is no valid position solution or the position uncertainty does not allow for unambiguous state evaluation

The position solution uncertainty (standard deviation) is multiplied with the configured confidence sigma level number and taken into account when evaluating the geofence state (red circle in figure below).

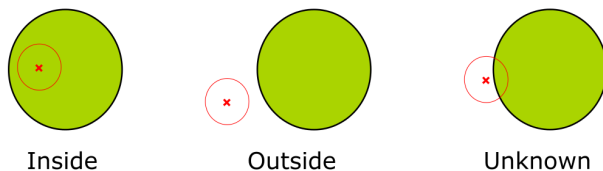


Figure 6: Geofence states

The combined state for all geofences is evaluated as the combination (Union) of all geofences:

- *Inside* - The position lies inside of at least one geofence
- *Outside* - The position lies outside of all geofences
- *Unknown* - All remaining states

3.2.4 Using a PIO for geofence state output

This feature can be used for example for waking up a sleeping host when a defined geofence condition is reached. The receiver will toggle the assigned pin according to the *combined* geofence state. Due to hardware restrictions, the geofence unknown state is not configurable and is always be represented as HIGH. If the receiver is in software backup or in a reset, the pin will go to HIGH accordingly. The meaning of the LOW state can be configured using the CFG-GEOFENCE-PINPOL configuration item.

3.3 Communication interfaces

ZED-F9T provides UART1, SPI, I2C and USB interfaces for communication with a host CPU. The interfaces are configured via the configuration interface which is described in the ZED-F9T interface description [2]. Each protocol can be enabled on several ports at the same time (multi-port

capability) with individual settings (e.g. baud rate, message rates, etc.) for each port. Furthermore, more than one protocol can be enabled on a single port at the same time (multi-protocol capability).

Port #	Port # in MON-COMMS	Electrical interface
0	0x0000	I2C
1	0x0001	UART1
2	0x0102	UART2
3	0x0003	USB
4	0x0004	SPI

Table 13: Port number assignment



It is important to isolate interface pins when VCC is removed. They can be allowed to float or they can be connected to a high impedance.

Some example isolation circuits are shown below.

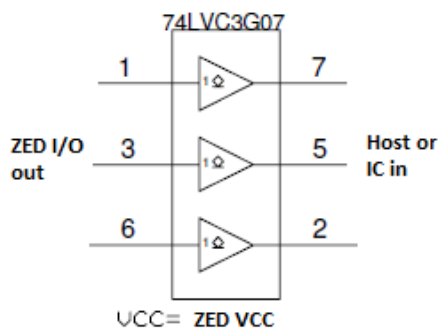


Figure 7: ZED-F9T output isolation

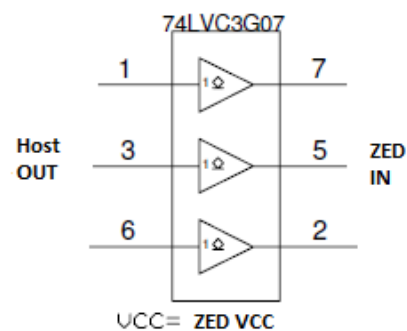


Figure 8: ZED-F9T input isolation

3.3.1 UART interfaces

ZED-F9T includes 2 UART ports.

UART1 can be used as a host interface. It supports a configurable baud rate and protocol selection.

UART2 is available as an optional stand-alone RTCM input interface. It cannot not be used as a host interface.

The serial ports consist of an RX and a TX line. Neither handshaking signals nor hardware flow control signals are available. These serial ports operate in asynchronous mode. The baud rates can be configured individually for each serial port. However, there is no support for setting different baud rates for reception and transmission.



The UART RX interface will be disabled when more than 100 frame errors are detected during a one-second period. This can happen if the wrong baud rate is used or the UART RX pin is grounded. An error message appears when the UART RX interface is re-enabled at the end of the one-second period.

Baud rate	Data bits	Parity	Stop bits
9600	8	none	1
19200	8	none	1
38400	8	none	1
57600	8	none	1
115200	8	none	1
230400	8	none	1
460800	8	none	1
921600	8	none	1

Table 14: Possible UART interface configurations



The default baud rate is 38400 baud. To prevent buffering problems it is recommended not to run at a lower baud rate than the default.

Note that for protocols such as NMEA or UBX, it does not make sense to change the default word length values (data bits) since these properties are defined by the protocol and not by the electrical interface.

If the amount of data configured is too much for a certain port's bandwidth (e.g. all UBX messages output on a UART port with a baud rate of 9600), the buffer will fill up. Once the buffer space is exceeded, new messages to be sent will be dropped. To prevent message loss, the baud rate and communication speed or the number of enabled messages should be carefully selected so that the expected number of bytes can be transmitted in less than one second.

3.3.2 I2C interface

An I2C interface is available for communication with an external host CPU or u-blox cellular modules. The interface can be operated in slave mode only. The I2C protocol and electrical interface are fully compatible with the fast-mode of the I2C industry standard. Since the maximum SCL clock frequency is 400 kHz, the maximum transfer rate is 400 kb/s. The SCL and SDA pins have internal pull-up resistors which should be sufficient for most applications. However, depending on the speed of the host and the load on the I2C lines additional external pull-up resistors may be necessary.



To use the I2C interface D_SEL pin must be left open.

3.3.2.1 I2C register layout

The I2C interface allows 256 registers to be addressed. As shown in [Figure 9](#), only three of these are currently implemented.

The data registers 0 to 252 at addresses 0x00 to 0xFC contain information reserved, the result from their reading is currently undefined. The data registers 0 to 252 are 1 byte wide.

At addresses 0xFD and 0xFE it is possible to read the currently available number of bytes.

The register at address 0xFF allows the data stream to be read. If there is no data awaiting transmission from the receiver, then this register delivers value 0xFF, which cannot be the first byte of a valid message. If the message data is ready for transmission, the successive reads of register 0xFF will deliver the waiting message data.



Do not use registers 0x00 to 0xFC. They are reserved for future use and they do not currently provide any meaningful data.

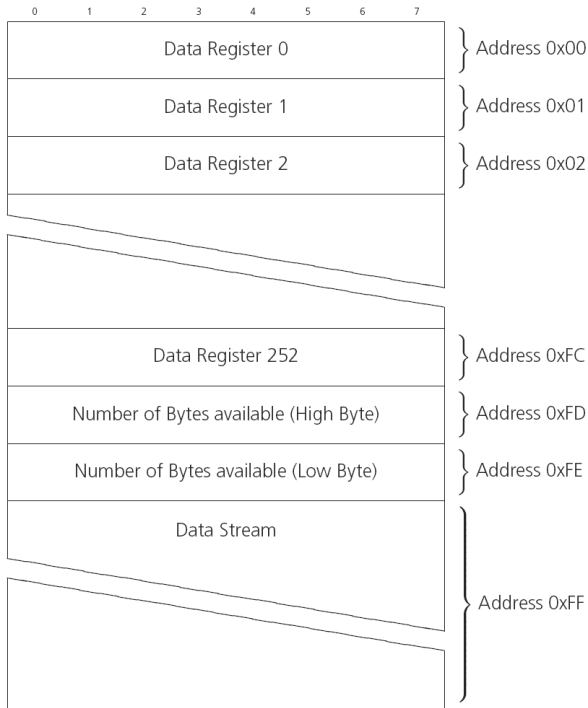


Figure 9: I2C register layout

3.3.2.2 Read access types

There are two kinds of I2C read transfers. The first one, the "random access" form includes a slave register address and thus allows any register to be read. The second one, the "current address" form omits the register address.

Figure 10 shows the format of the first one, the "random access" form of the request. Following the start condition from the master, the 7-bit device address and the RW bit (which is a logic low for write access) are clocked onto the bus by the master transmitter. The receiver answers with an acknowledge (logic low) to indicate that it recognizes the address.

Next, the 8-bit address of the register to be read must be written to the bus. Following the receiver's acknowledgment, the master again triggers a start condition and writes the device address, but this time the RW bit is a logic high to initiate the read access. Now, the master can read 1 to N bytes from the receiver, generating a not-acknowledge and a stop condition after the last byte being read.

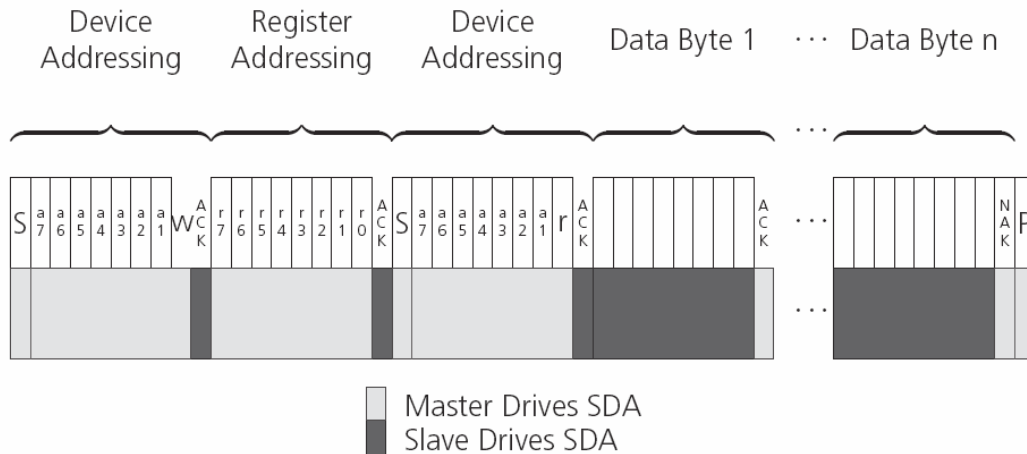


Figure 10: I2C random read access

If the second form, "current address" is used, an address pointer in the receiver is used to determine which register to read. This address pointer will increment after each read unless it is already pointing at register 0xFF, the highest addressable register, in which case it remains unaltered.

The initial value of this address pointer at start-up is 0xFF, so by default all current address reads will repeatedly read register 0xFF and receive the next byte of message data (or 0xFF if no message data is waiting).

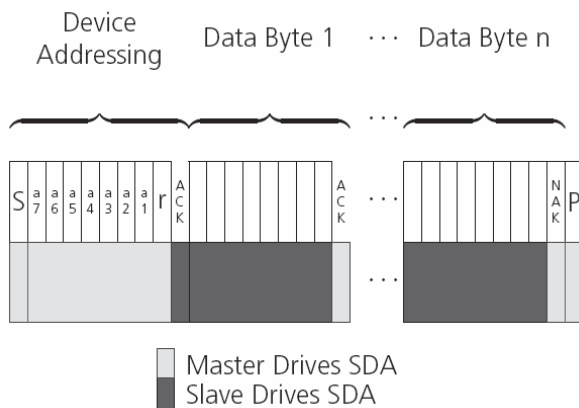


Figure 11: I2C current address read access

3.3.2.3 Write access

The receiver does not provide any write access except for writing UBX and NMEA messages to the receiver, such as configuration or aiding data. Therefore, the register set mentioned in section [Read access](#) is not writeable.

Following the start condition from the master, the 7-bit device address and the RW bit (which is a logic low for write access) are clocked onto the bus by the master transmitter. The receiver answers with an acknowledge (logic low) to indicate that it is responsible for the given address.

The master can write 2 to N bytes to the receiver, generating a stop condition after the last byte being written. The number of data bytes must be at least 2 to properly distinguish from the write access to set the address counter in random read accesses.

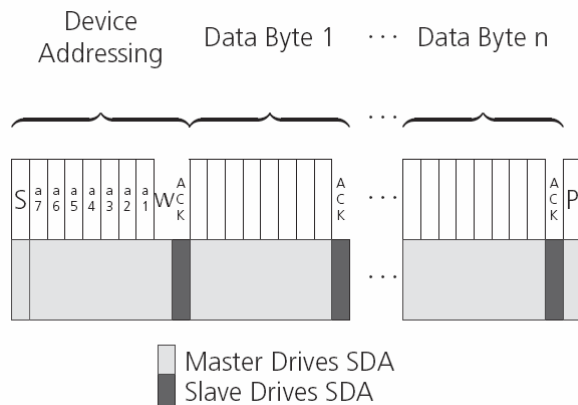


Figure 12: I2C write access

3.3.3 SPI interface

The ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver has an SPI slave interface that can be selected by setting `D_SEL = 0`. The SPI slave interface is shared with UART1 and I2C port, the physical pins are same. The SPI pins available are: `SPI_MISO` (TXD), `SPI_MOSI` (RXD), `SPI_CS_N` and `SPI_CLK`. See more info about communication interface selection from [D_SEL](#) section.

The SPI interface is designed to allow communication to a host CPU. The interface can be operated in slave mode only.

The maximum transfer rate using SPI is 150 kBytes/s and the maximum SPI clock frequency is 5.5 MHz.

3.3.3.1 Read access

As the register mode is not implemented for the SPI port, only the UBX/NMEA message stream is provided. This stream is accessed using the back-to-back read and write access (see section [Back-to-back read and write access](#) below). When no data is available to be written to the receiver, `MOSI` should be held logic high, i.e. all bytes written to the receiver are set to 0xFF.

To prevent the receiver from being busy parsing incoming data, the parsing process is stopped after 50 subsequent bytes containing 0xFF. The parsing process is re-enabled with the first byte not equal to 0xFF.

If the receiver has no more data to send, it sets `MISO` to logic high, i.e. all bytes transmitted decode to 0xFF. An efficient parser in the host will ignore all 0xFF bytes which are not part of a message and will resume data processing as soon as the first byte not equal to 0xFF is received.

3.3.3.2 Back-to-back read and write access

The receiver does not provide any write access except for writing UBX and NMEA messages to the receiver, such as configuration or aiding data. For every byte written to the receiver, a byte will simultaneously be read from the receiver. While the master writes to `MOSI`, at the same time it needs to read from `MISO`, as any pending data will be output by the receiver with this access. The data on `MISO` represents the results from a current address read, returning 0xFF when no more data is available.

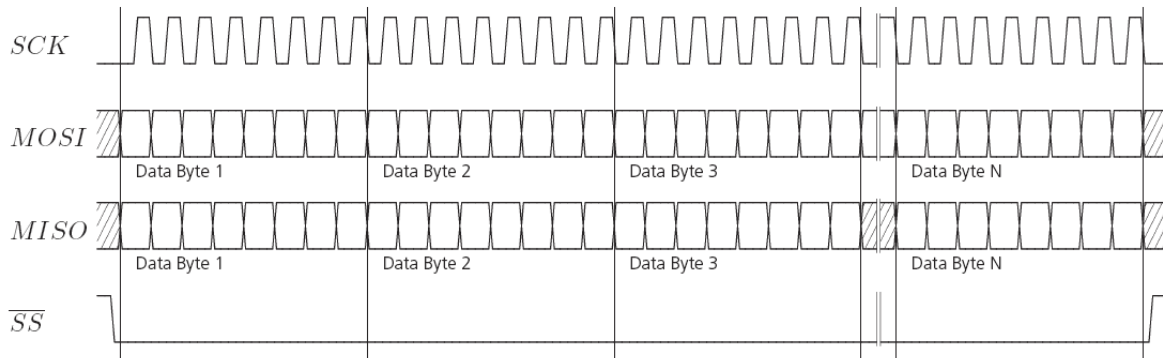


Figure 13: SPI back-to-back read/write access

3.3.4 USB interface

A single USB port is provided for host communication purposes.

The USB interface is compatible with a USB version 2.0 FS (full speed, 12 Mb/s) interface.

-  USB suspend mode is not supported.
-  USB bus-powered mode is not supported.
-  It is important to connect V_USB to ground and leave data lines open when the USB interface is not used in an application.
-  The voltage range for V_USB is specified from 3.0 V to 3.6 V, which differs slightly from the specification for VCC.
-  The boot screen is retransmitted on the USB port after enumeration. However, messages generated between boot-up of the receiver and USB enumeration are not visible on the USB port.

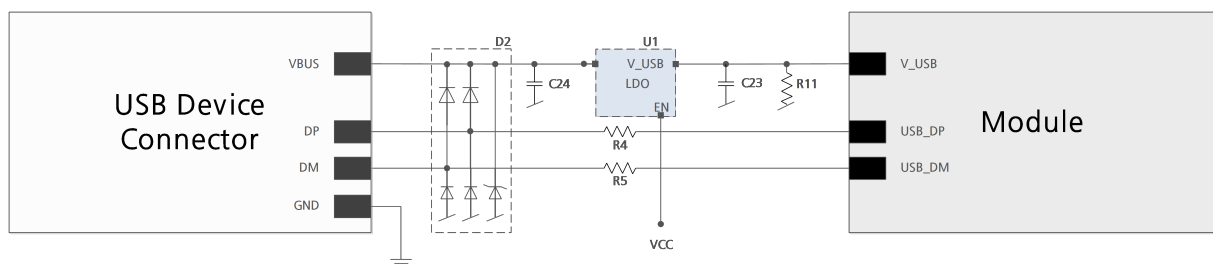


Figure 14: ZED-F9T example circuit for USB interface

R11 = 100 k Ω is recommended

R4, R5 = 27 Ω is recommended

3.4 Predefined PIOs

In addition to the communication ports, there are some predefined PIOs provided by ZED-F9T to interact with the receiver. These PIOs are described in this chapter.

3.4.1 D_SEL

The D_SEL pin can be used to configure the functionality of pins 42 to 45 . It is possible to configure the pins as UART1 + I2C, or as SPI. SPI is not available unless D_SEL pin is set to low. See [Table 15](#) below.

Pin No	D_SEL == 0	D_SEL == 1
42	SPI_MISO	UART1 TXD
43	SPI_MOSI	UART1 RXD
44	SPI_CS_N	I2C SDA
45	SPI_CLK	I2C SCL

Table 15: D_SEL configuration

3.4.2 RESET_N

The ZED-F9T provides the ability to reset the receiver. The RESET_N pin is an input-only pin with an internal pull-up resistor. Driving RESET_N low for at least 100 ms will trigger a cold start.



The RESET_N pin will delete all information and trigger a cold start. It should only be used as a recovery option.

3.4.3 SAFEBOOT_N

The ZED-F9T provides a SAFEBOOT_N pin that is used to command the receiver safe boot mode.

If this pin is low at power up, the receiver starts in safe boot mode and GNSS operation is disabled.

The safe boot mode can be used to recover from situations where the flash content has become corrupted and needs to be restored.

In safe boot mode the receiver runs from a passive oscillator circuit with less accurate timing and hence the receiver is unable to communicate via USB.

In this mode only UART1 and I2C communication is possible. For communication via UART1 in safe boot mode, the host must send a training sequence (0 x 55 55 at 9600 baud) to the receiver in order to begin communication. After this the host must wait at least 2 ms before sending any data.

It is recommended to have the possibility to pull the SAFEBOOT_N pin low in the application. This can be provided using an externally connected test point or a host I/O port.

3.4.4 TIMEPULSE

The ZED-F9T provides time pulse signals on the TIMEPULSE and TIMEPULSE 2 pins.



Shared TIMEPULSE2 and SAFEBOOT_N signals should be implemented maintaining the possibility to pull the SAFEBOOT_N pin low in the application.



More information about the Timepulse feature, its possibility's and configuration can be found in the chapter [Time pulse](#)

3.4.5 EXTINT

EXTINT is an external interrupt pin with fixed input voltage thresholds with respect to VCC. It can be used for functions such as accurate external frequency aiding and on/off control. Leave open if unused, this function is disabled by default.

3.5 Antenna supervisor

An active antenna supervisor provides the means to check the antenna for open and short circuits and to shut off the antenna supply if a short circuit is detected. Once enabled, the active antenna supervisor produces status messages, reporting in NMEA and/or UBX protocol.

The antenna supervisor can be configured through the CFG-HW-ANT_* configuration items. The current configuration of the active antenna supervisor can also be checked by polling the related CFG-HW_ANT_* configuration items.

The current active antenna status can be determined by polling the UBX-MON-RF message. If an antenna is connected, the initial state after power-up is "Active Antenna OK" in the UBX-MON-RF message in the u-center "Message View".

An active antenna supervisor circuit is connected to the ANT_DET, ANT_OFF, ANT_SHORT_N pins. For an example the open circuit detection circuit using ANT_DET, "high" = Antenna detected (antenna consumes current); "low" = Antenna not detected (no current drawn).

The following schematic details the required circuit and the sections following it explain how to enable and monitor each feature:

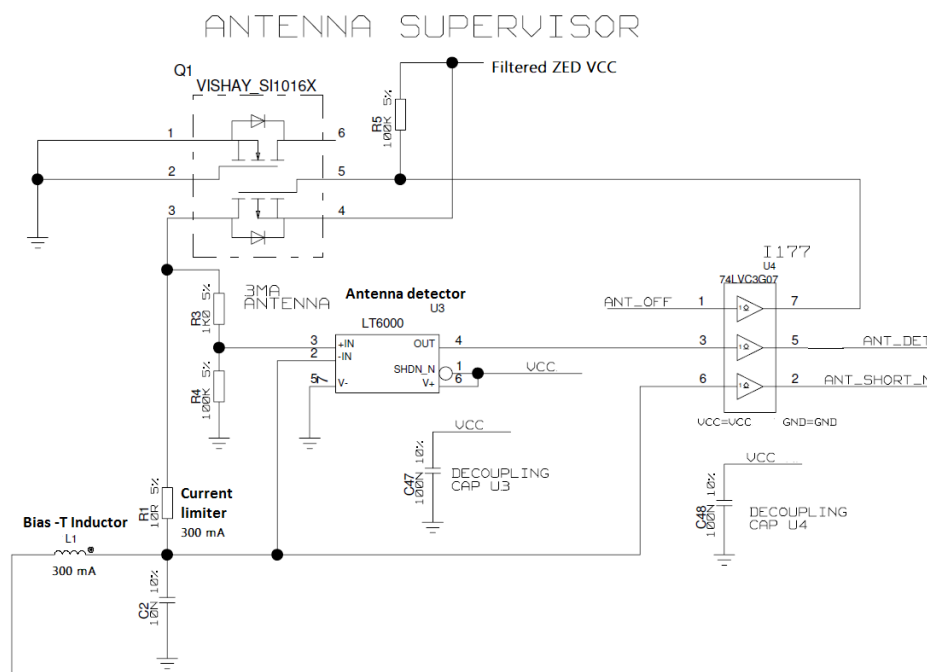


Figure 15: ZED-F9T antenna supervisor



The bias-t inductor must be chosen for multi-band operation; a value of 120 nH 5% is required for our recommended Murata part if the current is limited below its 110 mA rating. See [Antenna bias](#) section for additional information.



Circuit shows buffer [U4]. Buffer is not strictly necessary when supplied from VCC. It is only required when supplying antenna voltage that is not obtained from or controlled by module VCC or VCC_RF .

Part	Recommendation	Comment
L1		300mA and >500 Ω at L-band frequencies
C2	MURATA GRM033R71C103KE14	CAP CER X7R 0402 10N 10% 16V
	TYCO, 0.25PF, PESD0402-140 -55/+125C	ESD protection diode on RF trace

Table 16: Recommended components for antenna supervisor

3.5.1 Antenna voltage control - ANT_OFF



Antenna status (as reported in UBX-MON-RF and UBX-INF-NOTICE messages) is not reported unless the antenna voltage control has been enabled.

Enable the antenna voltage control by setting the configuration item CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_VOLTCTRL to true (1).

Result:

- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = OK. Antenna power status = ON
- ANT_OFF pin = active high to turn antenna off therefore the pin is low to enable an external antenna.

Start-up message at power up if configuration stored:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSUPERV=AC *00
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=INIT*3B
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

ANTSUPERV=AC indicates antenna control is activated

3.5.2 Antenna short detection - ANT_SHORT_N

Enable the antenna short detection by setting the configuration item CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_SHORTDET to true (1).

Result:

- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = OK. Antenna power status = ON
- ANT_OFF = active high to disable an external antenna therefore the pin is low to enable an external antenna.
- ANT_SHORT_N = active low to detect a short therefore the pin is high (PIO pull up enabled to be pulled low if shorted)

Start-up message at power up if configuration is stored:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSUPERV=AC SD *37
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=INIT*3B
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

ANTSUPERV=AC SD (Antenna control and short detection activated)

Then if shorted (ANT_SHORT_N pulled low):

- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = SHORT. Antenna power status = ON (Antenna power control power down when short has not been enabled = off by default).

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=SHORT*73
```

- ANT_OFF = active high therefore still low (still enabled as auto power down is not enabled)



After a detected antenna short, the reported antenna status will keep on being reported as shorted. If the antenna short detection auto recovery is enabled, then the antenna status can recover after a timeout. To recover the antenna status immediately, a power cycle is required or configuring the antenna short detection functionality off and on.

3.5.3 Antenna short detection auto recovery

Enable the antenna short detection auto recovery by setting the configuration item CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_RECOVER to true (1).

Result:

- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = OK. Antenna power status = ON
- ANT_OFF = active high there for the PIO is low to enable an external antenna
- ANT_SHORT_N = high (PIO pull up enabled to be pulled low if shorted)

Start-up message at power up if configuration is stored:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSUPERV=AC SD PDoS SR*3E
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=INIT*3B
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

ANTSUPERV=AC SD PDoS SR (indicates short circuit recovery added - SR)

Then if antenna is shorted (ANT_SHORT_N pulled low):

- \$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=SHORT*73
- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = SHORT. Antenna power status = OFF
- ANT_OFF = high (to disable - active high)

After a time out period receiver will re-test the short condition by enabling ANT_OFF = LOW

If a short is not present it will report antenna condition is OK:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = OK. Antenna power status = ON

3.5.4 Antenna open circuit detection - ANT_DETECT

Enable the antenna open circuit detection by setting the configuration item CFG-HW-ANT_CFG_OPENDET to true (1).

Result:

- UBX-MON-RF in u-center "Message View": Antenna status = OK. Antenna power status = ON
- ANT_OFF = active high therefore PIO is low to enable external antenna
- ANT_SHORT_N = active low therefore PIO is high (PIO pull up enabled to be pulled low if shorted)
- ANT_DETECT = active high therefore PIO is high (PIO pull up enabled to be pulled low if antenna not detected)

Start-up message at power up if configuration is stored:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSUPERV=AC SD OD PDoS SR*15
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=INIT*3B
```

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

```
ANTSUPERV=AC SD OD PDoS SR (indicates open circuit detection added - OD)
```

Then if ANT_DETECT is pulled low to indicate no antenna:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OPEN*35
```

Then if ANT_DETECT is left floating or it is pulled high to indicate antenna connected:

```
$GNTXT,01,01,02,ANTSTATUS=OK*25
```

3.6 Multiple GNSS assistance (MGA)

The u-blox MGA services provide a proprietary implementation of an A-GNSS protocol compatible with u-blox GNSS receivers. When a client device makes an MGA request, the service responds with the requested data using UBX protocol messages. These messages are ready for direct transmission to the receiver communication port without requiring any modification by the MGA client.

AssistNow Online optionally provides satellite ephemerides, health information and time aiding data suitable for GNSS receiver systems with direct internet access.

3.6.1 Authorization

The AssistNow Online Service is only available for use by u-blox customers. In order to use the services, customers will need to obtain an authorization token from u-blox. This token must be supplied as a parameter whenever a request is made to either service. Please contact your local technical support or go to <https://www.u-blox.com/en/solution/services/assistanow> to get more information and request an authorization token.

3.6.2 Multiple servers

The implementation of the AssistNow Online Service is designed to be highly available and reliable. Nonetheless, there will be rare occasions when a server is not available (e.g. due to failure or some form of maintenance activity). In order to protect customers against the impact of such outages, u-blox runs at least two instances of the AssistNow Online Service on independent machines. Customers have a choice of requesting assistance data from any of these servers, as all will provide the same information. However, should one fail for whatever reason, it is highly unlikely that the other server(s) will also be unavailable. Therefore customers requiring the best possible availability are recommended to implement a scheme where they direct their requests to a chosen server, but, if that server fails to respond, have a fallback mechanism to use another server instead.

3.6.3 Preserving information during power-off

The performance of u-blox receivers immediately after they are turned on is enhanced by providing them with as much useful information as possible. AssistNow services are one way to achieve this, but retaining information from previous use of the receiver can be just as valuable. All the types of data delivered by assistance can be retained while the receiver is powered down for use when power is restored. Obviously the value of this data will diminish as time passes, but in many cases it remains very useful and can significantly improve time to first fix.

There are several ways in which a u-blox receiver can retain useful data while it is powered down, including:

- **Battery-backed RAM:** The receiver can be supplied with sufficient power to maintain a small portion of internal storage, while it is otherwise turned off. This is the best mechanism, provided that the small amount of electrical power required can be supplied continuously. V_BCKP is the pin to sustain battery-backed RAM.
- **Save-on-Shutdown:** The receiver can be instructed to dump its current state to flash memory as part of the shutdown procedure; this data is then automatically retrieved when the receiver is restarted. For more information, see the description of the UBX-UPD-SOS messages in the ZED-F9T Interface description [2].

3.6.4 AssistNow Online

AssistNow Online is u-blox's end-to-end Assisted GNSS (A-GNSS) solution for receivers that have access to the internet. Data supplied by the AssistNow Online Service can be directly uploaded to a u-blox receiver in order to substantially reduce time to first fix (TTFF), even under poor signal conditions (typically around 2 seconds; see ZED-F9T Data sheet [1] "Aided start"). The system works by collecting data such as ephemeris and almanac from the satellites through u-blox's "Global Reference Network" of receivers and providing this data to customers in a convenient form that can be forwarded directly to u-blox receivers.

The AssistNow Online Service uses a simple, stateless, HTTP interface. Therefore, it works on all standard mobile communication networks that support internet access, including GPRS, UMTS and Wireless LAN. No special arrangements need to be made with mobile network operators to enable AssistNow Online.

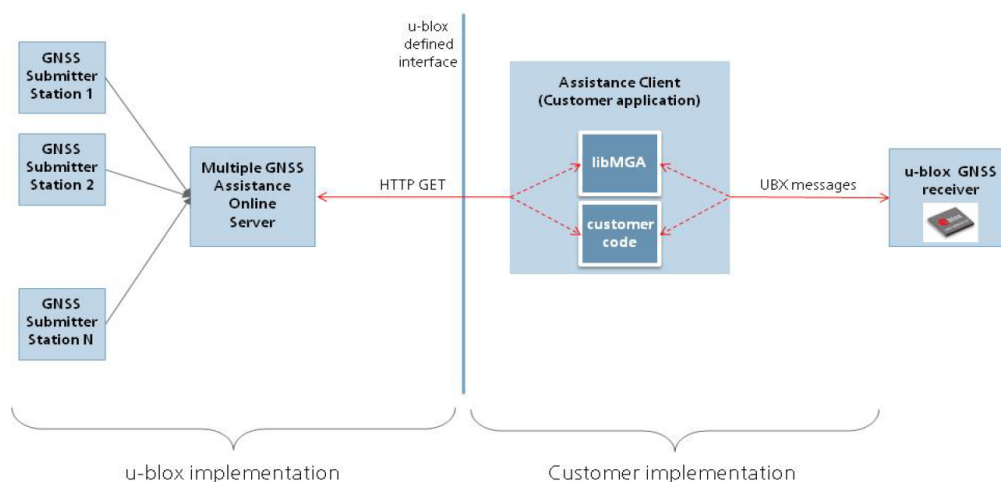


Figure 16: MGA architecture

The data returned by the AssistNow Online Service is a sequence of UBX-MGA messages, starting with an estimate of the current time in the form of a UBX-MGA-INITIME-UTC message.



AssistNow Online currently supports GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou, Galileo, and QZSS.



Customers may choose to use third party sources of assistance data instead of using the AssistNow Online Service. Customers choosing this option will need to ensure that the data is converted from the format used by the third party source to the appropriate MGA messages. However, it is important to ensure that the receiver has an estimate of the current time before it processes any other assistance data. For this reason, it is strongly

recommended to send a `UBX-MGA-INITIME_UTC` or `UBX-MGA-INITIME_GNSS` as the first message of any assistance.

3.6.4.1 Host software

As u-blox receivers have no means to connect directly with the internet, the AssistNow Online system can only work if the host system that contains the receiver can connect to the internet, download the data from the AssistNow Online Service and forward it on to the receiver. In the simplest case that may involve fetching the data from the AssistNow Online Service (by means of a single HTTP or HTTPS GET request), and sending the resulting data to the receiver.

Depending on the circumstances, it may be beneficial for the host software to include:

- Creating an appropriate `UBX-MGA-INITIME_UTC` message to deliver a better estimation of the current time to the receiver, especially if the host system has a very good estimation of the current time and can deliver a time pulse to one of the receiver's EXTINT pins.
- Enabling and using flow control to prevent loss of data due to buffer overflow in the receiver.



u-blox provides the source code for an example library, called libMGA, that provides all of the functionality we expect in most host software.

3.6.4.2 AssistNow Online sequence

A typical sequence of use of the AssistNow Online Service comprises the following steps:

- Power up the u-blox receiver.
- Request data from the AssistNow Online Service.
- Optionally send `UBX-MGA-INITIME_UTC` followed by hardware time synchronization pulse.
- Send the UBX messages obtained from the AssistNow Online Service to the receiver.

3.6.4.3 Flow control

u-blox receivers aim to process incoming messages as quickly as possible, but there will always be a small delay in processing each message. Uploading assistance data to the receiver can involve sending as many as one hundred individual messages to the receiver, one after the other. If the communication link is fast, and/or the receiver is busy (trying to acquire new signals), it is possible that the internal buffers will overflow and some messages will be lost. In order to combat this, u-blox receivers support an optional flow control mechanism for assistance.

Flow control is activated by setting the `CFG-NAVSPG-ACKAIDING` configuration item. As a result the receiver will issue an acknowledgment message (`UBX-ACK-ACK`) for each assistance message it successfully receives. The host software can examine these acknowledgments to establish whether there were any problems with the data sent to the receiver and deduce (by the lack of acknowledgment) if any messages have been lost. It may then be appropriate to resend some of the assistance messages.

The simplest way to implement flow control would be to send one `UBX-MGA` message at a time, waiting for the acknowledgment, before sending the next. However, such a strategy is likely to introduce significant delays into the whole assistance process. The best strategy will depend on the amount of assistance data being sent and the nature of the communications link (e.g. baud rate of serial link). u-blox recommends that when customers are developing their host software they start by sending all assistance messages and then analyze the resulting acknowledgments to see if any messages have been lost. Adding small delays during the transmission may be a simple but effective way to avoid loss of data.

3.6.4.4 Service parameters

The information exchange with the AssistNow Online Service is based on the HTTP protocol. The u-blox MGA service supports encrypted HTTPS communication. Upon reception of an HTTP GET request, the server will respond with the required messages in binary format or with an error string in text format. After delivery of all data, the server will terminate the connection.

The HTTP GET request from the client to the server should contain a standard HTTP query string in the request URL. The query string consists of a set of "key=value" parameters in the following form:

key=value;key=value;key=value;

The following rules apply:

- The order of keys is important.
- Keys and values are case-sensitive.
- Keys and values must be separated by an "equal" character ("=").
- Key/value pairs must be separated by semicolons (";").
- If a value contains a list, each item in the list must be separated by a comma (",").

The following table describes the keys that are supported:

Key name	Unit/range	Optional	Description
token	String	Mandatory	The authorization token supplied by u-blox when a client registers to use the service.
gnss	String	Mandatory	A comma-separated list of the GNSS for which data should be returned. Valid GNSS are: gps, gal, glo, bds and qzss (case-sensitive).
datatype	String	Mandatory	A comma-separated list of the data types required by the client. Valid data types are: eph, alm, aux and pos. Time data is always returned for each request. If the value of this parameter is an empty string, only time data will be returned.
lat	Numeric [degrees]	Optional	Approximate user latitude in WGS 84 expressed in degrees and fractional degrees. Must be in range -90 to 90. Example: lat=47.2.
lon	Numeric [degrees]	Optional	Approximate user longitude in WGS 84 expressed in degrees and fractional degrees. Must be in range -180 to 180. Example: lon=8.55.
alt	Numeric [meters]	Optional	Approximate user altitude above WGS 84 Ellipsoid. If this value is not provided, the server assumes an altitude of 0 meters. Must be in range -1000 to 50000.
pacc	Numeric [meters]	Optional	Approximate accuracy of submitted position (see the Position parameters (lat, lon, alt and pacc) section below). If this value is not provided, the server assumes an accuracy of 300 km. Must be in range 0 to 6000000.
tacc	Numeric [seconds]	Optional	The timing accuracy (see the Time parameters (tacc and latency) section below). If this value is not provided, the server assumes an accuracy of 10 seconds. Must be in range 0 to 3600.
latency	Numeric [seconds]	Optional	Typical latency between the time the server receives the request, and the time when the assistance data arrives at the u-blox receiver. The server can use this value to correct the time being transmitted to the client. If this value is not provided, the server assumes a latency of 0. Must be in range 0 to 3600.
filteronpos	(no value required)	Optional	If present, the ephemeris data returned to the client will only contain data for the satellites which are likely to be visible from the approximate position provided by the lat, lon, alt and pacc parameters. If the lat and lon parameters are not provided the service will return an error.
filteronsv	String	Optional	A comma-separated list of u-blox gnssid:svld pairs. The ephemeris data returned to the client will only contain data for the listed satellites.

Table 17: AssistNow Online parameter keys

Thus, as an example, a valid parameter string would be:

token=XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX;gnss=gps,qzss;datatype=eph,pos,aux;lat=47.28;lon=8.56;pacc=1000

3.6.4.4.1 Position parameters (lat, lon, alt and pacc)

The position parameters (lat, lon, alt and pacc) are used by the server for two purposes:

- If the `filteronpos` parameter is provided, the server determines the currently visible satellites at the user position, and only sends the ephemeris data of those satellites which should be in view at the location of the user. This reduces bandwidth requirements. In this case the "pacc" value is taken into account, meaning that the server will return all SVs visible in the given uncertainty region.
- If the datatype "pos" is requested, the server will return the position and accuracy in the response data. When this data is supplied to the u-blox receiver, depending on the accuracy of the provided data, the receiver can then choose to select a better startup strategy. For example, if the position is accurate to 100 km or better, the u-blox receiver will choose to go for a more optimistic startup strategy. This will result in quicker startup time. The receiver will decide which strategy to choose, depending on the "pacc" parameter. If the submitted user position is less accurate than what is being specified with the "pacc" parameter, then the user will experience prolonged or even failed startups.

3.6.4.4.2 Time parameters (tacc and latency)

Time data is always returned with each request. The time data refers to the time at which the response leaves the server, corrected by an optional latency value. This time data provided by the service is accurate to approximately 10 ms but by default the time accuracy is indicated to be +/-10 seconds in order to account for network latency and any time between the client receiving the data and it being provided to the receiver.

If both the network latency and the client latency can safely be assumed to be very low (or are known), the client can choose to set the accuracy of the time message (tacc) to a much smaller value (e.g. 0.5 s). This will result in a faster TTFF. The latency can also be adjusted as needed. However, these fields should be used with caution: if the time accuracy is not correct when the time data reaches the receiver, the receiver may experience prolonged or even failed startups.

For optimal results, the client should establish an accurate sense of time itself (e.g. by calibrating its system clock using a local NTP service) and then modify the time data received from the service as appropriate.

3.7 Clocks and time

This section introduces and explains the concepts of receiver clocks and time bases.

3.7.1 Receiver local time

The receiver is dependent on a local oscillator for both the operation of its radio parts and also for timing within its signal processing. No matter what nominal frequency the local oscillator has, u-blox receivers subdivide the oscillator signal to provide a 1 kHz reference clock signal, which is used to drive many of the receiver's processes. In particular, the measurement of satellite signals is arranged to be synchronized with the "ticking" of this 1 kHz clock signal.

When the receiver first starts, it has no information about how these clock ticks relate to other time systems; it can only count time in 1 millisecond steps. However, as the receiver derives information from the satellites it is tracking or from aiding messages, it estimates the time that each 1 kHz clock tick takes in the time-base of one of the GNSS systems in a multi-GNSS receiver. In previous generations of u-blox receivers this was always the GPS time-base, but for the current generation it could be GPS, GLONASS, Galileo, or BeiDou. This estimate of GNSS time based on the local 1 kHz clock is called receiver local time.

As receiver local time is a mapping of the local 1 kHz reference onto a GNSS time-base, it may experience occasional discontinuities, especially when the receiver first starts up and the

information it has about the time-base is changing. Indeed, after a cold start, the receiver local time will initially indicate the length of time that the receiver has been running. However, when the receiver obtains some credible timing information from a satellite or an aiding message, it will jump to an estimate of GNSS time.

3.7.2 Navigation epochs

Each navigation solution is triggered by the tick of the 1 kHz clock nearest to the desired navigation solution time. This tick is referred to as a navigation epoch. If the navigation solution attempt is successful, one of the results is an accurate measurement of time in the time-base of the chosen GNSS system, called GNSS system time. The difference between the calculated GNSS system time and receiver local time is called the clock bias (and the clock drift is the rate at which this bias is changing).

In practice the receiver's local oscillator will not be as stable as the atomic clocks to which GNSS systems are referenced and consequently clock bias will tend to accumulate. However, when selecting the next navigation epoch, the receiver will always try to use the 1 kHz clock tick which it estimates to be closest to the desired fix period as measured in GNSS system time. Consequently the number of 1 kHz clock ticks between fixes will occasionally vary. This means that when producing one fix per second, there will normally be 1000 clock ticks between fixes, but sometimes, to correct drift away from GNSS system time, there will be 999 or 1001.

The GNSS system time calculated in the navigation solution is always converted to a time in both the GPS and UTC time-bases for output.

Clearly when the receiver has chosen to use the GPS time-base for its GNSS system time, conversion to GPS time requires no work at all, but conversion to UTC requires knowledge of the number of leap seconds since GPS time started (and other minor correction terms). The relevant GPS-to-UTC conversion parameters are transmitted periodically (every 12.5 minutes) by GPS satellites, but can also be supplied to the receiver via the UBX-MGA-GPS-UTC aiding message. By contrast when the receiver has chosen to use the GLONASS time-base as its GNSS system time, conversion to GPS time is more difficult as it requires knowledge of the difference between the two time-bases, but as GLONASS time is closely linked to UTC, conversion to UTC is easier.

When insufficient information is available for the receiver to perform any of these time-base conversions precisely, pre-defined default offsets are used. Consequently plausible times are nearly always generated, but they may be wrong by a few seconds (especially shortly after receiver start). Depending on the configuration of the receiver, such "invalid" times may well be output, but with flags indicating their state (e.g. the "valid" flags in UBX-NAV-PVT).



u-blox receivers employ multiple GNSS system times and/or receiver local times (in order to support multiple GNSS systems concurrently), so users should not use UBX messages reporting GNSS system time or receiver local time. It is recommended to use messages that report UTC time and other messages are retained only for backwards compatibility reasons.

3.7.3 iTOW timestamps

All the main UBX-NAV messages (and some other messages) contain an iTOW field which indicates the GPS time at which the navigation epoch occurred. Messages with the same iTOW value can be assumed to have come from the same navigation solution.

Note that iTOW values may not be valid (i.e. they may have been generated with insufficient conversion data) and therefore it is not recommended to use the iTOW field for any other purpose.



The original designers of GPS chose to express time/date as an integer week number (starting with the first full week in January 1980) and a time of week (often abbreviated

to TOW) expressed in seconds. Manipulating time/date in this form is far easier for digital systems than the more conventional year/month/day, hour/minute/second representation. Consequently, most GNSS receivers use this representation internally, only converting to a more conventional form at external interfaces. The iTOW field is the most obvious externally visible consequence of this internal representation.

If reliable absolute time information is required, users are recommended to use the UBX-NAV-PVT navigation solution message which also contains additional fields that indicate the validity (and accuracy in UBX-NAV-PVT) of the calculated times (see also the [GNSS times](#) section below for further messages containing time information).

3.7.4 GNSS times

Each GNSS has its own time reference for which detailed and reliable information is provided in the messages listed in the table below.

Time reference	Message
GPS time	UBX-NAV-TIMEGPS
BeiDou time	UBX-NAV-TIMEBDS
GLONASS time	UBX-NAV-TIMEGLO
Galileo time	UBX-NAV-TIMEGAL
UTC time	UBX-NAV-TIMEUTC

Table 18: GNSS times

3.7.5 Time validity

Information about the validity of the time solution is given in the following form:

- **Time validity:** Information about time validity is provided in the `valid` flags (e.g. `validDate` and `validTime` flags in the UBX-NAV-PVT message). If these flags are set, the time is known and considered valid for use. These flags are shown in table GNSS times in section GNSS times above as well as in the UBX-NAV-PVT message.
- **Time validity confirmation:** Information about confirmed validity is provided in the `confirmedDate` and `confirmedTime` flags in the UBX-NAV-PVT message. If these flags are set, the time validity can be confirmed by using an additional independent source, meaning that the probability of the time to be correct is very high. Note that information about time validity confirmation is only available if the `confirmedAvai` bit in the UBX-NAV-PVT message is set.



`validDate` means that the receiver has knowledge of the current date. However, it must be noted that this date might be wrong for various reasons. Only when the `confirmedDate` flag is set, the probability of the incorrect date information drops significantly.



`validTime` means that the receiver has knowledge of the current time. However, it must be noted that this time might be wrong for various reasons. Only when the `confirmedTime` flag is set, the probability of incorrect time information drops significantly.



`fullyResolved` means that the UTC time is known without full seconds ambiguity. When deriving UTC time from GNSS time the number of leap seconds must be known, with the exception of GLONASS. It might take several minutes to obtain such information from the

GNSS payload. When the one second ambiguity has not been resolved, the time accuracy is usually in the range of ~20s.

3.7.6 UTC representation

UTC time is used in many NMEA and UBX messages. In NMEA messages it is always reported rounded to the nearest hundredth of a second. Consequently, it is normally reported with two decimal places (e.g. 124923.52). Although compatibility mode (selected using CFG-NMEA-COMPAT) requires three decimal places, rounding to the nearest hundredth of a second remains, so the extra digit is always 0.

UTC time is also reported within some UBX messages, such as UBX-NAV-TIMEUTC and UBX-NAV-PVT. In these messages date and time are separated into seven distinct integer fields. Six of these (year, month, day, hour, min and sec) have fairly obvious meanings and are all guaranteed to match the corresponding values in NMEA messages generated by the same navigation epoch. This facilitates simple synchronization between associated UBX and NMEA messages.

The seventh field is called nano and it contains the number of nanoseconds by which the rest of the time and date fields need to be corrected to get the precise time. So, for example, the UTC time 12:49:23.521 would be reported as: hour: 12, min: 49, sec: 23, nano: 521000000.

It is however important to note that the first six fields are the result of rounding to the nearest hundredth of a second. Consequently the nano value can range from -5000000 (i.e. -5 ms) to +994999999 (i.e. nearly 995 ms).

When the nano field is negative, the number of seconds (and maybe minutes, hours, days, months or even years) will have been rounded up. Therefore, some or all of them must be adjusted in order to get the correct time and date. Thus in an extreme example, the UTC time 23:59:59.9993 on 31st December 2011 would be reported as: year: 2012, month: 1, day: 1, hour: 0, min: 0, sec: 0, nano: -700000.

Of course, if a resolution of one hundredth of a second is adequate, negative nano values can simply be rounded up to 0 and effectively ignored.

Which master clock the UTC time is referenced to is output in the message UBX-NAV-TIMEUTC.

The preferred variant of UTC time can be specified using CFG-NAVSPG-UTCSTANDARD configuration item.



UTC time is derived directly from the GNSS time scale, which in turn is realized by the receiver's navigation solution. The derivation of the UTC time includes various parameters that are having their own errors which are then added on top of receiver's navigation solution error. Because of that, UTC time is not recommended to be used in high accuracy timing applications. The best timing accuracy and stability is achieved when receiver outputs GNSS time scale rather than UTC.

3.7.7 Leap seconds

Occasionally it is decided (by one of the international time keeping bodies) that, due to the slightly uneven spin rate of the Earth, UTC has moved sufficiently out of alignment with mean solar time (i.e. the Sun no longer appears directly overhead at 0 longitude at midday). A "leap second" is therefore announced to bring UTC back into close alignment. This normally involves adding an extra second to the last minute of the year, but it can also happen on 30th June. When this happens UTC clocks are expected to go from 23:59:59 to 23:59:60 and only then on to 00:00:00.

It is also theoretically possible to have a negative leap second, in which case there will only be 59 seconds in a minute and 23:59:58 will be followed by 00:00:00.

u-blox receivers are designed to handle leap seconds in their UTC output and consequently users processing UTC times from either NMEA or UBX messages should be prepared to handle minutes that are either 59 or 61 seconds long.

Leap second information can be polled from the u-blox receiver with the message UBX-NAV-TIMEELS.

3.7.8 Real time clock

u-blox receivers contain circuitry to support a real time clock, which (if correctly fitted and powered) keeps time while the receiver is otherwise powered off. When the receiver powers up, it attempts to use the real time clock to initialize receiver local time and in most cases this leads to appreciably faster first fixes.

3.7.9 Date

All GNSS frequently transmit information about the current time within their data message. In most cases, this is a time of week (often abbreviated to TOW), which indicates the elapsed number of seconds since the start of the week (midnight Saturday/Sunday). In order to map this to a full date, it is necessary to know the week and so the GNSS also transmit a week number, typically every 30 seconds. Unfortunately the GPS L1C/A data message was designed in a way that only allows the bottom 10 bits of the week number to be transmitted. This is not sufficient to yield a completely unambiguous date as every 1024 weeks (a bit less than 20 years), the transmitted week number value "rolls over" back to zero. Consequently, GPS L1 receivers cannot tell the difference between, for example, 1980, 1999 or 2019 etc.

Fortunately, although BeiDou and Galileo have similar representations of time, they transmit sufficient bits for the week number to be unambiguous for the foreseeable future (the first ambiguity will be in 2078 for Galileo and not until 2163 for BeiDou). GLONASS has a different structure, based on a time of day, but again transmits sufficient information to avoid any ambiguity during the expected lifetime of the system (the first ambiguous date will be in 2124). Therefore, u-blox 9 receivers using Protocol Version 24 and above regard the date information transmitted by GLONASS, BeiDou and Galileo to be unambiguous and, where necessary, use this to resolve any ambiguity in the GPS date.



Customers attaching u-blox receivers to simulators should be aware that GPS time is referenced to 6th January 1980, GLONASS to 1st January 1996, Galileo to 22nd August 1999 and BeiDou to 1st January 2006; the receiver cannot be expected to work reliably with signals simulated before these dates.

3.7.9.1 GPS-only date resolution

In circumstances where only GPS L1C/A signals are available and for receivers with earlier firmware versions, the receiver establishes the date by assuming that all week numbers must be at least as large as a reference rollover week number. This reference rollover week number is hard-coded at compile time and is normally set a few weeks before the software is completed, but it can be overridden by CFG-NAVSPG-WKNROLLOVER configuration item to any value the user wishes.

The following example illustrates how this works: Assume that the reference rollover week number set in the firmware at compile time is 1524 (which corresponds to a week in calendar year 2009, but would be transmitted by the satellites as 500). In this case, if the receiver sees transmissions containing week numbers in the range of 500 ... 1023, these will be interpreted as week numbers 1524 ... 2047 (calendar year 2009 ... 2019), whereas transmissions with week numbers from 0 to 499 are interpreted as week numbers 2048 ... 2547 (calendar year 2019 ... 2028).



It is important to set the reference rollover week number appropriately when supplying u-blox receivers with simulated signals, especially when the scenarios are in the past.

3.8 Timing functionality

The ZED-F9T provides precision time references used by remote or distributed wireless communication, industrial, financial, and power distribution equipment.

3.8.1 Time pulse

3.8.1.1 Introduction

The ZED-F9T receiver includes two time pulse outputs with configurable duration and frequency. The time pulse function can be configured using the CFG-TP-* configuration group for the desired time pulse; TP1 or TP2. Note that TP1 refers to pin 53 (Timepulse) and TP2 to pin 54 (Timepulse 2). The UBX-TIM-TP message provides time information for the next pulse, time source and the quantization error of the output pin.

Pulse Mode: Rising

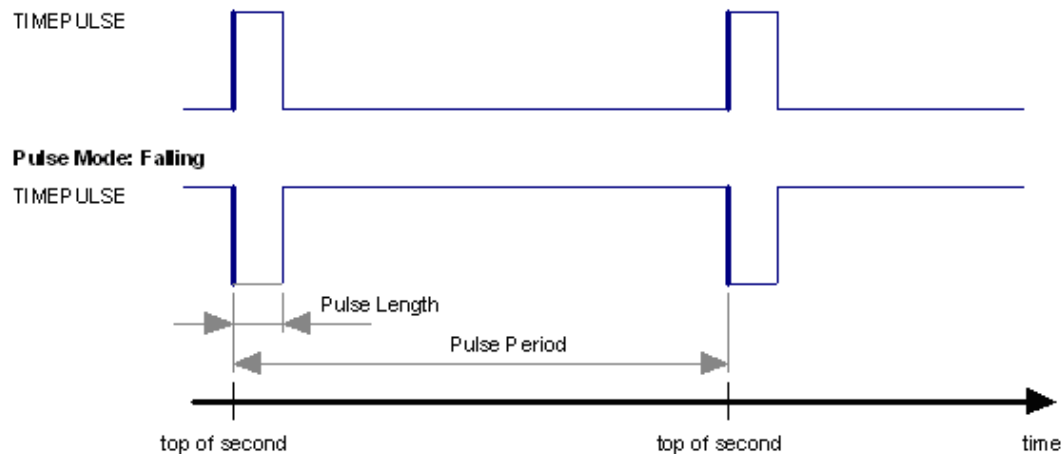


Figure 17: Time pulse

3.8.1.2 Recommendations

- The time pulse can be aligned to a wide variety of GNSS times or to variants of UTC derived from them (see the chapter on [time bases](#)). However, it is strongly recommended that the choice of time base is aligned with the available GNSS signals (so to produce GPS time or UTC(USNO), ensure GPS signals are available, and for GLONASS time or UTC(SU) ensure the presence GLONASS signals). This will involve coordinating the setting of CFG-SIGNAL-* configuration group with the choice of time pulse time base.
- When using time pulse for precision timing applications it is recommended to calibrate the antenna cable delay against a reference timing source.
- In order to get the best timing accuracy with the antenna, a fixed and *accurate* position is needed.
- If relative time accuracy between multiple receivers is required, do not mix receivers of different product families. If this is required, the receivers must be calibrated accordingly, by setting cable delay and user delay.
- The recommended configuration when using the UBX-TIM-TP message is to set both the measurement rate (CFG-RATE-MEAS) and the time pulse frequency (CFG-TP-*) to 1 Hz.



Since the rate of UBX-TIM-TP is bound to 1 Hz, more than one UBX-TIM-TP message can appear between two pulses if the time pulse frequency is set lower than 1 Hz. In this case all UBX-TIM-TP messages in between a time pulse T1 and T2 belong to T2 and the last UBX-TIM-TP before T2 reports the most accurate quantization error. In general, if the time pulse

rate is not configured to 1 Hz, there will not be a single UBX-TIM-TP message for each time pulse.



SBAS is not recommended to use for timing applications.

The sequential order of the signal present at the TIMEPULSE pin and the respective output message for the simple case of 1 pulse per second (1PPS) is shown in the following figure.

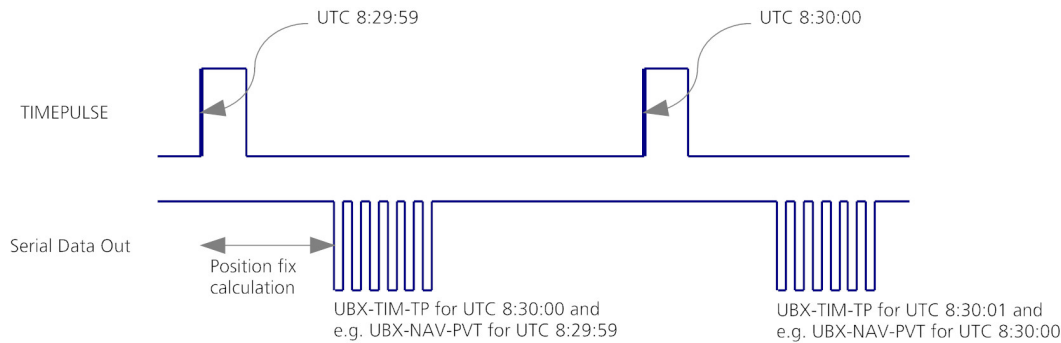


Figure 18: Time pulse and TIM-TP

3.8.1.3 GNSS time bases

GNSS receivers must handle a variety of different time bases as each GNSS has its own reference system time. What is more, although each GNSS provides a model for converting their system time into UTC, they all support a slightly different variant of UTC. So, for example, GPS supports a variant of UTC as defined by the US National Observatory, while BeiDou uses UTC from the National Time Service Center, China (NTSC). While the different UTC variants are normally closely aligned, they can differ by as much as a few hundreds of nanoseconds.

Although u-blox receivers can combine a variety of different GNSS times internally, the user must choose a single type of GNSS time and, separately, a single type of UTC for input (on EXTINTs) and output (via the time pulse) and the parameters reported in corresponding messages.

The CFG-TP-* configuration group allows the user to choose between any of the supported GNSS (GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou, etc) times and UTC. Also, the CFG-NAVSPG-* configuration group allows the user to select which variant of UTC the receiver should use. This includes an "automatic" option which causes the receiver to select an appropriate UTC version itself, based on the GNSS configuration, using, in order of preference, USNO if GPS is enabled, SU if GLONASS is enabled, NTSC if BeiDou is enabled and, finally, European if Galileo is enabled.

The receiver will assume that the input time pulse uses the same GNSS time base as specified for the output using CFG-TP-*. So if the user selects GLONASS time for time pulse output, any time pulse input must also be aligned to GLONASS time (or to the separately chosen variant of UTC). Where UTC is selected for time pulse output, any GNSS time pulse input will be assumed to be aligned to GPS time.



u-blox receivers allow users to independently choose GNSS signals used in the receiver (using CFG-SIGNAL-*) and the input/output time base (using CFG-TP-*). For example it is possible to instruct the receiver to use GPS and GLONASS satellite signals to generate BeiDou time. This practice will compromise time-pulse accuracy if the receiver cannot measure the timing difference between the constellations directly and is therefore not recommended.



The information that allows GNSS times to be converted to the associated UTC times is only transmitted by the GNSS at relatively infrequent periods. For example GPS transmits UTC(USNO) information only once every 12.5 minutes. Therefore, if a time pulse is

configured to use a variant of UTC time, after a cold start, substantial delays before the receiver has sufficient information to start outputting the time pulse can be expected.

3.8.1.4 Time pulse configuration

u-blox ZED-F9T receivers provide a time pulse (TIMEPULSE) signal with a configurable pulse period, pulse length and polarity (rising or falling edge).

It is possible to define different signal behavior (i.e. output frequency and pulse length) depending on whether or not the receiver is locked to a reliable time source. Time pulse signal can be configured using the configuration group CFG-TP-*

3.8.1.5 Configuring time pulse with CFG-TP-*

The configuration group CFG-TP-* can be used to change the time pulse settings, and includes the following parameters defining the pulse:

- **timepulse enable** - Time pulse is active if this item is set.
- **frequency/period type** - Determines whether the time pulse is interpreted as frequency or period.
- **length/ratio type** - Determines whether the time pulse length is interpreted as length[us] or pulse ratio[%].
- **antenna cable delay** - Signal delay due to the cable between antenna and receiver.
- **pulse frequency/period** - Frequency or period time of the pulse when locked mode is not configured or active.
- **pulse frequency/period lock** - Frequency or period time of the pulse, as soon as receiver has calculated a valid time from a received signal. Only used if the corresponding item is set to use another setting in locked mode.
- **pulse length/ratio** - Length or duty cycle of the generated pulse, either specifies a time or ratio for the pulse to be on/off.
- **pulse length/ratio lock** - Length or duty cycle of the generated pulse, as soon as receiver has calculated a valid time from a received signal. Only used if the corresponding item is set to use another setting in locked mode.
- **user delay** - The cable delay from the receiver to the user device plus signal delay of any user application.
- **lock to GNSS freq** - Use frequency gained from GNSS signal information rather than local oscillator's frequency if item is set.
- **locked other setting** - If this item is set, as soon as the receiver can calculate a valid time, the alternative setting is used. This mode can be used for example to disable time pulse if time is not locked, or indicate lock with different duty cycles.
- **align to TOW** - If this item is set, pulses are aligned to the top of a second.
- **polarity** - If set, the first edge of the pulse is a rising edge (pulse polarity: rising).
- **grid UTC/GNSS** - Selection between UTC (0), GPS (1), GLONASS (2) and BeiDou (3) timegrid. Also affects the time output by UBX-TIM-TP message.



The maximum pulse length cannot exceed the pulse period.



Time pulse settings shall be chosen in such a way, that neither the high nor the low period of the output is less than 50 ns (except when disabling it completely), otherwise pulses can be lost.

3.8.1.5.1 Example

The example below shows the 1PPS TIMEPULSE signal generated on the time pulse output according to the specific parameters of the CFG-TP-* configuration group:

- **CFG-TP-TP1_ENA = 1**

- **CFG-TP-PERIOD_TP1** = 100 000 μ s
- **CFG-TP-LEN_TP1** = 100 000 μ s
- **CFG-TP-TIMEGRID_TP1** = 1 (GPS)
- **CFG-TP-PULSE_LENGTH_DEF** = 0 (Period)
- **CFG-TP-ALIGN_TO_TOW_TP1** = 1
- **CFG-TP-USE_LOCKED_TP1** = 1
- **CFG-TP-POL_TP1** = 1
- **CFG-TP-PERIOD_LOCK_TP1** = 100 000 μ s
- **CFG-TP-LEN_LOCK_TP1** = 100 000 μ s

The 1 Hz output is maintained whether or not the receiver is locked to GPS time. The alignment to TOW can only be maintained when GPS time is locked.

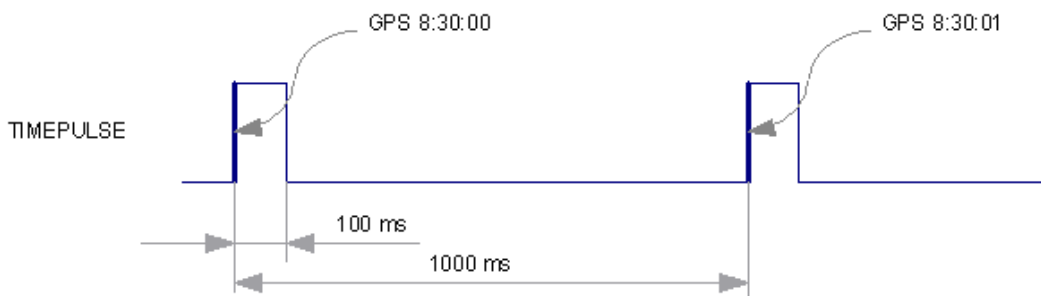


Figure 19: Time pulse signal with the example parameters

3.8.2 Timemark

The receiver can be used to provide an accurate measurement of the time at which a pulse was detected on the external interrupt pin. The reference time can be chosen by setting the time source parameter to UTC, GPS, GLONASS, BeiDou, Galileo or local time in the CFG-TP-* configuration group. The UTC standard can be set in the CFG-NAVSPG-* configuration group. The delay figures defined with CFG-TP-* are also applied to the results output in the UBX-TIM-TM2 message.

A UBX-TIM-TM2 message is output at the next epoch if

- The UBX-TIM-TM2 message is enabled, or
- A rising or falling edge was triggered since last epoch on one of the EXTINT channels.

The UBX-TIM-TM2 messages includes the time of the last timemark, new rising/falling edge indicator, time source, validity, number of marks and a quantization error. The timemark is triggered continuously.



Only the last rising and falling edge detected between two epochs is reported since the output rate of the UBX-TIM-TM2 message corresponds to the measurement rate configured with CFG-RATE-MEAS (see Figure 20 below).

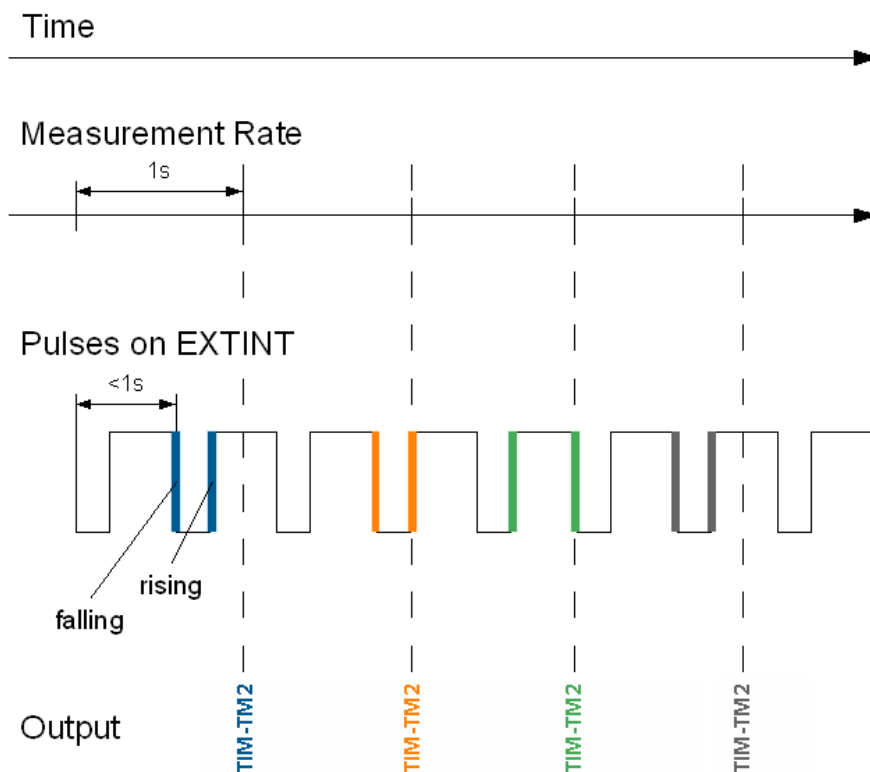


Figure 20: Timemark

3.9 Security

The security concept of ZED-F9T covers the air interface between the receiver and the GNSS satellites and the integrity of the receiver itself.

There are functions to monitor/detect certain security threads and report it to the host system. Other functions try to mitigate the thread and allow the receiver to operate normally.

The table below gives an overview about possible threads and which functionality is available to detect and/or mitigate it.

Threat	u-blox solution
Over air signal integrity	Spoofing detection/mitigation
	Jamming detection/mitigation
GNSS receiver integrity	Secure boot
	Secure firmware update

Table 19: u-blox security options

3.9.1 Spoofing detection / monitoring

Spoofing is the process whereby someone tries to forge a GNSS signal with the intention of fooling the receiver into calculating a different user position than the true one.

The spoofing detection feature monitors the GNSS signals for suspicious patterns indicating that the receiver is being spoofed. A flag in UBX-NAV-STATUS message (flags2 - spoofDetState) alerts the user to potential spoofing.

The spoofing detection feature monitors suspicious changes in the GNSS signal indicating external manipulation. Therefore the detection is only successful when the signal is genuine first and when the transition to the spoofed signal is being observed directly. When a receiver is started up to a spoofed signal the detection algorithms will be unable to recognize the spoofing. Also, the algorithms rely on availability of signals from multiple GNSS constellations; the detection does not work in single-GNSS mode.

3.9.2 Jamming/interference indicator

The field `jamInd` of the UBX-MON-RF message can be used as an indicator for continuous wave (narrow-band) jammers/interference only. The interpretation of the value depends on the application. It is necessary to run the receiver in an unjammed environment to determine an appropriate threshold for the unjammed case. If the value rises significantly above this threshold, this indicates that a continuous wave jammer is present.

This monitoring function is always enabled.

The indicator reports any currently detected narrow-band interference over all currently configured signal bands.

3.9.2.1 Jamming/interference monitor (ITFM) / broadband interference monitoring

The field `flags` of the UBX-MON-RF message can be used as an indicator for both broadband and continuous wave (CW) jammers/interference. It is independent of the (CW only) jamming indicator described in [Jamming/interference indicator](#) above.

This monitor reports whether jamming has been detected or suspected by the receiver. The receiver monitors the background noise and looks for significant changes. Normally, with no interference detected, it will report "OK". If the receiver detects that the noise has risen above a preset threshold, the receiver reports "Warning". If in addition, there is no current valid fix, the receiver reports "Critical".

The monitor has four states as shown in the following table:

Value	Reported state	Description
0	Unknown	Jamming/interference monitor not enabled, uninitialized or antenna disconnected
1	OK	no interference detected
2	Warning	position OK but interference is visible (above the thresholds)
3	Critical	no reliable position fix and interference is visible (above the thresholds); interference is probable reason why there is no fix

Table 20: Jamming/interference monitor reported states

The monitor is disabled by default. The monitor is enabled by setting the CFG-ITFM-ENABLE configuration item. In this message it is also possible to specify the thresholds at which broadband and CW jamming are reported. These thresholds should be interpreted as the dB level above "normal". It is also possible to specify whether the receiver expects an active or a passive antenna.



The monitoring algorithm relies on comparing the currently measured spectrum with a reference from when a good fix was obtained. Thus the monitor will only function when the receiver has had at least one (good) first fix, and will report "Unknown" before this time.

The monitor is reporting any currently detected interference over all currently configured signal bands.

3.9.3 GNSS receiver integrity

3.9.3.1 Secure boot

The ZED-F9T boots only with firmware images that are signed by u-blox. This prevents the execution of non-genuine firmware images run on the receiver.

3.9.3.2 Secure firmware update

The firmware image itself is encrypted and signed by u-blox. The ZED-F9T verify the signature at each start.

3.10 u-blox protocol feature descriptions

3.10.1 Broadcast navigation data

This section describes the data reported via UBX-RXM-SFRBX.

The UBX-RXM-SFRBX reports the broadcast navigation data message collected by the receiver from each tracked signal. When enabled, a separate message is generated every time the receiver decodes a complete subframe of data from a tracked signal. The data bits are reported, as received, including preambles and error checking bits as appropriate. However because there is considerable variation in the data structure of the different GNSS signals, the form of the reported data also varies. Indeed, although this document uses the term "subframe" generically, it is not strictly the correct term for all GNSS (e.g. GLONASS has "strings" and Galileo has "pages").

3.10.1.1 Parsing navigation data subframes

Each UBX-RXM-SFRBX message contains a subframe of data bits appropriate for the relevant GNSS, delivered in a number of 32-bit words, as indicated by numWords field.

Due to the variation in data structure between different GNSS, the most important step in parsing a UBX-RXMSFRBX message is to identify the form of the data. This should be done by reading the gnssId field, which indicates which GNSS the data was decoded from. In almost all cases, this is sufficient to indicate the structure and the following sections are organized by GNSS for that reason. However, in some cases the identity of the GNSS is not sufficient, and this is described, where appropriate, in the following sections.

In most cases, the data does not map perfectly into a number of 32-bit words and, consequently, some of the words reported in UBX-RXM-SFRBX messages contain fields marked as "Pad". These fields should be ignored and no assumption should be made about their contents.

UBX-RXM-SFRBX messages are only generated when complete subframes are detected by the receiver and all appropriate parity checks have passed.

Where the parity checking algorithm requires data to be inverted before it is decoded (e.g. GPS L1C/A), the receiver carries this out before the message output. Therefore, users can process data directly and do not need to worry about repeating any parity processing.

The meaning of the content of each subframe depends on the sending GNSS and is described in the relevant Interface Control Documents (ICD).

3.10.1.2 GPS

The data structure in the GPS L1C/A and L2C signals is dissimilar and thus the UBX-RXM-SFRBX message structure differs as well. For the GPS L1C/A and L2C signals it is as follows:

3.10.1.2.1 GPS L1C/A

For GPS L1C/A signals, there is a fairly straightforward mapping between the reported subframe and the structure of subframe and words described in the GPS ICD. Each subframe comprises ten data words, which are reported in the same order they are received.

Each word is arranged as follows:

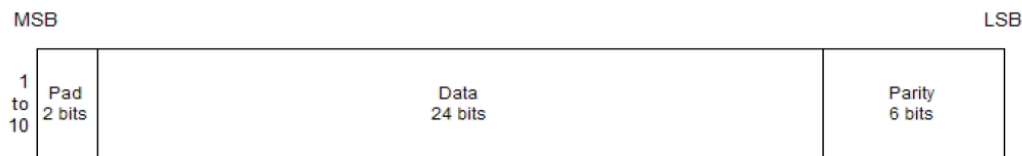


Figure 21: GPS L1C/A subframe word

3.10.1.2.2 GPS L2C

For GPS L2C signals each reported subframe contains the CNAV message as described in the GPS ICD. The ten words are arranged as follows:

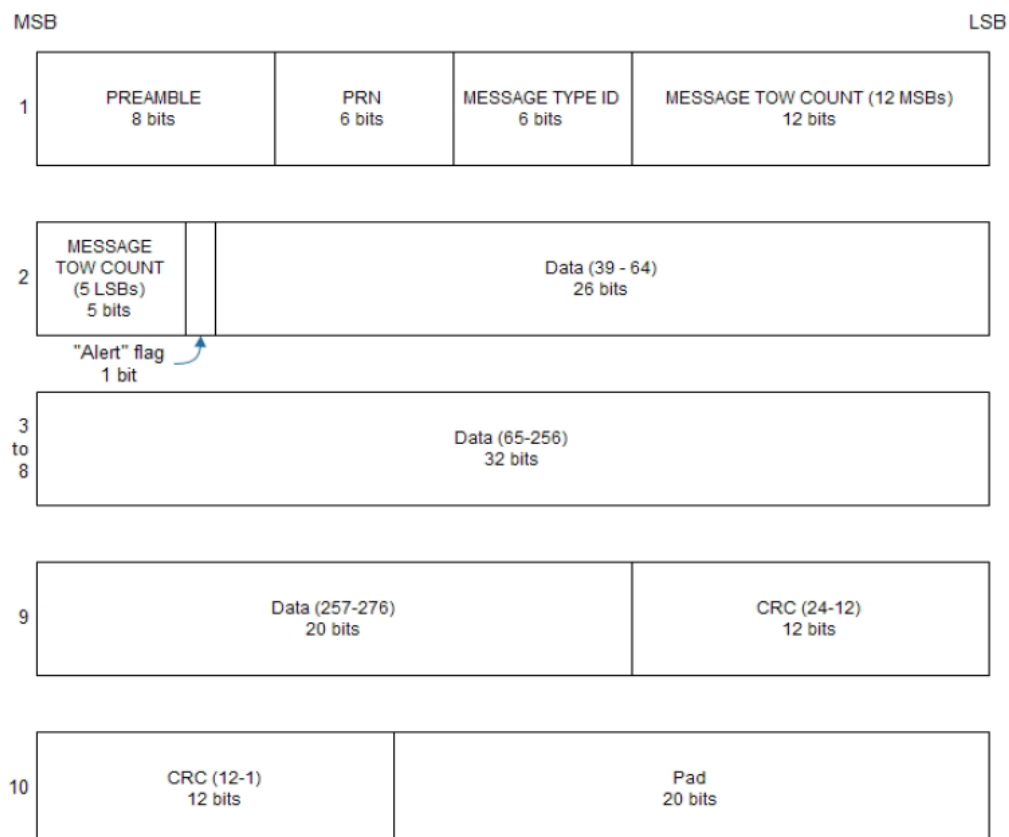


Figure 22: GPS L2C subframe words

3.10.1.3 GLONASS

For GLONASS L1OF and L2OF signals, each reported subframe contains a string as described in the GLONASS ICD. This string comprises 85 data bits which are reported over three 32-bit words in the UBX-RXM-SFRBX message. Data bits 1 to 8 are always a hamming code, whilst bits 81 to 84 are a string number and bit 85 is the idle chip, which should always have a value of zero. The meaning of other bits vary with string and frame number.

The fourth and final 32-bit word in the UBX-RXM-SFRBX message contains frame and superframe numbers (where available). These values are not actually transmitted by the SVs, but are deduced by the receiver and are included to aid decoding of the transmitted data. However, the receiver does not always know these values, in which case a value of zero is reported.

The four words are arranged as follows:

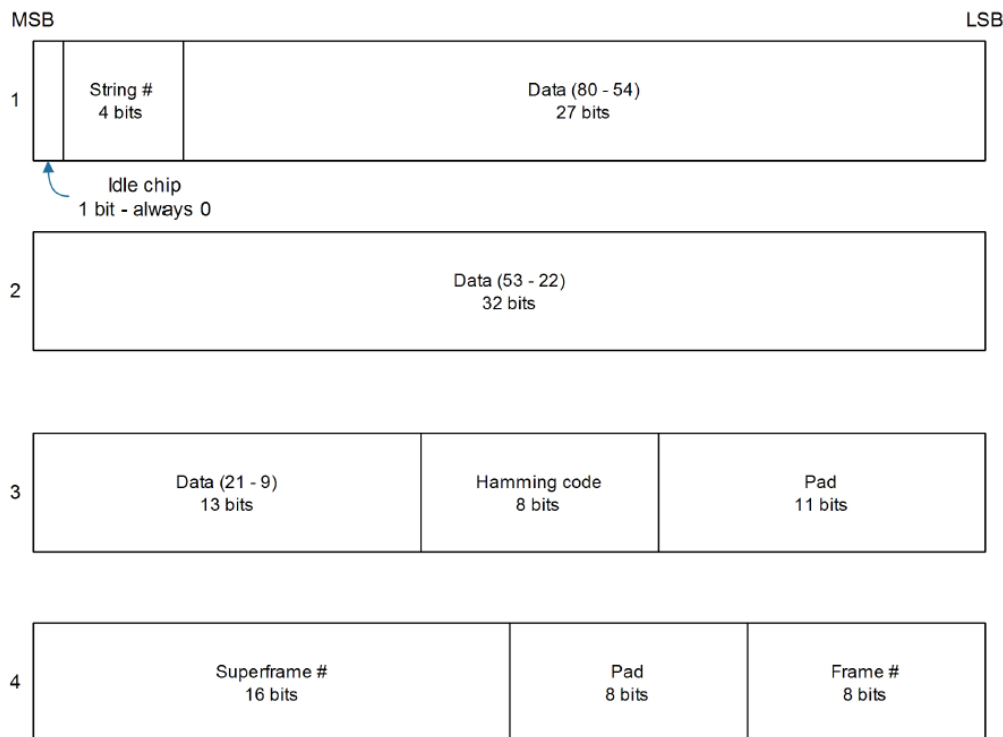


Figure 23: GLONASS subframe words

In some circumstances, (especially on startup) the receiver may be able to decode data from a GLONASS SV before it can identify the SV. When this occurs UBX-RXM-SFRBX messages will be issued with an svId of 255 to indicate "unknown".

3.10.1.4 BeiDou

For BeiDou B1I D1, B1I D2, B2I D1, B2I D2 signals, there is a fairly straightforward mapping between the reported subframe and the structure of subframe and words described in the BeiDou ICD. Each subframe comprises ten data words, which are reported in the same order they are received.

Each word is arranged as follows:

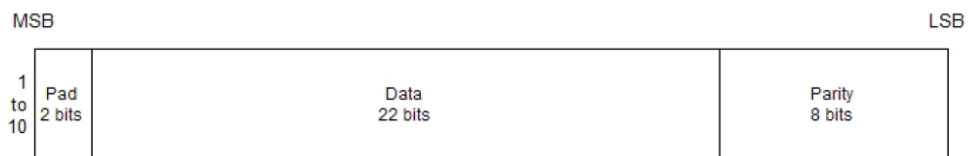


Figure 24: BeiDou subframe word

Note that as the BeiDou data words only comprise 30 bits, the 2 most significant bits in each word reported by UBX-RXM-SFRBX are padding and should be ignored.

3.10.1.5 Galileo

The Galileo E1 C/B and E5 bI/bQ signals both transmit the I/NAV message but in different configurations. The UBX-RXM-SFRBX structures for them are as follows.

3.10.1.5.1 Galileo E1 C/B

For Galileo E1 C/B signals, each reported subframe contains a pair of I/NAV pages as described in the Galileo ICD.

For Galileo "Nominal" pages the eight words are arranged as follows:

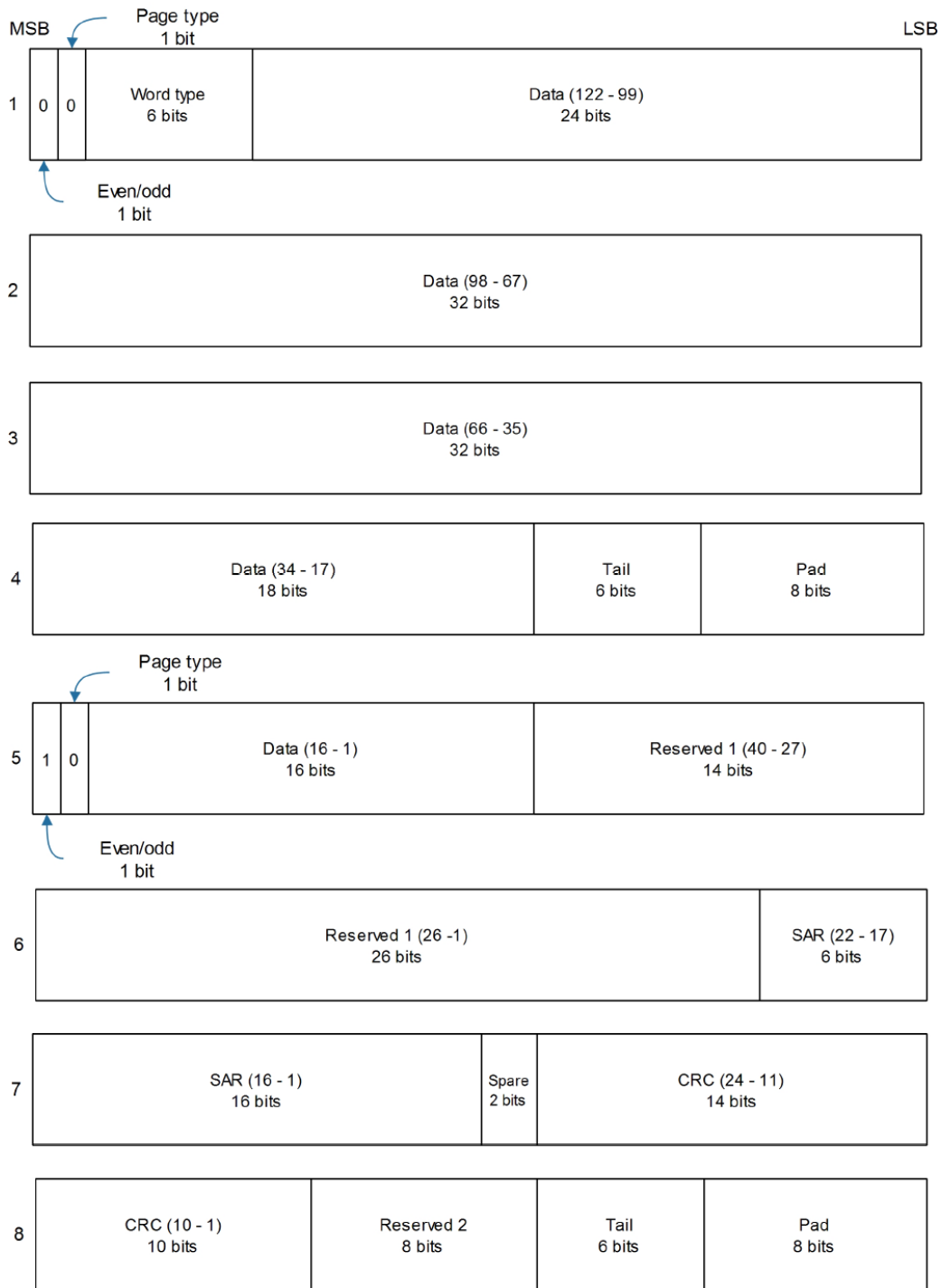


Figure 25: Galileo E1 C/B subframe words

3.10.1.5.2 Galileo E5 bl/bQ

For Galileo E5 bl/bQ signals, each reported subframe contains a pair of I/NAV pages as described in the Galileo ICD. Galileo pages can either be "Nominal" or "Alert" pages. For Nominal pages the eight words are arranged as follows:

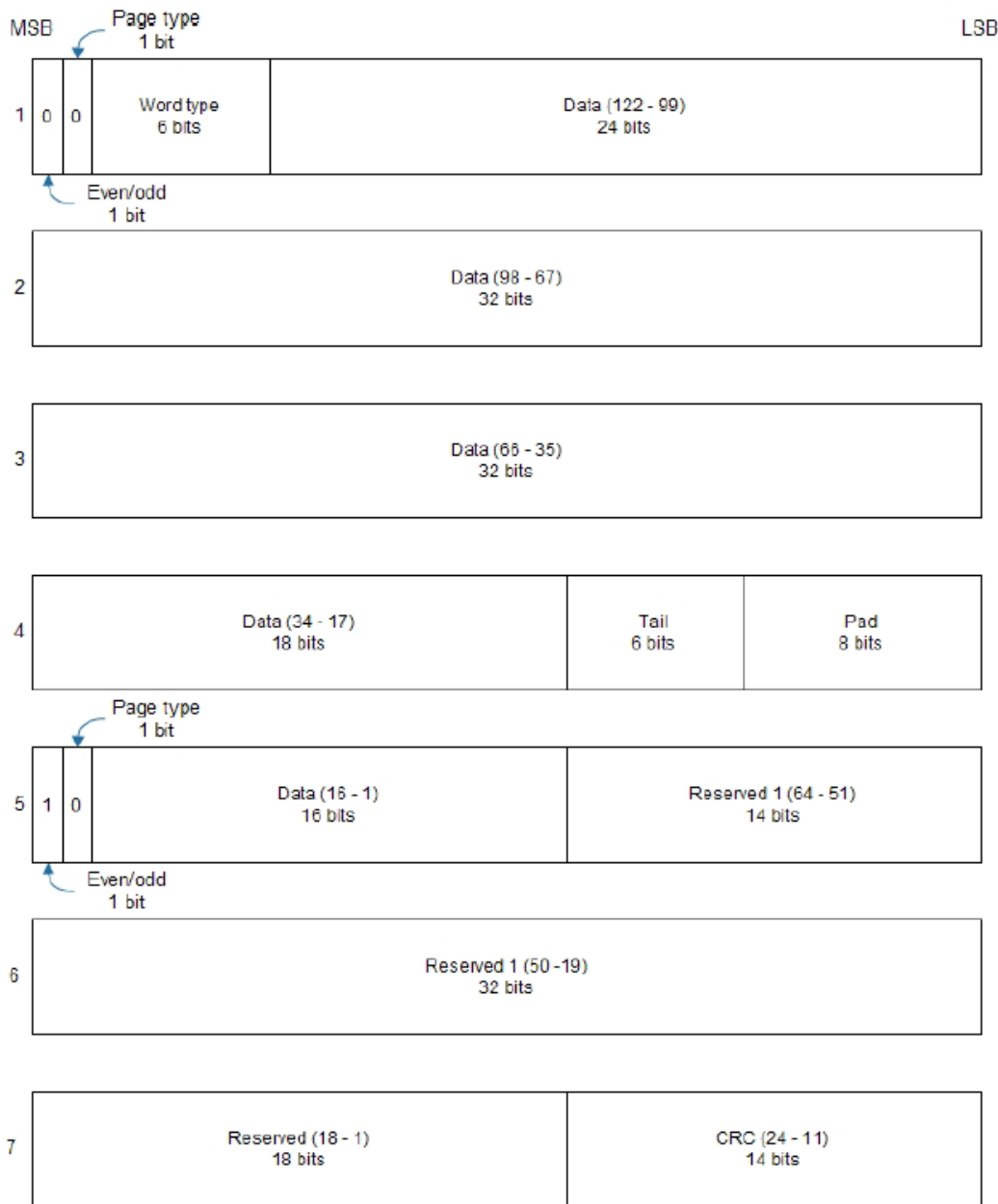


Figure 26: Galileo E5 bI/bQ subframe words

Alert pages are reported in very similar manner, but the page type bits will have value 1 and the structure of the eight words will be slightly different (as indicated by the Galileo ICD).

3.10.1.6 SBAS

For SBAS (L1C/A) signals each reported subframe contains eight 32 data words to deliver the 250 bits transmitted in each SBAS data block.

The eight words are arranged as follows:

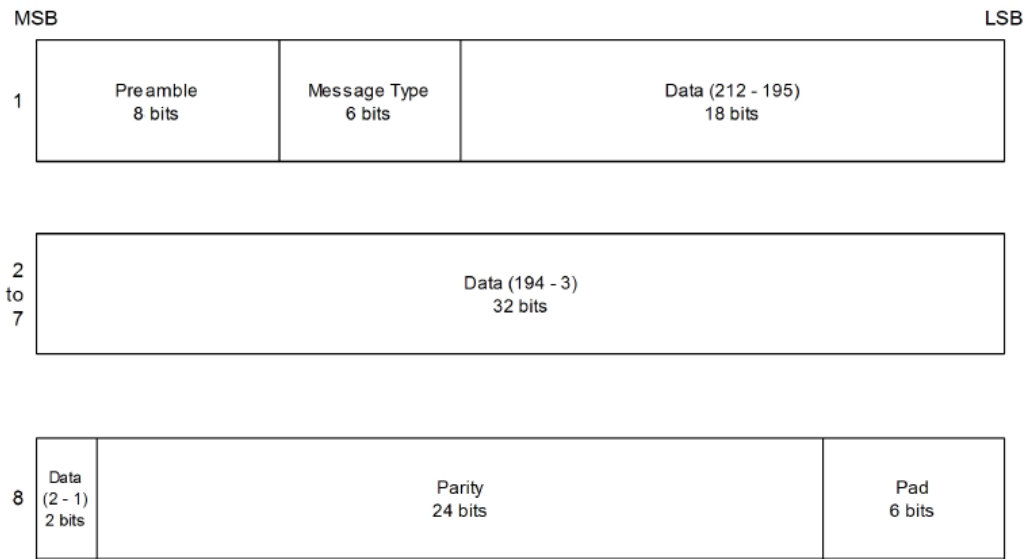


Figure 27: SBAS subframe words

3.10.1.7 QZSS

The structure of the data delivered by QZSS L1C/A signals is effectively identical to that for GPS (L1C/A).

Similarly the QZSS L2C signal is effectively identical to the GPS (L2C).

3.10.1.8 Summary

The following table gives a summary of the different data message formats reported by the UBX-RXM-SFRBX message:

GNSS	Signal	gnssId	sigId	numWords	period
GPS	L1C/A	0	0	10	6s
SBAS	L1C/A	1	0	8	1s
GPS	L2CL	0	3	10	12s
GPS	L2CM	0	4	10	12s
Galileo	E1 C	2	0	8	2s
Galileo	E1 B	2	1	8	2s
Galileo	E5 bl	2	5	8	2s
Galileo	E5 bQ	2	6	8	2s
BeiDou	B1I D1	3	0	10	6s
BeiDou	B1I D2	3	1	10	0.6s
BeiDou	B2I D1	3	2	10	0.6s
BeiDou	B2I D2	3	3	10	0.6s
QZSS	L1C/A	5	0	10	6s
QZSS	L2CM	5	4	10	12s
QZSS	L2CL	5	5	10	12s
GLONASS	L1OF	6	0	4	2s
GLONASS	L2OF	6	2	4	2s

Table 21: Data message formats reported by UBX-RXM-SFRBX

3.11 Forcing a receiver reset

Typically, in GNSS receivers, a distinction is made between cold, warm, and hot start, depending on the type of valid information the receiver has at the time of the restart.

- **Cold start:** In cold start mode, the receiver has no information from the last position (e.g. time, velocity, frequency etc.) at startup. Therefore, the receiver must search the full time and frequency space, and all possible satellite numbers. If a satellite signal is found, it is tracked to decode the ephemeris (18-36 seconds under strong signal conditions), whereas the other channels continue to search satellites. Once there is a sufficient number of satellites with valid ephemeris, the receiver can calculate position and velocity data. Other GNSS receiver manufacturers call this startup mode **Factory startup**.
- **Warm start:** In warm start mode, the receiver has approximate information for time, position, and coarse satellite position data (Almanac). In this mode, after power-up, the receiver normally needs to download ephemeris before it can calculate position and velocity data. As the ephemeris data usually is outdated after 4 hours, the receiver will typically start with a warm start if it has been powered down for more than 4 hours. In this scenario, several augmentations are possible. See [Multiple GNSS assistance](#).
- **Hot start:** In hot start mode, the receiver was powered down only for a short time (4 hours or less), so that its ephemeris is still valid. Since the receiver does not need to download ephemeris again, this is the fastest startup method.

Using the UBX-CFG-RST message, you can force the receiver to reset and clear data, in order to see the effects of maintaining/losing such data between restarts. For this, the UBX-CFG-RST message offers the `navBbrMask` field, where hot, warm and cold starts can be initiated, and also other combinations thereof.

The reset type can also be specified. This is not related to GNSS, but to the way the software restarts the system.

- **Hardware reset** uses the on-chip watchdog, in order to electrically reset the chip. This is an immediate, asynchronous reset. No Stop events are generated.
- **Controlled software reset** terminates all running processes in an orderly manner and, once the system is idle, restarts operation, reloads its configuration and starts to acquire and track GNSS satellites.
- **Controlled software reset (GNSS only)** only restarts the GNSS tasks, without reinitializing the full system or reloading any stored configuration.
- **Hardware reset** uses the on-chip watchdog. This is a reset after shutdown.
- **Controlled GNSS stop** stops all GNSS tasks. The receiver will not be restarted, but will stop any GNSS-related processing.
- **Controlled GNSS start** starts all GNSS tasks.

4 Design

This section provides information to help carry out a successful schematic and PCB design integrating the ZED-F9T.



Do not load Pin 4 (ANT_DETECT) with a capacitance more than 1 nF.

4.1 Pin assignment

The pin assignment of the ZED-F9T module is shown in [Figure 28](#). The defined configuration of the PIOs is listed in [Table 22](#).



The ZED-F9T is an LGA package with the I/O on the outside edge and central ground pads.

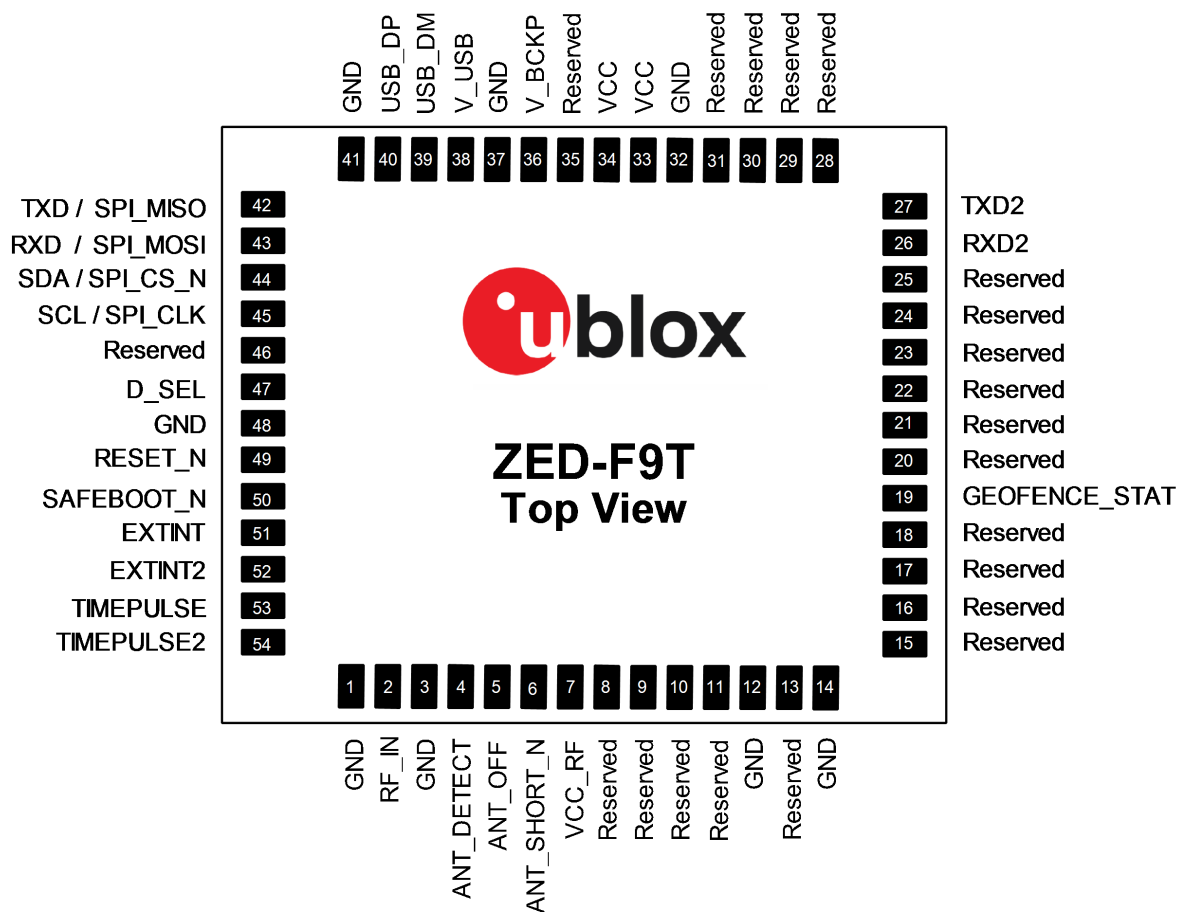


Figure 28: ZED-F9T pin assignment

Pin No	Name	I/O	Description
1	GND	-	Ground
2	RF_IN	I	RF input
3	GND	-	Ground
4	ANT_DETECT	I	Active antenna detect - default active high
5	ANT_OFF	O	External LNA disable - default active high
6	ANT_SHORT_N	I	Active antenna short detect - default active low

Pin No	Name	I/O	Description
7	VCC_RF	O	Voltage for external LNA
8	Reserved	-	Reserved
9	Reserved	-	Reserved
10	Reserved	-	Reserved
11	Reserved	-	Reserved
12	GND	-	Ground
13	Reserved	-	Reserved
14	GND	-	Ground
15	Reserved	-	Reserved
16	Reserved	-	Reserved
17	Reserved	-	Reserved
18	Reserved	-	Reserved
19	GEOFENCE_STAT	O	Geofence status, user defined
20	Reserved	-	Reserved
21	Reserved	-	Reserved
22	Reserved	-	Reserved
23	Reserved	-	Reserved
24	Reserved	-	Reserved
25	Reserved	-	Reserved
26	RXD2	I	Correction UART input
27	TXD2	O	Correction UART output
28	Reserved	-	Reserved
29	Reserved	-	Reserved
30	Reserved	-	Reserved
31	Reserved	-	Reserved
32	GND	-	Ground
33	VCC	I	Voltage supply
34	VCC	I	Voltage supply
35	Reserved	-	Reserved
36	V_BCKP	I	Backup supply voltage
37	GND	-	Ground
38	V_USB	I	USB supply
39	USB_DM	I/O	USB data
40	USB_DP	I/O	USB data
41	GND	-	Ground
42	TXD / SPI_MISO	O	Host UART output if D_SEL = 1 (or open). SPI_MISO if D_SEL = 0
43	RXD / SPI_MOSI	I	Host UART input if D_SEL = 1 (or open). SPI_MOSI if D_SEL = 0
44	SDA / SPI_CS_N	I/O	I2C Data if D_SEL = 1 (or open). SPI Chip Select if D_SEL = 0
45	SCL / SPI_CLK	I/O	I2C Clock if D_SEL = 1 (or open). SPI Clock if D_SEL = 0
46	Reserved	-	Reserved
47	D_SEL	I	Interface select for pins 42-45
48	GND	-	Ground
49	RESET_N	I	RESET_N
50	SAFEBOOT_N	I	SAFEBOOT_N (for future service, updates and reconfiguration, leave OPEN)

Pin No	Name	I/O	Description
51	EXTINT	I	External Interrupt Pin
52	EXTINT2	I	External Interrupt Pin 2
53	TIMEPULSE	O	Time pulse
54	TIMEPULSE2	O	Time pulse 2

Table 22: ZED-F9T pin assignment

4.2 Power supply

The u-blox ZED-F9T module has three power supply pins: VCC, V_BCKP and V_USB.

4.2.1 VCC: Main supply voltage

The **VCC** pin is connected to the main supply voltage. During operation, the current drawn by the module can vary by some orders of magnitude. For this reason, it is important that the supply circuitry be able to support the peak power for a short time (see the ZED-F9T Data sheet [1] for specification).

The module integrates a DC/DC converter, which allows reduced power consumption.

-  When switching from backup mode to normal operation or at start-up, u-blox ZED-F9T modules must charge the internal capacitors in the core domain. In certain situations, this can result in a significant current draw. For low-power applications using backup mode, it is important that the power supply or low ESR capacitors at the module input can deliver this current/charge.
-  To reduce peak current during power on, users can employ an LDO that has an in-built current limiter
-  Do not add any series resistance greater than 0.2 Ω to the VCC supply as it will generate input voltage noise due to dynamic current conditions.
-  For the ZED-F9T module the equipment must be supplied by an external limited power source in compliance with the clause 2.5 of the standard IEC 60950-1.

4.2.2 V_BCKP: Backup supply voltage

If the module supply has a power failure, the **V_BCKP** pin supplies the real-time clock (RTC) and battery backed RAM (BBR). Use of valid time and the GNSS orbit data at start up will improve the GNSS performance, as with hot starts and warm starts.

If V_BCKP is not provided, the module performs a cold start at power up.

If a host is connected to ZED-F9T, V_BCKP can be partially emulated by using UBX-UPD-SOS functionality. BBR data can saved to the host and restored at startup. See [Interface description](#) for more information.

-  Avoid high resistance on the **V_BCKP** line: During the switch from main supply to backup supply, a short current adjustment peak can cause a high voltage drop on the pin with possible malfunctions.
-  Add a 2 μ F capacitor on the V_BCKP pin to absorb the current adjustment peak when switching from VCC to V_BCKP supply.
-  If no backup supply voltage is available, connect the **V_BCKP** pin to **VCC**.
-  Allow all I/O including UART and other interfaces to float or connect to a high impedance in HW backup mode (V_BCKP supplied when VCC is removed). See the [Interfaces](#) section.

Real time clock (RTC)

The real-time clock (RTC) is driven by a 32-kHz oscillator using an RTC crystal. If VCC is removed whilst a battery is connected to **V_BCKP**, most of the receiver is switched off leaving the RTC and BBR powered. This operating mode is called Hardware Backup Mode which enables time keeping and all relevant data to be saved to allow a hot or warm start.

4.2.3 ZED-F9T power supply

The ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver requires a low-noise, low-dropout voltage, very low source impedance power supply of 3.3 V typically. No inductors or ferrite beads should be used from LDO to the module VCC pin. The peak currents need to be taken into account for the source supplying the LDO for the module.

A power supply fed by 5 V is shown in the figure below. This example circuit is intended only for the module supply.

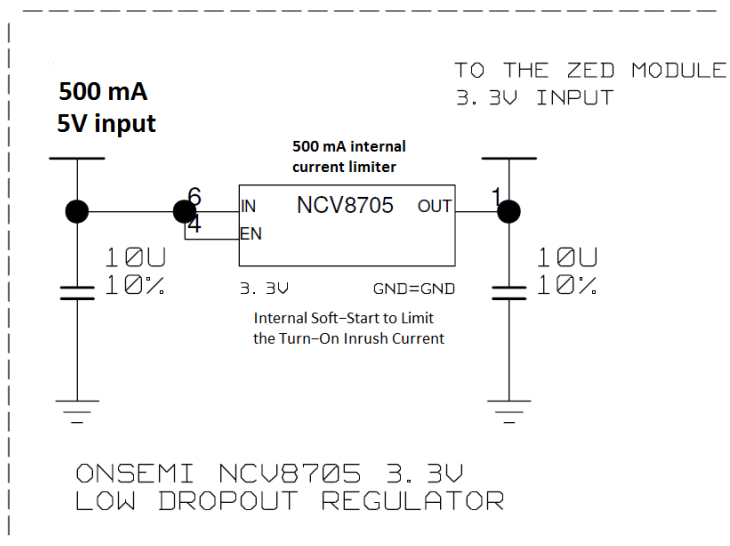


Figure 29: ZED-F9T power supply

4.3 ZED-F9T minimal design

The minimal electrical circuit for ZED-F9T operation using the UART1 interface is shown in [Figure 30](#) below.

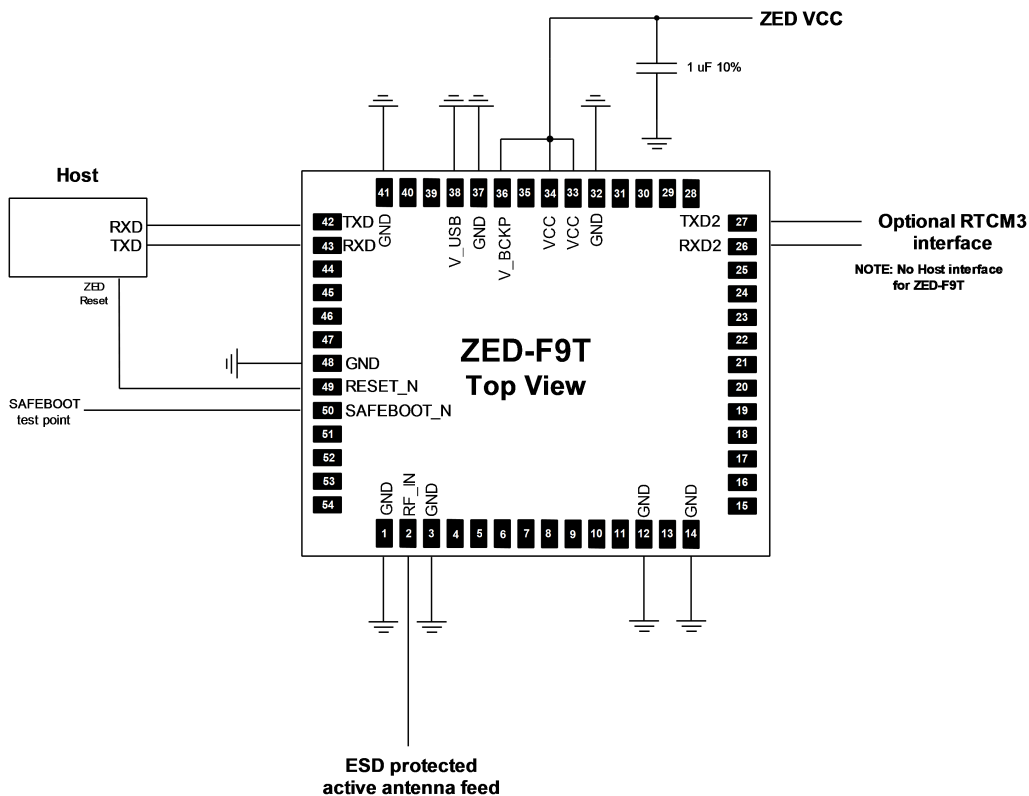


Figure 30: Minimal ZED-F9T design

For a minimal design with the ZED-F9T GNSS modules, the following functions and pins should be considered:

- Connect the power supply to VCC and V_BCKP.
- If hot or warm start operations are needed, connect a backup battery to V_BCKP.
- If USB is not used connect V_USB to ground.
- Ensure an optimal ground connection to all ground pins of the ZED-F9T GNSS module.
- If antenna bias is required, see ZED-F9T [antenna bias](#) section.

4.4 Antenna

u-blox recommends using an active antenna with ZED-F9T.

If an active antenna needs to be implemented in an application case, it is recommended that an OEM active antenna module be used that meets our specification. To implement the required RF circuitry and source the required components to meet group delay specification is not a simple process compared to previous L1-only implementation.

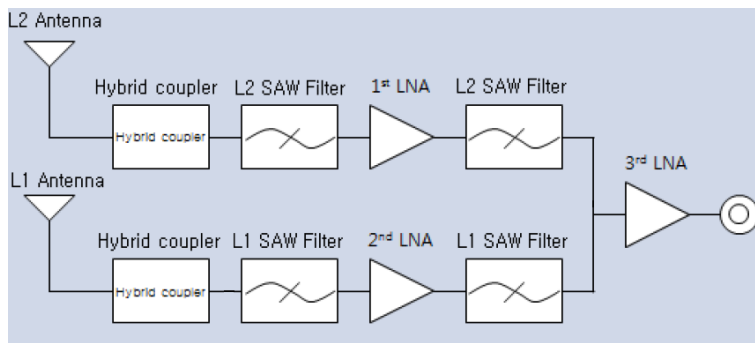


Figure 31: u-blox low cost dual-band antenna internal structure

- A suitable ground plane is required for the antenna to achieve good performance.
- Location of the antenna is critical to reach the stated performance. Unsuitable locations could include, under vehicle dash, rear-view mirror location, etc.

L1 + L2/E5b active antenna required specifications

Parameter	Specification
Antenna type	Active antenna
Active antenna recommendations	Minimum active antenna gain ²
	Maximum active antenna gain ²
	Noise figure
L1 band antenna gain ³	1559 - 1606 MHz: 3 dBic typ.
L2/E5b band antenna gain ⁴	1197 - 1249 MHz: 2 dBic typ.
Polarization	RHCP
Axial ratio	2 dB max at Zenith
Phase center variation	<10 mm over elevation/azimuth
Group delay variation in-band ⁵	10 ns max at each GNSS system bandwidth. Note: Inter-signal requirement 50 ns max.
EMI immunity out-of-band ⁶	30 V/m
Out-of-band ⁷ rejection	40 dB typ
ESD circuit protection	15 kV human body model air discharge

Table 23: Antenna specifications for ZED-F9T modules

² Including passive losses (filters, cables, connectors etc.)

³ Measured with a ground plane d=150 mm

⁴ Measured with a ground plane d=150 mm

⁵ GNSS system bandwidths: 1559... 1563 MHz; 1573... 1578 MHz; 1598... 1606 MHz; 1192... 1212 MHz; 1197... 1217 MHz; 1223... 1231 MHz; 1242... 1249 MHz

⁶ Exception L1 and L2 bands +/- 200 MHz, emphasis on cellular bands

⁷ GNSS system bandwidths: 1559... 1563 MHz; 1573... 1578 MHz; 1598... 1606 MHz; 1192... 1212 MHz; 1197... 1217 MHz; 1223... 1231 MHz; 1242... 1249 MHz

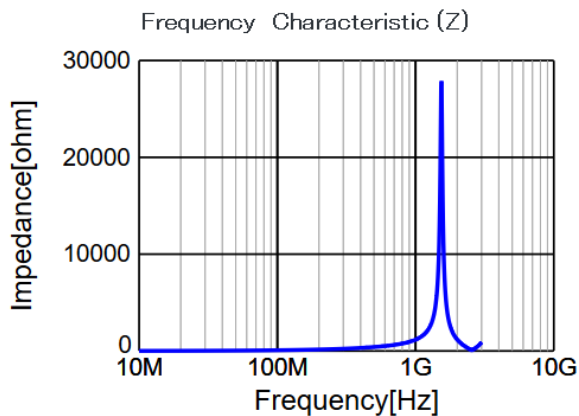
The antenna system should include filtering to ensure adequate protection from nearby transmitters. Take care in the selection of antennas placed close to cellular or Wi-Fi transmitting antennas.

4.4.1 Antenna bias

Active antennas have an integrated low-noise amplifier that contributes an additional current of typically 5 to 20 mA to the system's power consumption budget. If customers do not want to make use of the antenna supervisor function the filtered VCC_RF supply voltage output can supply the antenna if the supply voltage of the ZED-F9T module matches the antenna working voltage (e.g. 3.0 V).

-  A series current limiting resistor is required to prevent short circuits destroying the bias-t inductor.
-  The bias-t inductor must be chosen for multi-band operation, a value of 120 nH 5% is recommended for the recommended Murata L part. It has a self-resonance frequency of 1 GHz and a high impedance ($> 500 \Omega$) at L-band frequencies.

The recommended bias-t inductor (Murata LQW15ANR12J00) has a maximum current capacity of 110 mA. Hence the current is limited to 70 mA at 3.3V using an active limiter in the recommended circuit shown in [Figure 33](#) below. A 10Ω resistor (R2) is provided to measure the current. This resistor power rating must be chosen to ensure reliability in the chosen circuit design.



■ LQW15ANR12J00,

Figure 32: ZED-F9T antenna bias inductor impedance

A recommended circuit design for an active antenna bias is shown below. This example shows an external voltage of 3.3V with current limiting as described above. An ESD protection diode should also be connected to the input as shown.

RF INPUT FOR ZED-F9 AND ANTENNA BIAS

NOTE:

BIAS-CIRCUITRY LIMITS THE CURRENT TO ~70MA

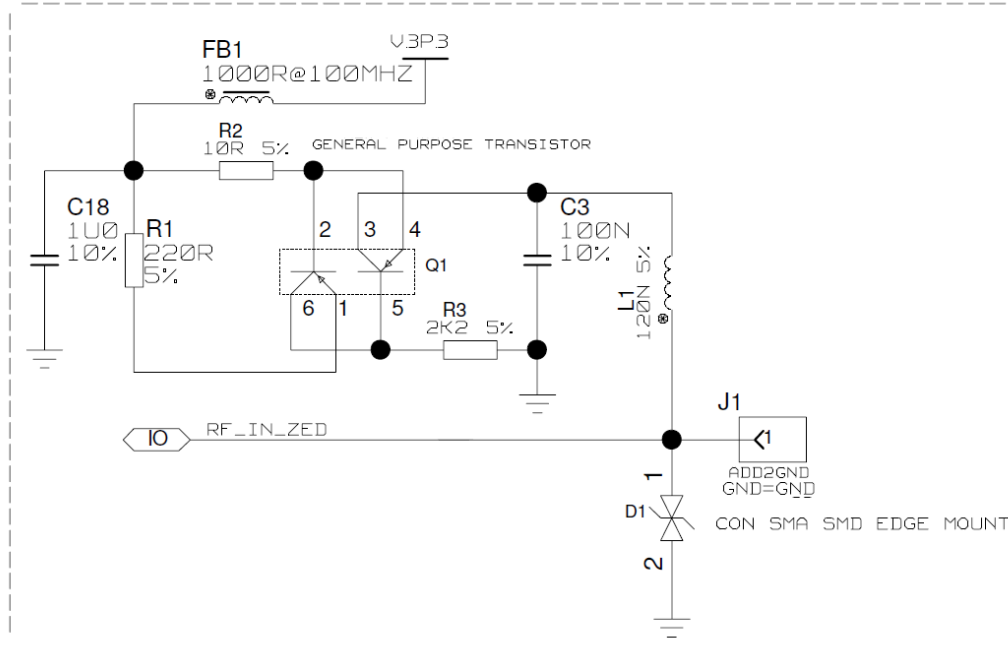


Figure 33: ZED-F9T reference design for antenna bias

L1: MURATA LQW15A LQW15ANR12J00 0402 120N 5% 0.11A -55/+125C

D1: TYCO, 0.25PF, PESD0402-140 -55/+125C

C3: MURATA GRM033R61E104KE14 CER X5R 0201 100N 10% 25V

R2: RES THICK FILM CHIP 1206 10R 5% 0.25W

It is recommended to use active current limiting. If active current limiting is not used, the following important points covered below need to be taken into account:

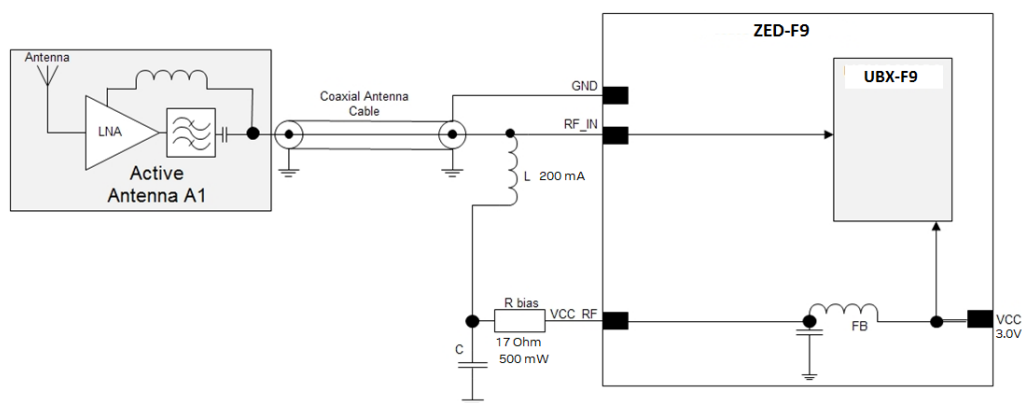


Figure 34: ZED-F9T VCC_RF antenna bias



The bias-T inductor and current limiting resistor must be selected to be reliable with a short-circuit on the antenna feed if no active current limiter is used. Our recommended part has a limit of 110 mA. A part with a higher current capability will be needed if the short circuit current is as described here. This will also be affected by the voltage level of the antenna

bias supply due to power dissipation. Take the current limit capability of the antenna bias supply into consideration. In the case where the module supplies the voltage via VCC_RF, a higher value resistor will be needed to ensure the module supply inductor is protected. The current should be limited to below 150 mA at the module supply voltage under short-circuit conditions. In this case a value of 17 Ω or more is required at a module supply of 3 V to limit short circuit current to 150 mA. The DC resistance of the bias-t inductor is assumed to be 1-2 Ω and the module internal feed inductor is assumed to be 1.2 Ω .

If the VCC_RF voltage does not match with the supply voltage of the active antenna, use a filtered external supply.



The power dissipation in the resistor and inductor needs to be taken into account based on the supply voltage and short circuit current. The bias-t inductor current capability and the bias resistor value need to be calculated as shown above. The supply voltage for the bias-t and its current capability is part of the calculation.

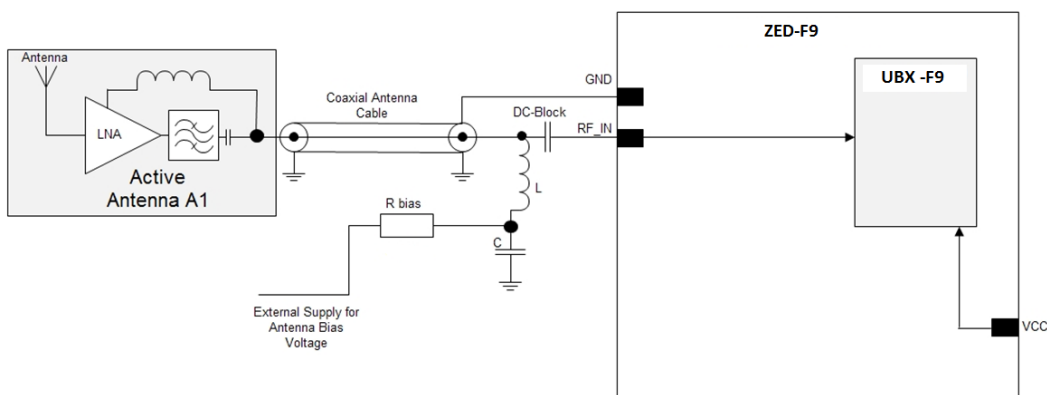


Figure 35: ZED-F9T external voltage antenna bias

4.5 EOS/ESD precautions

When integrating GNSS receivers into wireless systems, careful consideration must be given to electromagnetic and voltage susceptibility issues. Wireless systems include components which can produce Electrostatic Discharge (ESD), Electrical Overstress (EOS) and Electro-Magnetic Interference (EMI). CMOS devices are more sensitive to such influences because their failure mechanism is defined by the applied voltage, whereas bipolar semiconductors are more susceptible to thermal overstress. The following design guidelines are provided to help in designing robust yet cost-effective solutions.



To avoid overstress damage during production or in the field it is essential to observe strict EOS/ESD/EMI handling and protection measures.



To prevent overstress damage at the RF_IN of your receiver, never exceed the maximum input power as specified in the u-blox ZED-F9T Data sheet [1].

4.5.1 ESD protection measures



GNSS receivers are sensitive to Electrostatic Discharge (ESD). Special precautions are required when handling. Most defects caused by ESD can be prevented by following strict ESD protection rules for production and handling. When implementing passive antenna patches or external antenna connection points, then additional ESD measures as shown in the figure below can also avoid failures in the field.

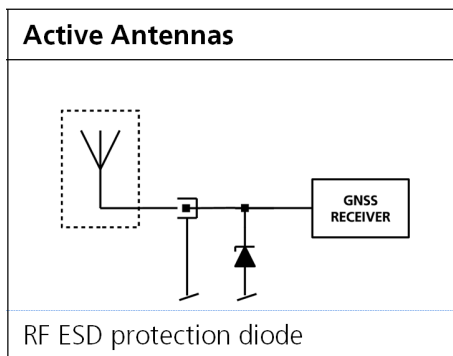


Figure 36: RF ESD precautions

4.5.2 EOS precautions

Electrical overstress (EOS) usually describes situations when the maximum input power exceeds the maximum specified ratings. EOS failure can happen if RF emitters are close to a GNSS receiver or its antenna. EOS causes damage to the chip structures. If the RF_IN is damaged by EOS, it is hard to determine whether the chip structures have been damaged by ESD or EOS.

EOS protection measures as shown in the figure below are recommended for any designs combining wireless communication transceivers (e.g. GSM, GPRS) and GNSS in the same design or in close proximity.

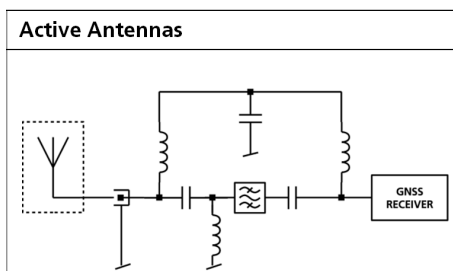


Figure 37: Active antenna EOS protection

4.5.3 Safety precautions

The ZED-F9T must be supplied by an external limited power source in compliance with the clause 2.5 of the standard IEC 60950-1. In addition to external limited power source, only Separated or Safety Extra-Low Voltage (SELV) circuits are to be connected to the module including interfaces and antennas.



For more information about SELV circuits see section 2.2 in Safety standard IEC 60950-1.

4.6 Electromagnetic interference on I/O lines

Any I/O signal line with a length greater than approximately 3 mm can act as an antenna and may pick up arbitrary RF signals transferring them as noise into the GNSS receiver. This specifically applies to unshielded lines, in which the corresponding GND layer is remote or missing entirely, and lines close to the edges of the printed circuit board.

If, for example, a cellular signal radiates into an unshielded high-impedance line, it is possible to generate noise in the order of volts and not only distort receiver operation but also damage it permanently. Another type of interference can be caused by noise generated at the PIO pins that

emits from unshielded I/O lines. Receiver performance may be degraded when this noise is coupled into the GNSS antenna.

EMI protection measures are particularly useful when RF emitting devices are placed next to the GNSS receiver and/or to minimize the risk of EMI degradation due to self-jamming. An adequate layout with a robust grounding concept is essential in order to protect against EMI.



Intended Use: In order to mitigate any performance degradation of a radio equipment under EMC disturbance, system integration shall adopt appropriate EMC design practice and not contain cables over three meters on signal and supply ports.

4.6.1 General notes on interference issues

Received GNSS signal power at the antenna is very low. At the nominal received signal strength (-128 dBm) it is below the thermal noise floor of -111 dBm. Due to this fact, a GNSS receiver is susceptible to interference from nearby RF sources of any kind. Two cases can be distinguished:

- **Out-of-band interference:** Typically any kind of wireless communications system (e.g. LTE, GSM, CDMA, 3G, WLAN, Bluetooth, etc.) may emit its specified maximum transmit power in close proximity to the GNSS receiving antenna, especially if such a system is integrated with the GNSS receiver. Even at reasonable antenna selectivity, destructive power levels may reach the RF input of the GNSS receiver. Also, larger signal interferers may generate intermodulation products inside the GNSS receiver front-end that fall into the GNSS band and contribute to in-band interference
- **In-band interference:** Although the GNSS band is kept free from intentional RF signal sources by radio-communications standards, many devices emit RF power into the GNSS band at levels much higher than the GNSS signal itself. One reason is that the frequency band above 1 GHz is not well regulated with regards to EMI, and even if permitted, signal levels are much higher than GNSS signal power. Notably, all types of digital equipment, such as PCs, digital cameras, LCD screens, etc. tend to emit a broad frequency spectrum up to several GHz of frequency. Also wireless transmitters may generate spurious emissions that fall into GNSS band

As an example, GSM uses power levels of up to 2 W (+33 dBm). The absolute maximum power input at the RF input of the GNSS receiver can be +15 dBm. The GSM specification allows spurious emissions for GSM transmitters of up to +36 dBm, while the GNSS signal is less than -128 dBm. By simply comparing these numbers it is obvious that interference issues must be seriously considered in any design of a GNSS receiver. Different design goals may be achieved through different implementations:

- The primary focus is preventing the destruction of the receiver from large input signals. Here the GNSS performance under interference conditions is not important and suppression of the GNSS signal is permitted. It is sufficient to just observe the maximum RF power ratings of all the components in the RF input path.
- GNSS performance must be guaranteed even under interference conditions. In that case, not only the maximum power ratings of the components in the receive patch must be observed. Further, non-linear effects like gain compression, NF degradation (desensitization) and intermodulation must be analyzed.



Pulsed interference with a low duty cycle such as GSM may be destructive due to the high peak power levels.

4.6.2 In-band interference mitigation

With in-band interference, the signal frequency is very close to the GNSS frequency. Such interference signals are typically caused by harmonics from displays, micro-controller operation, bus systems, etc. Measures against in-band interference include:

- Maintaining a good grounding concept in the design
- Shielding
- Layout optimization
- Low-pass filtering of noise sources, e.g. digital signal lines
- Remote placement of the GNSS antenna, far away from noise sources
- Adding an LTE, CDMA, GSM, WCDMA, BT band-pass filter before antenna

4.6.3 Out-of-band interference

Out-of-band interference is caused by signal frequencies that are different from the GNSS carrier frequency. The main sources are wireless communication systems such as LTE, GSM, CDMA, WCDMA, Wi-Fi, BT, etc.

Measures against out-of-band interference include maintaining a good grounding concept in the design and adding a GNSS band-pass filter into the antenna input line to the receiver.

For GSM applications, such as typical handset design, an isolation of approximately 20 dB can be reached with careful placement of the antennas. If this is insufficient, an additional SAW filter is required on the GNSS receiver input to block the remaining GSM transmitter energy.

4.7 Layout

This section details layout and placement requirements of the ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver.

4.7.1 Placement

GNSS signals at the surface of the Earth are below the thermal noise floor. A very important factor in achieving maximum GNSS performance is the placement of the receiver on the PCB. The placement used may affect RF signal loss from antenna to receiver input and enable interference into the sensitive parts of the receiver chain, including the antenna itself. When defining a GNSS receiver layout, the placement of the antenna with respect to the receiver, as well as grounding, shielding and interference from other digital devices are crucial issues and need to be considered very carefully.

Signal loss on the RF connection from antenna to receiver input must be minimized as much as possible. Hence, the connection to the antenna must be kept as short as possible.

Ensure that RF critical circuits are clearly separated from any other digital circuits on the system board. To achieve this, position the receiver digital part closer to the digital section of the system PCB and have the RF section and antenna placed as far as possible away from the other digital circuits on the board.

A proper GND concept shall be followed: The RF section shall not be subject to noisy digital supply currents running through its GND plane.

Care must also be exercised with placing the receiver in proximity to circuitry that can emit heat. The RF part of the receiver is very sensitive to temperature and sudden changes can have an adverse impact on performance.



The TCXO of a GNSS receiver is a temperature-sensitive device. Avoid high temperature drift and air convection.

4.7.2 Package footprint, copper and paste mask

Copper and solder mask dimensioning recommendations for the ZED-F9T module packages are provided in this section.



These are recommendations only and not specifications. The exact copper, solder and paste mask geometries, distances, stencil thicknesses and solder paste volumes must be adapted to the specific production processes (e.g. soldering etc.) of the customer.

Refer to the ZED-F9T Data sheet [1] for the mechanical dimensions.

4.7.2.1 Footprint

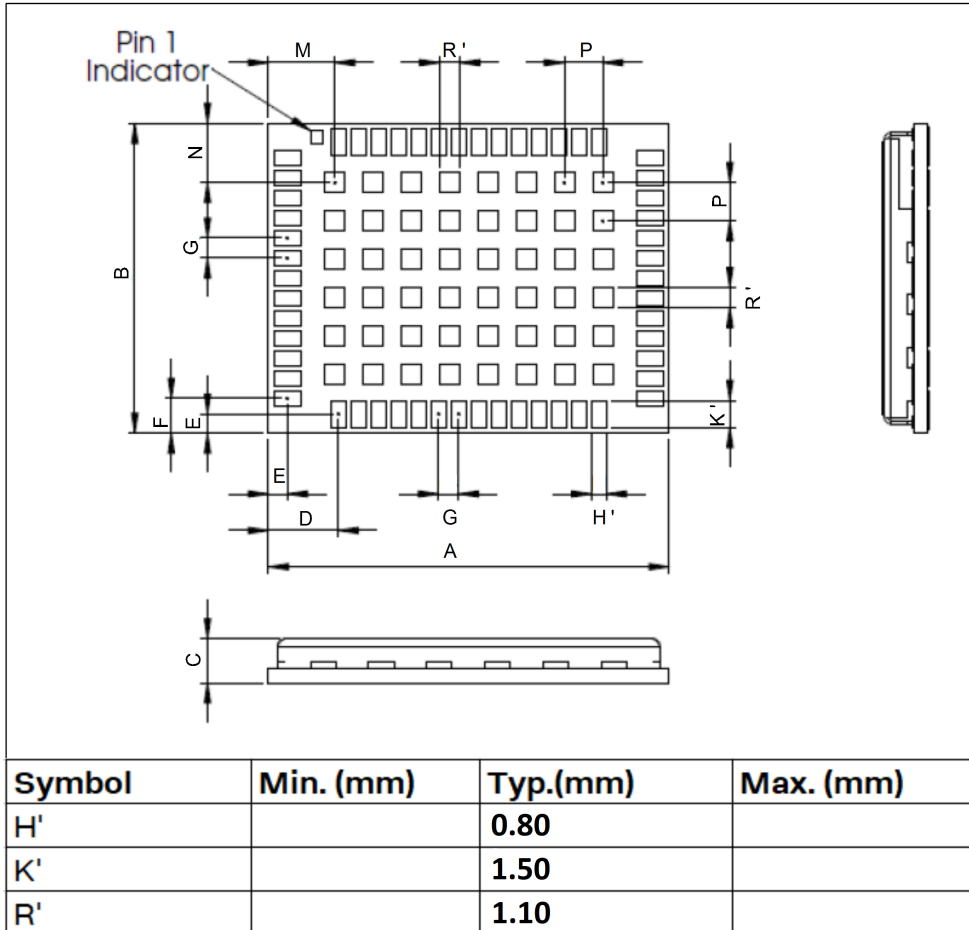


Figure 38: ZED-F9T suggested footprint (i.e. copper mask)

4.7.2.2 Paste mask

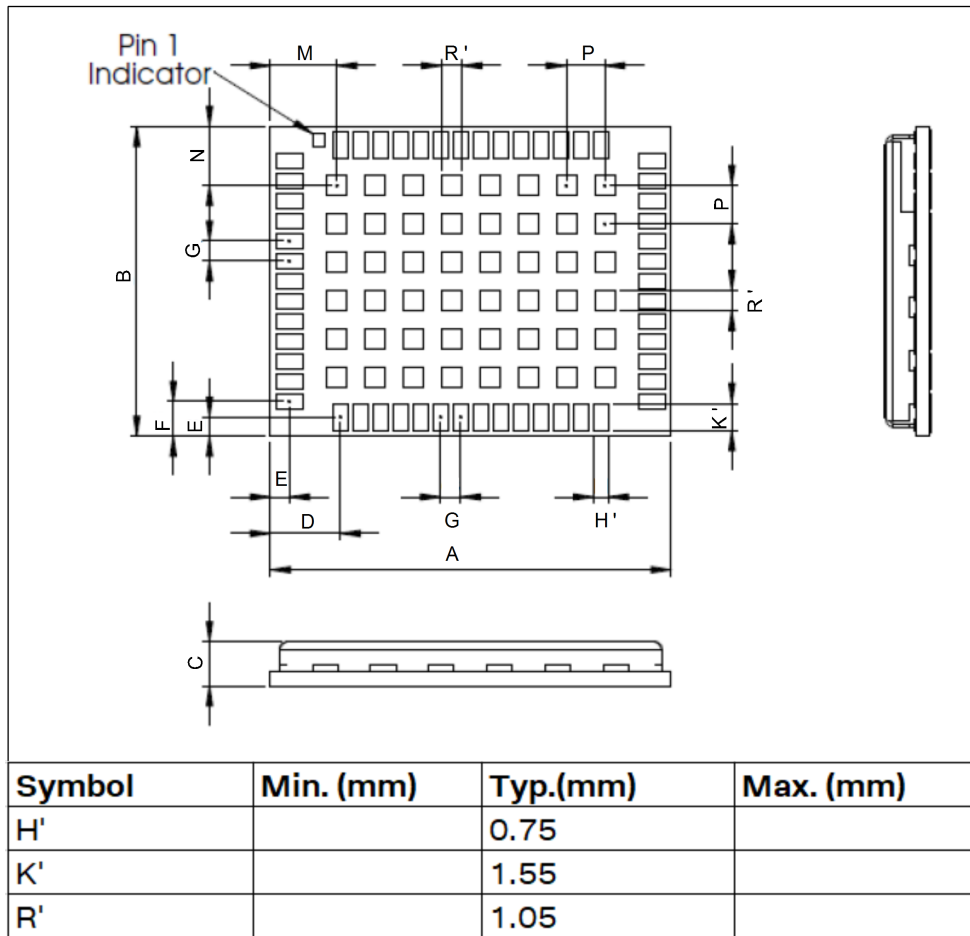


Figure 39: ZED-F9T suggested paste mask

4.7.3 Layout guidance

The presented layout guidance reduces the risk of performance issues at design level.

4.7.3.1 RF In trace

The RF in trace has to work in the combined GNSS L1 + L2 signal band.

A grounded co-planar RF trace is recommended as it provides the maximum shielding from noise with adequate vias to the ground layer.

The RF trace must be shielded by vias to ground along the entire length of the trace and the ZED-F9T RF_IN pad should be surrounded by vias as shown in the figure below.

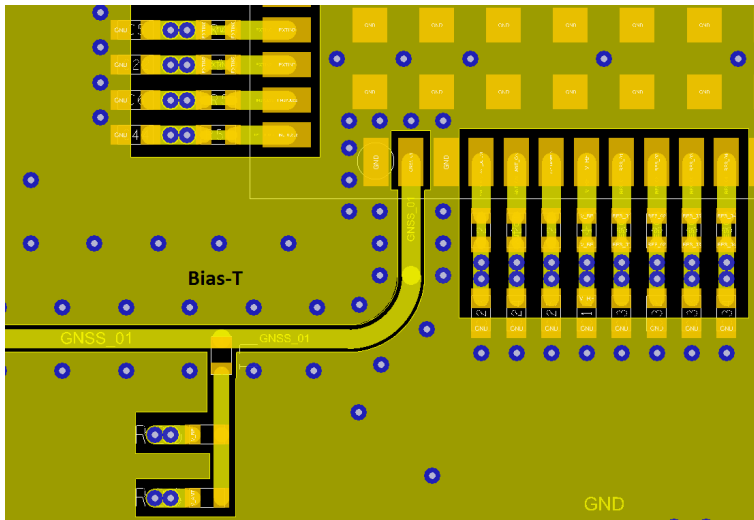


Figure 40: RF input trace

The RF_IN trace on the top layer should be referenced to a suitable ground layer.

4.7.3.2 Vias for the ground pads

The ground pads under the ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver need to be grounded with vias to the lower ground layer of the PCB. A solid ground layer fill on the top layer of the PCB is recommended. This is shown in the figure below.

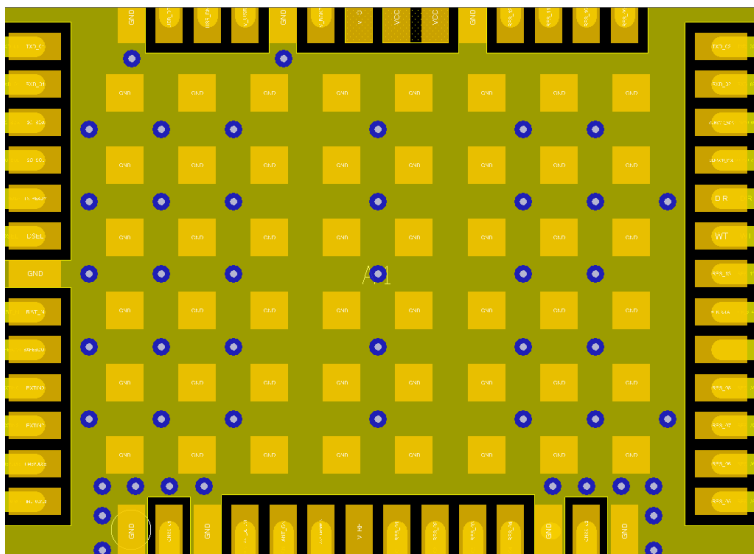


Figure 41: Top layer fill and vias

4.7.3.3 VCC pads

The VCC pads for the ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver must have as low impedance as possible with large vias to the lower power layer of the PCB. The VCC pads need a large combined pad and the de-coupling capacitors must be placed as close as possible. This is shown in the figure below.

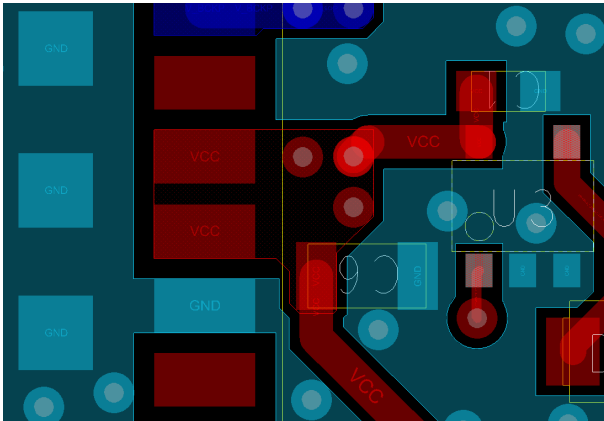


Figure 42: VCC pads

4.8 Design guidance

4.8.1 General considerations



Do not load Pin 4 (ANT_DETECT) with a capacitance more than 1 nF.

Check power supply requirements and schematic:

- Is the power supply voltage within the specified range and noise-free?
- If USB is not used, connect the V_USB pin to ground.
- For USB devices: Is the V_USB voltage within the specified range?
- It is recommended to have a separate LDO for V_USB that is enabled by the module VCC. This is to comply with the USB self-powered specification.
- If USB is used, is there a 1 uF capacitor right near the V_USB pin? This is just for the V_USB pin.
- Is there a 1 uF cap right next to the module VCC pin?
- Compare the peak current consumption of the ZED-F9T GNSS module with the specification of your power supply.
- GNSS receivers require a stable power supply. Avoid series resistance (less than 0.2 Ω) in your power supply line (the line to VCC) to minimize the voltage ripple on VCC. See the ZED-F9T [Power supply](#) section in the [Design](#) chapter for more information on the power supply requirements.
- Allow all I/O to Float/High impedance (High-Z) when VCC is not applied.

4.8.2 Backup battery

Check backup supply requirements and schematic:

- For achieving a minimal Time To First Fix (TTFF) after a power down (warm starts, hot starts), make sure to connect a backup battery to V_BCKP.
- Verify your battery backup supply can provide the battery backup current specified in the ZED-F9T datasheet.
- Allow all I/O including UART and other interfaces to Float/High impedance in HW backup mode (battery back-up connected with VCC removed).

4.8.3 RF front-end circuit options



It is important that the RF input is fed by an active antenna meeting the requirements for the ZED-F9T.

The first stages of the signal processing chain are crucial to the overall receiver performance.

When an RF input connector is employed this can provide a conduction path for harmful or destructive electrical signals. If this is a likely factor the RF input should be protected accordingly.

Additional points on the RF input

- What is the expected quality of the signal source (antenna)?
- What is the external active antenna signal power?
- What is the bandwidth and filtering of the external active antenna?
- Does the external antenna and filtering components meet the group delay variation requirements? This is critical for RTK.

Are destructive RF power levels expected to reach the RF input? Is interference from wireless transmitters expected?

- What are the characteristics of these signals (duty cycle, frequency range, power range, spectral purity)?
- What is the expected GNSS performance under interference conditions?

Is there a risk of RF input exposure to excessive ESD stress?

- In the field: Can the user access the connector?
- PCB / system assembly: Is there risk that statically charged parts (e.g. patch antennas) may be discharged through the RF input?

The following subsections provide several options addressing the various questions above:



In some applications, such as cellular transceivers, interference signals may exceed the maximum power rating of the RF_IN input. To avoid device destruction use of external input protection is mandatory.



During assembly of end-user devices which contain passive patch antennas, an ESD discharge may occur during production when pre-charged antennas are soldered to the GNSS receiver board. In such cases, use of external protection in front of RF_IN is mandatory to avoid device destruction.

ESD discharge cannot be avoided during assembly and / or field use. Note that SAW filters are susceptible to ESD damage. To provide additional robustness an ESD protection diode may be placed at the antenna RF connector to GND.

4.8.4 Antenna/RF input

Check RF input requirements and schematic:

- An OEM active antenna module that meets our requirements should be used if there is a need to integrate the antenna.
- The total maximum noise figure including external LNA (or the LNA in the active antenna) should be around 3 dB.
- Ensure active antenna gain is ideally between 30 - 40 dB gain.
- Make sure the antenna is not placed close to noisy parts of the circuitry and does not face any other noisy elements (for example micro-controller, display).
- Signal levels above 40 C/N0 average are required for optimal RTK performance.
- Ensure antenna supports both L1 and L2 bands.
- Ensure antenna element gain is between 2 and 3 dBic typical for L1 and L2 bands.
- Ensure the group delay variation including active antenna is 10 ns max at each GNSS system bandwidth. Note: Inter-signal requirement 50 ns max.
- ESD protection on the RF input is mandatory.
- Bias-t inductor must be L1 and L2 band frequency selected with high impedance in the GNSS band.

- Ensure RF trace is tuned for 50 Ω to ensure L1 and L2 bandwidth.

4.8.5 Ground pads

Ensure the ground pads of the module are connected to ground.

If a patch type antenna is used, a an antenna ground plane with minimum 100 - 150 mm diameter is required.

4.8.6 Schematic design

For a **minimal design** with the ZED-F9T GNSS modules, consider the following functions and pins:

- Connect the power supply to VCC and V_BCKP.
- V_USB: If USB is used it is recommended V_USB is to be powered as per USB self-powered mode specification.
- If USB is not used connect V_USB to ground.
- Ensure an optimal ground connection to all ground pins of the ZED-F9T GNSS module.
- Choose the required serial communication interfaces (UART, USB, SPI or I2C) and connect the appropriate pins to your application.
- If you need hot or warm start in your application, connect a back-up battery to V_BCKP.
- Antenna bias is required, see ZED-F9T antenna bias section.

4.8.7 Layout design-in guideline

- Is the receiver placed away from heat sources?
- Is the receiver placed away from air-cooling sources?
- Is the receiver shielded by a cover/case to prevent the effects of air currents and rapid environmental temperature changes?
- Is the receiver placed as recommended in the [Layout](#) and [Layout guidance](#)?
- Assure a low serial resistance on the VCC power supply line (choose a line width > 400 μm).
- Keep the power supply line as short as possible.
- Add a ground plane underneath the module to reduce interference. This is especially important for the RF input line.
- For improved shielding, add as many vias as possible around the micro strip/co-planar waveguide, around the serial communication lines, underneath the module, etc.

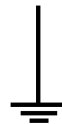
5 Product handling

5.1 ESD handling precautions

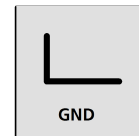


ZED-F9T contain highly sensitive electronic circuitry and are Electrostatic Sensitive Devices (ESD). Observe precautions for handling! Failure to observe these precautions can result in severe damage to the GNSS receiver!

- Unless there is a galvanic coupling between the local GND (i.e. the work table) and the PCB GND, then the first point of contact when handling the PCB must always be between the local GND and PCB GND.
- Before mounting an antenna patch, connect ground of the device.



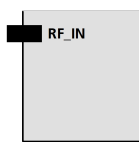
Connect first
to local GND



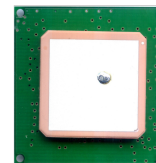
- When handling the RF pin, do not come into contact with any charged capacitors and be careful when contacting materials that can develop charges (e.g. patch antenna ~10 pF, coax cable ~50-80 pF/m or soldering iron).



ESD Sensitive!



- To prevent electrostatic discharge through the RF input, do not touch any exposed antenna area. If there is any risk that such exposed antenna area is touched in non-ESD protected work area, implement proper ESD protection measures in the design.



- When soldering RF connectors and patch antennas to the receiver's RF pin, make sure to use an ESD-safe soldering iron (tip)



ESD safe only!



5.2 Soldering

Soldering paste

Use of “no clean” soldering paste is highly recommended, as it does not require cleaning after the soldering process has taken place. The paste listed in the example below meets these criteria.

- Soldering paste: OM338 SAC405 / Nr.143714 (Cookson Electronics)
- Alloy specification: Sn 95.5/ Ag 4/ Cu 0.5 (95.5% Tin/ 4% Silver/ 0.5% Copper)
- Melting temperature: 217 °C
- Stencil thickness: The exact geometry, distances, stencil thicknesses and solder paste volumes must be adapted to the specific production processes (e.g. soldering) of the customer.

Reflow soldering

A convection-type soldering oven is highly recommended over the infrared type radiation oven. Convection-heated ovens allow precise control of the temperature, and all parts will heat up evenly, regardless of material properties, thickness of components and surface color.

As a reference, see the “IPC-7530 Guidelines for temperature profiling for mass soldering (reflow and wave) processes”, published in 2001.

Preheat phase

During the initial heating of component leads and balls, residual humidity will be dried out. Note that this preheat phase will not replace prior baking procedures.

- Temperature rise rate: max. 3 °C/s. If the temperature rise is too rapid in the preheat phase it may cause excessive slumping
- Time: 60 – 120 s. If the preheat is insufficient, rather large solder balls tend to be generated. Conversely, if performed excessively, fine balls and large balls will be generated in clusters
- End temperature: 150 – 200 °C. If the temperature is too low, non-melting tends to be caused in areas containing large heat capacity

Heating - reflow phase

The temperature rises above the liquidus temperature of 217°C. Avoid a sudden rise in temperature as the slump of the paste could become worse.

- Limit time above 217 °C liquidus temperature: 40 – 60 s
- Peak reflow temperature: 245 °C

Cooling phase

A controlled cooling prevents negative metallurgical effects (solder becomes more brittle) of the solder and possible mechanical tensions in the products. Controlled cooling helps to achieve bright solder fillets with a good shape and low contact angle.

- Temperature fall rate: max 4 °C/s



To avoid falling off, the modules should be placed on the topside of the motherboard during soldering.

The final soldering temperature chosen at the factory depends on additional external factors such as the choice of soldering paste, size, thickness and properties of the base board, etc. Exceeding the maximum soldering temperature in the recommended soldering profile may permanently damage the module.

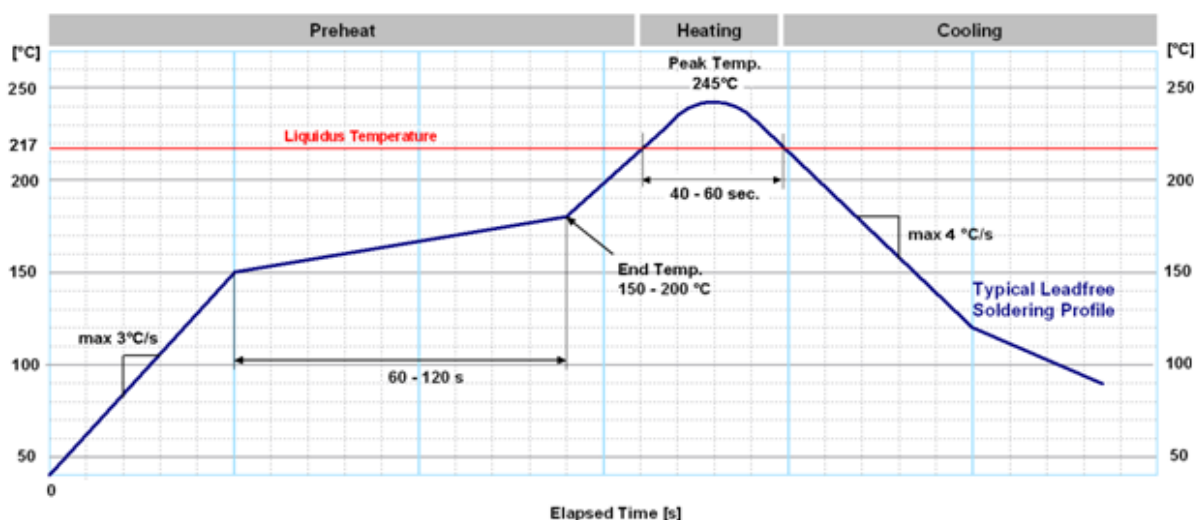


Figure 43: Soldering Profile



Modules **must not** be soldered with a damp heat process.

Optical inspection

After soldering the module, consider an optical inspection step.

Cleaning



No cleaning with water, solvent, ultrasonic cleaner should be carried out:

- Cleaning with water will lead to capillary effects where water is absorbed in the gap between the baseboard and the module. The combination of residues of soldering flux and encapsulated water leads to short circuits or resistor-like interconnections between neighboring pads.
- Cleaning with alcohol or other organic solvents can result in soldering flux residues flooding into the two housings, areas that are not accessible for post-wash inspections. The solvent will also damage the sticker and the ink-jet printed text.
- Ultrasonic cleaning will permanently damage the module, in particular the quartz oscillators.

The best approach is to use a "no clean" soldering paste and eliminate the cleaning step after the soldering.

Repeated reflow soldering

Only single reflow soldering processes are recommended for boards populated with modules. Modules should not be submitted to two reflow cycles on a board populated with components on both sides in order to avoid upside down orientation during the second reflow cycle. In this case, the module should always be placed on that side of the board, which is submitted into the last reflow cycle. The reason for this (besides others) is the risk of the module falling off due to the significantly higher weight in relation to other components.

Two reflow cycles can be considered by excluding the above described upside down scenario and taking into account the rework conditions described in this section.



Repeated reflow soldering processes and soldering the module upside down are not recommended.

Wave soldering

Base boards with combined through-hole technology (THT) components and surface-mount technology (SMT) devices require wave soldering to solder the THT components. Only a single wave soldering process is encouraged for boards populated with modules.

Rework

We do not recommend using a hot air gun because this is an uncontrolled process and might damage the module.



Use of a hot air gun can lead to overheating and severely damage the module. Always avoid overheating the module.

After the module is removed, clean the pads before re-applying solder paste, placing and reflow soldering a new module.



Never attempt a rework on the module itself, e.g. replacing individual components. Such actions immediately terminate the warranty.

Conformal coating

Certain applications employ a conformal coating of the PCB using HumiSeal® or other related coating products. These materials affect the RF properties of the GNSS module and it is important

to prevent them from flowing into the module. The RF shields do not provide 100% protection for the module from coating liquids with low viscosity; therefore, care is required in applying the coating.



Conformal coating of the module will void the warranty.

Casting

If casting is required, use viscose or another type of silicon pottant. The OEM is strongly advised to qualify such processes in combination with the module before implementing this in the production.



Casting will void the warranty.

Grounding metal covers

Attempts to improve grounding by soldering ground cables, wick or other forms of metal strips directly onto the EMI covers is done at the customer's own risk. The numerous ground pins should be sufficient to provide optimum immunity to interferences and noise.



u-blox makes no warranty for damages to the module caused by soldering metal cables or any other forms of metal strips directly onto the EMI covers.

Use of ultrasonic processes

Some components on the module are sensitive to ultrasonic waves. Use of any ultrasonic processes (cleaning, welding etc.) may cause damage to the GNSS receiver.



u-blox offers no warranty against damages to the module caused by any ultrasonic processes.

5.3 Tapes

Figure 44 shows the feed direction and illustrates the orientation of the ZED-F9Ts on the tape: (F9P reel shown for illustrative purposes).

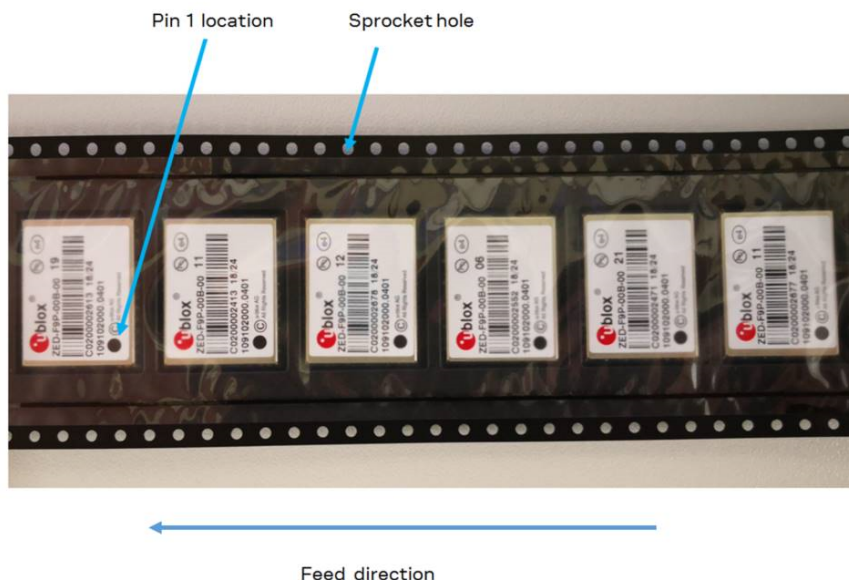


Figure 44: Orientation of ZED-F9T on the tape

The feed direction to the pick and place pick-up is shown by the orientation of the ZED pin 1 location. In Figure 44, with pin 1 location on the bottom of the tape, the feed direction into the pick and place pick-up is from the reel (located on the right of the figure) towards left.

The dimensions of the tapes for ZED-F9T are specified in Figure 45 (measurements in mm).

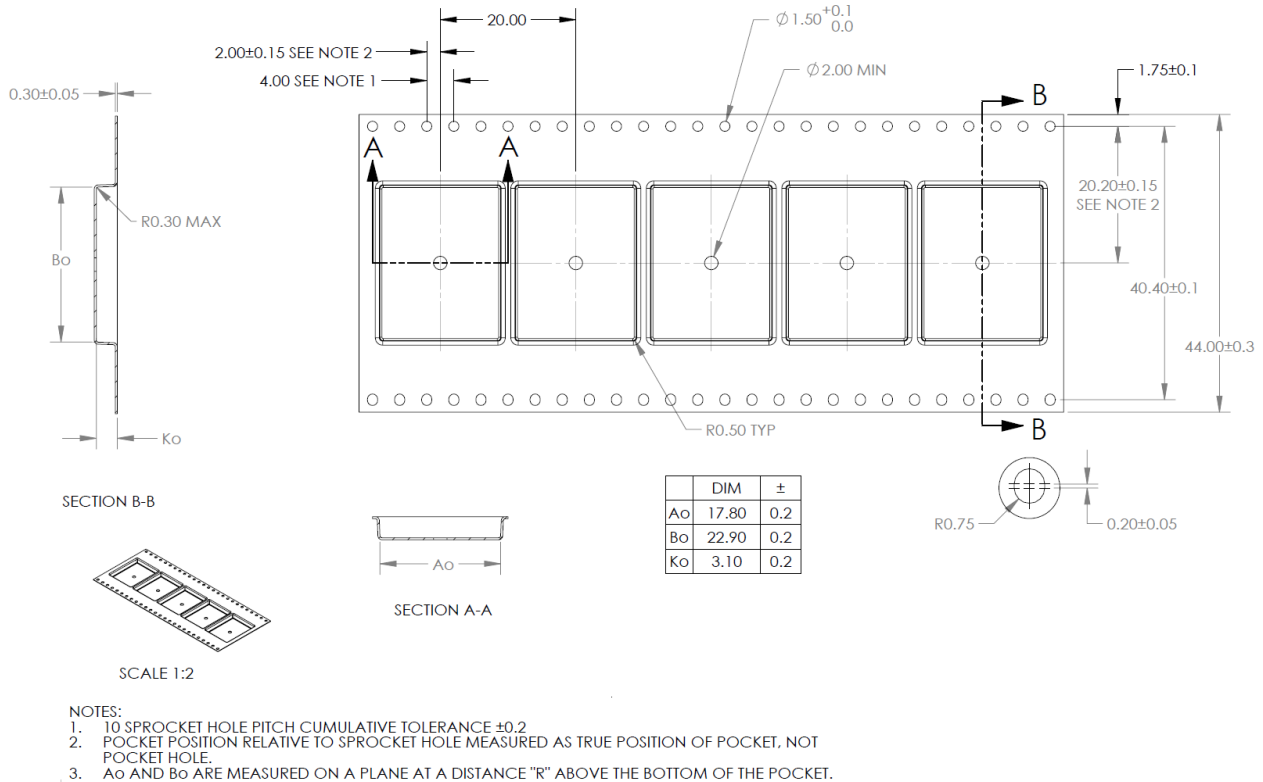


Figure 45: ZED-F9T tape dimensions (mm)

5.4 Reels

The ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver GNSS modules are deliverable in quantities of 250 pieces on a reel. The ZED-F9T high accuracy timing receiver receivers are shipped on Reel Type B, as specified in the u-blox Package Information Guide. See the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

5.5 Moisture sensitivity levels

The moisture sensitivity level (MSL) for ZED-F9T is specified in the table below.

Package	MSL level
LGA	4

Table 24: MSL level



For MSL standard see IPC/JEDEC J-STD-020, which can be downloaded from www.jedec.org.



For more information regarding moisture sensitivity levels, labeling, storage and drying, see the u-blox Package Information Guide [3].

Appendix

A Glossary

Abbreviation	Definition
ANSI	American National Standards Institute
ARP	Antenna Reference Point
BeiDou	Chinese navigation satellite system
BBR	Battery-backed RAM
CDMA	Code Division Multiple Access
EMC	Electromagnetic Compatibility
EMI	Electromagnetic Interference
EOS	Electrical Overstress
EPA	Electrostatic Protective Area
ESD	Electrostatic Discharge
Galileo	European navigation satellite system
GLONASS	Russian navigation satellite system
GND	Ground
GNSS	Global navigation satellite system
GPS	Global Positioning System
GSM	Global system for mobile communications
I2C	Inter-integrated circuit bus
IEC	International Electrotechnical Commission
PCB	Printed Circuit Board
QZSS	Quasi-Zenith Satellite System
RF	Radio frequency
RTCM	Radio Technical Commission for Maritime
SBAS	Satellite-based Augmentation System
SV	Space Vehicle, a satellite
TDOP	Time Dilution Of Precision
UBX	u-blox
QZSS	Quasi-Zenith Satellite System

Related documents

- [1] ZED-F9T Data sheet, doc. no. UBX-18053713
- [2] ZED-F9T Interface description, doc. no. UBX-18053584
- [3] u-blox Package Information Guide, doc. no. UBX-14001652



For regular updates to u-blox documentation and to receive product change notifications please register on our homepage (<http://www.u-blox.com>).

Revision history

Revision	Date	Name	Status / comments
R01	15-Mar-2019	tkoi	Advance information Added a design-in restriction for ANT_DETECT pin in section Design. Mechanical specification figure updated in section Layout.
R02	03-Jun-2019	tkoi	Early production information
R03	16-Jan-2020	byou	Early production information Updated type number Tape feed and dimension pictures updated
R04	25-Feb-2020	jhak	Updated minimum and maximum gains in Antenna specifications table.

Contact

For complete contact information visit us at www.u-blox.com.

u-blox Offices

North, Central and South America

u-blox America, Inc.

Phone: +1 703 483 3180
E-mail: info_us@u-blox.com

Regional Office West Coast

Phone: +1 408 573 3640
E-mail: info_us@u-blox.com

Technical Support

Phone: +1 703 483 3185
E-mail: support_us@u-blox.com

Headquarters

Europe, Middle East, Africa

u-blox AG

Phone: +41 44 722 74 44
E-mail: info@u-blox.com
Support: support@u-blox.com

Asia, Australia, Pacific

u-blox Singapore Pte. Ltd.

Phone: +65 6734 3811
E-mail: info_ap@u-blox.com
Support: support_ap@u-blox.com

Regional Office Australia

Phone: +61 2 8448 2016
E-mail: info_au@u-blox.com
Support: support_ap@u-blox.com

Regional Office China (Beijing)

Phone: +86 10 68 133 545
E-mail: info_cn@u-blox.com
Support: support_cn@u-blox.com

Regional Office China (Chongqing)

Phone: +86 23 6815 1588
E-mail: info_cn@u-blox.com
Support: support_cn@u-blox.com

Regional Office China (Shanghai)

Phone: +86 21 6090 4832
E-mail: info_cn@u-blox.com
Support: support_cn@u-blox.com

Regional Office China (Shenzhen)

Phone: +86 755 8627 1083
E-mail: info_cn@u-blox.com
Support: support_cn@u-blox.com

Regional Office India

Phone: +91 80 4050 9200
E-mail: info_in@u-blox.com
Support: support_in@u-blox.com

Regional Office Japan (Osaka)

Phone: +81 6 6941 3660
E-mail: info_jp@u-blox.com
Support: support_jp@u-blox.com

Regional Office Japan (Tokyo)

Phone: +81 3 5775 3850
E-mail: info_jp@u-blox.com
Support: support_jp@u-blox.com

Regional Office Korea

Phone: +82 2 542 0861
E-mail: info_kr@u-blox.com
Support: support_kr@u-blox.com

Regional Office Taiwan

Phone: +886 2 2657 1090
E-mail: info_tw@u-blox.com
Support: support_tw@u-blox.com