

# AN-012

## mCube Application Note on SNIFF Mode for MC3600, 3-Axis Accelerometer Series

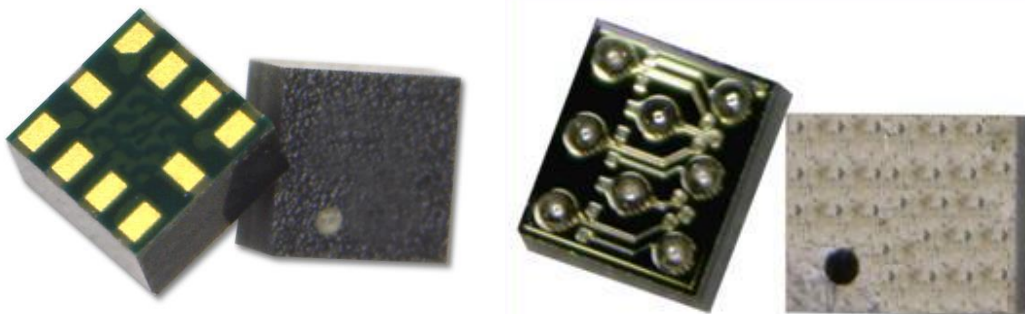
### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

SNIFF is an ultra-low power mode for any activity detection which only consumes 400nA at 6Hz and 300nA at 1Hz; In this mode, the sniff circuitry and sniff-only sampling are enabled. There are no FIFO operations, and hardware will automatically transition to CWAKE mode upon activity detection.

MC3600 Series also support SLEEP mode (100nA) and three WAKE modes: Ultra Low Power Mode (900nA at 25Hz), Low Power Mode and Precision Mode.

### FEATURES

SNIFF mode is ideal for being implemented as power switch. The rest of the parts could remain in sleep until certain motion exceeds the pre-set threshold in the SNIFF mode.



**Figure 1. The MC3635 (left) and the MC3672 (right),  
World's Smallest and Lowest Power 3-axis Accelerometers.**



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# 1 MODE STATE MACHINE FLOW

The flow for SNIFF mode is demonstrated in the area marked in red in Figure 2.

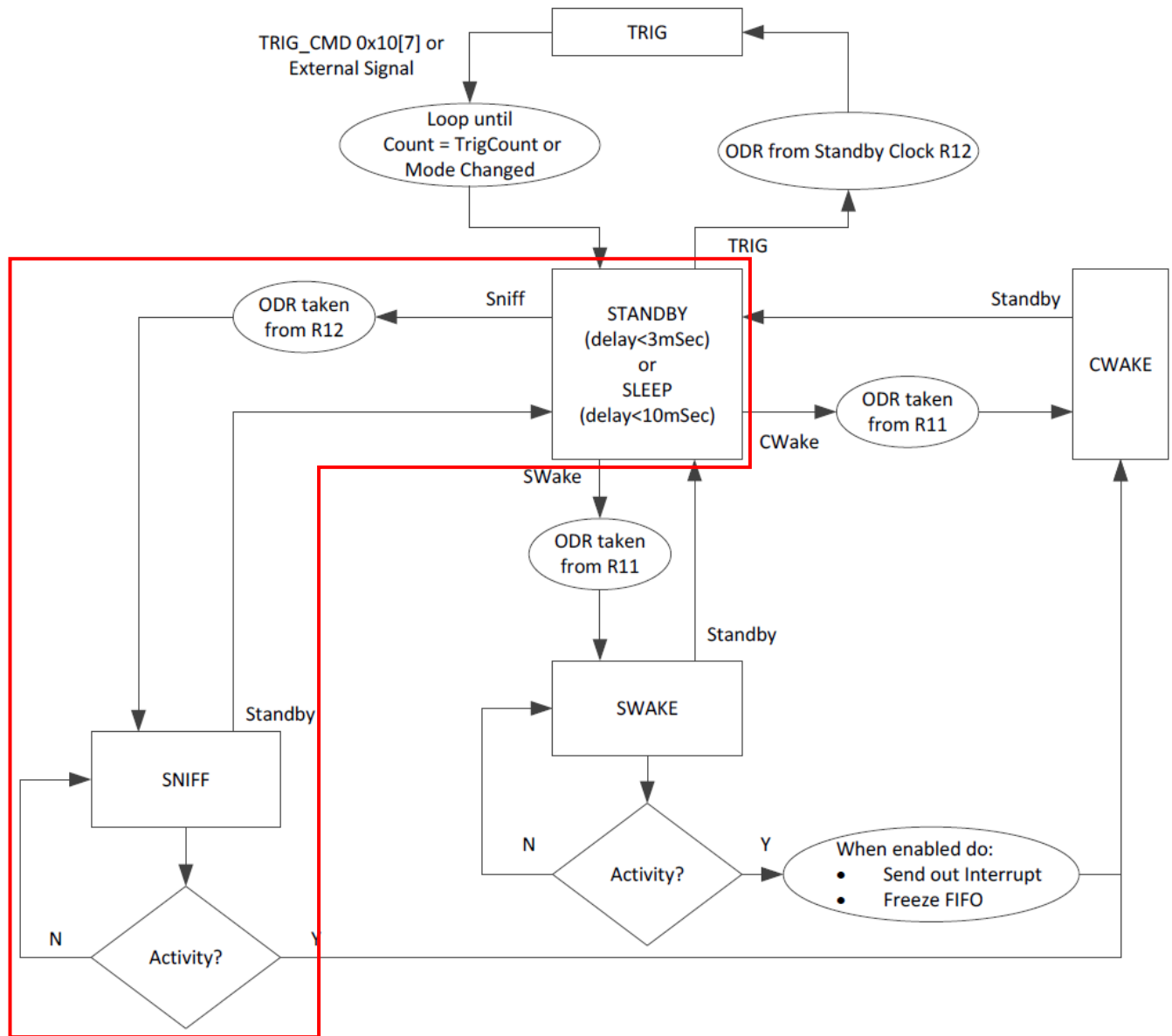


Figure 2. Mode Operational Flow.



## 2 INITIALISING SEQUENCE

To initialise the part for SNIFF mode, please follow the sequence below.

1. Switch to STANDBY mode
  - a. Initialise  
Write 0x42 to the Initialisation Register 1 (0x0F).
  - b. Switch mode  
Write 0b001 (STANDBY) to the Mode Control Register (0x10) [2:0].
2. Set SNIFF threshold  
(Please refer to Section 3 “Formula for Delta g to Threshold” for threshold value)
  - a. Set threshold for X axis  
Write 0b001 (Threshold, X-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write the threshold (0 to 63, independent from Y and Z) to the SNIFF Threshold Control Register (0x13) [5:0].
  - b. Set threshold for Y axis  
Write 0b002 (Threshold, Y-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write the threshold (0 to 63, independent from X and Z) to the SNIFF Threshold Control Register (0x13) [5:0].
  - c. Set threshold for Z axis  
Write 0b003 (Threshold, Z-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write the threshold (0 to 63, independent from X and Y) to the SNIFF Threshold Control Register (0x13) [5:0].
3. Set SNIFF detect count
  - a. Set detect count for X axis  
Write 0b005 (Detect Count, X-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write count - 1 (0 to 61, indicating 1 to 62 counts, independent from Y and Z) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [5:0], e.g. for 1 event, write 0b00000.
  - b. Set detect count for Y axis  
Write 0b006 (Detect Count, Y-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write count - 1 (0 to 61, indicating 1 to 62 counts, independent from X and Z) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [5:0], e.g. for 2 events, write 0b00001.
  - c. Set detect count for Z axis  
Write 0b007 (Detect Count, Z-axis) to the SNIFF Config Register (0x14) [2:0].  
Write count - 1 (0 to 61, indicating 1 to 62 counts, independent from X and Y) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [5:0], e.g. for 3 events, write 0b00010.
4. Set the logical mode for combining of X/Y/Z SNIFF wakeup events.
  - a. OR – Wakeup is triggered when any of the channels have met threshold & count.  
Write 0b0 (OR) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [6].
  - b. AND – Wakeup is triggered when all active channels have met threshold & count.  
Write 0b1 (AND) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [6].



5. Set SNIFF delta mode
  - a. C2P (current to previous) mode – The delta count between current and previous samples is a moving window. The SNIFF logic uses the current sample and the immediate previous sample to compute a delta.  
Write 0b0 (C2P) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [7].
  - b. C2B (current to baseline) mode – The delta count is computed from subtracting the current sample from the first sample stored when entering SNIFF mode.  
Write 0b1 (C2B) to the SNIFF Threshold Ctrl Register (0x13) [7].
6. Set INT control
  - a. Generate INT when activity is detected in SNIFF mode and the device auto-transits to CWAKE mode – Write 0b0 to the Interrupt Control Register (0x17) [2].
  - b. Disable other INTs – Write 0b0000 to the Interrupt Control Register (0x17) [6:3].
7. Switch to SNIFF mode
  - a. Initialise  
Write a 0x42 to the Initialisation Register 1 (0x0F).
  - b. Switch mode  
Write 0b010 (SNIFF) to the Mode Control Register (0x10) [2:0].

NOTE: For detailed register description, please refer the Register section in the datasheet.



### 3 FORMULA FOR DELTA g TO THRESHOLD

The formula varies from power mode to power mode.

Please refer to the power mode in use.

#### 3.1 HIGH PRECISION MODE

$$\text{Threshold} = 16,672 * \Delta g / (0.85 * (\text{Gain} + 40))$$

Please find the corresponded value for threshold (0 to 63) in the following table.

(e.g. for gain = 110 and Δg = 0.2, please set threshold to 26)

gain Δg	90	110	130	150	170	190	210	230	250
0.1	15	13	12	10	9	9	8	7	7
0.2	30	26	23	21	19	17	16	15	14
0.3	45	39	35	31	28	26	24	22	20
0.4	60	52	46	41	37	34	31	29	27
0.5	-	-	58	52	47	43	39	36	34
0.6	-	-	-	62	56	51	47	44	41
0.7	-	-	-	-	-	60	55	51	47
0.8	-	-	-	-	-	-	63	58	54
0.9	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	61

**Table 1. Look Up Table for Threshold (High Precision Mode)**

NOTE: The value of gain usually falls in the range of 88 to 264.



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## 4 SAMPLE CODE

Please refer to mCube GitHub Repository:

[https://github.com/mcubemems/mCube\\_mc36xx\\_arduino\\_driver](https://github.com/mcubemems/mCube_mc36xx_arduino_driver).

Function `sensorsniff()` in `MC36XX_demo.ino` demonstrates the initialising sequence for SNIFF.

```
void sensorsniff()
{
    // Switch to STANDBY mode
    MC36XX_acc.stop();
    // Set SNIFF threshold
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffThreshold(MC36XX_AXIS_X,5);
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffThreshold(MC36XX_AXIS_Y,5);
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffThreshold(MC36XX_AXIS_Z,5);
    // Set SNIFF detect count
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffDetectCount(MC36XX_AXIS_X,3);
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffDetectCount(MC36XX_AXIS_Y,3);
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffDetectCount(MC36XX_AXIS_Z,3);
    // Set the logical mode for combining of X/Y/Z SNIFF wakeup events
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffAndOrN(MC36XX_ANDORN_OR);
    // Set SNIFF delta mode
    MC36XX_acc.SetSniffDeltaMode(MC36XX_DELTA_MODE_C2P);
    // Set INT control
    MC36XX_acc.SetINTCtrl(0,0,0,0,1);
    // Switch to SNIFF mode
    MC36XX_acc.sniff();
}
```



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## 5 REVISION HISTORY

Date	Revision	Description
2020-03	1.0	First release.





## 6 LEGAL

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