GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The T5838 is a multi-mode, low noise digital MEMS microphone in a small package. The T5838 consists of a MEMS microphone element and an impedance converter amplifier followed by a fifth order Σ-Δ modulator. The digital interface allows the pulse density modulated (PDM) output of two microphones to be time multiplexed on a single data line using a single clock.

The T5838 has multiple modes of operation: High Quality, Low-Power (AlwaysOn), Ultrasonic, and Sleep along with new AlwaysOn modes: Acoustic Activity Detect (AAD) Analog and Digital. The T5838 has high SNR in all operational modes. It has 133 dB SPL AOP in High Quality Mode and 119 dB SPL AOP in Low-Power mode.

The T5838 is available in a standard $3.5 \times 2.65 \times$ 0.98 mm surface-mount package. It is reflow solder compatible with no sensitivity degradation.

APPLICATIONS

- Smartphones
- IP Cameras
- Voice Activated TV Remote Controls
- Microphone Arrays
- Tablet Computers
- Cameras

FEATURES

- $3.5 \times 2.65 \times 0.98$ mm surface-mount package
- Extended frequency response from 27 Hz to >20 kHz
- Sleep Mode: 9 µA
- Acoustic Activity Detect Modes including AAD Analog: 20uA
- Fifth order Σ-Δ modulator
- Digital pulse density modulation (PDM) output
- Compatible with Sn/Pb and Pb-free solder processes
- RoHS/WEEE compliant

FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM ORDERING INFORMATION

TDK, Inc. reserves the right to change specifications and information herein without notice unless the product is in mass production and the datasheet has been designated by TDK in writing as subject to a specified Product / Process Change Notification Method regulation.

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1. SPECIFICATIONS

1.1. ACOUSTICAL/ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – GENERAL

TA = 25°C, VDD = 1.8 V, SCK = 2.4 MHz, CLOAD = 30 pF unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are not

guaranteed.
PARAMETER **PARAMETER CONDITIONS MIN TYP MAX UNITS NOTES PERFORMANCE** Directionality Omni Output Polarity **Input acoustic pressure vs. output data** Non-Inverted Supply Voltage (VDD) 1.62 1.8 1.98 V Sleep Mode Current (I_S) $SK < 200$ kHz 9 | µA SCK = OFF 0.8 µA

Table 1. Acoustic/Electrical Characteristics – General

1.2. ACOUSTICAL/ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – HIGH QUALITY MODE

T_A = 25°C, VDD = 1.8 V, SCK = 2.4 MHz, C_{LOAD} = 30 pF unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are not

Note 1: Sensitivity is relative to the RMS level of a sine wave with positive amplitude equal to 100% 1s density and negative amplitude equal to 0% 1s density.

Table 2. Acoustic/Electrical Characteristics – High Quality Mode

1.3. ACOUSTICAL/ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – LOW-POWER MODE

TA = 25°C, VDD = 1.8 V, SCK = 768 kHz, CLOAD = 30 pF unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are not

Note 1: Sensitivity is relative to the RMS level of a sine wave with positive amplitude equal to 100% 1s density and negative amplitude equal to 0% 1s density.

Table 3. Acoustic/Electrical Characteristics – Low Power Mode

1.4. ACOUSTICAL/ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – ULTRASONIC MODE

 T_A = 25°C, VDD = 1.8 V, SCK = 4.8 MHz, C_{LOAD} = 30 pF unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are not guaranteed.

Note 1: Sensitivity is relative to the RMS level of a sine wave with positive amplitude equal to 100% 1s density and negative amplitude equal to 0% 1s density.

Table 4. Acoustic/Electrical Characteristics – Ultrasonic Mode

1.5. ACOUSTICAL/ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS – AAD MODES

 $T_A = 25^{\circ}$ C, VDD = 1.8 V, SCK = OFF, C_{LOAD} = 30 pF unless otherwise noted. Typical specifications are not guaranteed.

Table 5. Acoustic/Electrical Characteristics –AAD Modes

1.6. DIGITAL INPUT/OUTPUT CHARACTERISTICS

 $T_A = 25^{\circ}$ C, VDD = 1.8 V, unless otherwise noted.

Table 6. Digital Input/Output Characteristics

1.7. PDM DIGITAL INPUT/OUTPUT

T_A = 25° C, VDD = 1.8 V, unless otherwise noted.

Note 1: Guaranteed by design

Table 7. PDM Digital Input/Output

1.8. TIMING DIAGRAM

Figure 1. Pulse Density Modulated Output Timing

2. ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Stress above those listed as Absolute Maximum Ratings may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only and functional operation of the device at these conditions is not implied. Exposure to the absolute maximum ratings conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

2.1. TABLE 8. ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Table 8. Absolute Maximum Ratings

2.2. 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.

2.3. SOLDERING PROFILE

Figure 2. Recommended Soldering Profile Limits

2.4. RECOMMENDED SOLDERING PROFILE*

**The reflow profile in Table 9 is recommended for board manufacturing with TDK MEMS microphones. All microphones are also compatible with the J-STD-020 profile*

Table 9. Recommended Soldering Profile

3. PIN CONFIGURATIONS AND FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

3.1. PIN FUNCTION DESCRIPTIONS

Table 10. Pin Function Descriptions

4. TYPICAL PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS

Figure 4. Typical Audio Frequency Response, High Quality Mode

Figure 5. THD + N High Quality Mode

Figure 6. THD + N Low-Power Mode **Figure 7. Linearity Figure 7. Linearity**

Figure 8. PSR vs Frequency **Figure 9. Typical Ultrasonic Frequency Response**, **Ultrasonic Mode**

Figure 10. Typical Ultrasonic SNR, Ultrasonic Mode Figure 11 AAD Analog Threshold vs Register Value

Figure 12. AAD Digital 1,2 Absolute Threshold vs Register Value

Figure 14. AAD Digital Min Pulse Duration vs Register Value

5. MODES OF OPERATION

5.1. EXISTING MICROPHONE MODES

Commonly used digital MEMS microphone operating modes are offered on T5838: Sleep, Low Power, High Quality Mode and Ultrasonic Mode. They are selected via the CLK frequency.

5.2. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DECTECT MICROPHONE MODES

T5838 introduces Acoustic Activity Detect (AAD) Modes which are parallel processing features which operate within Sleep and Low Power Modes. The on chip processing of these AAD Modes determine if acoustic activity has occurred or not. There are three different types: AAD Analog, AAD Digital 1 and AAD Digital 2 as outlined in the table below. The activation and configuration for all AAD Modes is carried out via a one wire write on the THSEL pin. When the activity detect conditions are met, the WAKE pin is set HIGH, when the conditions are no longer met the WAKE pin automatically returns LOW (without any type of reset required from the SoC/master).

Figure 13. AAD Digital 1,2 Relative Threshold vs Register Value

5.3. AAD MODES AND DESCRIPTION

MICROPHONE POWER MODE (IN PARALLEL)	ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT (AAD) MODE NAME	DESCRIPTION	CONFIGURABLE OPTIONS
Sleep Mode	AAD Analog	Analog activity detect, lowest	Absolute Threshold (60-97.5dB SPL), LPF
	(AAD A)	power	$(1.1kHz-4.4kHz)$
Low-Power	AAD Digital 1	Digital activity detect with PDM	Absolute Threshold (40-87dB SPL), Relative
Mode	(AAD D1)	bitstream	Threshold (3dB-20dB), Pulse Duration
Sleep Mode	AAD Digital 2	Digital activity detect without	Absolute Threshold (40-87dB SPL), Relative
	(AAD D2)	PDM bitstream	Threshold (3dB-20dB), Pulse Duration

Table 11. AAD Modes and Description

Figure 15. T5838 Modes of Operation

5.4. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT ANALOG

AAD Analog takes the signal from the MEMS after the pre-amp and compares it to the preselected conditions, Absolute Threshold and Low Pass Filter Frequency. If the signal is above the Absolute Threshold and is below the LPF cutoff, the WAKE Pin will be set high. The WAKE pin will continue to remain high while these conditions are met and will return low when the signal level returns below this level. AAD_A_EN bit needs to be set and CLK needs to be OFF for AAD Analog (AAD A) to operate. The microphone consumes only 20uA in this mode.

Figure 16. Block Diagram for AAD Analog Operation

5.5. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT DIGITAL 1

AAD Digital 1 is an add on to Low Power Mode where the digital bitstream is analyzed by the AAD Digital logic to see if it meets the preselected conditions Absolute Threshold, Relative Threshold and Pulse Duration. If the conditions are met the WAKE Pin will be set high. The WAKE pin will remain high while these conditions are met and will return low when the signal level returns below this level. The PDM bitstream is running throughout, which allows the Application Processor to buffer the bitstream and carry out $2nd$ stage verification or further analysis of the signal which triggered the AAD Digital 1 (AAD D1) event.

Figure 17. Block Diagram for AAD Digital 1 Operation

5.6. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT DIGITAL 2

AAD Digital 2, like AAD D1 analyzes the digital bitstream to check for activity meeting the preselected conditions (same configurable options as AAD D1). However, AAD D2 does not require an external CLK (by using an internal CLK) allowing power savings at the microphone and at the system level but does not facilitate the PDM bitstream like AAD D1. Like the other AAD modes the WAKE pin is set high when the AAD D2 conditions are met and returns low when the conditions are no longer met.

Figure 18. Block Diagram for AAD Analog Operation

5.7. MODE SELECTION AND MODE CHANGES BEFORE AAD ACTIVATION

AAD A or AAD D1/2 can be configured and enabled while the microphone is in any of its modes (sleep mode one wire writes require CLK active for communication to function i.e. 50kHz<CLK<200kHz). After configuration and enabling, AAD will go active (represented by acoustic activity on the WAKE pin) when the microphone enters its corresponding mode (decided by the CLK frequency). AAD A and AAD D2 are run when the device is in Sleep mode (CLK=OFF), AAD D1 is run when the device is in Low Power mode (CLK=768kHz).

5.8. AAD STATUS AND DISABLE

After an AAD mode has been enabled it will remain enabled as long as power is maintained to the microphone or until it has been specifically disabled by setting the AADx_EN bit to 0.

5.9. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT CONFIGURATION PROTOCOL

A serial one wire protocol on the THSEL pin controls all the Acoustic Activity Detect modes, AAD A, AAD D1 and AAD D2. The protocol requires the standard PDM CLK to be running at a speed >50kHz and the THSEL pin is modulated proportional to the CLK cycles to create the following symbols for logic zeros or ones which in turn form the device address, register address and data of the command. There are also unique symbols for start/pilot and stop to terminate each write. The start/pilot pulse width is important as it defines the pulse width of the *Zero*, *One*, *Space* and *Stop* symbols. The *Zero* and *One* symbols are a form of encoding to represent bit values of 0 and 1 values respectively. See below for details.

5.10.ONE WIRE SERIAL PROTOCOL SYMBOLS

*Although operation is guaranteed within the min max ranges it is recommended to use the typical values shown in the table above

Table 12. One Wire Serial Protocol Symbols

Figure 19. Example write on THSEL followed by a single bit Zero and One relative to the PILOT

Figure 20. Write termination with Stop High

The total write sequence consists of START/PILOT + 24 bits of payload + STOP. The payload consists of three 8 bit fields:

- Device Address + RW = 7'b1010011 (Constant for this device) + 1'b0 (0 = write, constant for this device)
- Register Address = 8-bit value, determined by AAD function lookup table
- Data = 8-bit value, determined by AAD function lookup table

Example of AAD total write sequence:

Example Write:

Device Addr+R/W = 10100110 (Constant for this device)

- Register Address = 00000001 (Example Reg Addr only, not an option)
- Register Data = 00000010 (Example data)
- CLK = 100 kHz

 T_{CLK} = 10us

The write calculations based on 100kHz CLK, 10 CLK cycle PILOT are shown below:

5.1. EXAMPLE ONE WIRE WRITE

Table 13. Example One Wire Write

Figure 21. Timing diagram for example above showing relationship between THSEL pilot and CLK

Figure 22. Expanded Timing diagram example showing start, 3 x 8 bit values and stop being written to the device, with the low level translation of each bit to their respective symbols.

5.2. AAD ENABLE SEQUENCE

Using the write sequence above, the Acoustic Activity Detect (for all 3 modes) is enabled using the following five writes in this sequence:

5.3. AAD ENABLE SEQUENCE WRITES

WRITE #	REGISTER ADDRESS (HEX)	REGISTER DATA (HEX)		
1	0x5C	0x00		
2	0x3E	0x00		
3	0x6F	0x00		
4	0x3B	0x00		
5	0x4C	0x00		
Table 14. AADD Enable Sequence Writes				

For example, sequence write #1 from above with Address 0x5C (b01011100) and Data 0x00 (b00000000) would be:

START + 10100110 + 01011100 + 00000000 + STOP

After this sequence has been completed any of the configuration settings for the AAD Analog or AAD Digital modes can be adjusted. The enable sequence can be written once to the microphone and will remain valid as long as power is maintained to the microphone. If the mic goes through a power cycle, then the sequence will have to be repeated.

5.4. ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT ANALOG (AAD A) OPERATION AND CONFIGURATION

Acoustic Activity Detect Analog (AAD A) compares the analog signal from the MEMS with the defined conditions configured by the user - threshold level and Low Pass Frequency cutoff. If the acoustic signal meets the conditions set (above the threshold and below the LPF cutoff) then the WAKE pin (pin4) will be set high and will stay high

while the acoustic stimulus continues to meet those conditions. When the acoustic stimulus no longer meets the conditions the WAKE pin will automatically return to a LOW state. See [Figure 2](#page-19-2)3. The microphone consumes only 20µA when in AAD A mode.

5.5. AAD A REGISTERS

Table 15. AAD A Registers

5.6. AAD A LPF VALUES

All levels, frequencies, and timing values in the AAD A and AAD D configuration sections are typical.

Table 16. AAD A LPF Values

5.7. AAD A TH VALUES

Table 17. AAD A TH Values

5.8. AAD A EXAMPLE CONFIGURATION AND ACTIVATION SEQUENCE

AAD Analog can be activated with the following sequence of powerup conditions and register writes:

- 1. Apply Vdd, apply CLK>50kHz
- 2. Apply AAD Unlock write sequence:

3. Configure AAD A settings, AAD A_LPF = 0x1 (4.4kHz), AAD A_TH =0x4 (70dB SPL)

4. Enable AAD A

5. Activate AAD A by setting CLK = OFF. The microphone will now set the WAKE pin HIGH in response to acoustic stimulus above 70.5dB SPL and less than 4.4kHz.

5.9. AAD A REGISTER MAP

Table 18. AAD A Register Map

5.10.ACOUSTIC ACTIVITY DETECT DIGITAL (AAD D) OPERATION AND CONFIGURATION

AAD Digital provides a more advanced method of activity detection compared to AAD Analog. It has two modes of operation - AAD D1 and AAD D2, where D1 requires an external CLK and provides a PDM bitstream output, and D2 where no external CLK is required, but no PDM bitstream is produced. The activity detection capability operates in the same way for AAD D1 or AAD D2 so the following settings apply to both modes. Their configuration is still applied via one wire writes on the THSEL pin and the output is shown as activity on the WAKE pin.

Both AAD D1 and AAD D2 share registers which are defined as shown in Table 19:

5.11.AAD D REGISTERS

Table 19. AADD Registers

The functionality of the AADD mode registers is shown diagrammatically in Figure 24 below.

5.12.THRESHOLD ALGORITHMS

Once activated, the AAD D processing block waits for an acoustic signal in the voice band to exceed the defined conditions – threshold and minimum pulse duration. There are two threshold options an absolute threshold (similar to AAD Analog, but with wider range and voice band filter), or relative threshold (a dynamic/adaptive threshold also with wide range and voice band filter). The absolute and relative threshold algorithms work in parallel and are described in more detail in the next section. Like AAD Analog, the AAD Digital block sets the WAKE pin high when stimulus exceeds the conditions, WAKE stays high while the stimulus remains at those levels and pulls WAKE low when the stimulus drops below the defined conditions.

5.13.ABSOLUTE THRESHOLD ALGORITHM

This is the simplest of the threshold settings and simply sets the threshold above which the AAD is triggered. AADD is a more sophisticated version of the AAD A in that it incorporates parameters like a voice filter and configurable minimum pulse duration to help distinguish voice from background sound.

Setting the **AADD_ABS_TH** register defines the sound pressure level which will trigger the wake. It operates similar to AAD A, but with the ability to configure an additional voice filter and minimum pulse duration. It is an absolute value that once the acoustic stimulus exceeds the defined threshold the process of activating the WAKE pin is started. The absolute threshold is set by writing to the 13-bits in register *AADD_ABS_TH[12:0]* (reg addresses 0x32 and 0x31). The allowed range of values is 0x00F to 0x7BC.

5.14.ABSOLUTE THRESHOLD VALUES

Note: Values below 0xF or above 0x7BC are not supported or recommended. **Table 20. Absolute Threshold Values**

5.15.RELATIVE THRESHOLD ALGORITHM

The Relative Threshold mode operates in a way which allows the threshold to be dynamic i.e. an instantaneous threshold, and is triggered if the threshold exceeds the Established SPL (running average background level) plus a configurable relative level i.e. +6dB or +12dB). The configurable relative level also has an option of setting a floor below which this dynamic threshold will become static and the instantaneous threshold level will be fixed at the floor level plus the relative level. This can be used to avoid false detections at lower SPLs. In summary the behavior of the threshold can be defined for the following scenarios:

- If the incoming SPL is less than the Floor + Relative Threshold -> The Instantaneous Threshold is fixed and is calculated from Floor + Relative Threshold
- If the incoming SPL is Floor + Relative Threshold -> The Instantaneous Threshold is dynamic and is calculated from Established SPL + Relative Threshold

See Figure 25 for a graphical illustration.

Figure 25. Relative Threshold with floor indicated

5.16.RELATIVE THRESHOLD VALUES

The floor level register *AADD_FLOOR[12:0]*, in conjunction with the relative threshold register *AADD_REL_TH[7:0]*, defines the required FLOOR level in relation to a background acoustic level after which the threshold tracks the

background dB SPL as it increases and at a level above it defined by the **AADD REL TH** register. The allowed range for *AADD_FLOOR[12:0]* is 0x00F to 0x7BC. Values below 0x00F are not allowed. The allowed range for the **AADD_REL_TH** register is 0x24 to 0xFF.

For example, with **AADD_FLOOR[12:0]** = 0xFF (255d) the threshold level will be 69dB SPL.

5.17.FLOOR VALUES

Note: Values below 0xF or above 0x7BC are not supported or recommended. **Table 20. Absolute Threshold Values**

5.18.MINIMUM PULSE DURATION TIME

To prevent the acoustic activity detect circuitry triggering on every acoustic event that exceeds the defined threshold the system requires a minimum duration for the acoustic stimulus to be present before the AADD mode can be defined. This prevents the systems from activating on short duration acoustic impulses that might not be valid triggers. There are two pulse duration times that are configurable - one for Relative Threshold (**AADD_REL_PULSE_MIN[11:0]** at Reg0x2F[3:0] and Reg0x2E[7:0]) and the other for Absolute Threshold mode (**AADD_ABS_PULSE_MIN[12:0]** at Reg0x2F[7:4] and Reg0x30[7:0]).

The pulse minimum time for the relative threshold has a narrower configurable range compared to the option for the absolute threshold, due to the responsiveness of the relative threshold to the environment. It is not recommended to use a pulse minimum value above 0x12C for the AAD_REL_PULSE_MIN as this could result in unresponsive behavior for the relative algorithm.

AADD_REL_PULSE_MIN and AADD_ABS_PULSE_MIN have approximately the same pulse times vs configuration values where their useable ranges overlap. A selection of values for each is shown in table 23 below:

5.19.MINIMUM PULSE DURATION TIME VALUES

Table 23. Absolute Threshold Values

5.20.AAD D1 EXAMPLE CONFIRGURATION AND ACTIVATION SEQUENCE

AAD Digital 1 can be activated with the following sequence of powerup conditions and register writes:

- 1. Apply Vdd, apply CLK>50kHz
- 2. Apply AAD Unlock write sequence:

3. Apply AAD D settings, ABS_TH=0x113 (70dB SPL), FLOOR=0x16 (45dB SPL), RE_TH =0x24 (+3dB), REL_PULSE_MIN=0x0, ABS_PULSE_MIN=0;

4. Enable AAD D1

5. Activate AAD D1 by setting CLK = 768kHz. The microphone will now set the WAKE pin HIGH in response to acoustic stimulus in the voice band above the acoustic threshold.

5.21.AAD D2 EXAMPLE CONFIRGURATION AND ACTIVATION SEQUENCE

AAD Digital 2 can be activated with the following sequence of powerup conditions and register writes:

- 1. Apply Vdd, apply CLK>50kHz
- 2. Apply AAD Unlock write sequence:

3. Apply AAD D settings, ABS_TH=0x113 (70dB SPL), FLOOR=0x16 (45dB SPL), RE_TH =0x24 (+3dB), REL_PULSE_MIN=0x0, ABS_PULSE_MIN=0 (same as previous example configuration);

4. Enable AAD D2

5. Activate AAD D2 by setting CLK = 768kHz. The microphone will now set the WAKE pin HIGH in response to acoustic stimulus in the voice band above the acoustic threshold.

5.22.AAD D REGISTER MAP

Table 24. AADD Register Map

6. THEORY OF OPERATION

6.1. PDM DATA FORMAT

The output from the DATA pin of the T5838 is in pulse density modulated (PDM) format. This data is the 1-bit output of a Σ-Δ modulator. The data is encoded so that the left channel is clocked on the falling edge of CLK, and the right channel is clocked on the rising edge of CLK. After driving the DATA signal high or low in the appropriate half frame of the CLK signal, the DATA driver of the microphone tristates. In this way, two microphones, one set to the left channel and the other to the right, can drive a single DATA line. See [Figure 1](#page-7-1) for a timing diagram of the PDM data format; the DATA1 and DATA2 lines shown in this figure are two halves of the single physical DATA signal[. Figure](#page-27-3) 26 shows a diagram of the two stereo channels sharing a common DATA line.

Figure 26. Stereo PDM Format

If only one microphone is connected to the DATA signal, the output is only clocked on a single edge [\(Figure 2](#page-27-4)7). For example, a left channel microphone is never clocked on the rising edge of CLK. In a single microphone application, each bit of the DATA signal is typically held for the full CLK period until the next transition because the leakage of the DATA line is not enough to discharge the line while the driver is tristated.

See Table 25 for the channel assignments according to the logic level on the SELECT pin. The setting on the SELECT pin is sampled at power-up and should not be changed during operation.

6.2. CHANNEL SETTING

SELECT Pin Setting	Channel
Low (tie to GND)	Right (DATA1)
High (tie to VDD)	Left (DATA2)

Table 25. T5838 Channel Setting

For PDM data, the density of the pulses indicates the signal amplitude. A high density of high pulses indicates a signal near positive full scale, and a high density of low pulses indicates a signal near negative full scale. A perfect zero (dc) audio signal shows an alternating pattern of high and low pulses.

The output PDM data signal has a small dc offset of about 3% of full scale. A high-pass filter in the codec that is connected to the digital microphone and does not affect the performance of the microphone typically removes this dc signal.

6.3. PDM MICROPHONE SENSITIVITY

The sensitivity of a PDM output microphone is specified with the unit dB FS (decibels relative to digital full scale). A 0 dB FS sine wave is defined as a signal whose peak just touches the full-scale code of the digital word (see Figure 28). This measurement convention also means that signals with a different crest factor may have an RMS level higher than 0 dB FS. For example, a full-scale square wave has an RMS level of 3 dB FS.

This definition of a 0 dB FS signal must be understood when measuring the sensitivity of the T5838. A 1 kHz sine wave at a 94 dB SPL acoustic input to the T5838 results in an output signal with a −26 dB FS level (low-power mode). The output digital word peaks at −26 dB below the digital full-scale level. A common misunderstanding is that the output has an RMS level of −29 dB FS; however, this is not true because of the definition of the 0 dB FS sine wave.

Figure 28. 1 kHz, 0 dB FS Sine Wave

There is not a commonly accepted unit of measurement to express the instantaneous level, as opposed to the RMS level of the signal, of a digital signal output from the microphone. Some measurement systems express the instantaneous level of an individual sample in units of D, where 1.0 D is digital full scale. In this case, a −26 dB FS sine wave has peaks at 0.05 D.

7. APPLICATIONS INFORMATION

7.1. LOW-POWER MODE

Low-Power Mode (LPM) enables the T5838 to be used in an AlwaysOn listening mode for keyword spotting and ambient sound analysis. The T5838 will enter LPM when the frequency of SCK is 768 kHz. In this mode, the microphone consumes only 120 µA while retaining high electro-acoustic performance.

When one microphone is in LPM for AlwaysOn listening, a second microphone sharing the same data line may be powered down. In this case, where one microphone is powered up and another is powered down by disabling the VDD supply or in sleep mode by reducing the frequency of a separate clock source, the disabled microphone does not present a load to the signal on the LPM microphone's DATA pin.

7.2. DYNAMIC RANGE CONSIDERATIONS

The microphone clips (THD = 10%) at 119dB SPL in Low-Power Mode and at 133 dB SPL in High Quality Mode (see [Figure 5\)](#page-11-1); however, it continues to output an increasingly distorted signal above that point. The peak output level, which is controlled by the modulator, limits at 0 dB FS.

To fully use the 107 dB dynamic range of the output data of the T5838 in a design, the digital signal processor (DSP) or codec circuit following it must be chosen carefully. The decimation filter that inputs the PDM signal from the T5838 must have a dynamic range sufficiently better than the dynamic range of the microphone so that the overall noise performance of the system is not degraded. If the decimation filter has a dynamic range of 10 dB better than the microphone, the overall system noise only degrades by 0.4 dB. This 117 dB filter dynamic range requires the filter to have at least 20 bit resolution.

7.3. CONNECTING PDM MICROPHONES

A PDM output microphone is typically connected to a codec with a dedicated PDM input. This codec separately decodes the left and right channels and filters the high sample rate modulated data back to the audio frequency band. This codec also generates the clock for the PDM microphones or is synchronous with the source that is generating the clock[. Figure 2](#page-30-4)9 an[d Figure 3](#page-31-0)0 show mono and stereo connections of the T5838 to a codec. The mono connection shows an T5838 set to output data on the right channel. To output on the left channel, tie the SELECT pin to VDD instead of tying it to GND.

Figure 29. Mono PDM Microphone (Right Channel) Connection to Codec

Figure 30. Stereo PDM Microphone Connection to Codec

Decouple the VDD pin of the T5838 to GND with a 0.1 μ F capacitor. Place this capacitor as close to VDD as the printed circuit board (PCB) layout allows.

Do not use a pull-up or pull-down resistor on the PDM data signal line because it can pull the signal to an incorrect state during the period that the signal line is tristated.

The DATA signal does not need to be buffered in normal use when the T5838 microphone(s) is placed close to the codec on the PCB. If the DATA signal must be driven over a long cable (>15 cm) or other large capacitive load, a digital buffer may be required. Only use a signal buffer on the DATA line when one microphone is in use or after the point where two microphones are connected (se[e Figure 3](#page-32-2)1). The DATA output of each microphone in a stereo configuration cannot be individually buffered because the two buffer outputs cannot drive a single signal line. If a buffer is used, take care to select one with low propagation delay so that the timing of the data connected to the codec is not corrupted.

Figure 31. Buffered Connections Between Stereo T5838s and a Codec

When long wires are used to connect the codec to the T5838, a source termination resistor can be used on the clock output of the codec instead of a buffer to minimize signal overshoot or ringing. Match the value of this resistor to the characteristic impedance of the CLK trace on the PCB. Depending on the drive capability of the codec clock output, a buffer may still be needed.

7.4. SLEEP MODE

The microphone enters sleep mode when the clock frequency falls below 200 kHz. In this mode, the microphone data output is in a high impedance state. The current consumption in sleep mode is 9 µA with a SCK active, 1uA with SCK OFF.

The microphone wakes up from sleep mode and begins to output data 6 ms after the clock becomes active. The wakeup time indicates the time from when the clock is enabled to when the T5838 outputs data within 0.5 dB of its settled sensitivity.

7.5. START-UP TIME

The start-up time of the T5838 is typically 6 ms, measured by the time from when power and clock are enabled until sensitivity of the output signal is within 0.5 dB of its settled sensitivity.

8. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS

For additional information, see the following documents.

8.1. APPLICATION NOTES – GENERAL

AN-000048, *PDM Digital Output MEMS Microphone Flex Evaluation Board User Guide* AN-100, *MEMS Microphone Handling and Assembly Guide* AN-1003, *Recommendations for Mounting and Connecting the TDK, Bottom-Ported MEMS Microphones* AN-1112, *Microphone Specifications Explained* AN-1124, *Recommendations for Sealing TDK Bottom-Port MEMS Microphones from Dust and Liquid Ingress* AN-1140, *Microphone Array Beamforming* AN-000298, *T583x MEMS Microphone Acoustic Activity Detect User Guide*

9. PCB DESIGN AND LAND PATTERN LAYOUT

The recommended PCB land pattern for the T5838 is a 1:1 ratio of the solder pads on the microphone package, as shown i[n Figure 3](#page-34-1)2. Avoid applying solder paste to the sound hole in the PCB. A suggested solder paste stencil pattern layout is shown in [Figure 3](#page-34-2)3.

The response of the T5838 is not affected by the PCB hole size as long as the hole is not smaller than the sound port of the microphone (0.375 mm in diameter). A 0.5 mm to 1 mm diameter for the hole is recommended. Take care to align the hole in the microphone package with the hole in the PCB. The exact degree of the alignment does not affect the microphone performance as long as the holes are not partially or completely blocked.

Figure 32. Recommended PCB Land Pattern Layout

Figure 33. Suggested Solder Paste Stencil Pattern Layout

9.1. PCB MATERIAL AND THICKNESS

The performance of the T5838 is not affected by PCB thickness. The T5838 can be mounted on either a rigid or flexible PCB. A flexible PCB with the microphone can be attached directly to the device housing with an adhesive layer. This mounting method offers a reliable seal around the sound port while providing the shortest acoustic path for good sound quality.

10. HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

10.1.PICK AND PLACE EQUIPMENT

The MEMS microphone can be handled using standard pick-and-place and chip shooting equipment. Take care to avoid damage to the MEMS microphone structure as follows:

- Use a standard pickup tool to handle the microphone. Because the microphone hole is on the bottom of the package, the pickup tool can make contact with any part of the lid surface.
- Do not pick up the microphone with a vacuum tool that makes contact with the bottom side of the microphone.

Do not pull air out of or blow air into the microphone port.

• Do not use excessive force to place the microphone on the PCB.

10.2.REFLOW SOLDER

For best results, the soldering profile must be in accordance with the recommendations of the manufacturer of the solder paste used to attach the MEMS microphone to the PCB. It is recommended that the solder reflow profile not exceed the limit conditions specified in [Figure 2](#page-9-2) and Table 9.

T5838 devices have MSL (Moisture Sensitivity Level) rating 3, appropriate JEDEC J-STD-020 guidelines should be followed to avoid damaging the part.

10.3.BOARD WASH

When washing the PCB, ensure that water does not make contact with the microphone port. Do not use blow-off procedures or ultrasonic cleaning.

11. OUTLINE DIMENSIONS

11.1.ORDERING GUIDE

11.2.REVISION HISTORY

12. COMPLIANCE DECLARATION DISCLAIMER

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