



FEATURES

Ultrawideband frequency range: 100 MHz to 40 GHz

Attenuation range: 2 dB steps to 30 dB

Low insertion loss

1.7 dB to 18 GHz

2.2 dB to 26 GHz

3.5 dB to 40 GHz

Attenuation accuracy

±(0.1 + 2.0%) of attenuation state up to 18 GHz

±(0.2 + 2.5%) of attenuation state up to 26 GHz

±(0.5 + 10.0%) of attenuation state up to 40 GHz

Typical step error

±0.15 dB to 18 GHz

±0.20 dB to 26 GHz

±0.60 dB to 40 GHz

High input linearity

P0.1dB insertion loss state: 30 dBm

P0.1dB other attenuation states: 26 dBm

IP3: 50 dBm typical

High RF input power handling: 26 dBm average, 30 dBm peak

Tight distribution in relative phase

No low frequency spurious signals

SPI and parallel mode control, CMOS/LVTTL compatible

RF amplitude settling time (0.1 dB of final RF output): 230 ns

2.5 mm × 2.5 mm, 16-terminal LGA package

Pin compatible with [ADRF5721](#), low frequency cutoff version

APPLICATIONS

Industrial scanners

Test and instrumentation

Cellular infrastructure: 5G millimeter wave

Military radios, radars, electronic counter measures (ECMs)

Microwave radios and very small aperture terminals (VSATs)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The ADRF5731 is a silicon, 4-bit digital attenuator with a 30 dB attenuation control range in 2 dB steps.

This device operates from 100 MHz to 40 GHz with better than 3.5 dB of insertion loss. The ATTIN port of the ADRF5720 has a radio frequency (RF) input power handling capability of 26 dBm average and 30 dBm peak for all states.

The ADRF5731 requires a dual supply voltage of +3.3 V and -3.3 V. The device features serial peripheral interface (SPI), parallel mode control, and complementary metal-oxide semiconductor (CMOS)/low voltage transistor to transistor logic (LVTTL) compatible controls.

FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM

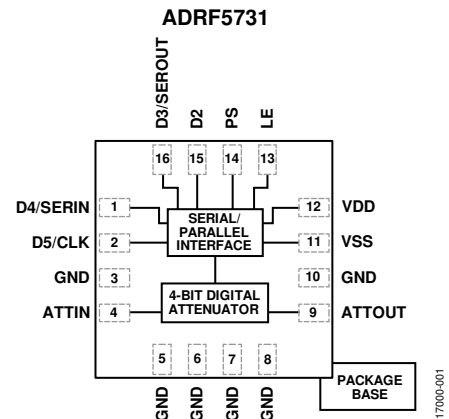


Figure 1.

The ADRF5731 is pin compatible with the [ADRF5721](#) low frequency cutoff version, which operates from 9 kHz to 40 GHz.

The ADRF5731 RF ports are designed to match a characteristic impedance of 50 Ω.

The ADRF5731 comes in a 16-terminal, 2.5 mm × 2.5 mm, RoHS compliant, land grid array (LGA) package and operates from -40°C to +105°C.

Rev. B

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REVISION HISTORY

4/2021—Rev. A to Rev. B

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Added Figure 8 and Figure 9; Renumbered Sequentially	7
Change to Figure 19	9
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3/2020—Rev. 0 to Rev. A

Changes to RF Power Parameter, Table 1.....	4
Changes to Table 3.....	6
Changes to Power Supply Section	11
Added Power-Up State Section.....	11
Moved Serial or Parallel Mode Selection Section and Table 7; Renumbered Sequentially	12

9/2018—Revision 0: Initial Version

SPECIFICATIONS

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

VDD = 3.3 V, VSS = -3.3 V, digital voltages = 0 V or VDD, case temperature (T_{CASE}) = 25°C, and a 50 Ω system, unless otherwise noted.

Table 1.

Parameter	Test Conditions/Comments	Min	Typ	Max	Unit	
FREQUENCY RANGE		100		40,000	MHz	
INSERTION LOSS (IL)	100 MHz to 10 GHz		1.3		dB	
	10 GHz to 18 GHz		1.7		dB	
	18 GHz to 26 GHz		2.2		dB	
	26 GHz to 35 GHz		2.8		dB	
	35 GHz to 40 GHz		3.5		dB	
RETURN LOSS	ATTIN and ATTOUT, all attenuation states					
	100 MHz to 10 GHz		22		dB	
	10 GHz to 18 GHz		22		dB	
	18 GHz to 26 GHz		16		dB	
	26 GHz to 35 GHz		15		dB	
35 GHz to 40 GHz		14		dB		
ATTENUATION	Range	Between minimum and maximum attenuation states	30		dB	
	Step Size	Between any successive attenuation states	2		dB	
	Accuracy	Referenced to insertion loss				
		100 MHz to 10 GHz		$\pm(0.05 + 1.0\%)$		dB
		10 GHz to 18 GHz		$\pm(0.1 + 2.0\%)$		dB
		18 GHz to 26 GHz		$\pm(0.2 + 2.5\%)$		dB
		26 GHz to 35 GHz		$\pm(0.2 + 6.0\%)$		dB
	35 GHz to 40 GHz		$\pm(0.5 + 10.0\%)$		dB	
	Step Error	Between any successive attenuation states				
		100 MHz to 10 GHz		± 0.05		dB
		10 GHz to 18 GHz		± 0.15		dB
		18 GHz to 26 GHz		± 0.20		dB
		26 GHz to 35 GHz		± 0.35		dB
35 GHz to 40 GHz		± 0.60		dB		
RELATIVE PHASE	Referenced to insertion loss					
	100 MHz to 10 GHz		15		Degrees	
	10 GHz to 18 GHz		25		Degrees	
	18 GHz to 26 GHz		40		Degrees	
	26 GHz to 35 GHz		55		Degrees	
35 GHz to 40 GHz		80		Degrees		
SWITCHING CHARACTERISTICS	All attenuation states at input power (P_{IN}) = 10 dBm					
	Rise and Fall Time (t_{RISE} and t_{FALL})	10% to 90% of RF output	35		ns	
	On and Off Time (t_{ON} and t_{OFF})	50% triggered control (CTL) to 90% of RF output	110		ns	
	RF Amplitude Settling Time	50% triggered CTL to 0.1 dB of final RF output	230		ns	
		50% triggered CTL to 0.05 dB of final RF output	250		ns	
	Overshoot		0.5		dB	
	Undershoot		-1		dB	
	RF Phase Settling Time	f = 5 GHz				
50% triggered CTL to 5° of final RF output		100		ns		
1°	50% triggered CTL to 1° of final RF output	125		ns		

TIMING SPECIFICATIONS

See Figure 25, Figure 26, and Figure 27 for the timing diagrams.

Table 2.

Parameter	Description	Min	Typ	Max	Unit
t_{SCK}	Minimum serial period, see Figure 25	70			ns
t_{CS}	Control setup time, see Figure 25	15			ns
t_{CH}	Control hold time, see Figure 25		3	5	ns
t_{LN}	LE setup time, see Figure 25	15			ns
t_{LEW}	Minimum LE pulse width, see Figure 25 and Figure 27		10		ns
t_{LES}	Minimum LE pulse spacing, see Figure 25		630		ns
t_{CKN}	Serial clock hold time from LE, see Figure 25		0		ns
t_{PH}	Hold time, see Figure 27		10		ns
t_{PS}	Setup time, see Figure 27		2		ns
t_{CO}	Clock to output (SEROUT) time, see Figure 26	15	20	25	ns

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Table 3.

Parameter	Rating
Positive Supply Voltage (V_{DD})	-0.3 V to +3.6 V
Negative Supply Voltage (V_{SS})	-3.6 V to +0.3 V
Digital Control Inputs	
Voltage	-0.3 V to $V_{DD} + 0.3$ V
Current	3 mA
RF Power ¹ (f = 10 MHz to 30 GHz, $T_{CASE} = 85^{\circ}C^2$)	
Input at ATTIN	
Steady State Average	27 dBm
Steady State Peak	31 dBm
Hot Switching Average	25 dBm
Hot Switching Peak	28 dBm
Input at ATTOUT	
Steady State Average	19 dBm
Steady State Peak	22 dBm
Hot Switching Average	16 dBm
Hot Switching Peak	19 dBm
RF Power Under Unbiased Condition ($V_{DD}, V_{SS} = 0$ V)	
Input at ATTIN	21 dBm
Input at ATTOUT	15 dBm
Temperature	
Junction (T_J)	135°C
Storage	-65°C to +150°C
Reflow	260°C
Continuous Power Dissipation (P_{DISS})	0.5 W
Electrostatic Discharge (ESD) Sensitivity	
Human Body Model (HBM)	
ATTIN and ATTOUT Pins	500 V
Digital Pins	2000 V
Charged Device Model (CDM)	1250 V

¹ For power derating over frequency, see Figure 2 and Figure 3. Applicable for all ATTIN and ATTOUT power specifications.

² For 105°C operation, the power handling derates from the $T_{CASE} = 85^{\circ}C$ specifications by 3 dB.

Stresses at or above those listed under Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the product. This is a stress rating only; functional operation of the product at these or any other conditions above those indicated in the operational section of this specification is not implied. Operation beyond the maximum operating conditions for extended periods may affect product reliability.

THERMAL RESISTANCE

Thermal performance is directly linked to printed circuit board (PCB) design and operating environment. Careful attention to PCB thermal design is required.

θ_{JC} is the junction to case bottom (channel to package bottom) thermal resistance.

Table 4. Thermal Resistance

Package Type	θ_{JC}	Unit
CC-16-6	100	°C/W

POWER DERATING CURVES

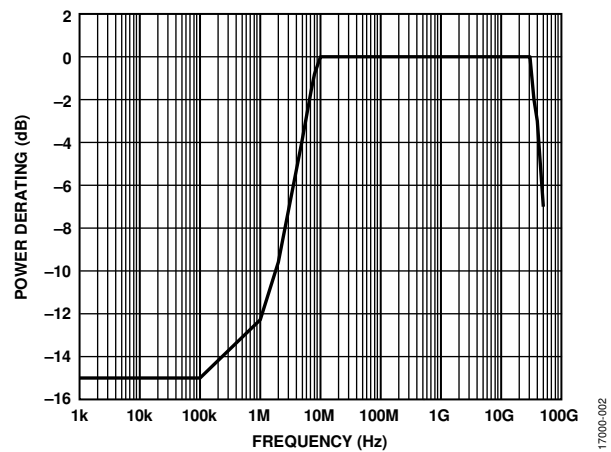


Figure 2. Power Derating vs. Frequency, Low Frequency Detail, $T_{CASE} = 85^{\circ}C$

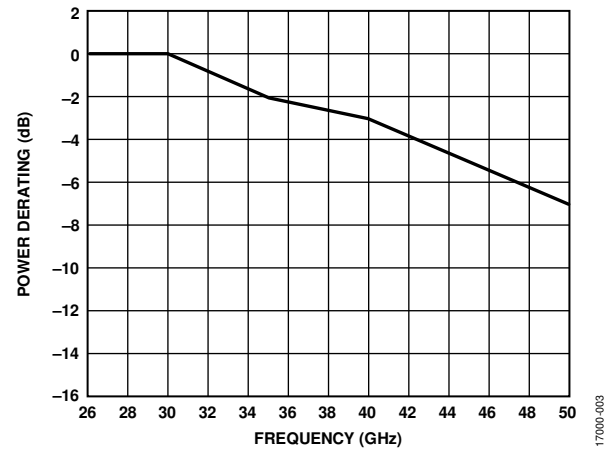


Figure 3. Power Derating vs. Frequency, High Frequency Detail, $T_{CASE} = 85^{\circ}C$

ESD CAUTION



ESD (electrostatic discharge) sensitive device. Charged devices and circuit boards can discharge without detection. Although this product features patented or proprietary protection circuitry, damage may occur on devices subjected to high energy ESD. Therefore, proper ESD precautions should be taken to avoid performance degradation or loss of functionality.

PIN CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

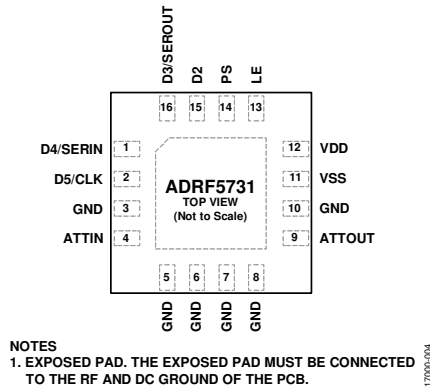


Figure 4. Pin Configuration

Table 5. Pin Function Descriptions

Pin No.	Mnemonic	Description
1	D4/SERIN	Parallel Control Input for 8 dB Attenuator Bit (D4). Serial Data Input (SERIN). See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
2	D5/CLK	Parallel Control Input for 16 dB Attenuator Bit (D5). Serial Clock Input (CLK). See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
3, 5 to 8, 10	GND	Ground. These pins must be connected to the RF and dc ground of the PCB.
4	ATTIN	Attenuator Input. This pin is dc-coupled to 0 V and ac matched to 50 Ω. No dc blocking capacitor is needed when the RF line potential is equal to 0 V dc.
9	ATTOUT	Attenuator Output. This pin is dc-coupled to 0 V and ac matched to 50 Ω. No dc blocking capacitor is needed when the RF line potential is equal to 0 V dc.
11	VSS	Negative Supply Input.
12	VDD	Positive Supply Input.
13	LE	Latch Enable Input. See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
14	PS	Parallel or Serial Control Interface Selection Input. See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
15	D2	Parallel Control Input for 2 dB Attenuator Bit. See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
16	D3/SEROUT	Parallel Control Input for 4 dB Attenuator Bit (D3). Serial Data Output (SEROUT). See the Theory of Operation section for more information.
17	EPAD	Exposed Pad. The exposed pad must be connected to the RF and dc ground of the PCB.

INTERFACE SCHEMATICS

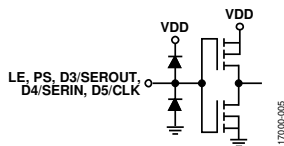


Figure 5. Digital Input Interface Schematic for LE, PS, D3/SEROUT, D4/SERIN, and D5/CLK

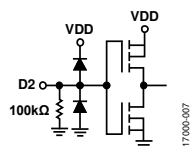


Figure 6. Digital Input Interface Schematic for D2

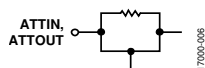


Figure 7. ATTIN and ATTOUT Interface Schematic

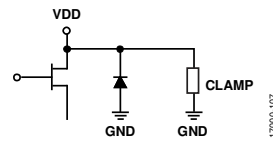


Figure 8. VDD Pin Interface Schematic

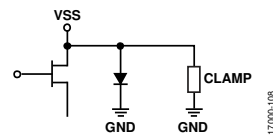


Figure 9. VSS Pin Interface Schematic

TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

INSERTION LOSS, RETURN LOSS, STATE ERROR, STEP ERROR, AND RELATIVE PHASE

VDD = 3.3 V, VSS = -3.3 V, digital voltages = 0 V or VDD, T_{CASE} = 25°C, and a 50 Ω system, unless otherwise noted. Measured on probe matrix board using ground signal ground (GSG) probes close to the RF pins (ATTIN and ATTOUT). See the Applications Information section for details on evaluation and probe matrix boards.

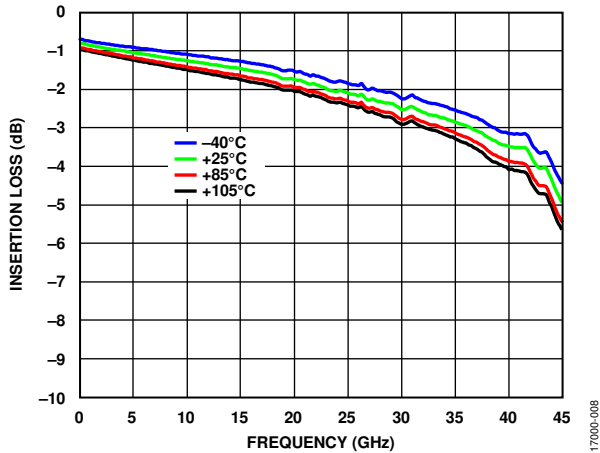


Figure 10. Insertion Loss vs. Frequency over Temperature

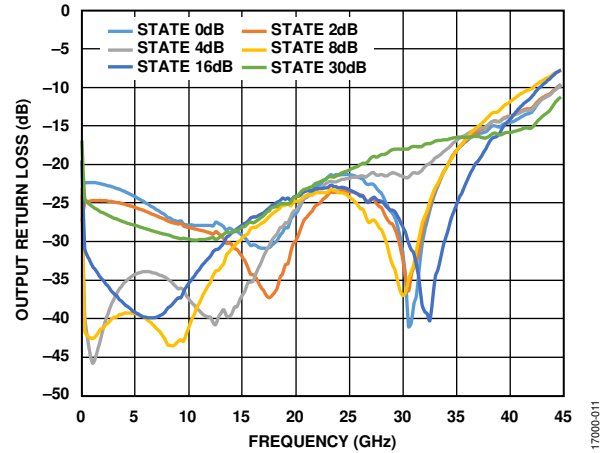


Figure 13. Output Return Loss vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

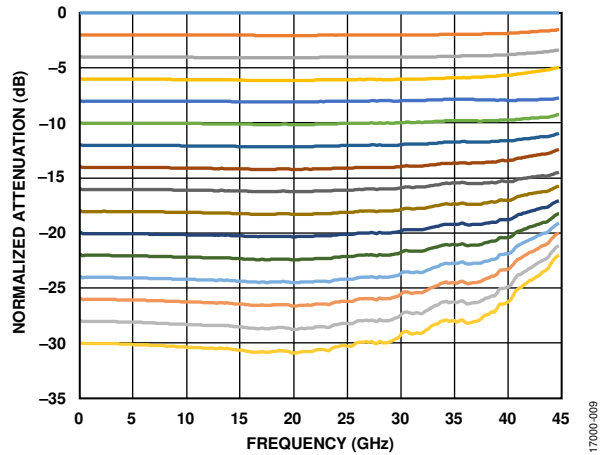


Figure 11. Normalized Attenuation vs. Frequency for All States at Room Temperature

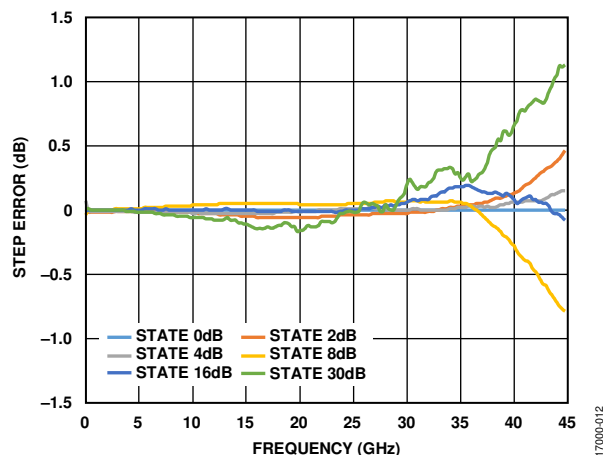


Figure 14. Step Error vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

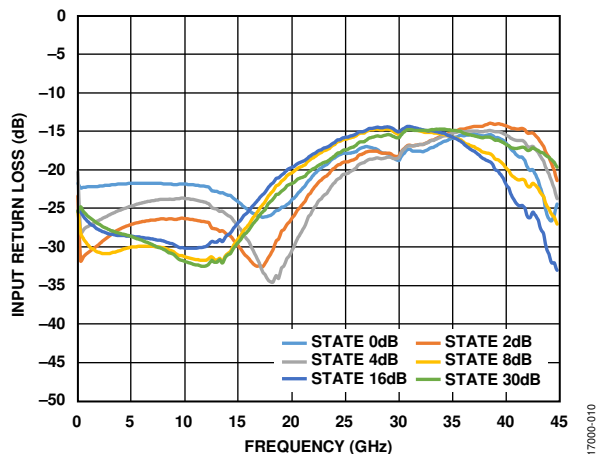


Figure 12. Input Return Loss vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

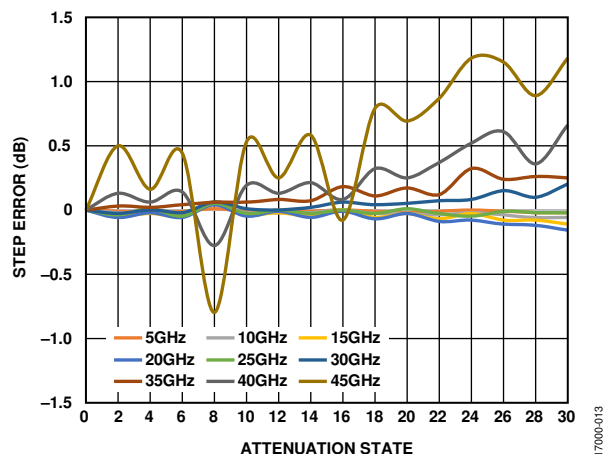


Figure 15. Step Error vs. Attenuation State over Frequency

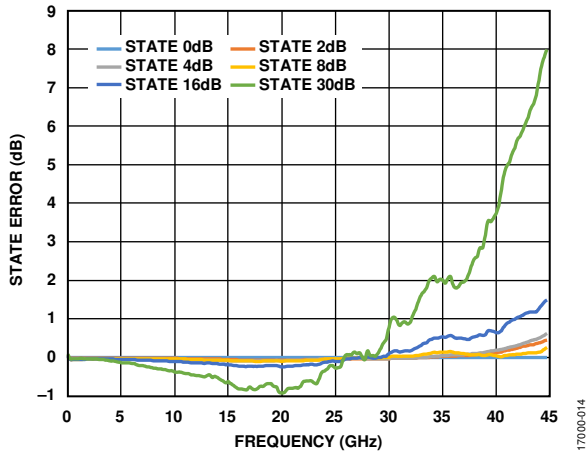


Figure 16. State Error vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

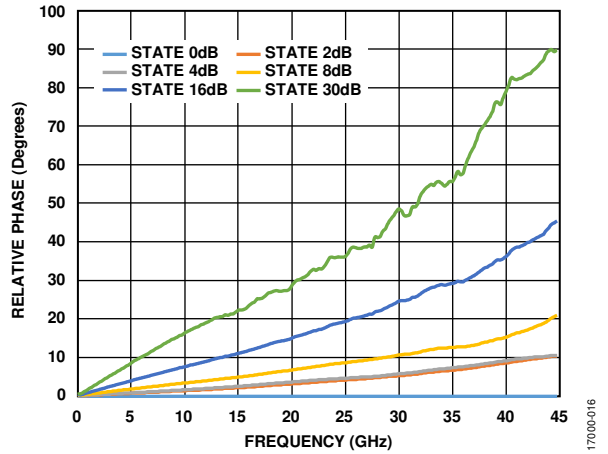


Figure 18. Relative Phase vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

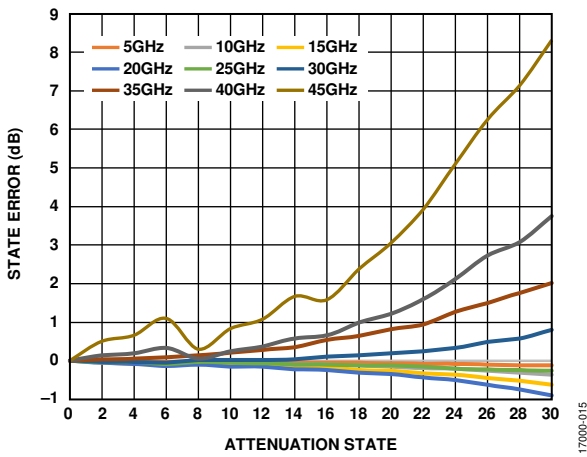


Figure 17. State Error vs. Attenuation State over Frequency

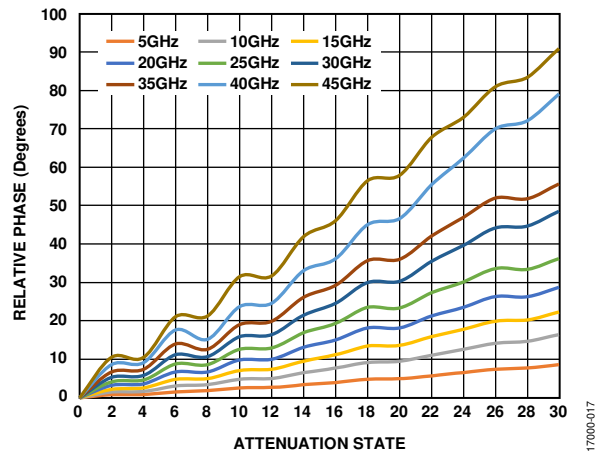


Figure 19. Relative Phase vs. Attenuation State over Frequency

INPUT POWER COMPRESSION AND THIRD-ORDER INTERCEPT

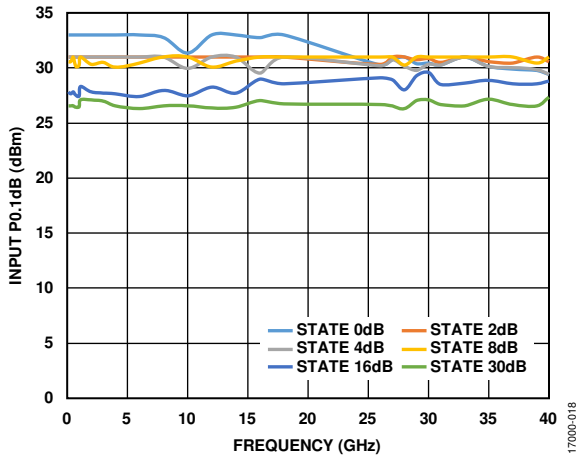


Figure 20. Input P0.1dB vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

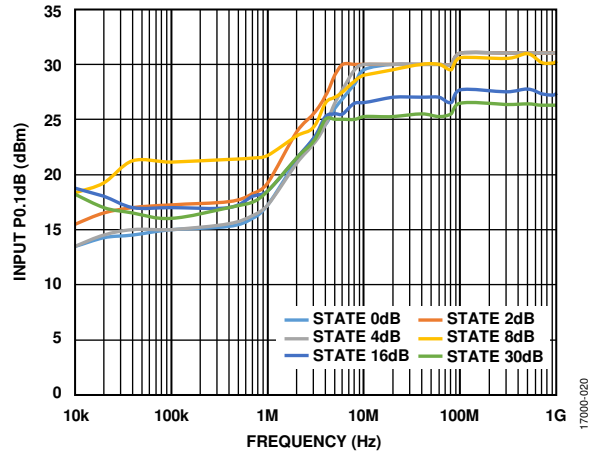


Figure 22. Input P0.1dB vs. Frequency (Major States Only), Low Frequency Detail

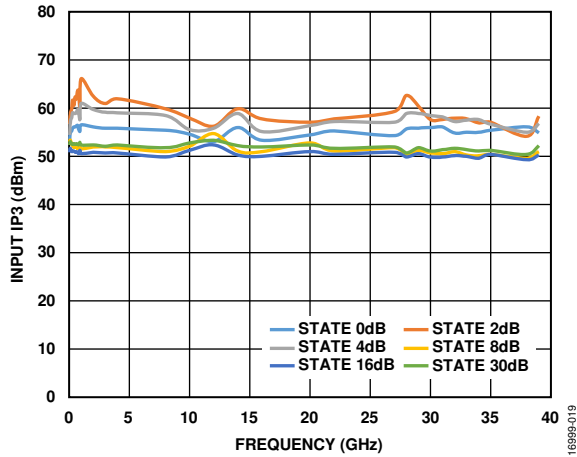


Figure 21. Input IP3 vs. Frequency (Major States Only)

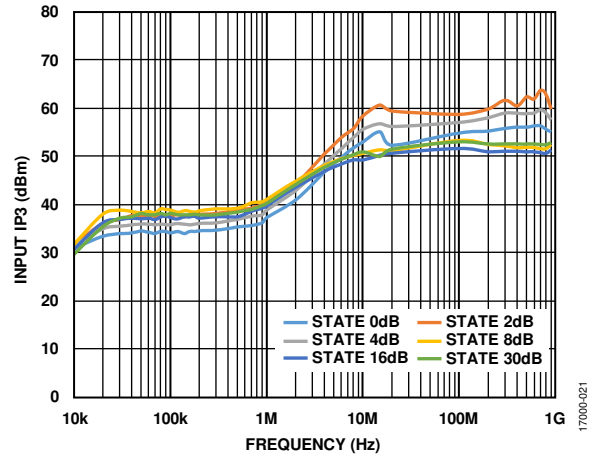


Figure 23. Input IP3 vs. Frequency (Major States Only), Low Frequency Detail

THEORY OF OPERATION

The ADRF5731 incorporates a 4-bit fixed attenuator array that offers an attenuation range of 30 dB in 2 dB steps. An integrated driver provides both serial and parallel mode control of the attenuator array (see Figure 24).

Note that when referring to a single function of a multifunction pin in this section, only the portion of the pin name that is relevant is mentioned. For full pin names of the multifunction pins, refer to the Pin Configuration and Function Descriptions section.

POWER SUPPLY

Bypassing capacitors are recommended on the positive supply voltage line (VDD) and negative supply line (VSS) to filter high frequency noise.

The power-up sequence is as follows:

1. Connect GND.
2. Power up the VDD and VSS voltages. Power up VSS after VDD to avoid current transients on VDD during ramp-up.
3. Power up the digital control inputs. The order of the digital control inputs is not important. However, powering the digital control inputs before the VDD voltage supply may inadvertently forward bias and damage the internal ESD structures. To avoid this damage, use a series 1 kΩ resistor to limit the current flowing into the control pin. Use pull-up

or pull-down resistors if the controller output is in a high impedance state after the VDD voltage is powered up and the control pins are not driven to a valid logic state.

4. Apply an RF input signal to ATTIN or ATTOUT.

The power-down sequence is the reverse order of the power-up sequence.

Power-Up State

The ADRF5731 has internal power-on reset circuitry. This circuitry sets the attenuator to maximum attenuation state (30 dB) when the VDD and VSS voltages are applied and LE is set to low.

RF INPUT AND OUTPUT

Both RF ports (ATTIN and ATTOUT) are dc-coupled to 0 V. DC blocking is not required at the RF ports when the RF line potential is equal to 0 V.

The RF ports are internally matched to 50 Ω. Therefore, external matching components are not required.

The ADRF5731 supports bidirectional operation at a lower power level. The power handling of the ATTIN and ATTOUT ports are different. Therefore, the bidirectional power handling is defined by the ATTOUT port. Refer to the RF input power specifications in Table 1.

Table 6. Truth Table

Digital Control Input ¹						Attenuation State (dB)
D5	D4	D3	D2	D1	D0	
Low	Low	Low	Low	Don't care	Don't care	0 (reference)
Low	Low	Low	High	Don't care	Don't care	2
Low	Low	High	Low	Don't care	Don't care	4
Low	High	Low	Low	Don't care	Don't care	8
High	Low	Low	Low	Don't care	Don't care	16
High	High	High	High	Don't care	Don't care	30

¹ Any combination of the control voltage input states shown in Table 6 provides an attenuation equal to the sum of the bits selected.

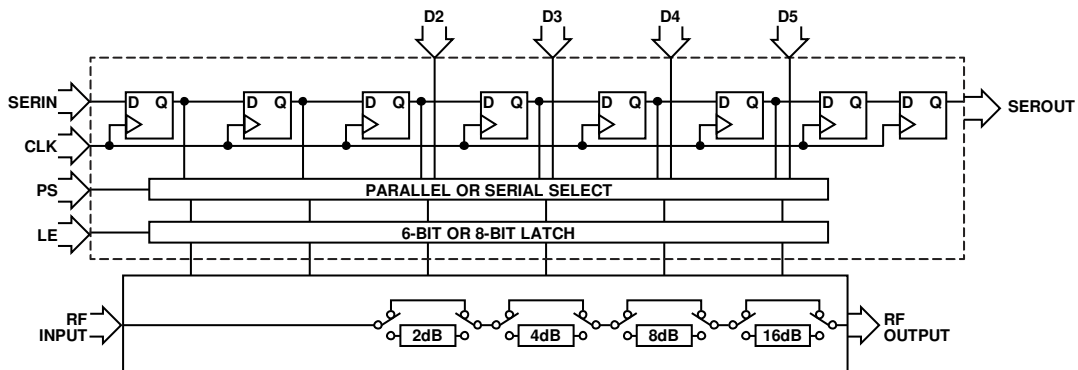


Figure 24. Simplified Circuit Diagram

17700-022

SERIAL OR PARALLEL MODE SELECTION

The ADRF5731 can be controlled in either serial or parallel mode by setting the PS pin to high or low, respectively (see Table 7).

Table 7. Mode Selection

PS	Control Mode
Low	Parallel
High	Serial

SERIAL MODE INTERFACE

The ADRF5731 supports a 4-wire SPI: serial data input (SERIN), clock (CLK), serial data output (SEROUT) and latch enable (LE). The serial control interface is activated when PS is set to high.

The ADRF5731 attenuation state is controlled by Bits[D5:D2]. Bit D0 and Bit D1 are don't care bits but must be input. Therefore, at least a 6-bit SERIN must be used to control the attenuation states. If using an 8-bit word to control the state of the attenuator, [D7:D6] and [D1:D0] are don't care bits. It does not

matter if these bits are held low or high. Refer to Table 6 and Figure 25 for additional information.

In serial mode, the SERIN data is clocked most significant bit (MSB) first on the rising CLK edges into the shift register. Then, LE must be toggled high to latch the new attenuation state into the device. LE must be set to low to clock new SERIN data into the shift register as CLK is masked to prevent the attenuator value from changing if LE is kept high. See Figure 25 in conjunction with Table 2 and Table 6.

Using SEROUT

The ADRF5731 also features a serial data output, SEROUT. SEROUT outputs the serial input data at the eighth clock cycle and can control a cascaded attenuator using a single SPI bus. Figure 26 shows the serial output timing diagram.

When using the attenuator in a daisy-chain operation, 8-bit SERIN data must be used due to the 8-clock cycle delay between SERIN and SEROUT. SEROUT does not support high impedance mode, and a tristate buffer can be used to interface a shared bus.

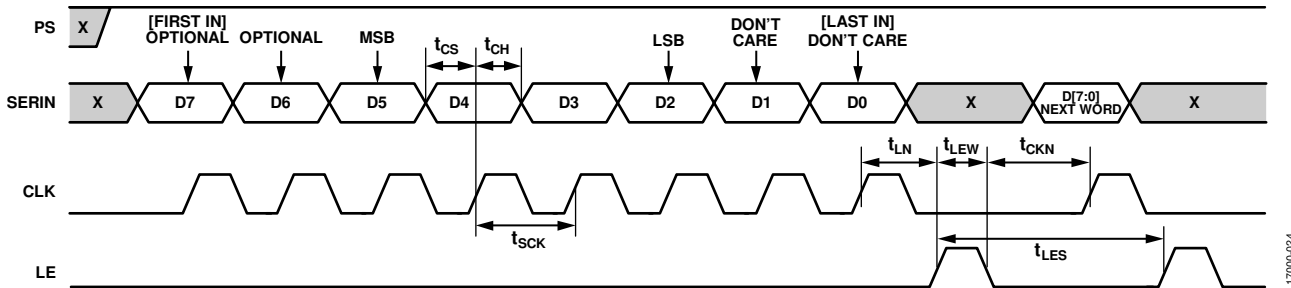


Figure 25. Serial Control Timing Diagram

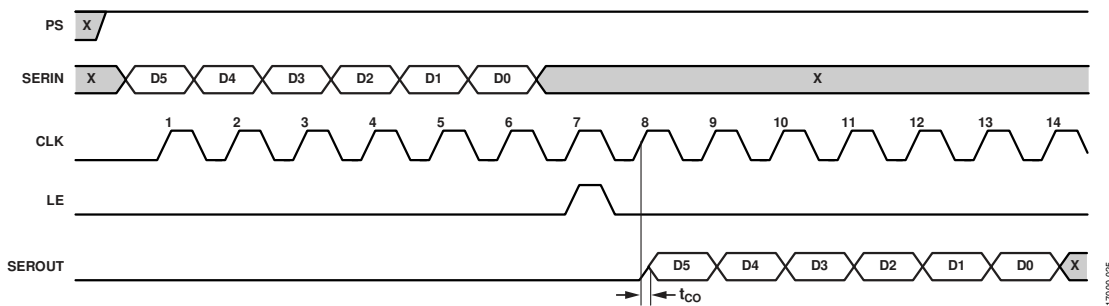


Figure 26. Serial Output Timing Diagram

PARALLEL MODE INTERFACE

The ADRF5731 has four digital control inputs, D2 (LSB) to D5 (MSB), to select the desired attenuation state in parallel mode, as shown in Table 6. The parallel control interface is activated when PS is set to low.

There are two modes of parallel operation: direct parallel and latched parallel.

Direct Parallel Mode

To enable direct parallel mode, keep the LE pin high. To change the attenuation state, use the control voltage inputs (D2 to D5) directly. This mode is ideal for manual control of the attenuator.

Latched Parallel Mode

To enable latched parallel mode, keep the LE pin low when changing the control voltage inputs (D2 to D5) to set the attenuation state. When the desired state is set, toggle LE high to transfer the 4-bit data to the bypass switches of the attenuator array and then toggle LE low to latch the change into the device until the next desired attenuation change (see Figure 27 in conjunction with Table 2).

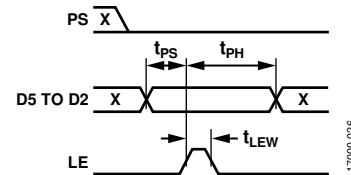


Figure 27. Latched Parallel Mode Timing Diagram

APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

EVALUATION BOARD

The [ADRF5731-EVALZ](#) is a 4-layer evaluation board. The top and bottom copper layer are 0.5 oz (0.7 mil) plated to 1.5 oz (2.2 mil) and are separated by dielectric materials. The stackup for this evaluation board is shown in Figure 28.

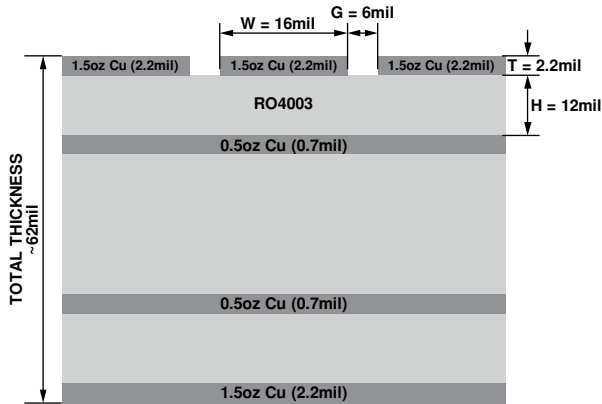


Figure 28. Evaluation Board Stackup, Cross Sectional View

All RF and dc traces are routed on the top copper layer, whereas the inner and bottom layers are grounded planes that provide a solid ground for the RF transmission lines. The top dielectric material is 12 mil Rogers RO4003, offering optimal high frequency performance. The middle and bottom dielectric materials provide mechanical strength. The overall board thickness is 62 mil, which allows 2.4 mm RF launchers to be connected at the board edges.

The RF transmission lines are designed using a coplanar waveguide (CPWG) model, with a trace width of 16 mil and ground clearance of 6 mil to have a characteristic impedance of 50 Ω. For optimal RF and thermal grounding, as many through vias as possible are arranged around transmission lines and under the exposed pad of the package.

Thru calibration can be used to calibrate out the board loss effects from the [ADRF5731-EVALZ](#) evaluation board measurements to determine the device performance at the pins of the IC. Figure 29 shows the typical board loss (THRU) for the [ADRF5731-EVALZ](#) evaluation board at room temperature, the embedded insertion loss, and the de-embedded insertion loss for the ADRF5731.

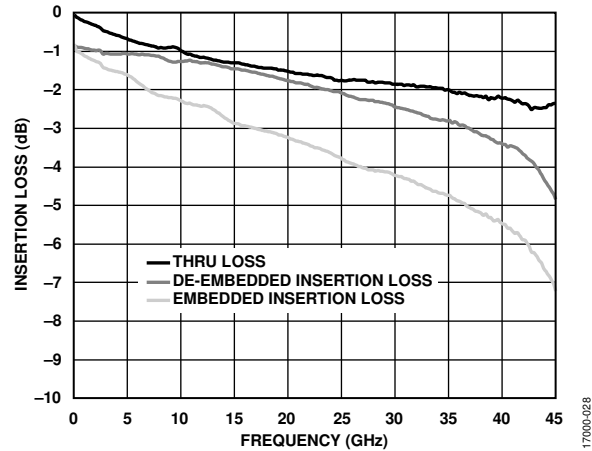


Figure 29. Insertion Loss vs. Frequency

Figure 30 shows the actual [ADRF5731-EVALZ](#) evaluation board with component placement.

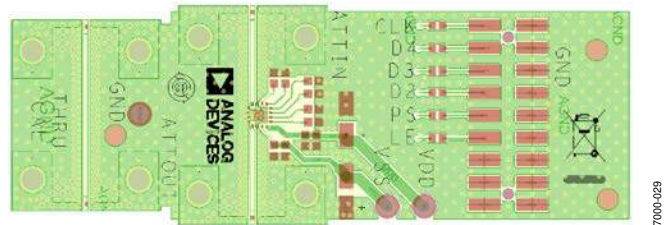


Figure 30. Evaluation Board Layout, Top View

Two power supply ports are connected to the VDD and VSS test points, TP1 and TP2, and the ground reference is connected to the GND test point, TP4. On the supply traces, VDD and VSS, use a 100 pF bypass capacitor to filter high frequency noise. Additionally, unpopulated components positions are available for applying extra bypass capacitors.

All the digital control pins are connected through digital signal traces to the 2 × 9-pin header, P1. There are provisions for a resistor capacitor (RC) filter that helps eliminate dc-coupled noise. The ADRF5731 was evaluated without an external RC filter, the series resistors are 0 Ω, and shunt capacitors are unpopulated on the evaluation board.

The RF input and output ports (ATTIN and ATTOUT) are connected through 50 Ω transmission lines to the 2.4 mm RF launchers, J1 and J2, respectively. These high frequency RF launchers are connected by contact and are not soldered onto the board.

A thru calibration line connects the unpopulated J3 and J4 launchers. This transmission line is used to estimate the loss of the PCB over the environmental conditions being evaluated.

The schematic of the [ADRF5731-EVALZ](#) evaluation board is shown in Figure 31.

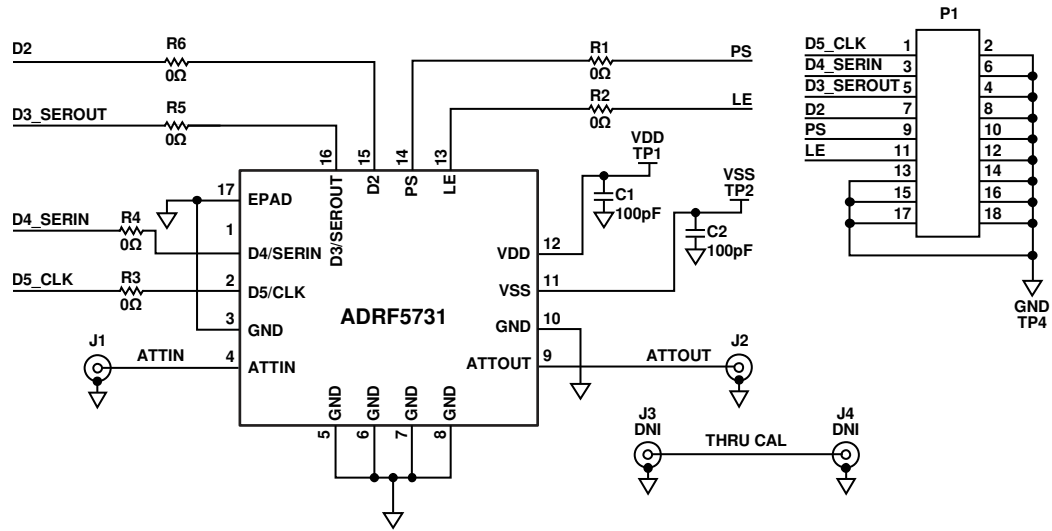


Figure 31. Evaluation Board Schematic

17000-030

Table 8. Evaluation Board Components

Component	Default Value	Description
C1, C2	100 pF	Capacitors, C0402 package
J1, J2	Not applicable	2.4 mm end launch connectors (Southwest Microwave: 1492-04A-6)
P1	Not applicable	2 × 9-pin header
R1 to R6	0 Ω	Resistors, 0402 package
TP1, TP2, TP4	Not applicable	Through hole mount test points
U1	ADRF5731	ADRF5731 digital attenuator, Analog Devices, Inc.

PROBE MATRIX BOARD

The probe matrix board is a 4-layer board. Similar to the evaluation board, the probe matrix board also uses a 12 mil Rogers RO4003 dielectric. The top and bottom copper layers are 0.5 oz (0.7 mil) plated to 1.5 oz (2.2 mil). The RF transmission lines are designed using a CPWG model with a width of 16 mil and ground spacing of 6 mil to have a characteristic impedance of 50 Ω.

Figure 32 and Figure 33 show the cross sectional view and the top view of the board, respectively. Measurements are made using GSG probes at close proximity to the RF pins (ATTIN and ATTOUT). Unlike the evaluation board, probing reduces reflections caused by mismatch arising from connectors, cables, and board layout, resulting in a more accurate measurement of the device performance.

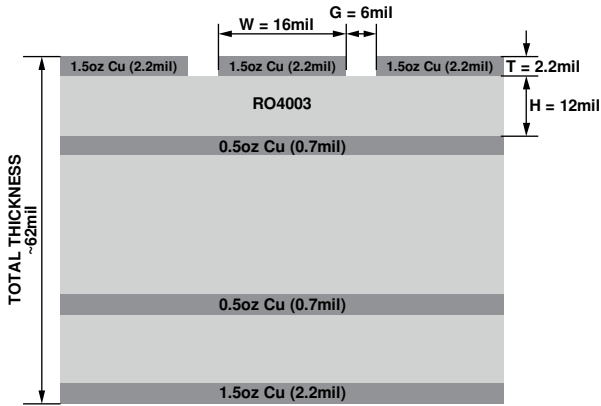


Figure 32. Probe Matrix Board (Cross Sectional View)

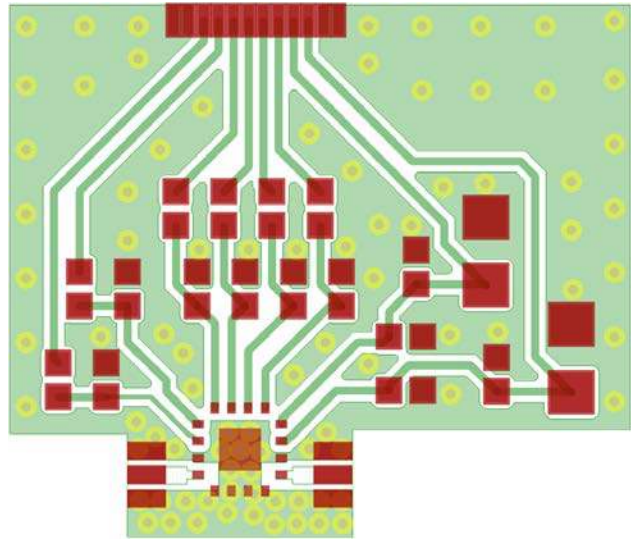


Figure 33. Probe Matrix Board Layout (Top View)

The probe matrix board includes a thru reflect line (TRL) calibration kit, allowing board loss de-embedding. The actual board duplicates the same layout in matrix form to assemble multiple devices at one time. Figure 34 is a detailed image of the trace to pin transition with corresponding dimensions. All S parameters were measured on this board.

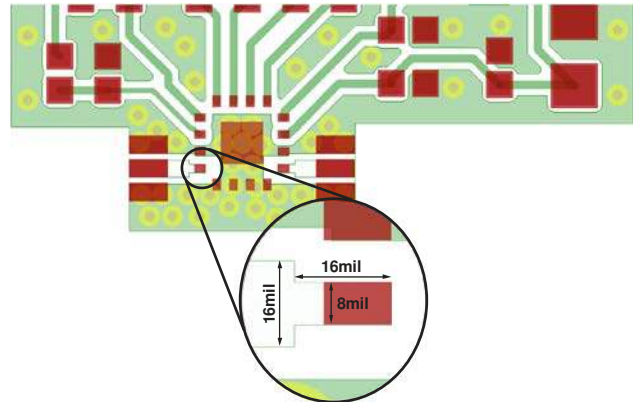


Figure 34. Probe Board Layout Dimensions (Top View)

PACKAGING AND ORDERING INFORMATION

OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

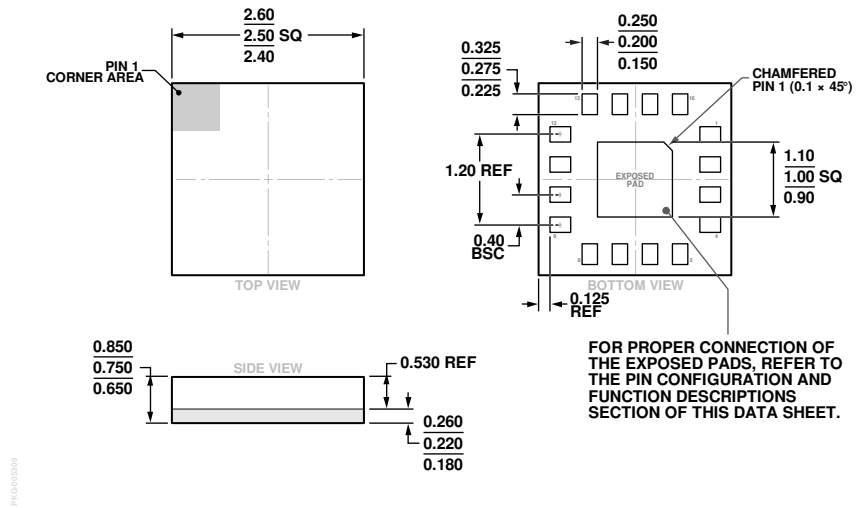


Figure 35. 16-Terminal Land Grid Array [LGA]
 2.5 mm × 2.5 mm Body and 0.75 mm Package Height
 (CC-16-6)
 Dimensions shown in millimeters

ORDERING GUIDE

Model ¹	Temperature Range	Package Description	Package Option	Marking Code
ADRF5731BCCZN	-40°C to +105°C	16-Terminal Land Grid Array [LGA]	CC-16-6	31
ADRF5731BCCZN-R7	-40°C to +105°C	16-Terminal Land Grid Array [LGA]	CC-16-6	31
ADRF5731-EVALZ		Evaluation Board		

¹ Z = RoHS Compliant Part.