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STFPC311

Front panel controller/driver with standby power management

Features

- IC front panel controller/driver
- Timing power standby management controller
- IC power supply from 3.3V (V_{DD}) to −30V (V_{SS})
- Integrated VFD driver and controller
- Infrared (IR) Remote Control (RC) Decoder (Philips or NEC format)
- Drives many display modes (12 segments/16 digits to 20 segments/8 digits)
- High voltage outputs (V_{DD} - 33.3V max)
- No external resistors necessary for driver outputs (P-channel open-drain with pull-down resistor outputs)
- Key scanning (up to 12mm x 2mm matrix)
- LED ports (4 channels, 20mA, max)
- Serial interface (STB, CLK, D_{IN}, and D_{OUT}) communication protocol
- Dimming circuit (adjustable up to 8 steps)
- Supports auto-increment of display digit, which lightens the load on the MCU
- Programmable 8 hot keys for the IR remote control command
- Programmable 8 hot keys for key scan command
- Low power consumption in standby mode
- 2 general-purpose input ports (SW1, SW2)
- Available in PQFP-52 package

PQFP-52
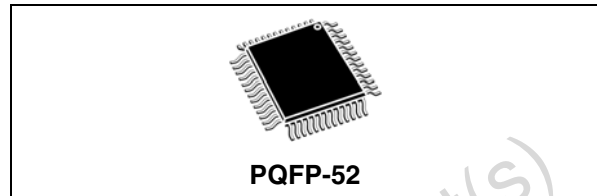
Description

The STFPC311 is a complete, low-cost, integrated solution for controlling and driving a front panel Vacuum Fluorescent Display (VFD). It is ideal for decreasing power consumption in standby mode by reducing the application standby current to a minimum. It also contains a built-in remote control decoder module.

While in standby mode of operation, a valid key press or signal from the infrared decoder will start a proper power-up (see *Figure 6 on page 13*).

The STFPC311 integrates a VFD controller with a driver that is run on a 1/8 to 1/16-duty factor. It consists of 12 segment output lines, 8 grid output lines, 8 shared segments/grid output drive lines, a display memory, a control circuit, and a key scan circuit. Serial data is input to the STFPC311 through the SPI interface of a microcontroller (STB, D_{IN}, D_{OUT}, and CLK).

Additionally, this IC can support two general-purpose input switches (SW1 and SW2).

Applications

- DVD players
- VCD players
- AV equipment like Home Stereo
- POS Systems

Table 1.   Device summary

Part number	Temperature range	Package
STFPC311	-40°C to 85°C	PQFP-52

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Contents

1 Functional description

The STFPC311 receives serial data from the microcontroller through the SPI interface, latches the data, and then masks the inputs from the MCU. This data consists of commands followed by data. There are 4 types of commands:

● configuration,

● data,

● address, and

● display.

The STFPC311 integrates the supply standby power management functionality, remote control decoder, and a 28-bit VFD driver. Microcontrollers usually run the first two tasks.

This device reduces the stand-by power consumption of the whole Front Panel application as well as the hardware by integrating the infrared (IR) remote control decoder.

A dedicated supply voltage powers the STFPC311 directly from the main supply board. When power is plugged in, control of the power supply management is done using the following pins:

1. STBY,

2. IR_DATA_IN, and

3. READY.

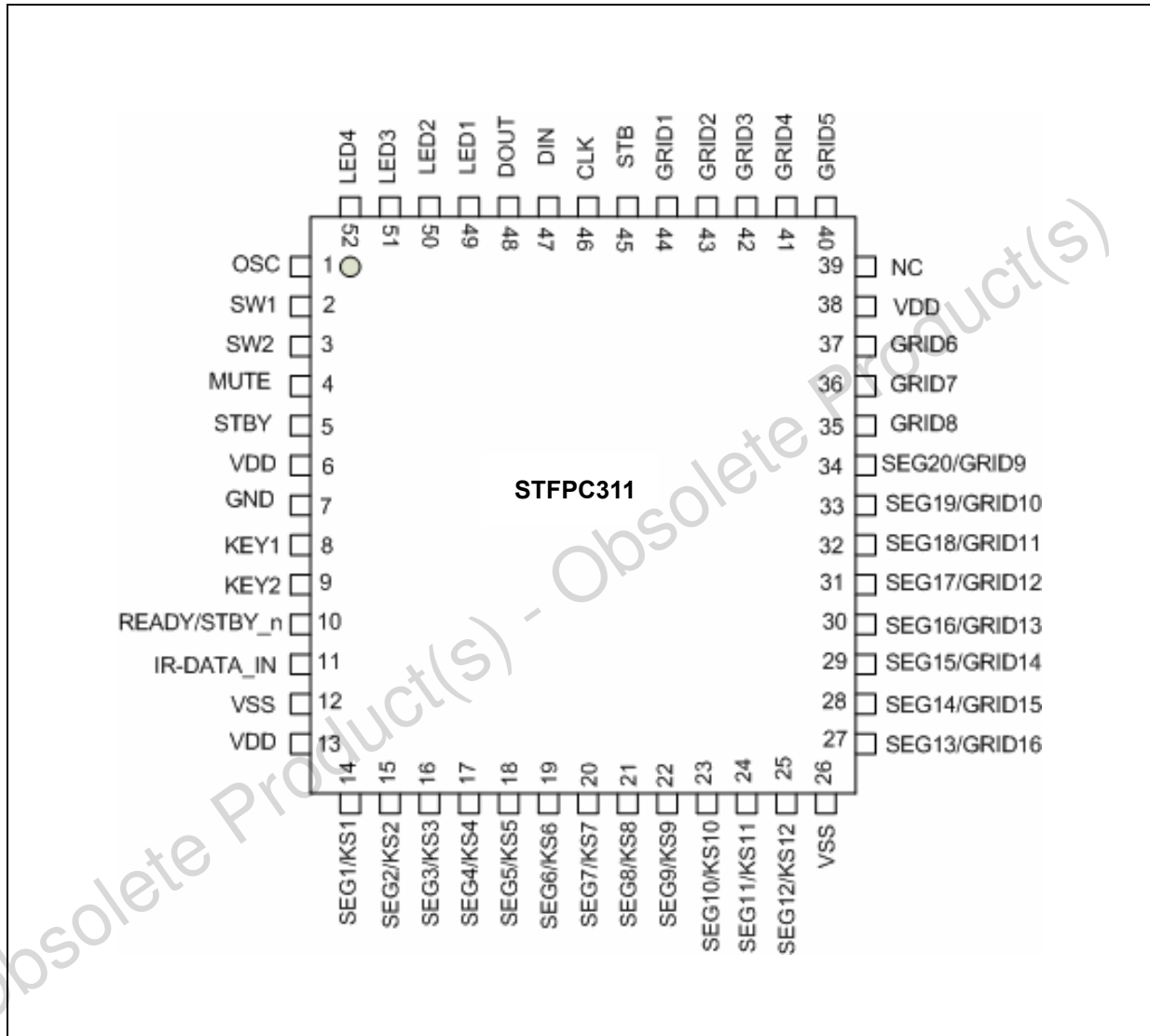# 1.1 Block diagram

Figure 1. Block diagram
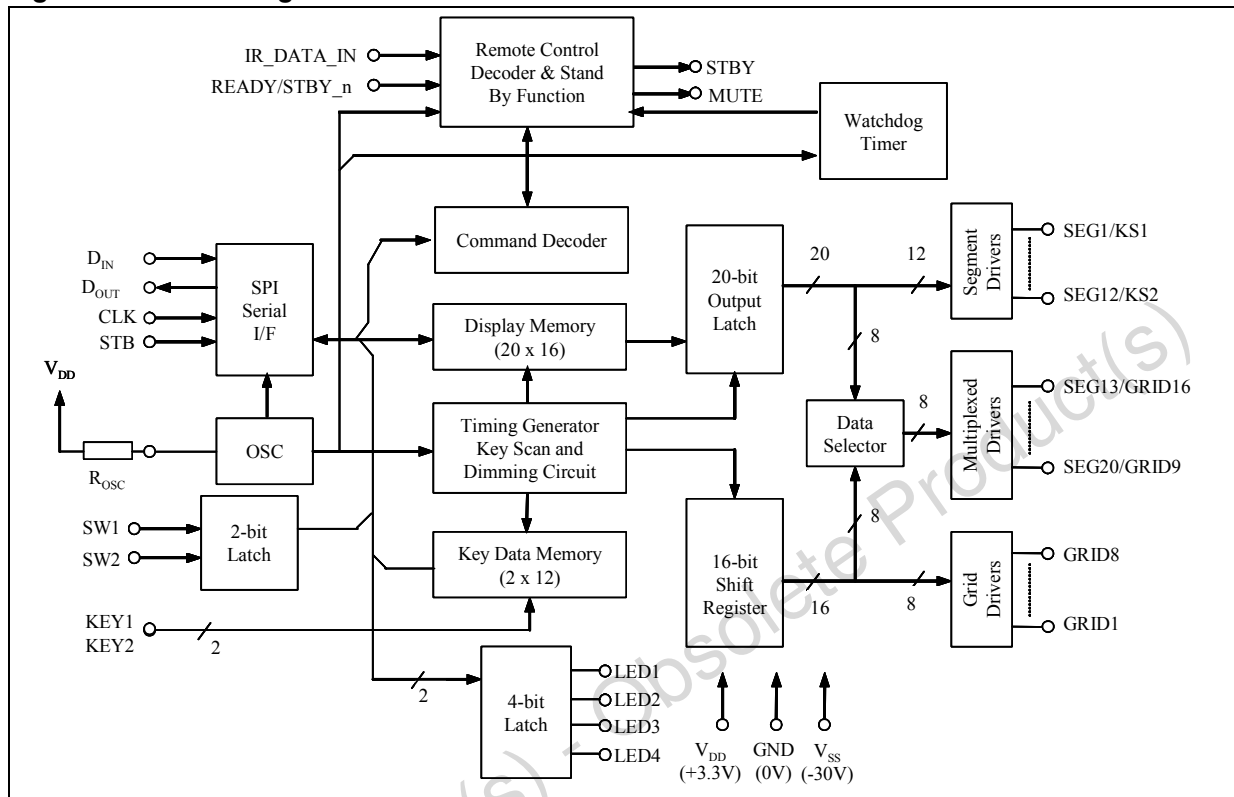
2   Pin connections

Figure 2.   Connection diagram (top view PQFP-52)

Note: *For a description of the behavior of each pin, refer to the* Table 2: Pin description
            on page 7.

2.1 Pin description

Table 2. Pin description

Pin Nº	Symbol	Type	Name and function
1	OSC	I	This is the oscillator input pin. Connect this pin to an external resistor.
2, 3	SW1, SW2	I	General purpose switch input ports.
4	MUTE	O	High level indicates mute status for audio. Low level indicates normal working. See *Note:*
5S	TBY	O	there is a typo. Pin5 and name is STBY. Standby output to put the MCU in low power mode. It is a command to the main power board. High level indicates stand-by status. Low level indicates normal working. See *Note:*
7	GND	POWER	Connect this pin to system GND.
8, 9	KEY1, KEY2	I	Input data to these pins from external keyboard are latched at end of the display cycle (maximum keyboard size is 12 x 2).
10	READY	I	High level on this pin means that main board chip has been working normally. See *Note:* This pin should never float. It is recommended have a pull-down resistor on this input.
1	IR_DATA_IN	I	Remote control input. Feeds the IR data from photodiode to this pin.
14 to 25	SEG1/KS1 to SEG12/KS12	O	Segment output pins (dual function as key source).
12, 26	V_{SS}	POWER	V_{FD} outputs high voltage pull-down level. V_{DD}--33.3V max.
27 to 34	SEG13/GRID16 to SEG20/GRID9	O	These pins are selectable for segment or grid driving.
35 to 37	GRID8 to GRID6	O	Grid output pins.
6, 13,38	V_{DD}	POWER	3.3V ± 0.3V Core main supply voltage.
39	NC	O	Not used. Left unconnected.
40 to 44	GRID5 to GRID1	O	Grid output pins.
45	STB	I	Initializes the serial interface at the rising or falling edge to make the STFPC31 wait for reception of command. The data input after the falling edge of STB is processed as a command. While the command data is processed, current processing is stopped, and the serial interface is initialized. While STB is high, CLK is ignored and any instruction from the MCU is neglected.
46	CLK	I	Reads serial data at the rising edge, and outputs data at the falling edge.
47	D_{IN}	I	Inputs serial data at the rising edge of the shift clock, starting from the lower bit.
48	D_{OUT}	O	Outputs serial data at the faling edge of the shift clock, starting from the lower bit. This is the N-channel opendrain output pin.
49-52	LED1, LED2, LED3, LED4	O	CMOS outputs (20mA, max).

Note: For a detailed behavioral description of these pins, refer to the "STFPC311 Timing Power Stand-by Sequencer Flow-Chart". See .

3 Initialization

After the power is plugged in, the device will supply power to all of the components (including the host processor) by setting STBY to logic low in order to allow the host processor to program the STFPC311. Once the STBY is set to low, the watchdog timer starts to count up to 10s (10s is the default value of the watchdog timer upon power-up). When the READY is asserted within this time, it indicates that the system has booted up well. If the READY pin is not asserted (logic high) within this time (10s), the STFPC311 will put the system into standby mode again by setting STBY to logic high.

If READY is detected as logic high, the watchdog timer will be turned OFF. The main processor should program the remote control hot key and initialize the other parameters of the STFPC311 in preparation for normal operation before the system goes into standby mode. After all of the STFPC311 configuration is finished, the host processor may set the READY to low so that the STFPC311 enters standby mode. The STFPC311 then sets the MUTE pin to logic high to mute the audio output as well as the STBY pin to logic high. As a consequence of this action, the main supply voltage is turned off.

3.1 Normal mode of operation

After the power is plugged in, the device will supply power to all of the components (including the host processor) by setting STBY to logic low in order to allow the host processor to program the STFPC311. Once the STBY is set to low, the watchdog timer starts to count up to 10s (10s is the default value of the watchdog timer upon power-up). When the READY is asserted within this time, it indicates that the system has booted up well. If the READY pin is not asserted (logic high) within this time (10s), the STFPC311 will put the system into standby mode again by setting STBY to logic high.

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3.2 Receive operation

In receive condition, the STFPC311 waits for a valid command from the MCU. The receive circuit of STFPC311 receives 8 bit serial data, latches the data and then masks the inputs from the MCU. Refer to *Figure 30 on page 32* for receive timing.

3.3 Transmit operation

In transmit condition, the STFPC311 sends the 8-bit serial data (LSB transmitted first) whenever a key is pressed or IR data is received. STFPC311 transmits data on the falling edge of CLK. Refer to *Figure 31 on page 32* for transmit timing.

3.4 Standby or power-down mode

Once the STFPC311 detects the status change of the READY to a logic low or after the preset waiting time (1s to 15s) has elapsed, the STFPC311 sets the STBY pin to a logic high to turn off the power. The MUTE signal is set to high before the power is turned off. The STFPC311 always senses the level on the READY pin during normal operation.

3.5 IR decoding

Encoded IR data from photodiode is supplied to the IR_DATA_IN input pin. The data is decoded by the internal remote control decoder module of STFPC311. In standby mode, the remote control decoder recognizes a set of predefined commands (such as STANDBY, PLAY, and OPEN/CLOSE), and takes appropriate action to manage the power supply.

These predefined commands are known as "hot keys" and are programmable. The decoded IR commands are passed on to the main processor through the SPI interface by sending 3 bytes of data on the D_{OUT} pin.

3.6 Watchdog timer

The watchdog timer is used to detect an out-of-control microprocessor. The watch dog timer is implemented in the STFPC311 to detect the abnormal processor behavior or processor-hung condition. The default state of the watchdog timer is 10s when the device powers-up. It is initialized by writing to the watchdog register and can be programmed to up to 15s (4-bit watchdog timer, present in the configuration mode setting command).

If the processor does not reset the timer within the specified period, the STFPC311 will put the entire system into standby mode to reset the appliance that has stopped abnormally. The action to take when the watchdog timer has reached its count is to set the Watchdog Action register. The watchdog timer can be reset by the host processor by sending a command to reset the watchdog timer. The time-out period then starts over again. If the processor needs to be reset as a result of a hung condition (signalled using the STBY output of the STFPC311), the watchdog timer uses the amount of the time-out programmed into the Watchdog Register by the user to generate an interrupt.

Note: *The accuracy of the timer is within ±10% the selected resolution. This depends on the value of the external bias resistor, as it determines the internal clock frequency.*

The watchdog function is automatically set to 10s upon power-up and the Watchdog Interrupt is cleared. This boot-up watchdog timer is used to make sure that if the host processor hangs during the first boot-up, the STFPC311 will put the system to standby mode. During the first boot-up, the watchdog timer is disabled after the first READY signal is received.

3.6.1 Watchdog timer operation during power-up

Figure 3. Power-up condition
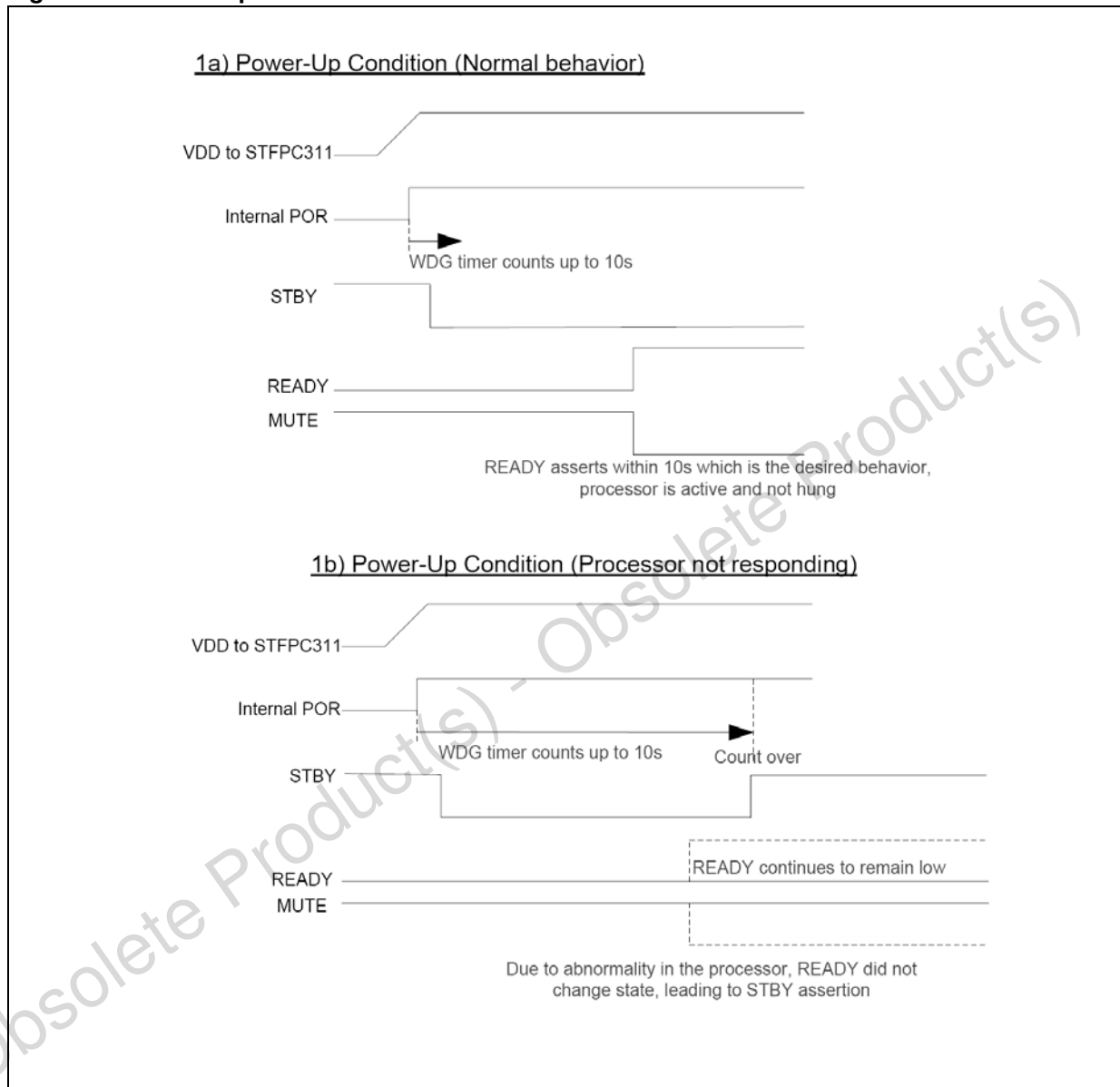
*Note: Watchdog timer is turned off by default upon READY assertion.*

If Watchdog is to be kept on during READY high condition, the WDG registers must be set accordingly by proper commands through SPI bus.

In this power-up condition, the watchdog timer is triggered by internal POR pulse.

During power-up, the watchdog timer value is 10 s.

3.6.2 Watchdog timer operation during power-down

Figure 4. Power-down condition
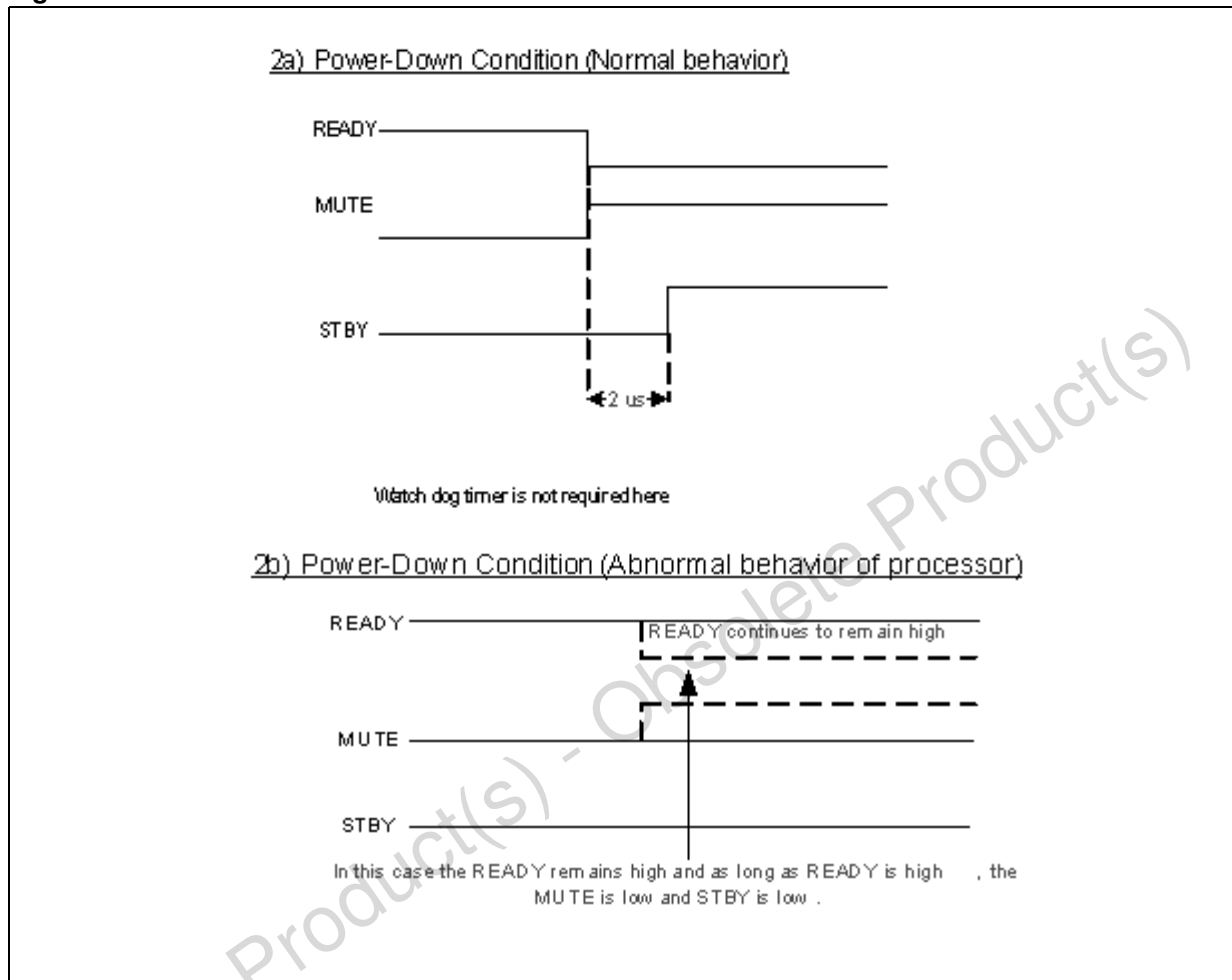
Note: The watchdog timer can be kept on during normal conditions when READY is high (depending on the user's settings).

In this condition, the watchdog timer can be disabled or enabled. If the watchdog timer is enabled, the timer needs to be cleared before the programmed count of the timer is reached. If the programmed count is reached, the STBY will be asserted.

Caution: It is advisable not to enable the watchdog timer during normal operation.

3.6.3 Watchdog timer operation during standby

● When a hot-key signal is detected either from the front panel or remote control during standby, the STBY de-asserts.

● The de-assertion of the STBY triggers the watchdog timer.

● The timer value is the programmed value that is set by the user (1s-15s). If the user did not change the value before entering standby, then it remains 10s.

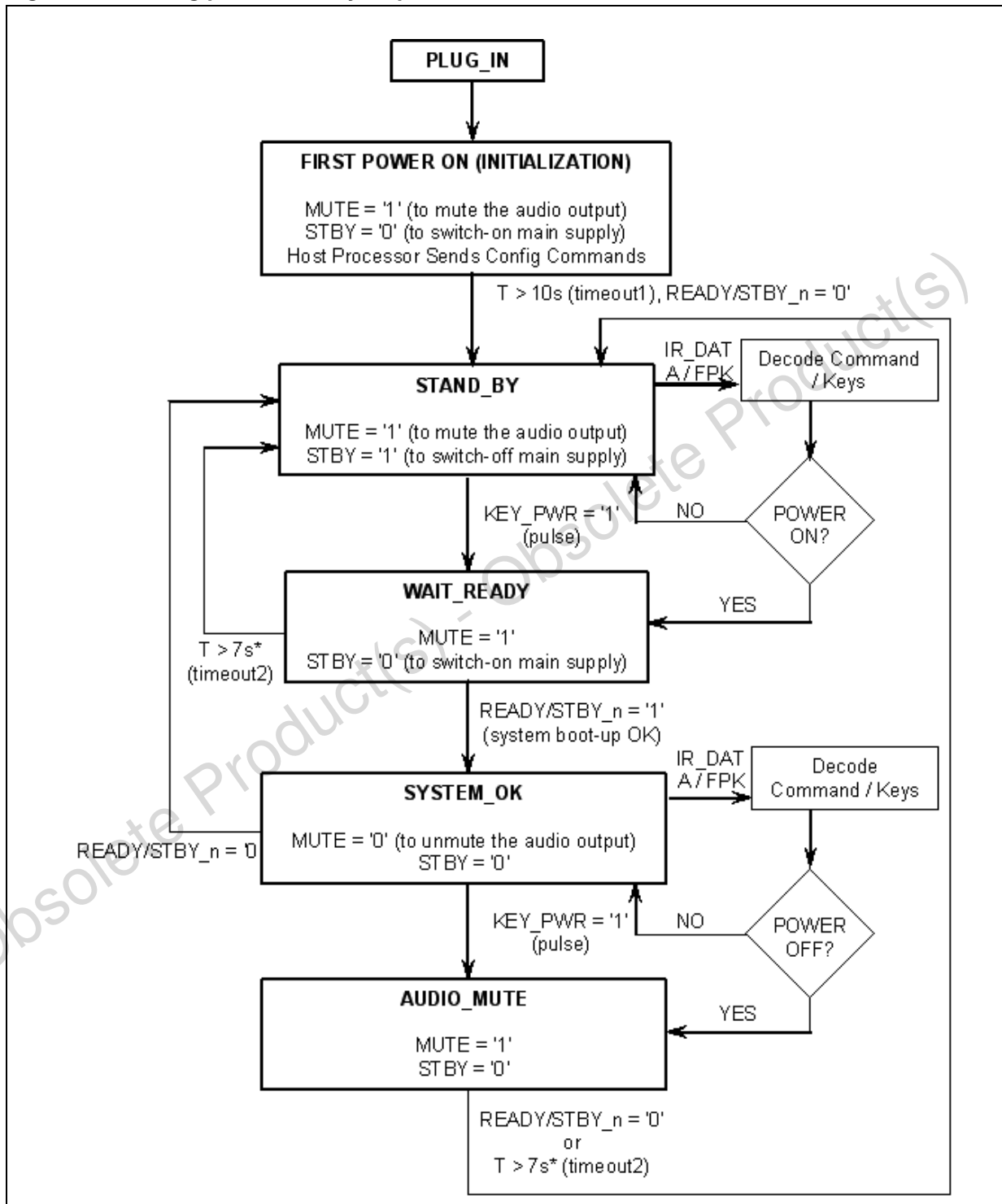● Also note: that The watchdog timer is off when the STFPC311 is in the standby mode to save power.

Figure 5.   Standby condition
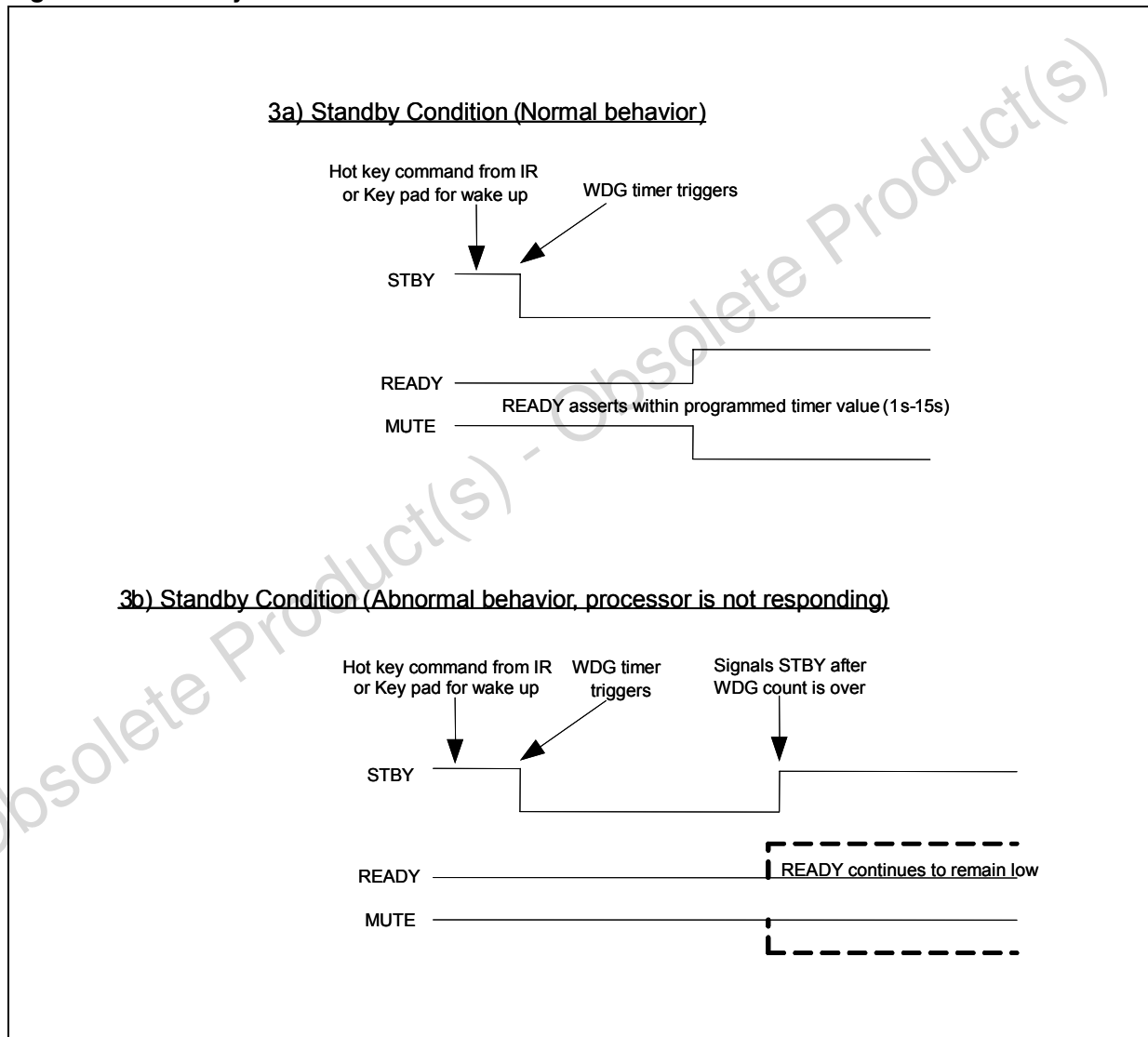
The watchdog timer is triggered by a de-assertion of the STBY signal or by the internal Power-on Reset signal. It is not affected by the STB pin.

3.7 Flowcharts

Figure 6. Timing power standby sequencer flowchart

* Programmable from 1 to 15s.

† FPK = Front Panel Keys

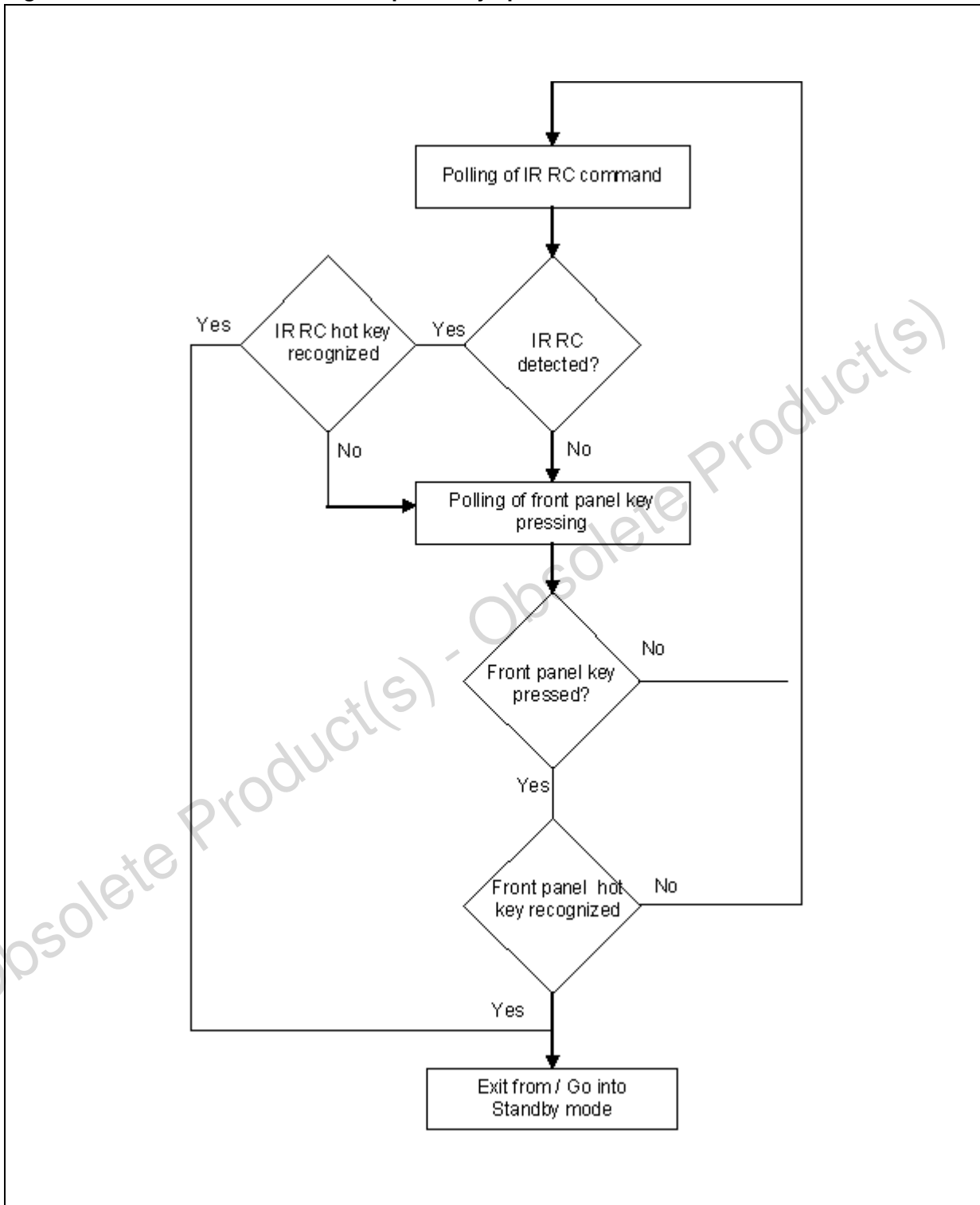**Figure 7.   IR RC command and front panel key operation flowchart**

Figure 8.   Watchdog timer first power-up operation
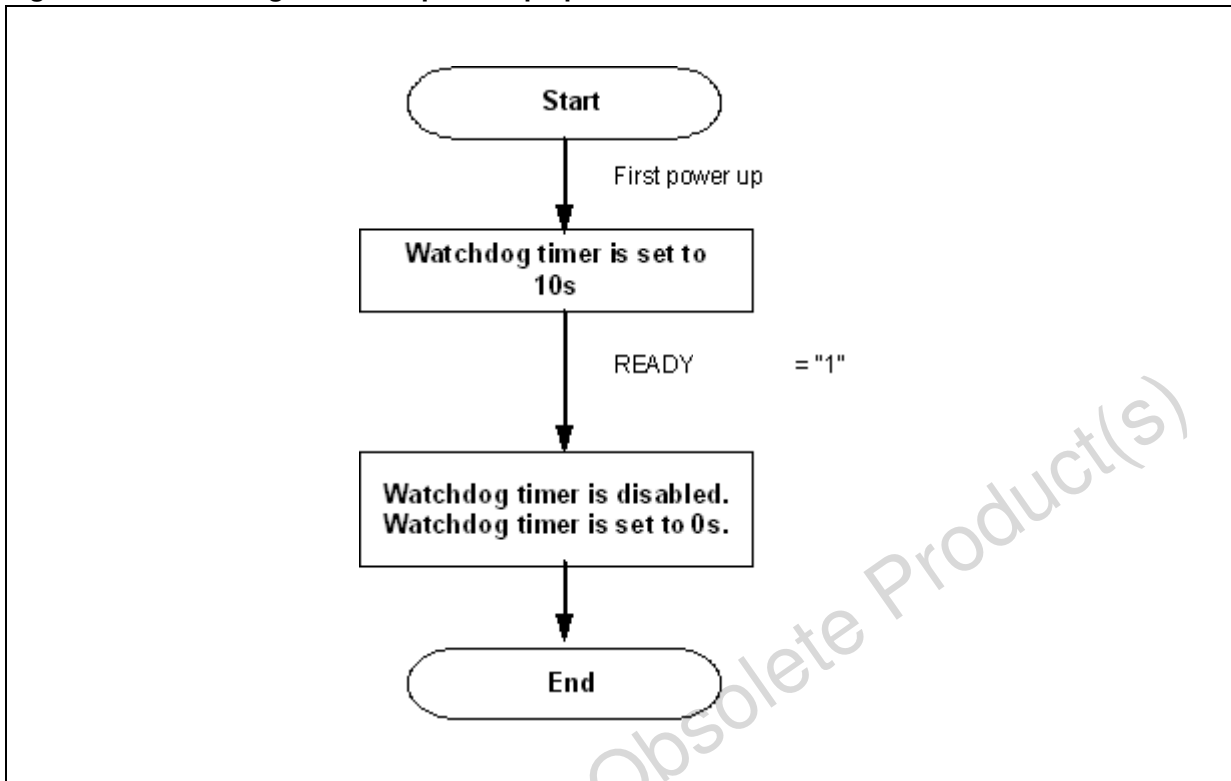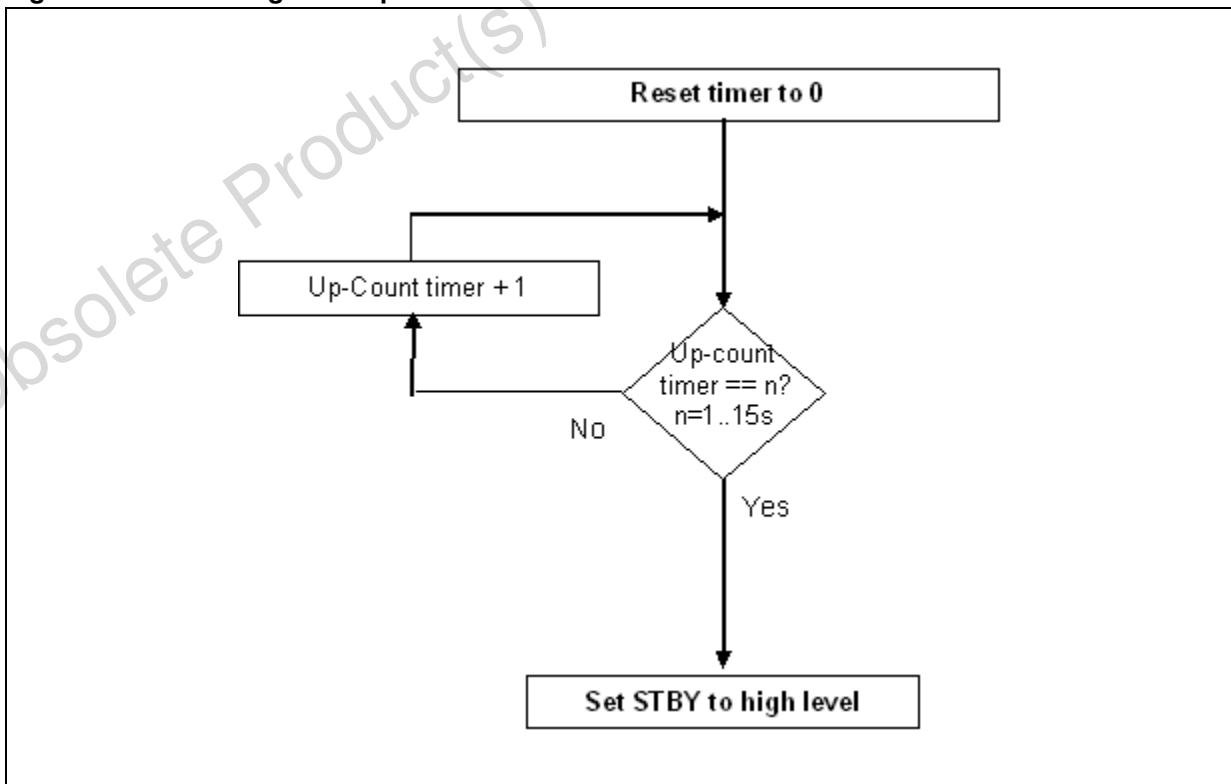

Figure 9.   Watchdog timer operation

4 Display RAM address and display mode

The display RAM stores the data transmitted from an external device to the STFPC311 through the serial interface and is assigned addresses, in units of 8-bits see *Table 3.*

Only the lower 4 bits of the addresses assigned to Seg_{17} through Seg_{20} are valid, the higher 4 bits are ignored.

Note: *The common grid/segment outputs are grid-based. The grid has to be enabled before any segments can be turned on. If data is written for a segment before enabling its grid, there is nothing on the display.*

Table 3.   Assigned addresses

Seg_1	Seg_4	Seg_8	Seg_{12}	Seg_{16}	Seg_{20}
00 H_L	00 H_U	01 H_L	01 H_U	02 H_L	DIG_1
03 H_L	03 H_U	04 H_L	04 H_U	05 H_L	DIG_2
06 H_L	06 H_U	07 H_L	07 H_U	08 H_L	DIG_3
09 H_L	09 H_U	0A H_L	0A H_U	0B H_L	DIG_4
0C H_L	0C H_U	0D H_L	0D H_U	0E H_L	DIG_5
0F H_L	0F H_U	10 H_L	10 H_U	11 H_L	DIG_6
12 H_L	12 H_U	13 H_L	13 H_U	14 H_L	DIG_7
15 H_L	15 H_U	16 H_L	16 H_U	17 H_L	DIG_8
18 H_L	18 H_U	19 H_L	19 H_U	1A H_L	DIG_9
1B H_L	1B H_U	1C H_L	1C H_U	1D H_L	DIG_{10}
1E H_L	1E H_U	1F H_L	1F H_U	20 H_L	DIG_{11}
21 H_L	21 H_U	22 H_L	22 H_U	23 H_L	DIG_{12}
24 H_L	24 H_U	25 H_L	25 H_U	26 H_L	DIG_{13}
27 H_L	27 H_U	28 H_L	28 H_U	29 H_L	DIG_{14}
2A H_L	2A H_U	2B H_L	2B H_U	2C H_L	DIG_{15}
2D H_L	2D H_U	2E H_L	2E H_U	2F H_L	DIG_{16}

b_0	b_3 b_4	b_7
XX H_L	XX H_U	
Lower 4 bits	Higher 4 bits	

The data of each key is stored READ by a read command, starting from the least significant bit, see *Figure 11.*

When the most significant bit of data ($Seg_{12}b_7$) has been read, the least significant bit of the next data (Seg_1b_0) is read.

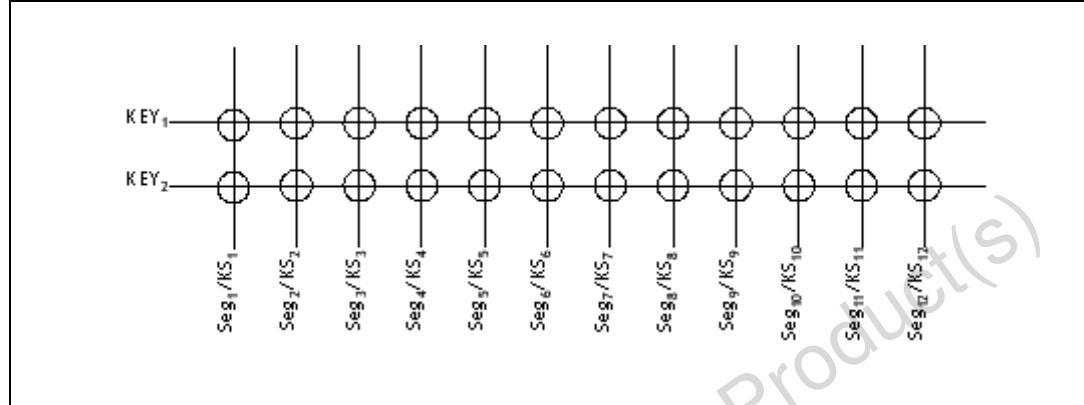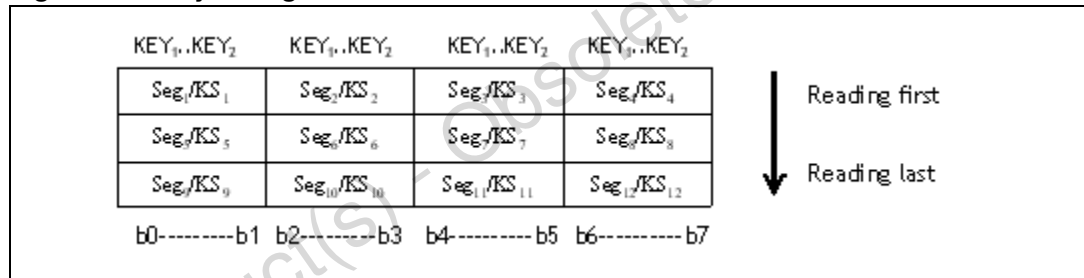**Figure 10. Key matrix (12 x 2 configuration) and key-input data storage RA**


Figure 11. Key storage and READ access

5 Data

5.1 LED port

Data is written to the LED port by a WRITE command, starting from the least significant bit of the port see *Figure 12.* When a bit of this port is set to 0, the corresponding LED lights up; when the bit is set to a 1, the LED turns off. The data of bits 5 through 8 are ignored. Upon first power-up, all of the LEDs are turned off.
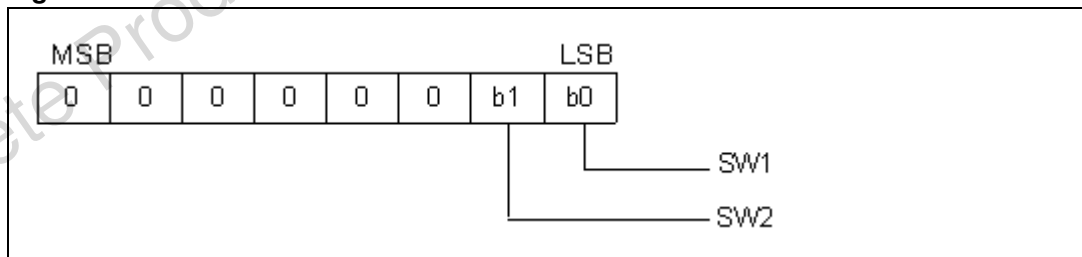
Figure 12. LED port data WRITE command order
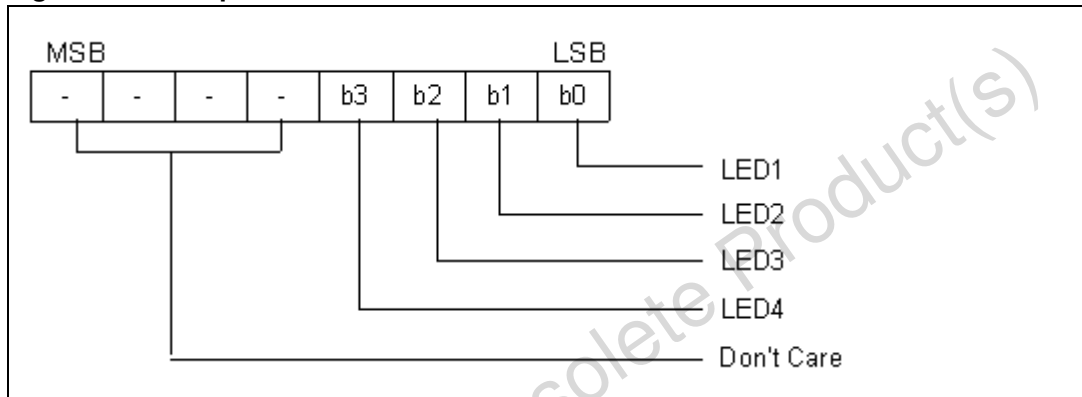
5.2 SW data

The SW data are read by the appropriate READ command, starting from the least significant bit, see *Figure 13.* Bits 3 through 8 of the SW data are 0.

Figure 13. SW data READ command order

6 Commands

A command sets the display mode and status of the VFD driver. The first 1-byte input to the STFPC311 through the D_{IN} pin after the STB pin goes low is regarded as a command. If STB is set to high while commands/data are transmitted, the serial communication is initialized and the commands/data being transmitted are invalid (however, the commands/data already transmitted remain valid).

6.1 Configuration mode setting command

This command initializes the STFPC311 and performs any one of the following functions see *Figure 14.*

a) Selects the number of segments and number of grids (1/8 to 1/16 duty, 12 segments to 20 segments). When this command is executed, the display is turned off. To resume display, the Display ON command must be executed. If the same mode is selected, nothing is performed.

b) Selects the remote control protocol to use.

c) Sets the watchdog timer. The watchdog timer is configurable from 1s to 15s or turned off completely.

d) Sets the watchdog action to perform when the watchdog timer counts. Two actions are allowed: no action, and set STBY to (logic) high level.

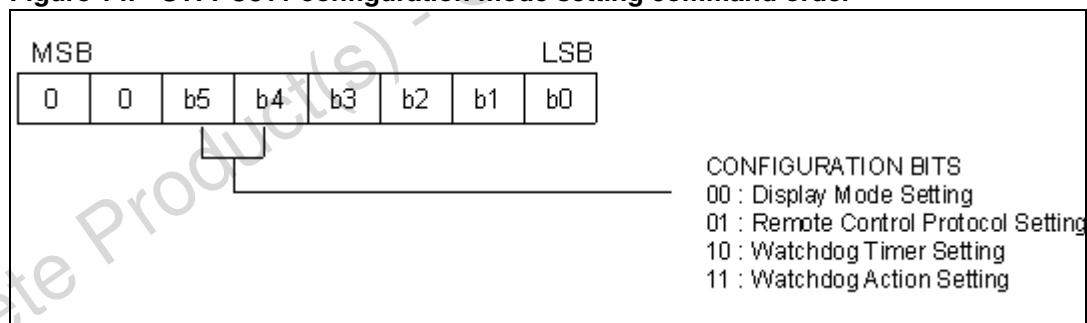**Figure 14. STFPC311 configuration mode setting command order**

Figure 15. STFPC311 configuration mode bit 3 through bit 0 settings

*Note: Based on bit 5 through bit 4 settings.*

Upon power application, the following modes are selected:

● Display Mode Setting: the 16-digit, 12-segment mode is selected (default: display off and key-scan on).

● Remote Control Protocol Setting: RC-5.

● Watchdog Timer Setting: Turned on with 10s. After the first command is processed by STFPC311, the watchdog timer is turned off until it is turned on by the host.

● Watchdog action: Issue Standby.

6.2 Data setting command

This command sets the data WRITE and READ modes see *Figure 16*.

Figure 16. STFPC311 data setting command order
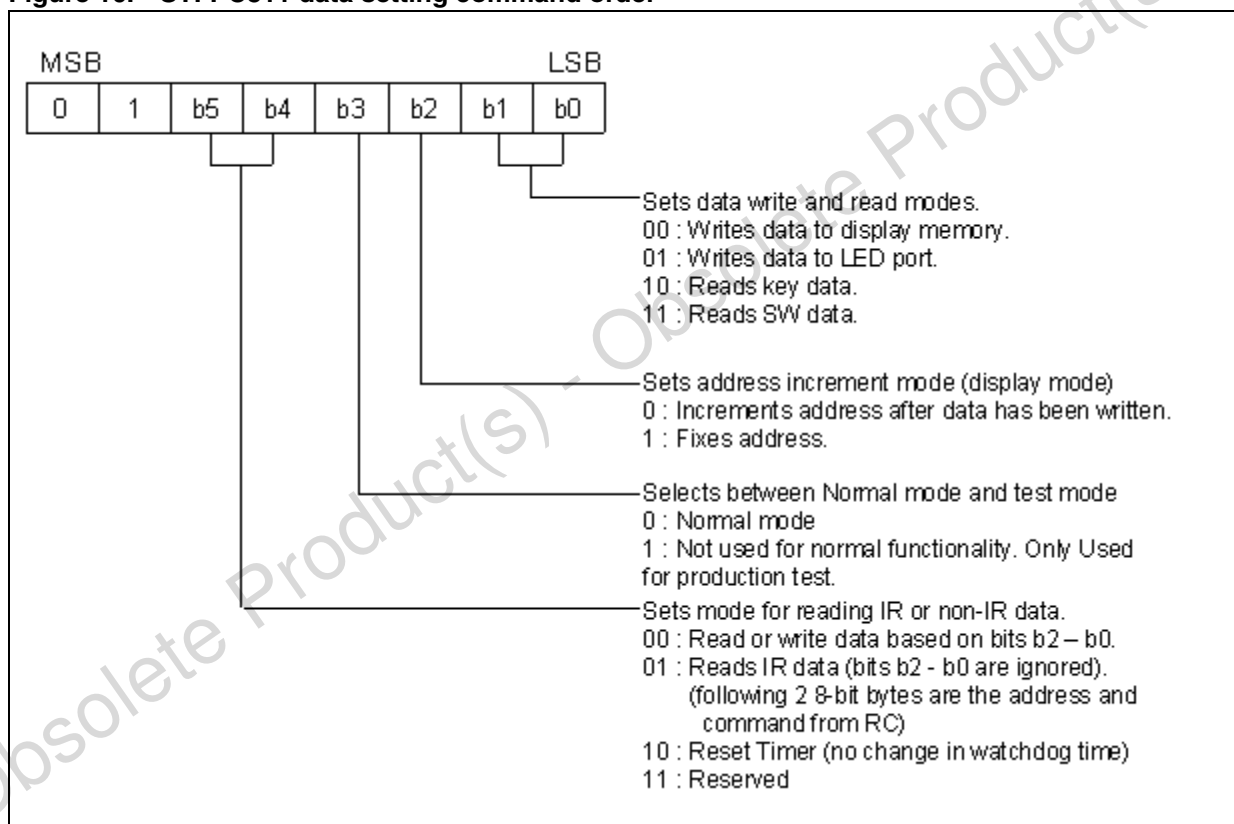
When the application is powered-up, the normal operation mode and address increment mode is set with the default display memory address set to 00H. In the auto-increment address mode, the address command is sent once, followed by the data bytes.

Alternatively, the data command can be sent, followed by the data bytes. In this case, when new display data is to be written, the last value of the address will be used and then incremented. Upon reaching the last display memory address, the address jumps to 00H.

For fixed address mode, the address command has to be sent, followed by the display data. When next byte of data is to be written, the address command has to be sent again before the new display data byte.

For RC-5 data reception (after the photodiode), a binary 1 is represented by a high-to-low transition, and a binary 0 is represented by a low-to-high transition. For RC-6 (Mode 0) data reception, a binary 1 is represented by a low-to-high transition, and a binary 0 is represented by a high-to-low transition. Whenever bit 5 is a '1', the watchdog timer is reset.

6.3 Address setting command

This command sets an address of the display memory. If address 30H or higher is set, the data is ignored until a correct address is set.

Figure 17. STFPC311 address setting command order
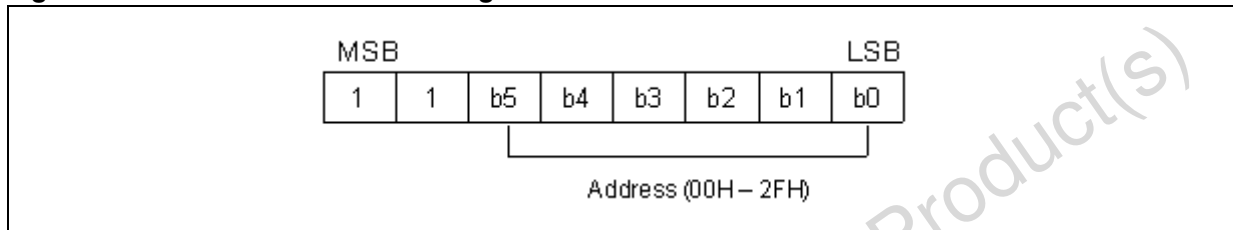
6.4 Display control and hotkey setting command

When the application is powered-up, the 1/16-pulse width is set and the display is turned OFF.

See *Figure 18* and *Figure 4*. All hot keys are disabled.

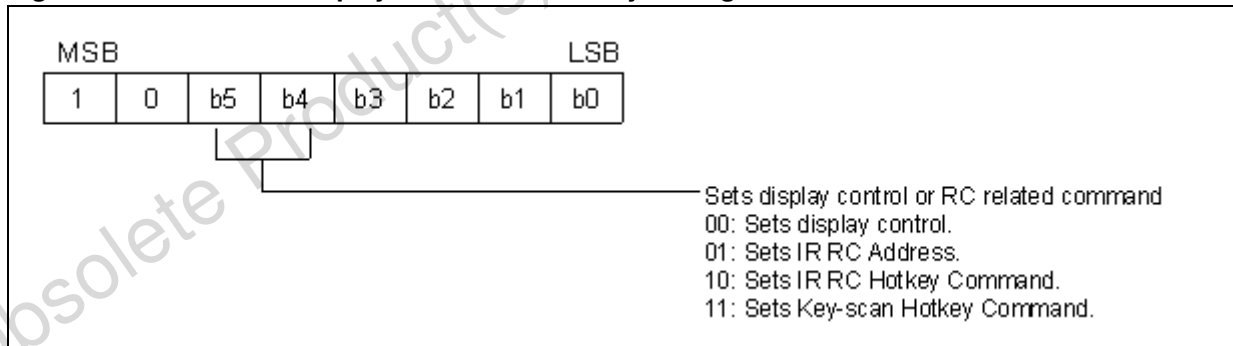**Figure 18. STFPC311 display control and hot key setting command order**

Figure 19.   STFPC311 address setting mode bit 3 through bit 0 settings

```
When b5 b4 = 0 0                  When b5 b4 = 0 1                 When b5 b4 = 1 0

b2..b0 : Sets dimming quantity.   b3..b0 : Don't care             b3..b0 : Address for storing hotkeys
000 : Sets pulse width to 1/16.                                   0000 : Location 1 for RC command
001 : Sets pulse width to 2/16.   Following 8-bit is sent to        :    :
010 : Sets pulse width to 4/16.   indicate the address for RC.    0111 : Location 8 for RC command
011 : Sets pulse width to 10/16.
100 : Sets pulse width to 11/16.                                  When b5 b4 = 1 1
101 : Sets pulse width to 12/16.
110 : Sets pulse width to 13/16.                                  0000 : Location 1 for FPK1 command
111 : Sets pulse width to 14/16.                                  0001 : Location 2 for FPK2 command
                                                                  0010 : Location 3 for FPK3 command
b3 : Turns on/off display
0 : Display off (key scan continues*)                             Following 8-bit is sent to indicate the
1 : Display on                                                    RC hotkey to be stored into internal
                                                                  memory
                                                                  *FPKx = Front Panel Key Set x. See
                                                                  next page
```

7 Programmable hotkeys

7.1 IR Remote control

Eight (8) commands are user programmable for hot key functions.

The address of the appliance (8-bit) is stored first into the internal RAM. Then, the command for the hot keys are programmed into the internal RAM. Each hot key memory address could accommodate one byte (8-bits). Usually one byte is reserved for one command. The RC data is only cleared when the READY is pulled low (system goes into STANDBY state).
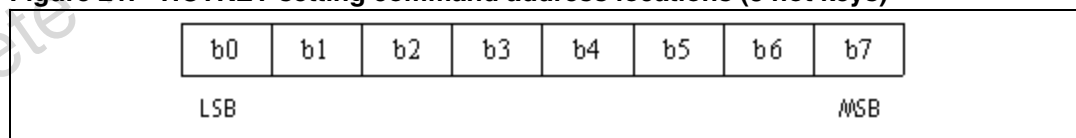
7.2 Front panel keys

Eight out of 24 keys are user programmable for hot key functions. Only keys from KS1 to KS4 can be programmed.

Figure 20. Programmable hot keys (only KS1 to KS4, Box FPK1)
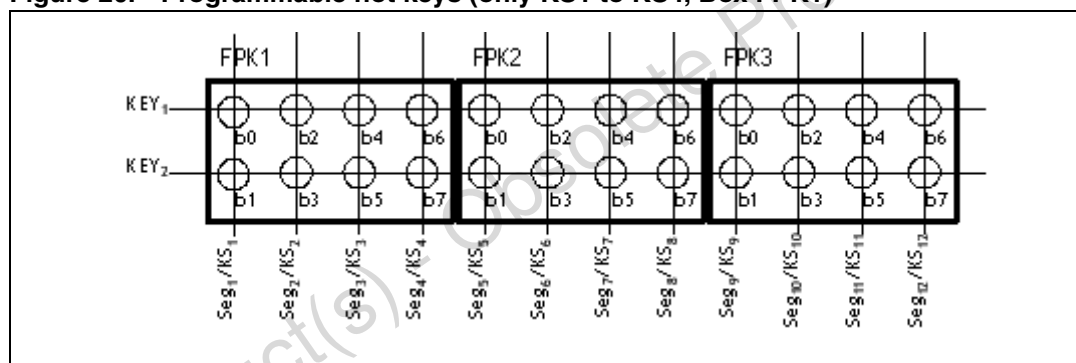
8 hot keys are to be placed in each address location as indicated by the hotkey setting command.

Figure 21. HOTKEY setting command address locations (8 hot keys)

For example, to store (Seg2/Key2) at the first location of the hot key RAM, the following commands are sent:

●   10110000 (command+address), and
●   00010000 (hot key mask).

To store (Seg2/Key1), (Seg2/Key2), and (Seg4/Key1), the following commands are sent:

●   10110000 (command+address), and
●   00110010 (hot key mask).

The same commands apply to FPK2 and FPK3 programming.

Note: *Reading the hot key values immediately upon STBY de-assertion is recommended. If they are not read within the watchdog preset timer value, the hot key data is cleared.*

Figure 22.   Recommended software flow
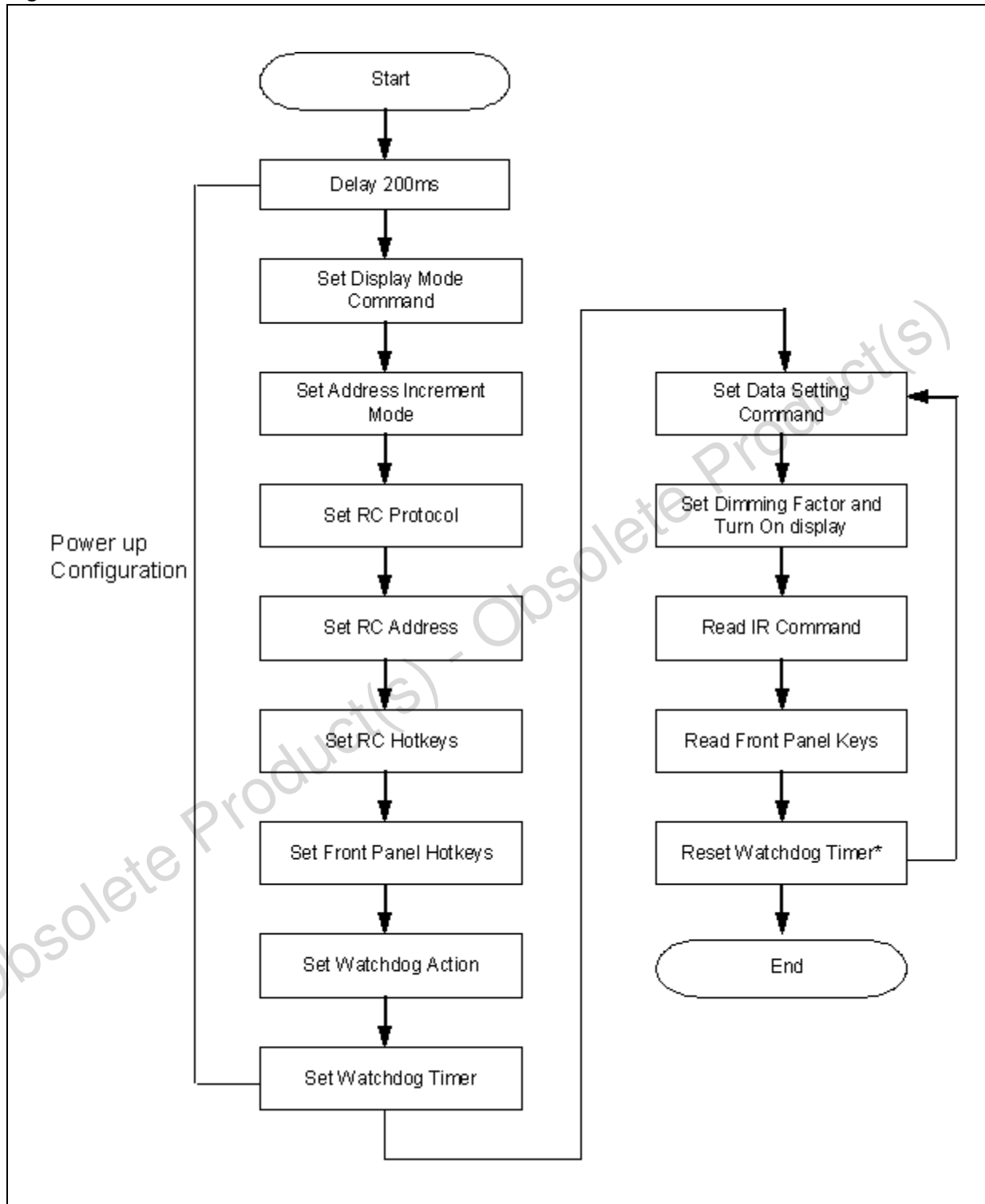
Note: Resetting the front panel controller at ¾ of the set watchdog time is recommended.

8 Default status

8.1 Power-up default status

Table 4.   Default states

S. N°	Functions	Default status
1	Display	OFF
2	Key-scan	ON
3	IR	ON
4	Display mode	12 Seg/16Bit
5	Display address	00H
6	RC Protocol	DC-5
7	LED	OFF
8	Dimming	1/16 Duty factor
9	Hot Kets (IR and FP)	Disabled
10	Watchdog timer	10s

8.2 STANDBY status

The display remains ON during STANDBY only if the -20V is present. If the -20V is absent, the display turns OFF. When the display wakes up from STANDBY and –20V is applied, the display turns ON with previous value.

Switching off the display before entering the STANDBY state is recommended.

When the same display configuration command is sent, the display remains ON. When the display configuration command is changed, the display is OFF.

Only hot key detection can wake the system up from STANDBY condition.