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## Applications of the Peripheral Trigger Generator (PTG)

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### INTRODUCTION

The Peripheral Trigger Generator (PTG) module, in 16-bit dsPIC33 devices, is a user-programmable sequencer, which is capable of generating triggers with complex input signal sequences to coordinate the operation of other peripherals. This document will explain various applications that use PTG in conjunction with modules, such as an Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC), Output Compare (OC), Pulse-Width Modulator (PWM), timers and interrupt controllers to achieve a complex sequence of events.

The PTG module supports 8-bit commands, called the Step commands, to the PTG Queue registers. Each 8-bit Step command is comprised of a 4-bit command code and a 4-bit option field.

These commands define a sequence of events for generating output trigger signals to the peripherals. The Step commands can also be used to generate the interrupt requests to the CPU.

For more information on the PTG module and its registers, refer to “**Peripheral Trigger Generator (PTG)**” (DS70669) in the “*dsPIC33/PIC24 Family Reference Manual*”.

Example usage cases discussed in this document are as follows:

- [Application 1: Integrated PFC and Motor Control](#)
- [Application 2: Lighting Control](#)
- [Application 3: One-Shot Pulse Generation](#)
- [Application 4: Variable Width One-Shot Pulse Generation](#)
- [Application 5: Variable Frequency Waveform Generation](#)
- [Application 6: Constant Frequency Waveform Generation](#)
- [Application 7: ADC Module Control](#)

### Key Features of the PTG

- Behavior is Step Command Driven:
  - Step commands are 8 bits wide
- Commands are Stored in a Step Queue:
  - Queue depth is parameterized (8-32 entries)
  - Programmable Step execution time (Step delay)
- Supports the Command Sequence Loop:
  - Can be nested one-level deep
  - Can be conditional or unconditional loop
  - Two 16-bit loop counters
- Supports 16 Hardware Input Triggers:
  - Sensitive to either positive or negative edges, or a high or low level
- One sOftware Input Trigger
- Generates up to 32 Unique Output Trigger Signals
- Generates Two Types of Trigger Outputs:
  - Individual
  - Broadcast
- Strobed Output Port for Literal Data Values:
  - 5-bit literal write (literal part of a command)
  - 16-bit literal write (literal held in the PTGL0 register)
- Generates up to 16 Unique Interrupt Signals
- Two 16-Bit General Purpose Timers
- Flexible Self-Contained Watchdog Timer (WDT) to Set an Upper Limit to Trigger Wait Time
- Single Step Command Capability in Debug mode
- Selectable Clock (system, PWM or ADC)
- Programmable Clock Divider

## APPLICATION 1: INTEGRATED PFC AND MOTOR CONTROL

In the integrated Power Factor Correction (PFC) and motor control application, a single Digital Signal Controller (DSC) device controls a Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM) using a Field Oriented Control (FOC) scheme, as well as the PFC converter.

This application requires three PWM channels to control the motor functioning and an additional PWM to control the PFC operation. An OC module can be used to augment the number of PWM channels available to the application, even beyond the number of high-speed PWM channels available on the device.

The PWM peripheral, in conjunction with an OC peripheral, can be used to generate the necessary PWM signals for motor control and PFC operation.

However, in an application such as PFC, optimal execution time is very important, and to achieve this objective, we have to achieve the following tasks within an optimal execution time:

- Synchronizing motor control PWM and PFC PWM.
- Triggering ADC for conversion, and switching ADC channels used for motor control and PFC feedback signals.

These application requirements can be achieved effectively using the PTG module, which can perform the following operations:

- Synchronizes high-speed PWM module and OC module.
- Generates ADC module triggers by monitoring high-speed PWM module edges.
- Monitors the “ADC conversion done” interrupt and generates appropriate interrupts, executing the FOC and digital PFC control code.
- Reduces CPU intervention, making the peripheral handling in this application core-independent.

In this application, the switching frequency of motor control PWM and PFC PWM is selected such that, it is in integral multiples.

The ADC in the dsPIC® DSC has four-channel simultaneous sampling capability. Both FOC and PFC algorithms have their own sets of analog channels that are to be sampled simultaneously, because the phase relationship of these signals is important from the control perspective.

In this application, the feedback signals of motor control and PFC are selected such that, by alternating between the ADC channel selections, both motor control and PFC signals are sampled. The motor control and PFC signals can be connected to the Sample-and-Hold (S&H) circuits before triggering the ADC, based on the edges of the PWM, by configuring CH0123SA = 0 or CH123SA = 1.

As shown in Table 1, the channels are configured in such a way that, at the end of a four-channel sample and conversion sequence, the conversion results for either FOC (if CH123SA (AD1CHS123<0>) = 0 and CH0SA<4:0> (AD1CHS0<4:0>) = 13) or PFC (if CH123SA (AD1CHS123<0>) = 1 and CH0SA<4:0> (AD1CHS0<4:0>) = 10) are available in their corresponding ADC1 Buffer registers (ADC1BUF0 to ADC1BUF3).

After setting the channel selection bits to connect the PFC feedback signals to the Sample-and-Hold circuit of an ADC, for every PFC PWM cycle, a trigger has to be generated. Similarly, for every motor control PWM cycle, an ADC trigger has to be generated after setting the channel selection bits to connect the motor control feedback signals to the Sample-and-Hold circuit of the ADC.

**Note:** The ADC module trigger selection cannot be changed when ADON = 1.

Hence, the PTG module is configured to generate an ADC trigger by monitoring the edges of the motor control PWM and PFC PWM pulses.

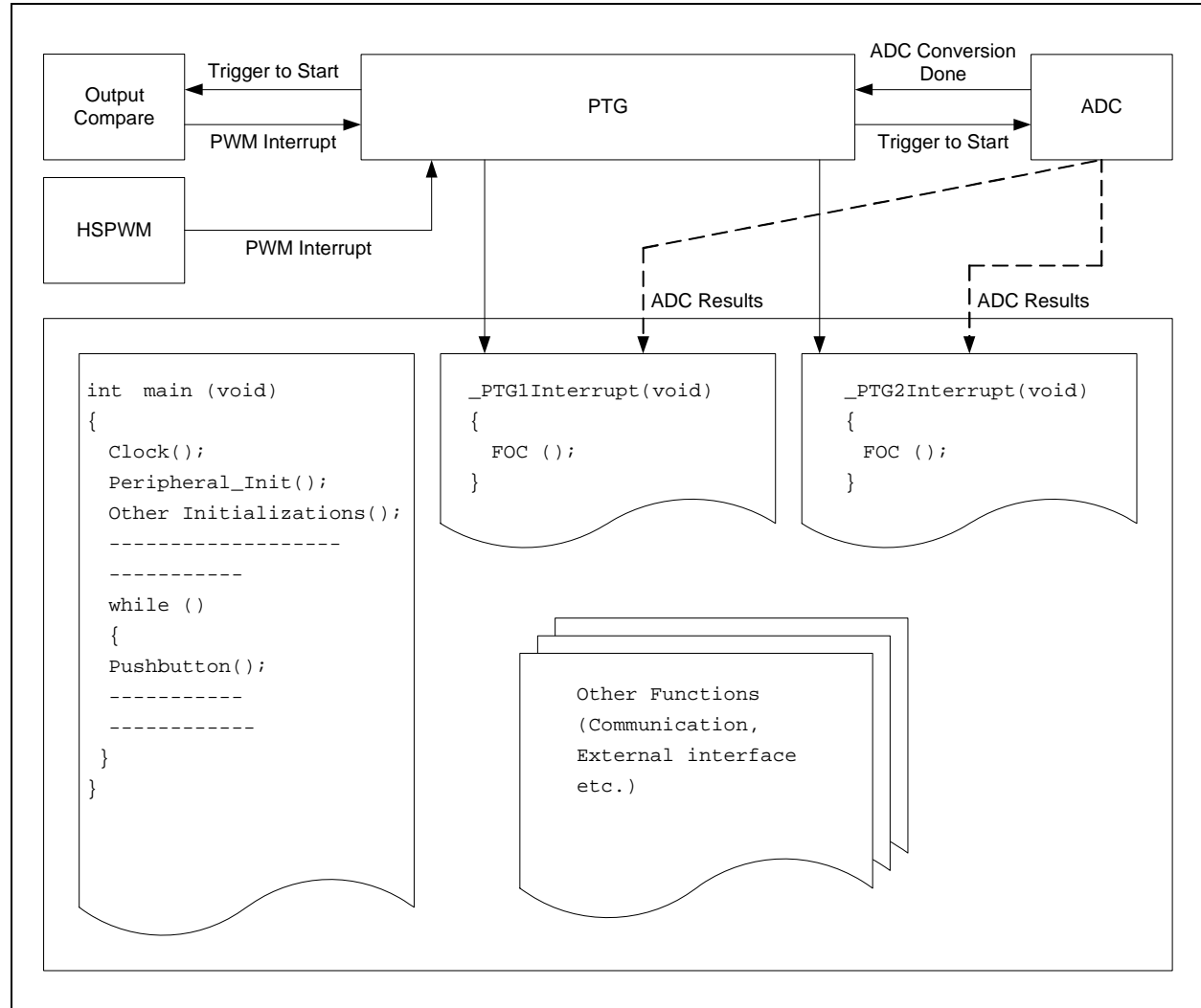
**TABLE 1: ANALOG CHANNEL CONNECTIONS**

Sample-and-Hold Circuit	Motor Control CH123SA = 0; CH0SA<4:0> = 13		PFC CH123SA = 1; CH0SA<4:0> = 10	
	Analog Feedback Signal	ADC Channel	Analog Feedback Signal	ADC Channel
CH0	Speed Reference	AN13	PFC Output Voltage	AN10
CH1	Phase Current 2	AN0	AC Input Voltage	AN3
CH2	Phase Current 1	AN1	NA	
CH3	Bus Current	AN2	AC Input Current	AN6

In addition, two PTG interrupts (PTG1 interrupt and PTG2 interrupt) are generated to execute the code for FOC and PFC, as shown in [Figure 1](#).

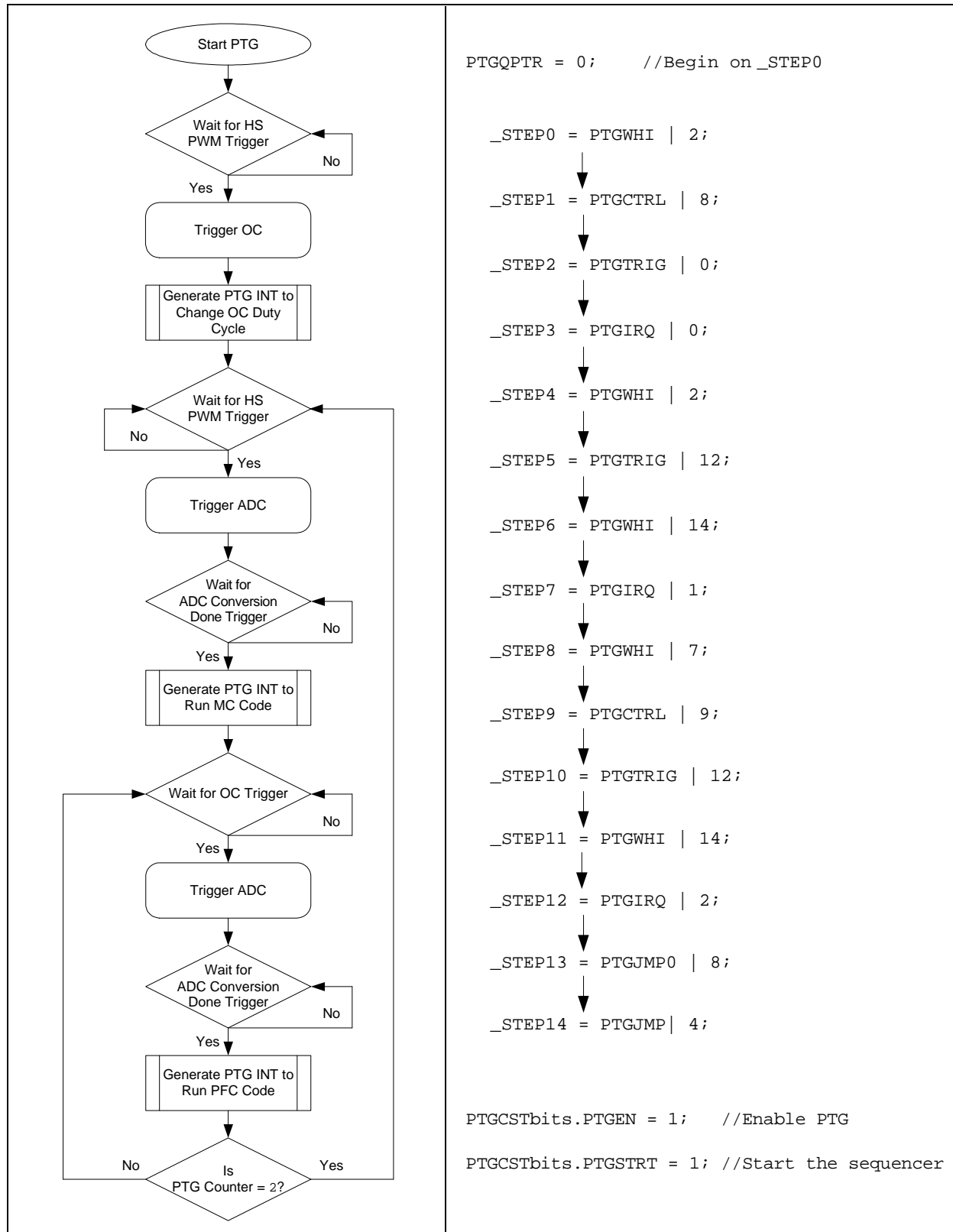
As seen in this example application, PTG simplifies the implementation by efficiently sequencing the use of the ADC and PWMs to achieve motor control and PFC implementation in one dsPIC33 device.

**FIGURE 1: CODE EXECUTION USING PTG1/PTG2 INTERRUPTS BLOCK DIAGRAM**



The flowchart of the application and PTG code sequence are illustrated in [Figure 2](#).

**FIGURE 2: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## APPLICATION 2: LIGHTING CONTROL

In a light intensity control application, a PWM generator using an OC can be used to control the brightness of a light.

In this application, two OC modules are used and their duty cycles are controlled by inputs obtained from two separate ADC channels. Depending on each ADC value, the duty cycle is updated.

The PTG module supports a simpler way of synchronizing ADC and OC modules. In addition, the PTG helps to avoid a module deadlock to enhance the application safety.

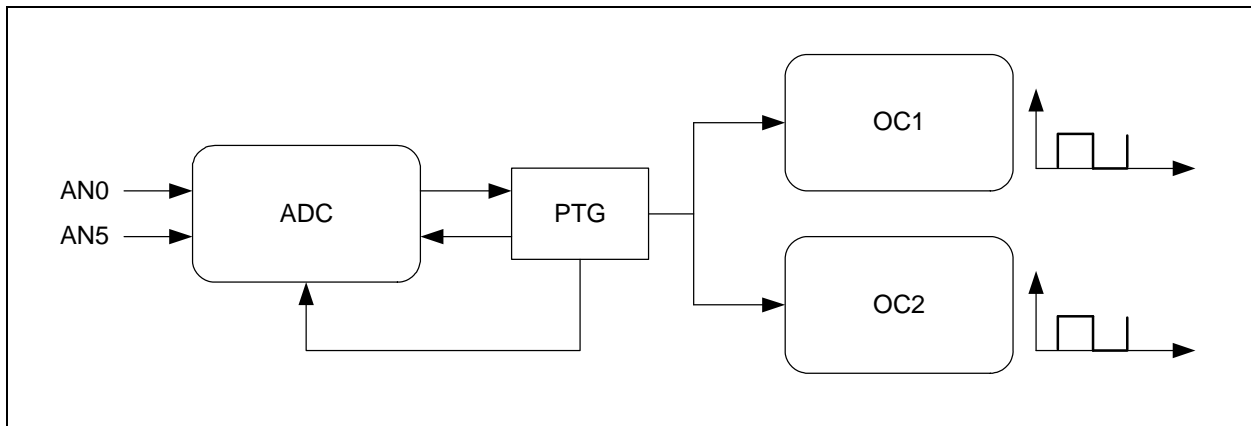
The following steps are performed for synchronization:

- Monitor the ADC and generate appropriate interrupts to change the OC duty cycle.
- Change the ADC channel without disturbing the CPU, as the PTG can do this independently.

As an additional safety feature, in the event of an unexpected failure, the PTG module has a dedicated Watchdog Timer (WDT) to monitor and perform the necessary required corrective actions.

A block diagram of this application is shown in [Figure 3](#).

**FIGURE 3: OUTPUT COMPARE DUTY CYCLE CONTROL USING PTG**



## Key Details of Implementation

### ADC CHANNEL SELECTION

The Strobe output of the PTG module can be used to write to the AD1CHS0 register. The PTGCTRL command writes the PTGL0 register contents to the AD1CHS0 register. The PTGL0 register can be modified by using the PTGADD and PTGCOPY commands.

The ADC channels used to measure the input voltage will be selected using the PTGL0 register and modified by the PTGADD and PTGCOPY commands, so that the CPU will not be interrupted.

### SYNCHRONIZATION OF ADC AND OC MODULES

On some devices, since the OC module cannot trigger the ADC and the ADC module trigger selection cannot be changed when ADON = 1, the PTG controls the ADC sampling and conversion processes. The ADC can trigger the PTG after the conversion is done, so that the PTG selects the next ADC channel for sampling and conversion. Hence, it synchronizes the sampling/conversion process with optimal execution time.

The OC duty cycle can be varied by updating the OCxR and OCxRS registers. Depending on the ADC value, the duty cycle is varied.

The PTG module can generate an individual interrupt pulse using the PTGIRQ command. The PTG module can generate up to four unique interrupt request signals.

These signals are useful for generating different interrupts to change the duty cycles of different OC modules, so that executing complex functions within one Interrupt Service Routine (ISR) can be avoided.

### PTG WATCHDOG TIMER AS A SAFETY FEATURE

A Watchdog Timer (WDT), within the PTG module, will prevent a situation where the PTG waits indefinitely for an external event when executing a command which waits for a hardware trigger high/low state.

In this application, the PTG will wait for an “ADC conversion done” trigger. Once enabled, the WDT starts counting when the command execution starts. It is disabled when the command completes execution. If an expected event fails to arrive before the WDT time-out period expires, the PTG module:

- a) Aborts the (failing) command underway.
- b) Halts the sequencer  
PTGSTRT (PTGCST<7>) = 0).
- c) Sets PTGWDTO (PTGCST<6>) = 1.
- d) Issues a Watchdog Timer error interrupt to the CPU.

This acts as a safety feature to recover from a situation where the ADC or PTG module stops working. These modules can be re-initialized and restarted within the Watchdog Timer error interrupt.

### Advantages of Using PTG

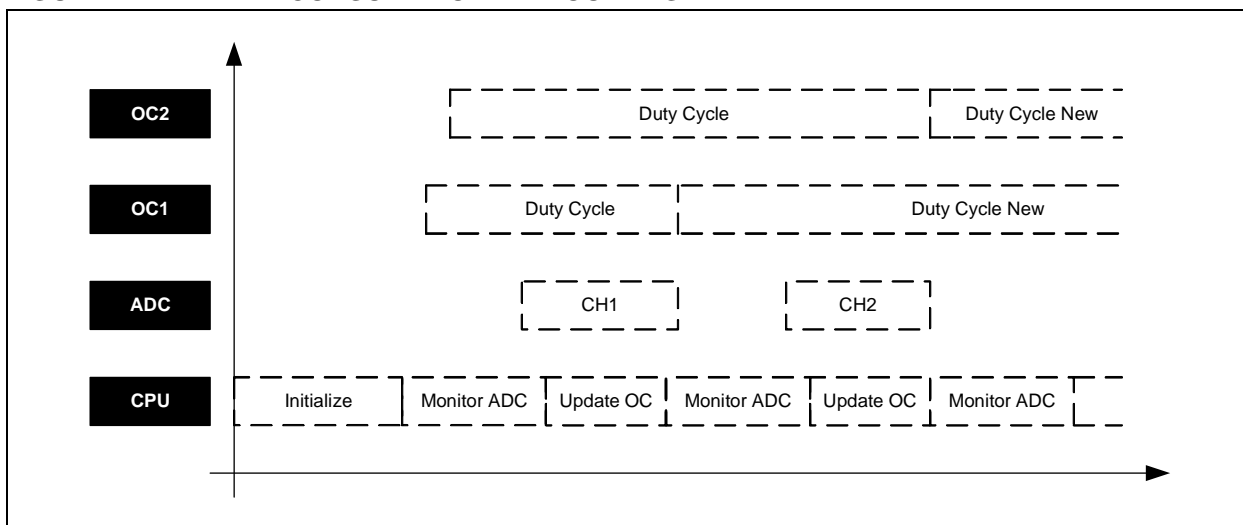
- a) The PTG will make the application core-independent by switching the ADC channels and monitoring modules without the CPU module's intervention.

Also, saves CPU module's time which can be utilized for other tasks in the application.

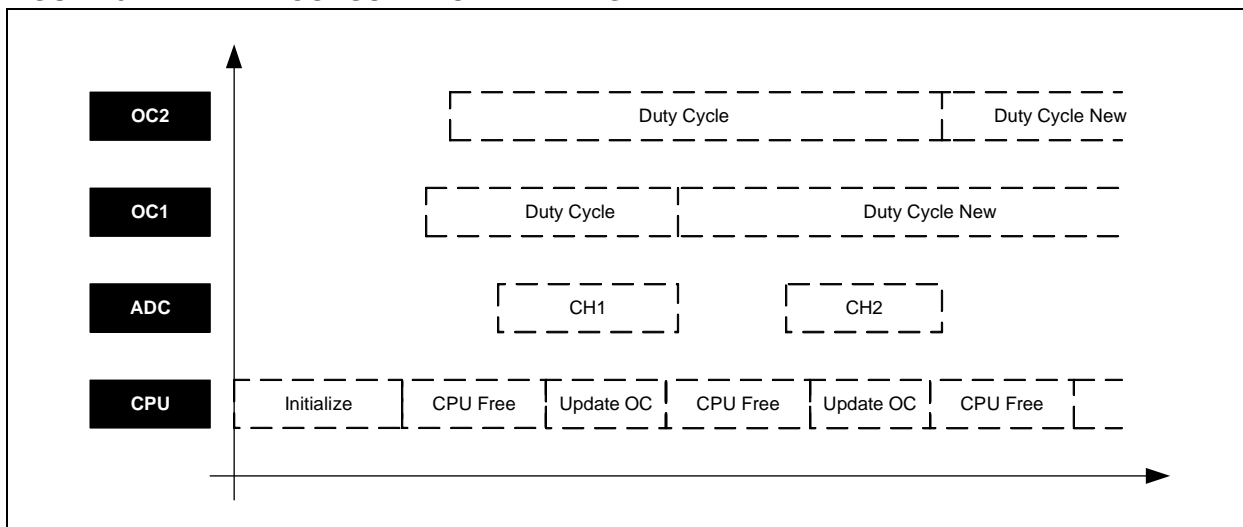
Figure 4 and Figure 5 depict the time consumption, with and without PTG, and illustrates the time available for the CPU to perform other operations.

- b) The PTG alone will take care of all interactions within a module, which helps to reduce software complexity and also helps to maintain modularity.
- c) The PTG module's WDT will help to recover from any catastrophic failure, thereby providing a more robust application.
- d) If required, after the OC1 module triggers the PTG, the PTG, in turn, can trigger the OC2 module to generate a phase-shifted output.

**FIGURE 4: TIME CONSUMPTION WITHOUT PTG**

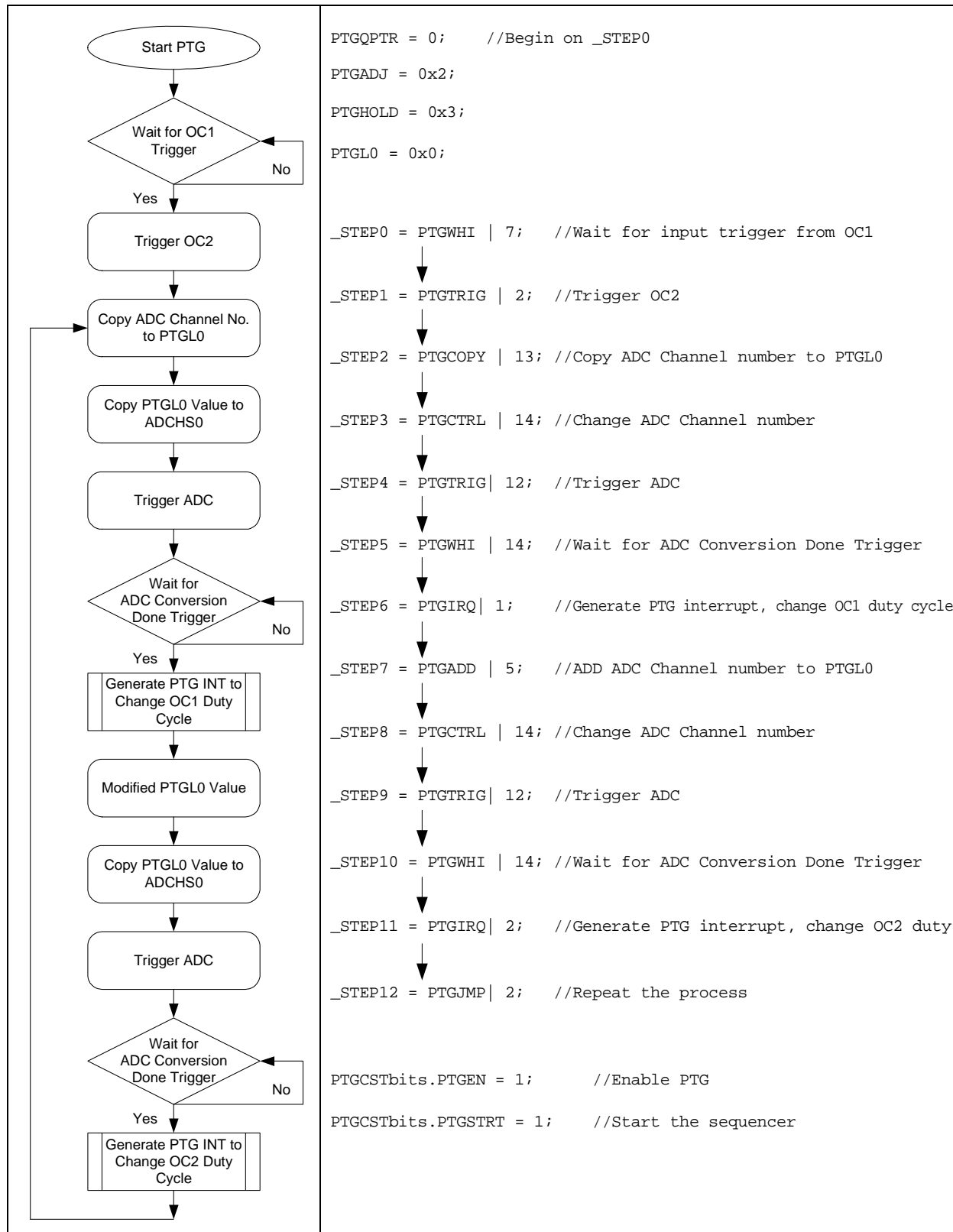


**FIGURE 5: TIME CONSUMPTION WITH PTG**



The flowchart of the application and the PTG code sequence are illustrated in [Figure 6](#).

**FIGURE 6: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**

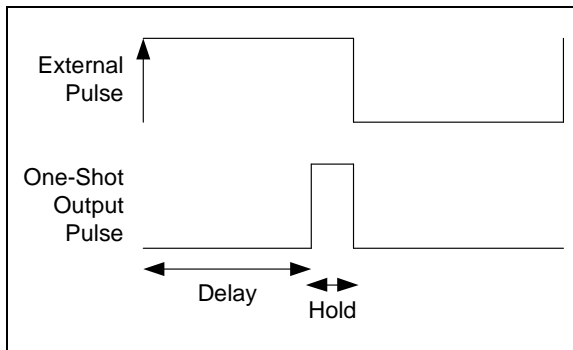




## APPLICATION 3: ONE-SHOT PULSE GENERATION

This section illustrates an application scenario where a one-shot pulse needs to be triggered by either a rising or falling edge of an external pulse. The width of the one-shot pulse can be changed dynamically by changing the delay and Wait time in the program loop. Another requirement would be that neither the external pulse nor the one-shot pulse should interrupt the CPU. This application scenario is shown in [Figure 7](#).

**FIGURE 7: APPLICATION SCENARIO**



The external pulse can be detected using an external interrupt feature or Change Notification (CN), but both methods would interrupt the CPU code execution.

Alternatively, a one-shot pulse can be generated, using an OC module, and an external pulse can synchronize the OC module. However, we also need to induce a delay before the one-shot pulse, which again interrupts the CPU code execution.

However, the PTG module can be used to accomplish this requirement efficiently without interrupting the CPU.

The PTG performs the following tasks:

- Synchronizing the external interrupt and OC modules.
- PTG timer can be used to induce delay after external pulse has been detected.
- PTG WDT will prevent PTG from waiting indefinitely for an external event, thereby avoiding deadlock conditions.

### Key Details of Implementation

#### EXTERNAL INTERRUPT

The external interrupt can be configured for a positive or negative edge using the INTxEP bit and an external interrupt will act as a triggering source for the PTG module.

#### OUTPUT COMPARE

The OC module is configured for the Triggered Dual Compare Single-Shot mode. By setting the TRIGMODE bit, the OC module can be retriggered.

#### ROLE OF PTG

- PTG module will wait for a trigger from an external interrupt.
- When PTG gets triggered, it will wait until the PTG timer reaches its limit, adding the required delay before triggering the OC module.
- Trigger OC module, which generates a one-shot pulse with a configured pulse width.

There are two 16-bit General Purpose (GP) timers (PTGT0 and PTGT1), which can be used by the sequencer to wait for a specified period. All timers are cleared when the device is in the Reset state or when the PTG module is disabled (PTGEN = 0). Step commands are available for loading, modifying or initializing the GP timers.

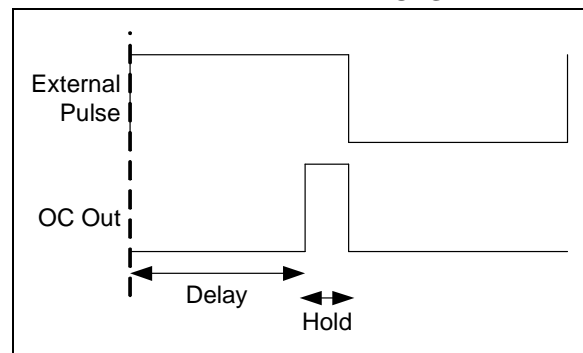
When waiting for a GP timer, the command will wait until the value of the timer (Timer0 or Timer1) reaches its limit value (PTGT0LIM or PTGT1LIM). On reaching the limit value, the Step command execution completes and the next command will start. The timer is also cleared for its next use.

Hence, the CPU will not be interrupted at any point. The delay-and-hold time can be changed within `main()`.

In the event of an unexpected failure, the WDT of the PTG module monitors and performs necessary corrective actions as a safety feature.

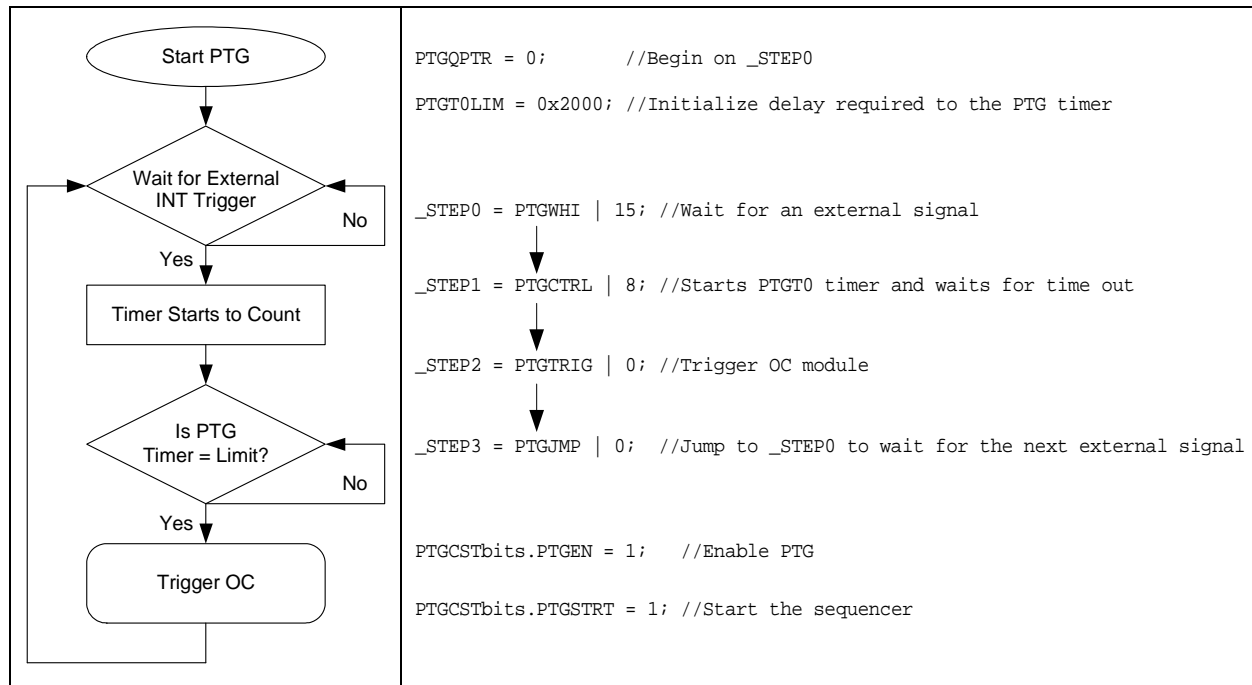
The application output is shown in [Figure 8](#).

**FIGURE 8: GENERATING SINGLE OC PULSE AFTER AN EXTERNAL PULSE**



The flowchart of the application is illustrated in [Figure 9](#).

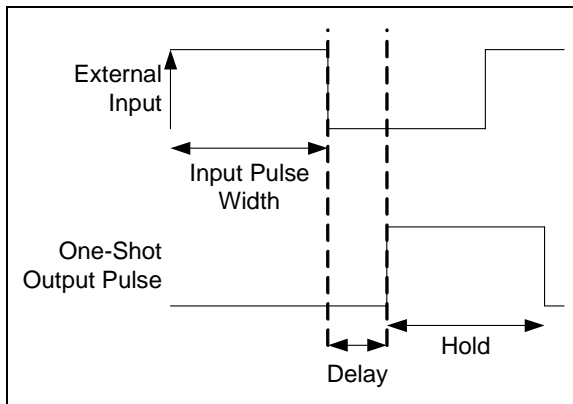
**FIGURE 9: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## APPLICATION 4: VARIABLE WIDTH ONE-SHOT PULSE GENERATION

This section illustrates an application scenario, where a one-shot pulse needs to be triggered by the rising edge of an external pulse. The width of the one-shot pulse can be changed dynamically by changing the delay and wait time in the program loop; but the pulse width of an external pulse will be captured to decide the width (hold) of the one-shot pulse, as shown in Figure 10.

**FIGURE 10: APPLICATION SCENARIO**



Various peripheral features of the dsPIC® DSC can be used to effectively accomplish this task, a few of which are as follows:

- The external pulse can be detected using the external interrupt feature.
- The one-shot pulse can be generated using the OC module.
- Pulse width can be measured by using the IC module.

However, in this application, synchronizing the OC, IC and external interrupt modules, and capturing the pulse width of the input pulse using the IC module, are challenging tasks if performed only by the CPU.

The PTG module accomplishes this requirement efficiently with minimal CPU interruption by executing the following tasks:

- Synchronizing the external interrupt, OC modules and IC module.
- As soon as the external pulse is detected, the IC module will be triggered to measure the pulse width of the rising pulse only.
- The WDT of the PTG prevents the PTG from waiting indefinitely for an external event, thereby avoiding deadlock conditions.

## Key Details of Implementation

### EXTERNAL INTERRUPT

The external interrupt can be configured to interrupt on the positive edge using the INTxEP bit. This external interrupt will act as a triggering source for the PTG module.

### INPUT CAPTURE (IC)

The IC module is configured for capture on every falling edge. The PTG is configured as its trigger/sync source.

### OUTPUT COMPARE (OC)

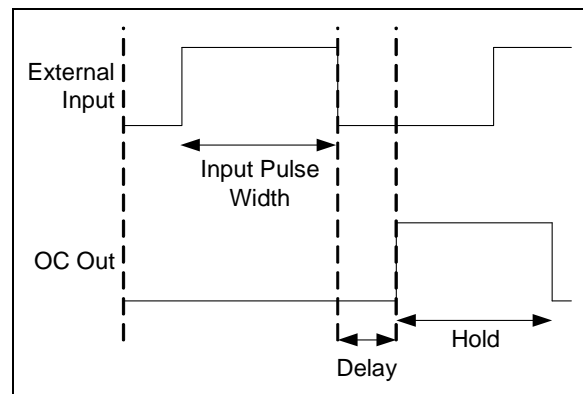
The OC module is configured for Dual Compare Single-Shot mode with the PTG configured as its trigger source.

### ROLE OF PTG

- The PTG module will wait for a trigger from an external interrupt.
- When triggered, the PTG will trigger the IC module, which starts the IC timer.
- The PTG will wait for a trigger from the IC module.
- When the PTG gets triggered by the IC module, the IC buffer will capture the pulse width of the incoming external pulse.
- The PTG can generate unique interrupts, which will be used to change the OC duty cycle.
- A delay can also be added using the PTG timers.
- The PTG will trigger the OC module, which generates a one-shot pulse with a configured pulse width.
- In the event of an unexpected failure, the WDT of the PTG module monitors and resets the sequence.

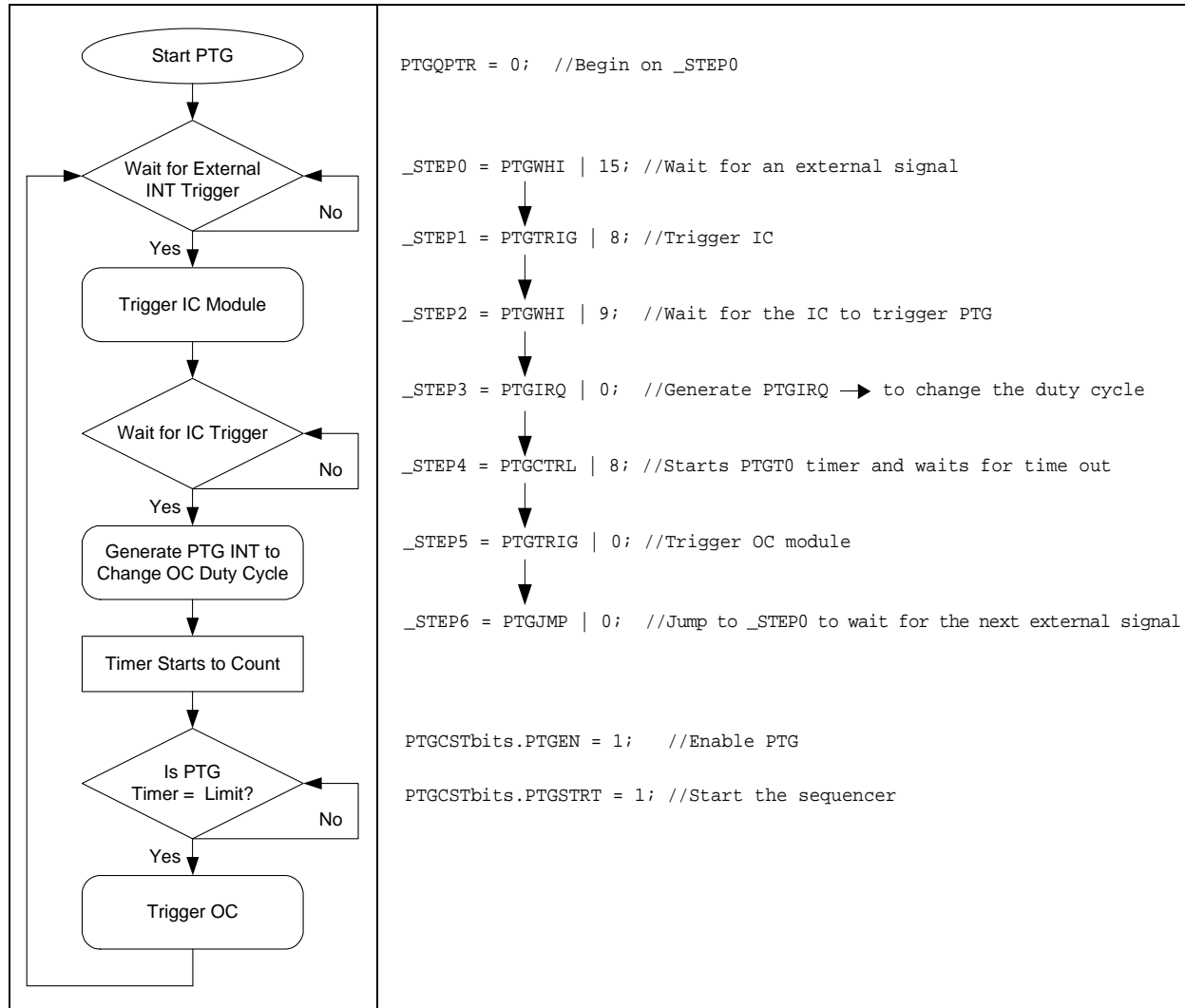
The application output waveform is shown in Figure 11.

**FIGURE 11: GENERATING SINGLE OC PULSE AFTER AN EXTERNAL PULSE**



The flowchart of the application is illustrated in [Figure 12](#).

**FIGURE 12: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## APPLICATION 5: VARIABLE FREQUENCY WAVEFORM GENERATION

This application illustrates how the PTG can be used to generate a variable frequency signal generator.

The OC modules, along with DMA, can be used to generate variable frequency signals.

However, the PTG can provide an additional mechanism to generate a variable frequency signal, as described below.

The solution would use the following PTG features:

- The PTG has its own timer, which runs independently of the CPU.
- The PTG has `ADD` and `COPY` commands, which can write to the Timer Limit register.
- The PTG can generate its own interrupt.

The control techniques used in the application involve the following steps:

- Configuring the PTG with the timer limit value, as well as the adjust value, which will be added to the Timer Limit register.
- Generating the PTG ISR, where a general purpose I/O pin is toggled.
- Waiting for the timer to reach its limit value.
  - On reaching the limit value, the Step command execution completes, and in the next command, adds the PTGADJ value to the Timer Limit register.
  - The CPU will be interrupted only while toggling the I/O pin.

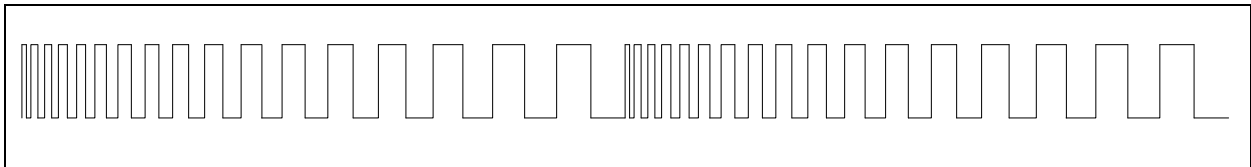
There are two 16-bit General Purpose timers (PTGT0 and PTGT1), which can be used by the sequencer to wait for a specified period. All timers are cleared when the device is in the Reset state or when the PTG module is disabled (PTGEN = 0). Step commands are available for loading, modifying or initializing the GP timers.

When waiting for the GP timer, the command will wait until the value of the timer (Timer0 or Timer1) reaches its limit value (PTGT0LIM or PTGT1LIM). On reaching the limit value, the Step command execution completes and the execution of the next command will start. The timer is also cleared for its subsequent use.

The timer limit value can be modified using the `PTGADD` or `PTGCOPY` commands. The `PTGADD` command will add the `PTGADJ` register contents to the `PTGCxLIM` register. The `PTGCOPY` command will copy the `PTGHOLD` register contents to the `PTGCxLIM` register.

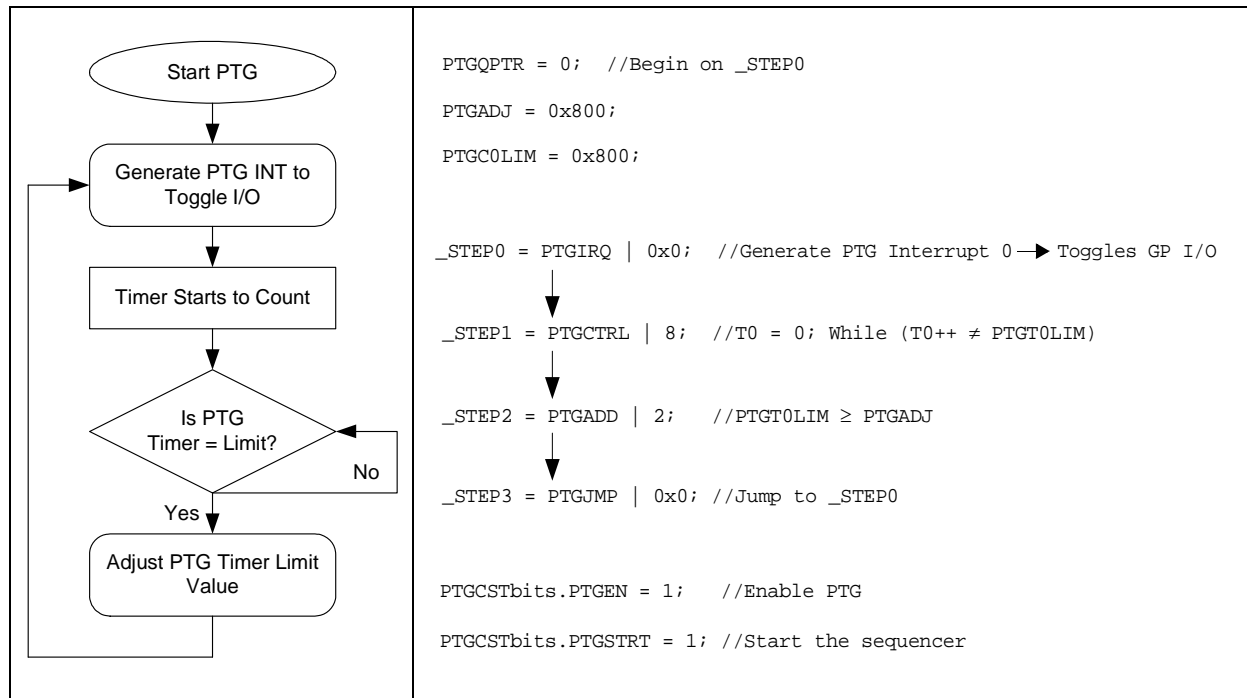
The application output is as shown in [Figure 13](#).

**FIGURE 13: VARIABLE FREQUENCY WAVEFORM WITHIN PTG IRQ USING I/O PIN**



The flowchart of the application and the PTG code sequence are illustrated in [Figure 14](#).

**FIGURE 14: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## APPLICATION 6: CONSTANT FREQUENCY WAVEFORM GENERATION

This application illustrates how the PTG module can be used to generate a constant frequency signal, which can also act as a clock source.

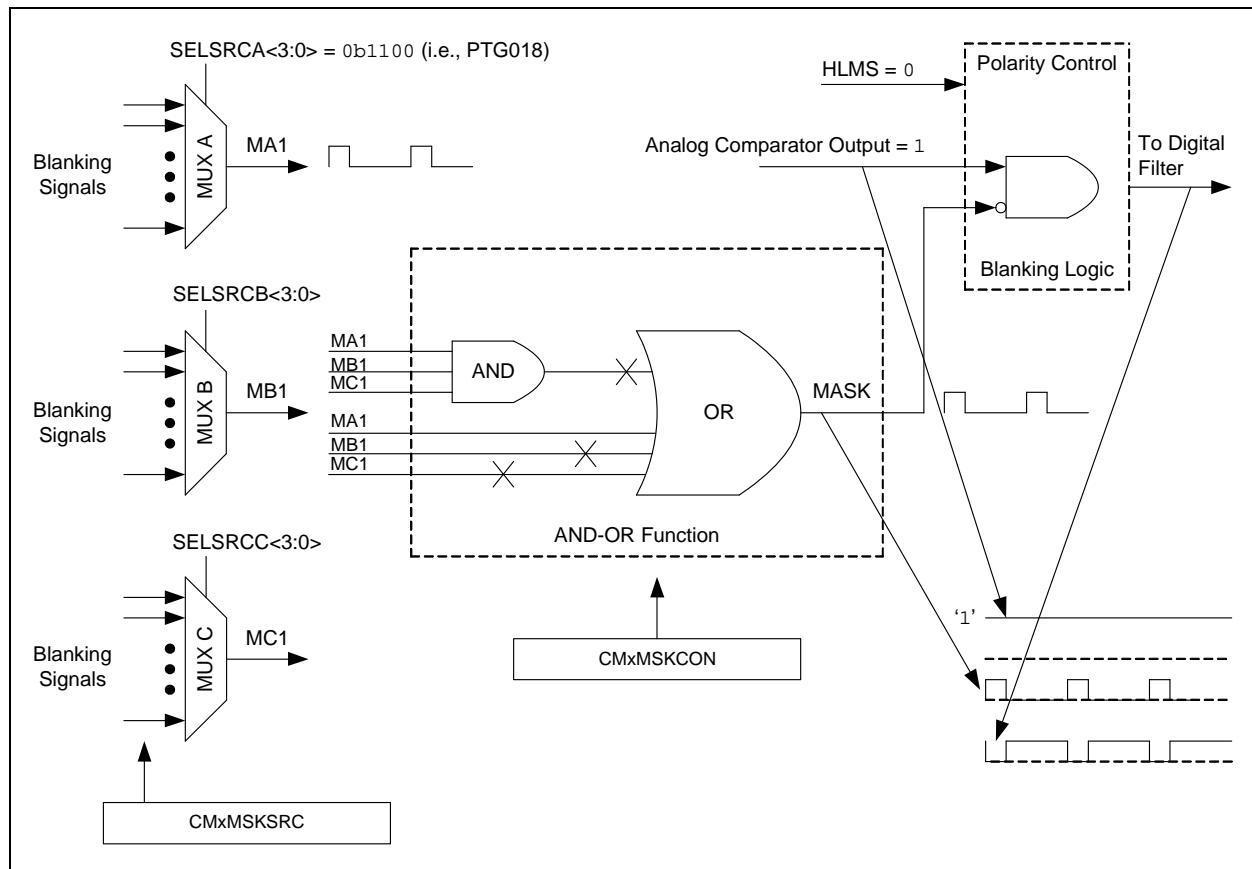
The solution would use the following features of the PTG module's features:

- PTG can trigger a comparator, which acts as a mask input select
- The PTG module's trigger pulse width can be varied
- PTG has its own timer

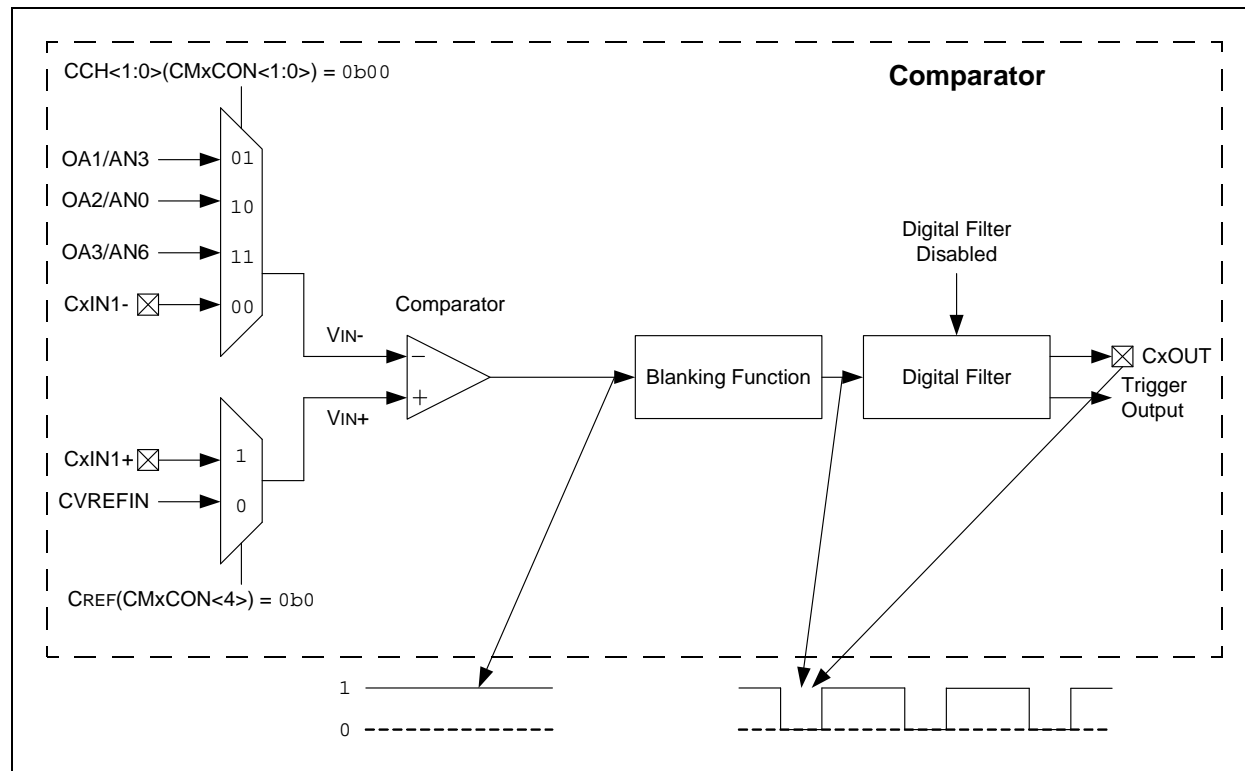
The control techniques used in the application involve the following steps:

- The PTG module trigger can work as a mask input select for the op amp/comparator, as shown in Figure 15.
  - Using this feature, a PTG output can be brought out through a comparator module.
- The Comparator module is configured, as shown in Figure 16, where the inverting input is connected to ground and the non-inverting input is connected to an internal reference voltage.
- The PTG trigger pulse will directly emerge as the comparator output. As long as the PTG generates triggers continuously, the comparator will generate a constant frequency waveform. The pulse width of the waveform will be one cycle of the PTG clock.
- The on/off times can be controlled by the PTG timer and PTG Pulse-Width bits (PTGPWD<3:0>).
  - The PTG output pulse width (PTGPWD<3:0>) will decide the off time of the output waveform.
  - The PTG timer will decide the on time of the output waveform, which is the delay between the triggering comparator modules.
  - Depending on the comparator output polarity, the on/off time will be controlled by either the timer or PTGPWDx bits.
- The output frequency can also be controlled by the PTGDIV register, which will act as a clock divider.

**FIGURE 15: USER-PROGRAMMABLE MASKING FUNCTION**



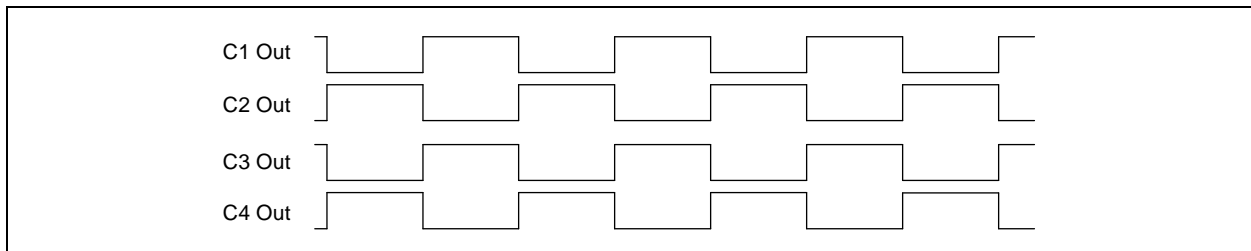
**FIGURE 16: COMPARATOR CONFIGURATION**





By changing the comparator output polarity, a complementary waveform can be generated using four comparator modules, as shown on [Figure 17](#).

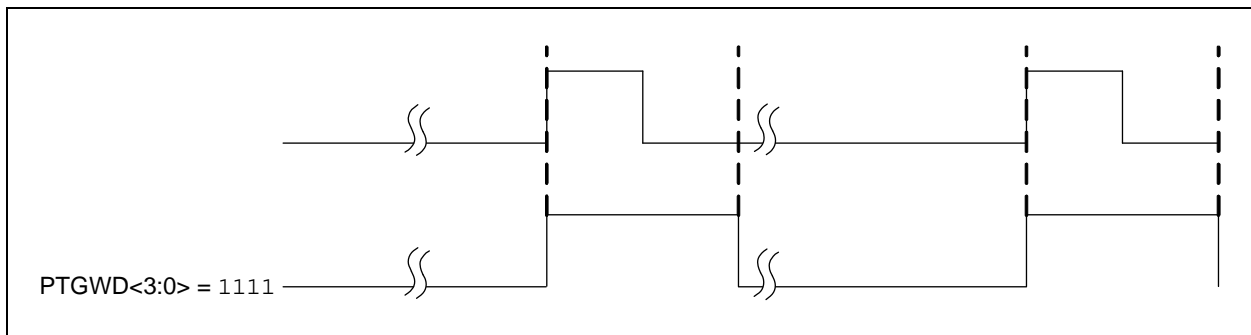
**FIGURE 17: PTG OUTPUT THROUGH COMPARATOR**



The width of the pulse can be modified using the PTGPWD<3:0> bits, which reduce the frequency of the output, as shown in [Figure 18](#).

Hence, a constant waveform can be generated using the PTG and comparator modules.

**FIGURE 18: PTG TRIGGER PULSE WIDTH**

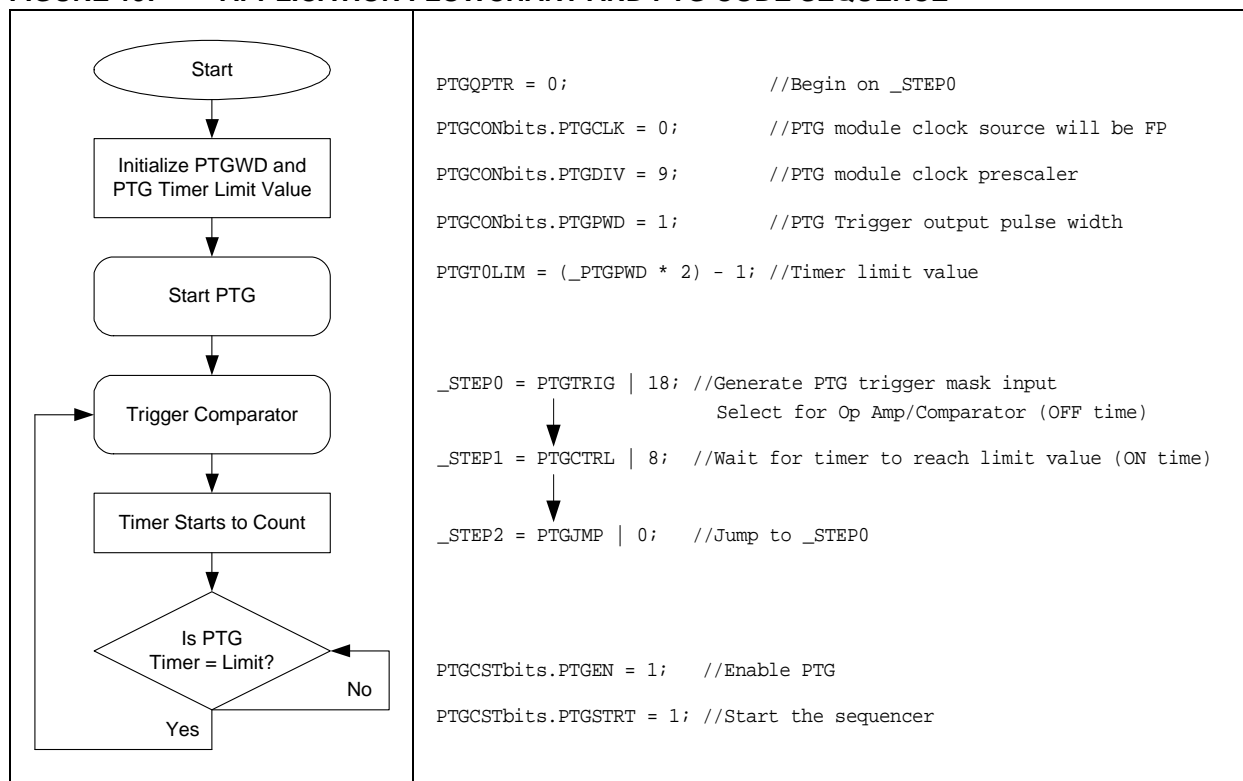


The advantages of using the PTG in this application are:

- The output can act as a constant clock source and run completely core-independent.
- Using more comparator modules, an even complementary waveform can be generated.
- The PTG works in power-saving modes, such as Idle and Sleep.

The flowchart of the application and the PTG code sequence are illustrated in [Figure 19](#).

**FIGURE 19: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## APPLICATION 7: ADC MODULE CONTROL

The PTG module has many options to control the ADC, which is very helpful for synchronizing the ADC and other modules, as the PTG enables a large number of peripherals to trigger an ADC conversion. The PTG also enables the ADC trigger sources to be changed dynamically.

The PTG makes the process of controlling the ADC module core-independent, as the ADC can directly trigger the PTG after the conversion is done. If it were not for this feature, the ADC DONE bit would have been polled by the CPU or the ADC interrupt would have indicated the end of conversion.

The PTG can also change the ADC channel with its Strobe command. The strobe output of the PTG module can be used to write to the AD1CHS0 register (refer to [Table 2](#)).

**TABLE 2: ADC CHANNEL MODIFICATION OPTIONS**

Command	Options	Description
PTGCTRL	0x1100	Writes the PTGL0 register contents to the AD1CHS0 register
PTGADD and PTGCOPY	—	Modifies the PTGL0 register
PTGCTRL	0x1100	Writes the PTGC0 register contents to the AD1CHS0 register
PTGCTRL	0x1101	Writes the PTGC1 register contents to the AD1CHS0 register

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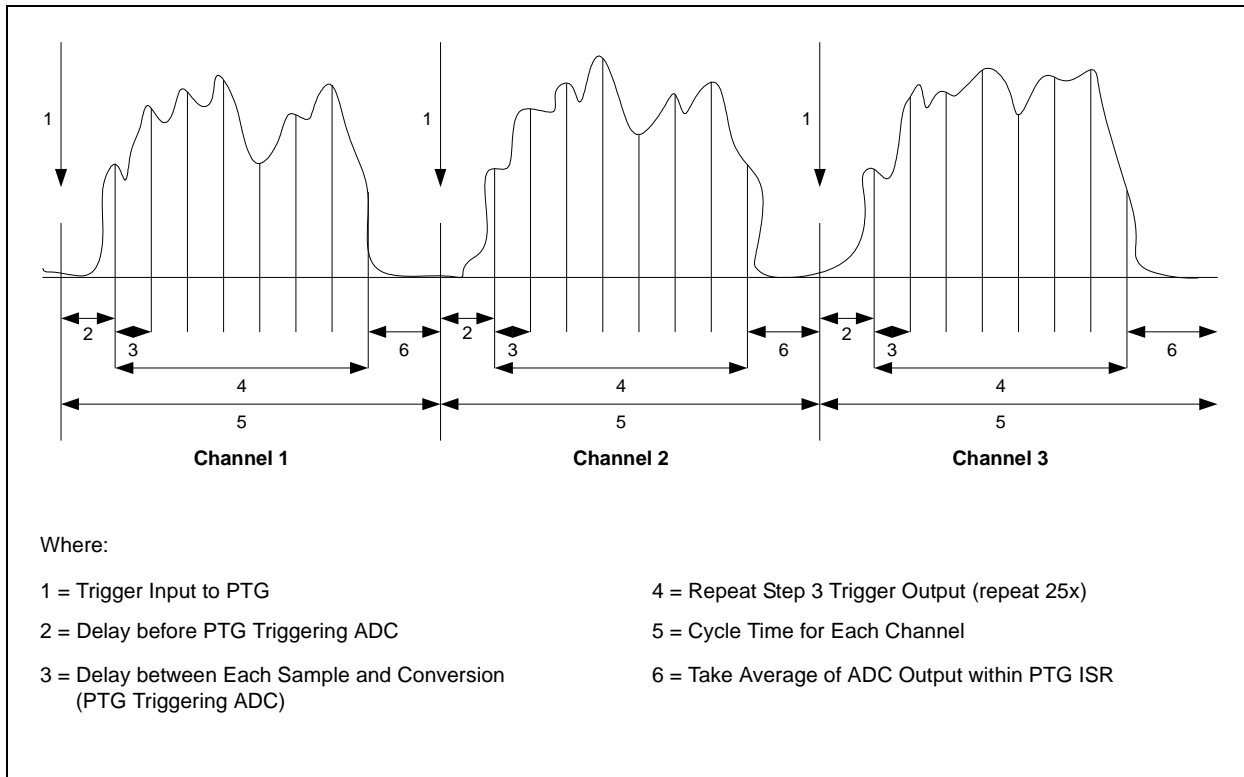
These features are also used in other applications, for example:

- In the **“Application 1: Integrated PFC and Motor Control”** section, the PWM and PFC channels are changed within the PTG ISR.

- In the **“Application 2: Lighting Control”** section, the PTGL0 with the PTGADD and PTGHOLD commands were used to switch the channel to be scanned without the CPU module’s intervention.

The PTG provides the user with the flexibility to select any channel and specify the number of times each channel needs to be sampled; this is shown in Figure 20.

**FIGURE 20: PTG AND ADC**

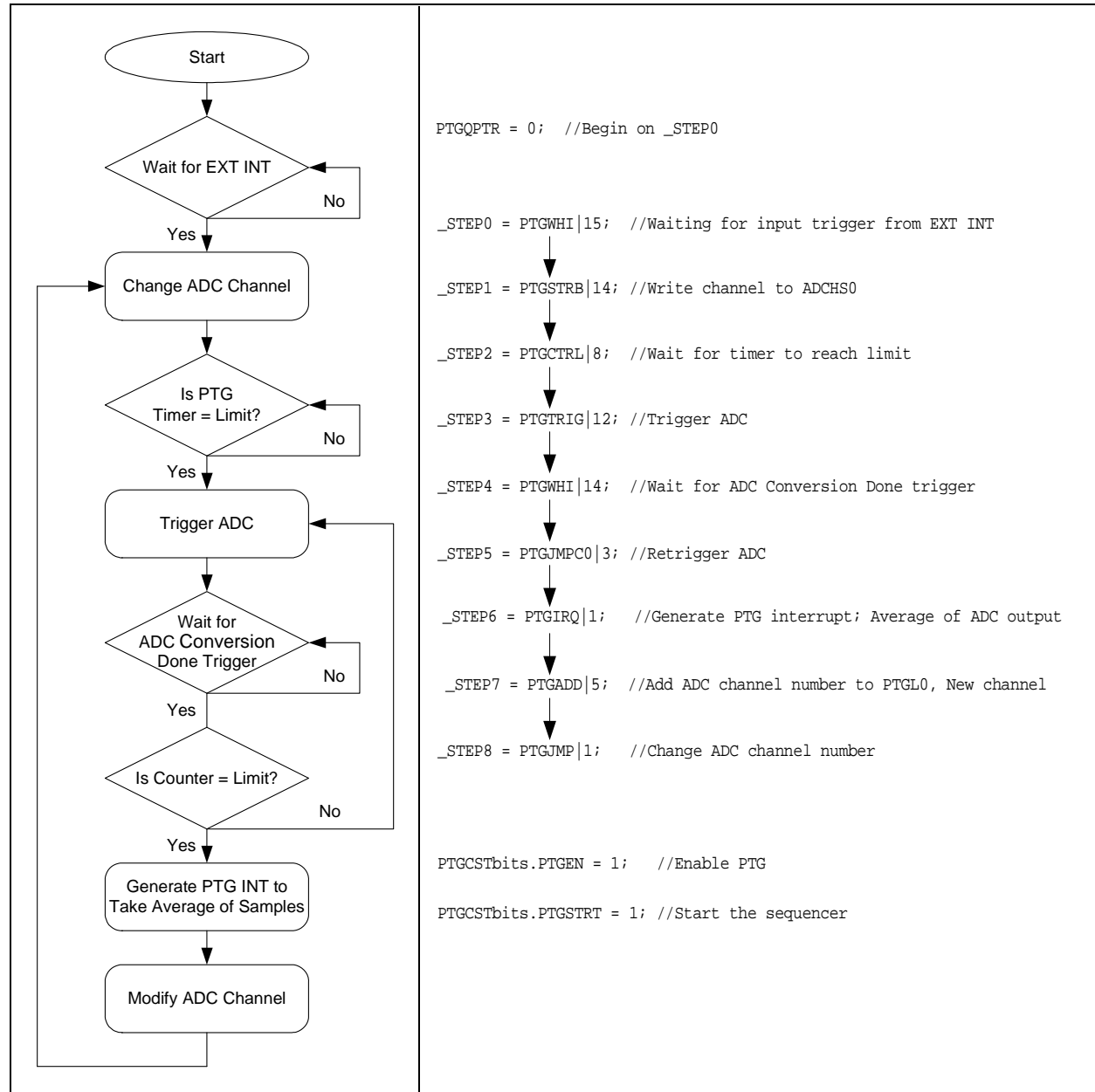


Using this flexibility, the PTG can be used to automate the ADC sampling process using following steps:

- The PTG is configured for an appropriate timer limit value to give enough time between triggers.
- The ADC is configured with the PTG as a trigger source.
- The PTG counter will be useful in repeating as many times as the ADC needs to be triggered.
- The PTG ISR will take the average of the ADC outputs and also change the ADC channels by using the Strobe command.

The flowchart of the application and PTG code sequence are illustrated in [Figure 21](#).

**FIGURE 21: APPLICATION FLOWCHART AND PTG CODE SEQUENCE**



## SUMMARY

The PTG module in Microchip's DSC devices allows users to design complex application sequences with flexibility. A PTG allows various modules to interact with each other with minimum or no CPU interruption and also enhances the capabilities of the existing peripherals, thus expanding the horizon of applications a peripheral can accomplish.

With the PTG module, the applications can have faster response time and incur minimal software burden. The PTG also provides additional safety to the applications with built-in functions.

There are a wide range of applications that can be implemented using PTG, of which only a few are discussed in this document. Microchip encourages users to explore other possibilities of using PTG.

## REFERENCES

1. **Peripheral Trigger Generator (PTG)**  
in the *"dsPIC33/PIC24 Family Reference Manual"*  
<http://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/DeviceDoc/DS-70669A.pdf>
2. Sensorless Field Oriented Control (FOC)  
for a Permanent Magnet Synchronous Motor (PMSM) Using a PLL Estimator and Field Weakening (FW),  
<http://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/AppNotes/01292A.pdf>
3. **Analog-to-Digital Converter (ADC)**  
in the *"dsPIC33/PIC24 Family Reference Manual"*  
<http://ww1.microchip.com/downloads/en/DeviceDoc/70621c.pdf>

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