PRELIMINARY DATASHEET v0.5

Features & Benefits

- 1/4" optical Time-of-Flight image sensor
- QVGA (320 x 240) pixel array
- 10×10 µm DepthSense[®] pixels
- **Integrated microlenses**
- Backside illumination (BSI technology)
- **External quantum efficiency 51% (850nm)**
- **External quantum efficiency 28% (940nm)**
- High distance accuracy due to programmable modulating frequencies up to 100MHz
- AC Demodulation contrast 85% (40 MHz)
- AC Demodulation contrast 78 % (100 MHz)
- Differential light source control with phase delay feedback loop
- Full resolution distance framerate of max. 180 FPS (4 phases, Tint <250µs, 4lane@960mbps MIPI configuration)
- Up to 8 raw phases (or quads) per frame
- **Per-phase statistics & diagnostics**
- Continuous or triggered operation mode(s)
- Configurable over I^2C (up to 400kHz)
- **CSI-2 serial data output, MIPI D-PHY, 1 clock** lane, 2 or 4 data lanes (<960 Mbps/lane)
- Build-in temperature sensor
- Region of interest (ROI) selection
- Integrated support for binning (2x2, 4x4, 8x8)
- Horizontal mirror & vertical flip image modes
- 9.2 x 7.8 x 1.0 mm encapsulated BGA package
- Number of pins $= 80$
- **Ambient operating temperature range** of -40 +105°C
- MSL level 3 rated
- AEC-Q100 qualified (grade 2)

Description

MLX75026 is a fully integrated optical Time-of-Flight image sensor. It's perfectly suited for automotive and non-automotive applications, including, but not limited to, gesture recognition, driver monitoring, skeleton tracking, people or obstacle detection and traffic monitoring. The sensor features a QVGA (320x240) pixel array based on the DepthSense[®] pixel technology. Combined with a modulated light source this sensor is capable of measuring object distance and reflectivity under extreme background light conditions, 120KLUX robust when using lens with filter. This distance information can be used to calculate a complete 3D point cloud representation of a scene. Full resolution image acquisition up to 180 distance frames per second while supplied to a microcontroller via a standardized MIPI CSI-2 serial camera interface. The device is available in a cost optimized encapsulated package and offers a variety of integration possibilities.

Preliminary Datasheet: Melexis reserves the right to change the product and specifications without prior notice. The information does not convey any license by any implication or otherwise under any patents or other right. Application circuits shown, if any, are typical examples illustrating the operation of the device. Melexis cannot assume responsibility for any problems arising out of the use of these circuits.

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Table 1 : Changelog

Ordering Information

Table 2 : Device ordering information

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Note¹: The properties of the covertape are guaranteed for one year after shipping date if the devices are stored in appropriate conditions according the device MSL rating.

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1. System Architecture

A complete TOF system or camera module includes at least these components:

- **MLX75026 QVGA (320x240 pixels) TOF pixel array**
- A synchronized high bandwidth near infrared (NIR) active illumination source
- Beam shaping optics for the light distribution
- A receiving sensor lens (optimized for maximum NIR wavelength transmittance)
- A microprocessor, DSP, FPGA or SOC (system on chip) to calculate and process the data, compatible with MIPI camera serial interface CSI-2

Figure 1 : System block diagram

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2. Sensor Block Diagram

MLX75026 is a Time-of-Flight (TOF) camera sensor with two tap Current Assisted Photo Demodulator (CAPD) pixels offering high responsivity. These backside illuminated pixels are connected to low noise analog amplifiers and converted by parallel column ADCs that enable high speed & accurate image acquisition. Furthermore, it consists of a PLL oscillator, high speed CSI2 serial interface, controllable registers via I²C and a digital control unit in charge of the different internal blocks.

Figure 2 : Sensor block diagram

3. Electrical Specifications

3.1. Absolute Maximum Ratings

Table 4: Absolute Maximum Ratings

Note : Absolute maximum ratings should not be exceeded at any time to avoid permanent hardware damage.

3.2. Typical Operating Conditions

Table 5: Typical Operating Conditions

Note¹: It is recommended to use the typical supply voltages Note² : current of -2mA, LVDS_EN = 0, typical load 15pF Note³: current of 2mA, LVDS_EN = 0, typical load 15pF

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3.3. Video Interface

MLX75026 is fully compliant with the hardware description as described in the MIPI Alliance Specification for D-PHY version 1.20.00, released in September 2014. For a more detailed description about the parameters please consult the D-PHY MIPI documentation.

3.3.1. MIPI DC specification

Table 6: MIPI DC specification

Note: For a detailed explanation of the different parameters, please consult the MIPI D-PHY specifications v1.20.00.

3.3.2. MIPI AC specification

Note: For a detailed explanation of the different parameters, please consult the MIPI D-PHY specifications v1.20.00.

3.4. Power Consumption

The total power consumption is split over four domains, none of the four domains are consuming at the same time. VDDMIX and VDDIF are dominantly active during the integration time, VDDD and VDDA during the readout time and a small amount of VDDD is active constantly. As shown below in [Figure 4](#page-9-1).

Figure 4: Power domains

The following table lists the absolute peak current per domain, however the typical duty cycle of each active period is only around 10%.

Table 8: Peak current

Note¹: Max. is the worst case peak current over the full ambient operating temperature range, over the full process variation and at worst case settings.

Note² : This value is the worst case peak current at -40°C ambient temperature but realistically the system will not operate at this temperature so for PSU dimensioning we suggest to take into account the typical value. Se[e Figure 6](#page-10-0) for more information.

Taking the according duty cycles into account will lead to the following average power consumption per domain.

Table 9: Power consumption

Note¹: Typical values are the average power consumption with nominal voltage levels (at room temperature) for two defined application conditions:

Application A: Typical

- Full resolution (320x240 pixels)
- 4 raw phases per distance frame
- 30 distance frames per second
- 250 µs integration time
- 60 MHz modulation frequency
- 800 mbps (4 lane MIPI data rate)

Application B: Performance

- Full resolution (320x240 pixels)
- 4 raw phases per distance frame
- 60 distance frames per second
- 600 µs integration time
- **100 MHz modulation frequency**
- 960 mbps (4 lane MIPI data rate)

Note²: Max. is the worst case power consumption over the full ambient operating temperature range and over the full process variation.

See [Figure 5: Power consumption in function of integration time](#page-10-1) for typical power consumption at 40MHz modulation frequency in function of integration time for [MIPI speed, FPS]:

Figure 5: Power consumption in function of integration time

Note that there is a minor effect on power consumption at different MIPI speeds.

The previous plot does not take into account temperature variation. Over the full temperature range VDDMIX has the largest variation in power dissipation. [Figure 6: MIX current over temperature](#page-10-0) indicates how MIX peak current changes over the full automotive -40°C to 105˚C temperature range.

Figure 6: MIX current over temperature

Note that due to device self-heating in reality the device will always operate at a higher than ambient temperature resulting in a better overall power consumption.

3.5. Maximum Distance Frame Rate

The maximum distance frame rate that can be achieved depends on the integration time, the minimum readout time per phase and the total amount of raw phases for each distance frame. Please consult the following section for more information how each parameter influences frame time[: 7.8](#page-35-0)

The phase readout time is determined by the MIPI configuration settings as explained in section [7.4.](#page-31-0) In [Figure](#page-11-2) [7: Theoretical Maximum Distance Frame Rate in function of Integration Time \(per phase\)](#page-11-2) is the Max. frame rate plotted for five typical MIPI settings.

Figure 7: Theoretical Maximum Distance Frame Rate in function of Integration Time (per phase)

Using higher integration time will increase the power consumption and self-heating. For safe operation within the automotive ambient temperature range of -40 to 105 °C this self-heating must be limited to 20 °C. A typical thermal resistance of 25K/W will result in max. allowable power of 800mW which will not be reached by the device. However, a poor PCB design will result in worse thermal resistance and thus the framerate will not be readout but thermal / power limited, please make sure sufficient ground planes / heath dissipation is available.

3.6. Decoupling Recommendations

It is generally known that sensor performance can degrade with noisy input supplies. Specifications in this datasheet are only valid when stable voltage levels are available. Common decouple techniques use a two-step architecture consisting of a small capacitor (~10-100nF) as close as possible to the supply pin, combined with a bigger capacitor further away from the device, both connected to a low impedance ground plane to minimize inductance. Additionally, a small series ferrite bead can be used to keep high frequency noise outside of the IC, but also to keep internally generated noise from propagating to the rest of the system.

External Voltage Supplies

- VDDA : min. 1x 4.7µF
- VDDMIX : min. 1x 100nF & 4.7µF
- VDDD : min. 1x 100nF & 4.7µF
- VDDIF : min. 1x 100nF & 1µF

Internal Generated Voltage Supplies

- VBO: min. 1x 4.7µF
- VRSTL : min. 1x 1µF
- VRL: min. 1x 4.7µF

These recommendations are based on analysis of different available hardware platforms. Each new hardware design requires an individual analysis to find & optimize the correct decoupling strategy.

3.7. Power-up Sequence

VDDD and VDDMIX use 1V2 as supply and it is possible to combine them on a single regulator source. However, VDDMIX exhibits high peak currents during the integration time that could compromise the stability of VDDD. Instantaneous voltage drops on VDDD need to be avoided and it is recommended to use two separate regulators instead.

With 2 regulators it is mandatory that VDDD is enabled simultaneously or not later than VDDMIX, and that VDDMIX is disabled before VDDD on power-down. More detailed power-up timings can be found in chapte[r 6.](#page-24-0) A slew rate of maximum 25 mV/µs has been specified for each power supply to avoid oscillations during power-up.

3.8. Input Clock Requirements

MLX75026 requires a fixed clock input signal of 8 MHz generated by an external crystal oscillator.

Figure 8: CLK square waveform input diagram

Table 10: CLK input characteristics

3.9. I ²C Specifications

MLX75026 features a standard (up to 400 kHz) inter-integrated circuit communication interface, known as I²C. The sensor operates as I²C slave with default slave address of 0x57. This address can be changed via the external PIN SLASEL (more information can be found in section [5.1.6\)](#page-21-0). The master I²C device is responsible to initiate all communication, it is in control of the clock line (SCL) & sends data via the SDA line. Each ¹²C slave on the bus monitors this communication and will respond to the master when requested.

Figure 9: I²C serial communication diagram

Table 11: I²C Electrical Specifications

Table 12: I²C Fast Mode Specifications

4. Optical Characteristics

4.1. QVGA Pixel Array Configuration

The pixel array has a total of 320 x 240 DepthSense® pixels. Each pixel consists of 2 individual taps called tap A and tap B. Information from both taps is needed for a reliable distance calculation. The data format (or output modes) available via the MIPI CSI2 video interface can be selected by the user and are described in more detail in sectio[n 7.3.](#page-30-0) The pixels are read out from bottom left, to top right, first horizontally, afterwards vertically, like indicated in this figure. This picture represents the physical pixel orientation, please note that output will have pixel 1 on top left to compensate for the lens by default as explained in sectio[n 7.20.](#page-46-0)

4.2. Pixel & Image Array Characteristics

Table 13: Pixel & Image Array Characteristics

Note¹ : External quantum efficiency (EQE) can be calculated as $\text{EQE}_{\lambda} = \frac{\text{RE}_{\lambda}}{\lambda}$ $\frac{E_{\lambda}}{\lambda} \cdot \frac{h \cdot c}{e}$ $\frac{e}{e}$ · FF = $\frac{RE_{\lambda}}{\lambda}$ $\frac{\Delta \Delta}{\lambda}$ · 1240 · FF

> *RE^λ = responsivity at wavelength (in A/W) c = speed of light in vacuum λ = the wavelength (in nm) e = elemental charge* $h = Planck's constant$

Note² : Detailed AC demodulation contrast data can be found i[n Figure 11.](#page-15-1)

Note³ : Stability of the calculated phase (= distance) over temperature

Note⁴ : Local PDNU (phase depth non uniformity) is a metric for the phase offset between 3x3 pixel blocks for a homogeneous flat field measurement

Note⁵: Global PDNU is similar to local PDNU but data is based on 10x10 pixel blocks

Note⁶: A defective pixel is defined as a pixel with low demodulation contrast or low responsivity compared to its neighbours Note⁷: The microlens array material is sensitive to excessive UV radiation. In product qualification it has been exposed with a constant UV equivalent of 10 years of sunlight without discernible degradation of the structure integrity. It is our recommendation to limit direct UV radiation during camera assembly/glue processes as much as possible

4.3. CRA (Chief Ray Angle)

Table 14: Image Height vs CRA

Note¹: Image height is defined along the diagonal axis of the image array as shown i[n Figure 14: Image Height Definition.](#page-16-1)

Figure 14: Image Height Definition

4.4. MTF (Modulation Transfer Function)

The modulation transfer function is an indication on the system response to different spatial frequencies. It tends to decrease with an increase in spatial frequency. A typical example is an out of focus lens, which has a low modulation factor for higher frequencies, resulting in an overall blur of the edges in the image.

Figure 15: Modulation Transfer Function

The total system MTF is impacted by the image sensor and its optics. The shown data is considered the sensor only MTF, as it has been compensated for lens influences.

4.5. Application Lens Design Recommendations

When designing or selecting external optics to focus the light on the optical sensitive pixel area there are a few recommendations to take into account:

- **To avoid pixel saturation under strong sunlight an optical bandpass filter is highly recommended.** The spectral width of this filter depends on the type of illumination, LED or VCSEL, and should be as small as possible, taken into account the spectral drift over temperature.
- To reduce the illumination radiant intensity and to maximize the system efficiency the lens aperture should be as high as possible (= low F-number)

5. Communication Interface(s)

MLX75026 uses one low speed bidirectional I2C interface for register control and one unidirectional high speed MIPI CSI2 serial video output interface.

5.1. I ²C (Inter-Integrated Circuit)

This 2-wire serial communication protocol supports 16 bit register addresses and 8 bit data messages.

5.1.1. I ²C Timing Sequence

The data is transferred serially, MSB first in 8-bit units. After each data byte is transferred, A (Acknowledge) / $\bar{\sf A}$ (Negative acknowledge) is transferred. Data (SDA) is transferred at the clock (SDL) cycle. SDA can change only while SCL is low, so the SDA value must be held while SCL is high. The Start condition is defined by SDA changing from high to low while SCL is high. When the Stop condition is not generated in the previous communication phase and Start condition for the next communication is generated, that Start condition is recognized as a Repeated Start condition.

Figure 16: I2C conditions

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After transfer of each data byte, the Master or the sensor transmits an Acknowledge / Negative acknowledge and releases (does not drive) SDA. When a Negative acknowledge is generated, the Master must immediately generate the Stop Condition and end the communication.

Acknowledge, Negative Acknowledge Figure 17: I2C negative acknowledge

5.1.2. Single I ²C Read

The sensor has an index function that indicates which address it is focusing on. When reading data, the Master must set the index value to the address to be read. For this purpose it performs a dummy write operation up to the register address. The upper level of the figure shows the sensor internal index value, and the lower level of the figure shows the SDA I/O data flow. The Master sets the sensor index value to M by designating the sensor slave address with a write request, then designating the address (M). Then, the Master generates the start condition. The Start Condition is generated without generating the Stop Condition, so it becomes the Repeated Start Condition. Next, when the Master sends the slave address with a read request, the sensor outputs an Acknowledge immediately followed by the address data from index M on SDA. After the Master receives the data, it generates a Negative Acknowledge and the Stop Condition to end the communication

Note: It is possible to omit the Register Address [15:0] from the communication, in that case the sensor will simply read the value of register previously set to index M.

5.1.3. Sequential I ²C Read

A sequential read of the data reads multiple registers sequentially without setting the register addresses individually. The Master must set the index value to the start of the addresses to be read. For this purpose, a dummy write operation includes the register address setting. The Master sets the sensor index value to M by designating the sensor slave address with a read request, then designating the address (M). Then, the Master generates the Repeated Start Condition. Next, when the Master sends the slave address with a read request, the sensor outputs an Acknowledge followed immediately by the data from index M on SDA. When the Master outputs an Acknowledge (instead of Negative acknowledge for a single I²C read) after it receives the data, the index value inside the sensor is incremented and the data at the next address is output on SDA. This allows the Master to read data sequentially. After reading the necessary data, the Master generates a Negative Acknowledge and the Stop Condition to end the communication.

Note: It is possible to omit the Register Address [15:0] from the communication, in that case the sensor will simply read the values of the registers starting at the previously set index M.

5.1.4. Single I ²C Write

The Master sets the sensor index value to M by designating the sensor slave address with a write request, and designating the register address (M). After that the Master can write the value in the designated register by transmitting the data to be written. After writing the necessary data, the Master generates the Stop Condition to end the communication.

5.1.5. Sequential I ²C Write

The Master can write a value to register address M by designating the sensor slave address with a write request, designating the address (M), and then transmitting the data to be written. After the sensor receives the write data, it outputs an Acknowledge and at the same time increments the register address, so the Master can write to the next address simply by continuing to transmit data. After the Master writes the necessary number of bytes, it generates the Stop Condition to end the communication.

5.1.6. I ²C Slave Address

For communication with MLX75026 via I²C the user has to choose between two different 7bit slave addresses. Selection can be done by the external SLASEL pin, by connecting it either to VDDD (high) or DGND (low).

Important Note : I²C slave address 0x67 is not programmed on engineering samples. To avoid bring-up issues, please connect SLASEL to GND.

5.2. MIPI Alliance CSI-2 Description

This section describes a limited set of CSI-2 functionality needed to understand operation of MLX75026. For a full interface description, please refer to MIPI Alliance CSI-2 Specification version 1.20.

5.2.1. Packet Structure

CSI-2 uses a byte oriented, packet based protocol that supports the transport of arbitrary data using *Short Package* (SP) and *Long Package* (LP) formats. A 32bit *Short Packet* does not have any data or a *Package Footer* (PF). Only FS (*Frame Start*) or FE (*Frame End*) indicators use *Short Packets*.

Figure 18: Package structure

Every packet starts with a SoT (start of transmission) sequence preceded by a LPS (low power state). An EoT (end of transmission) sequence followed by the low power state indicates the end of a packet.

Each byte is transmitted with the least significant bit first, in case of multi-byte data (such as WC or CS) the least significant byte will be transmitted first, unless otherwise specified by the data format.

- VC: The virtual channel identifier provides separate channels for different data flows that are interleaved in the data stream (lane indicator). The default value is 0.
- DT: The data type value specifies the format and content of the data payload. 0x00 = FS (Frame Start) 0x12 = Embedded data (or MetaData) 0x01 = FE (Frame End) 0x2C = RAW12 pixel data
- WC: For *short* packets the word count field is considered a 16bit data field, representing the Frame Count [7:0]. After each FS (Frame Start) transmission, the Frame Count will be increased by 1. For *long* packets word count specifies the total amount of bytes between the end of PH and start of PF.
- ECC: The error correction code used is a 7+1bits Hamming-modified code. This code allows single-bit errors to be corrected and 2-bit errors to be detected in the DataID and WC fields but is not capable of doing both simultaneously.
- CS: To detect possible errors in the data transmission, a checksum is calculated over each data packet. The checksum is a 16bit CRC generated by this polynomial:

$$
CRC = x^{16} + x^{12} + x^5 + x^0
$$

When WC is zero, CS will be 0xFFFF

5.2.2. Data Format RAW12

Each DepthSense® pixel is represented by 12bit data packed like 8bit data

Figure 19: Example of pixel ordering for one full line transmission

[Table 15](#page-23-0) specifies the minimum packet data size constraints. The total length of each packet must be a multiple of the values in this table.

Table 15: RAW12 Packet size constraints

5.2.2.1. Data Format in 4 Lane MIPI Configuration

Figure 21: Pixel Data Format in 4 Lane Data Configuration

5.2.2.2. Data Format in 2 Lane MIPI Configuration

Figure 22: Pixel Data Format in 2 Lane Data Configuration

6.1. Initialization Process

MLX75026 requires a SW initialization on each start-up/reset and/or power cycle.

Table 17: Initialisation process

6.2. Initialization Register Map

This set of initialization registers are listed in order or priority (top > bottom, left > right, next page) :

Table 18: Initialization Map Part I

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Table 19: Initialization Map Part II

Note: For engineering samples with LOTNr. 704 or lower please add the following pair of registers, not adding the registers will negatively impact the dark noise level.

LOTNr.: In order to read out LOTNr. Please check the following registers:

7. Register Settings

7.1. Video Output Configuration

Correct data communication settings have to be programmed in *Software Standby* mode. This is part of the initialization map as described in section [6.](#page-24-0)

Reset Value 0x03

- **1b0: 2 data lane configuration**
- 1b1: 4 data lane configuration (= default)

Registers listed i[n Table 20: Data Rate Configuration Settings](#page-28-2) need to be updated to support data transmission speeds of 300, 600, 704, 800 & 960 Mbps.

Table 20: Data Rate Configuration Settings

Reset Value 0x01

The clock enters a low power state (LPS) between the different data frames (CLK_OFF=1) by default. It is possible to enable to clock continuously (stay in HS mode during frame blanking) via parameter CLK_OFF=0 for compatibility with some microcontrollers.

7.2. Modes of Operation

MLX75026 features three modes of operation: hardware triggered, software triggered or continuous mode. It's mandatory to change the operating mode during *Software Standby* as described in section [6.](#page-24-0)

Table 21: Modes of operation

In hardware triggered mode the TRIGGER pin accepts active low pulses to start a new frame. In software triggered mode the trigger is set by writing a 0x01 to the 0x2100 register.

Triggers send during an active frame acquisition will be ignored as indicated here:

When using Software Triggered Mode the first frame will be automatically triggered when entering streaming mode (0x1001=0x01).

7.3. Data Output Modes

One Depthsense ® pixel has two outputs, known as tap A and tap B, each in counterphase (180° shifted) of one another. To reduce the calculation time from raw data to distance information MLX75026 supports output modes that already combine the information from both taps, either as sum or as difference.

For Time-of-Flight experts the raw information of both taps is also available either in Raw A, Raw B or Raw A & B output modes. Regular users should use the default output mode A-B since this directly reduces the required processing power to calculate the distance map on the microcontroller. More information on the distance calculation is available section [9.](#page-56-0)

The data output mode cannot change during *video streaming*, it is mandatory to change the data output mode during *Software Standby* as described in sectio[n 6.](#page-24-0)

- 3b001: Mode A+B (=12bit unsigned data)
- 3b010: Mode Raw A
- 3b011: Mode Raw B
- 3b100: Mode Raw A & B (other values are prohibited)

A full QVGA frame in Mode A-B looks like [Figure 24.](#page-30-1) The default horizontal resolution is 320 pixels, except in Mode Raw A & B where two values per pixel (=640) will be read out.

Figure 24: A single MIPI Frame

7.4. HMAX & Frame Read-Out Time

The HMAX parameter represents a number of internal clock pulses needed for one data row transmission. This time includes the communication protocol overhead (like data headers and power stage transitions), but also the actual data payload. It is a fixed value dependent on the data output configuration (section [7.1\)](#page-28-1) and the output mode (section [7.3\)](#page-30-0), it cannot be modified during *video streaming.* Other configuration parameters, expressed in function of HMAX, need to be modified accordingly. (see section [7.4.1,](#page-32-1) [7.4.2](#page-32-0) and [7.4.3\)](#page-32-2)

Reset Value 0xB6

The time needed to read out a single phase is highly linked with the HMAX parameter, the corresponding read out time can be found in [Table 22: HMAX.](#page-31-1)

Table 22: HMAX

Note¹: Continuous wave time of flight typically uses 4 phases/quads to calculate a single distance image. These four snapshots are taken sequentially in time, which leads to the fact that any time delay between these images can contribute to motion blur, depending on the speed of the detected object. The time between the images is dominated by the sensor read out time. In order to minimize motion artefacts the read out time should be chosen as short as possible. The timing listed in this table are maximum values (in millisecond) for a single phase at full resolution (320x240 pixels). Reducing the image size (with ROI or binning) has a direct and positive impact on the read out time.

Important : Different timing related registers are closely linked to the HMAX parameter. It's the user responsibility to update PLLSETUP, PRETIME & RANDNM0 each time HMAX value is adjusted.

7.4.1. PLLSSETUP

PLLSETUP is the time required for the *Timing Generator* block (see [2\)](#page-6-0) to settle before each frame and it can be calculated as ROUNDUP $\left(\frac{503 \cdot 120}{1114} \right)$ $\frac{0.3 - 120}{HMAX} + 8$

7.4.2. PRETIME

Reset Value 0x0A

The PRETIME registers both incorporate the pixel reset timing before each integration time and the Px_PREHEAT / Px_PREMIX functionality. In case no Px_PREHEAT / Px_PREMIX is enabled the register value can be calculated as ROUNDUP $\binom{50+120}{HMAX}$. In this case the timing register is only used for pixel reset timing. If Px_PREHEAT or Px_PREMIX is desired the register value should be calculated as described in section 7.12.

7.4.3. RANDNM0

RANDNM0 can be calculated as HMAX ⋅ PRETIME - RANDNM7 - 2098 (RANDNM7 = 1070 with premix disabled, more information can be found in section [7.12\)](#page-37-0)

7.5. PARAM_HOLD

Each frame consists of multiple configuration parameters, controlled via a *slow* I ²C interface. To avoid frame to frame data corruption when changing more than one parameter (like to modulation frequency or integration time) the user can enable *shadow* registers that temporarily store the updated values and apply all changes at once when the PARAM_HOLD bit is released.

Reset Value 0x00

- ¹ 1b0: disable the shadow registers and update all registers at next TRIGGER pulse
- **1b1:** enable the shadow registers

It is strongly recommended to use PARAM_HOLD for any register changes during video streaming.

7.6. USER_ID Register

A user programmable register, address 0x0824, will be read out in the first metadata line. This register, for example, can be used as an identifier for customer defined register maps. It is the user responsibility to program the USER_ID register, together with other register changes, during a single PARAM HOLD period and after each phase it can be traced back which settings were used.

7.7. Modulation Frequency

The modulation frequency can be set for each frame between 4 and 100 MHz in steps of 1 MHz. Changing this frequency is possible during data streaming by changing the registers listed below. When updating the modulation frequency it's advised to use PARAM HOLD like explained in section [7.5.](#page-33-0)

Changing the modulation frequency requires a set of five register values to be updated consecutively.

Reset Value 0x50

FMOD[10:0] value is calculated as 2 DIVSELPRE+DIVSEL · Modulation Frequency

Example FMOD values:

- Modulation Frequency 100 MHz \triangleright FMOD = 100 = 0x64
- Modulation Frequency 80 MHz \triangleright FMOD = 80 = 0x50
- Modulation Frequency 40 MHz \triangleright FMOD = 80 = 0x50
- Modulation Frequency 20 MHz \triangleright FMOD = 80 = 0x50

7.8. Frame Structure & Frame Rate

To reconstruct a 3D point cloud or a distance image based on indirect Time of Flight technology the sensor usually captures the phase interval for at least four sequential measurements, each called a phase. Each frame (or distance frame) can have up to eight individual phases configured (see sectio[n 7.11\)](#page-36-2).

In software or hardware triggered mode the frame rate is controlled by the microcontroller. Note that in continuous mode the FRAME_TIME register must be set according to section [7.10,](#page-36-1) either by selecting a timing according to eq. 2a or eq. 2b.

7.9. FRAME_STARTUP

The frame start-up time is the time between a TRIGGER pulse and the start of the first phase acquisition. It can be used to synchronize multiple TOF systems and avoid optical interference.

The register value can be calculated as $\frac{\text{start up time (in \mu s) \cdot 120}}{\text{HMAX}}$

7.10. FRAME_TIME

The minimum length of a frame is dominated by the individual phase configurations. Programming a FRAME_TIME longer than the minimum time needed to capture all phases adds an additional wait time. This is convenient to achieve a fixed distance frame rate in continuous operating mode.

Table 23: Frame time

The register value can be calculated as $\frac{\text{Frame Time (in \mu s)} \cdot 120}{\text{HMAX}}$

7.11. PHASE_COUNT

It is possible to define up to eight raw phases in a single frame for more complex acquisition schemes. The amount of phases inside a frame has to be programmed into PHASE_COUNT.

Reset Value 0x04

- 4b0001: Phase 1 enabled
- 4b0010: Phase 1 2 enabled
- 4b0011: Phase 1 3 enabled
- 4b0100: Phase 1 4 enabled
- 4b0101: Phase 1 5 enabled
- 4b0110: Phase 1 6 enabled
- 4b0111: Phase 1 7 enabled
- 4b1000: Phase 1 8 enabled

(other values are prohibited)

7.12. Px_PREHEAT, Px_PREMIX

It is important that the illumination signal per phase is constant because any inconsistency across the different raw phases will lead to a distance measurement error. Spikes, visible in the optical illumination signal, due to temperature effects in the first microseconds of an integration period can cause such non constant behaviour. This can be avoided by preheating the illumination signal per phase, known as Px_PREHEAT and it can be enabled or disabled for each of the phases individually.

Reset Value 0x00

- **1b0: preheat off**
- **1b1: preheat on**

Although the measurement error is small on application level, similar effects can arise from the pixel/sensor side, for that reason it is also possible to enable a Px_PREMIX time. This is the time the sensor will start integrating before the illumination control signal is enabled. Please note that during this time light will already be accumulated which can lead to faster pixel saturation during integration time. It is advised to keep Px_PREMIX disabled.

Reset Value 0x00

- **1b0:** premixing off
- **1b1: premixing on**

Both PREHEAT and PREMIX use the same internal timing. The register linked incorporates also pixel reset time, thus if no PREHEAT / PREMIX is used the register amounts to the value of the calculations as described in section 7.4.2. To calculate the register value:

- **PRETIME** = $ROUNDUP(\frac{(PREHEAT or PREMIX(in µs)*120)}{IMAY}) + 5 (in A&B mode)$
- HMAX **PRETIME** = $ROUNDUP(\frac{(PREHEAT or PREMIX(in µs)*120)}{IMAY}) + 9$ *(in any other mode)* HMAX

Note : $(ROUNDUP \frac{(PRETIME(in \mu s)*120)}{HM4Y})$ + Px_INTEGRATION should not exceed 1ms. HMAX Note: PRETIME should always be larger than 11.13us.

Reset Value 0x0A

Note : Both PREHEAT and PREMIX will increase the system power consumption.

When enabling premixing the following registers have to be updated. Note that they are not allowed no change during video streaming.

RANDNM0 can be calculated as HMAX ⋅ PRETIME - RANDNM7 - 2098

7.13. Px_INTEGRATION

The integration time is configurable for each phase individually and set by units of HMAX. When updating the registers it's advised to use PARAM_HOLD like explained in section [7.5.](#page-33-0)

The next boundary conditions have to be taken into account:

- $HMAX$ $\frac{100 \text{ A}}{120}$ µs < integration time < 1ms
- **i** in steps of $\frac{HMAX}{120}$ μ s
- $\bar{\bar{z}}$ $\frac{\text{Total IntegrationTime}}{\text{Total Frame Time}} = \frac{\sum_{x=0}^{7} \text{Px_INTEGRATION} + \text{PRETIME}}{\text{Total FRAME_TIME}}$ $\frac{1}{\text{Total FRAME_TIME}} < 0.4$

The value of registers Px_INTEGRATION can be calculated as $\text{ROUNDUP} \left(\frac{\text{Integration Time (in }\mu\text{s}) \cdot 120}{\text{HMAX}} \right) \cdot \text{HMAX}$

Table 24: Integration registers

7.14. Px_PHASE_SHIFT

The phase shift difference between the internal modulation signal (towards the pixels) and the external illumination control signal can be set for each phase independently in steps of 45deg. This phase shift can be calculated as 360 * Px_PHASE_SHIFT / 8.

The illumination signal towards the pixels is used as reference by default and the modulation signal towards the pixels (LEDP/LEDN) is shifted in phase. This reference signal can be selected.

- ¹ 1b0: illumination signal is used as reference, internal modulation signal is shifted in phase
- ¹ 1b1: internal modulation signal is used as reference, illumination signal is shifted in phase

7.15. Px_PHASE_IDLE (or V-blanking)

An artificial idle time (wait time or V-blanking) between 2 subsequent phases can be configured. This function negatively impacts the system motion robustness (= the ability to measure fast moving objects), but it can be used for compatibility with certain microcontrollers.

Phase idle time (in ms) can be calculated as $\frac{P_{X_PHASE_IDLE} \cdot$ HMAX 120⋅10³

Table 25: Phase idle registers

* Values outside [0x05 - 0xFF] are prohibited

7.16. Px_LEDEN

Enable or disable the LEDEN pulse(s). This pulse starts ~55µs before the integration time and ends ~14µs after the integration time. It can be used as an extra control signal for the illumination (for example enable/disable the PSU) or to disable any significant external noise influencers during the integration time & pixel readout time. It can be enabled or disabled for each of the phases individually. The electrical pulse toggles between GND and VIF.

- **1b0: LEDEN pulse disabled**
- **1b1: LEDEN pulse enabled**

7.17. Px_DMIX0, Px_DMIX1 & Px_STATIC_LED

The patented Depthsense® pixel design includes 2 internal digital control signals, DMIX0 & DMIX1, that actively forces a guiding field inside the pixel and thus drives, by light photons generated, electrons either to pixel tap A or pixel tap B. In normal operating conditions these signals are modulating during Px_INTEGRATION, but for prototype purposes (or system debugging) it is possible to define their internal behaviour.

The same feature is possible for the illumination control signals LEDP & LEDN.

7.18. Analog Delay Setting

MLX75026 features the possibility to adjust the timing between the illumination and internal mixing signals.

This delay is analogue and thus subject to process and temperature variation.

It can be modified according to three different accuracies.

- Coarse delay : modulation frequency dependent (f.e. 1.56ns/step @ 40MHz, 1.25ns/step @ 100MHz)
- \bullet Fine delay : ~75ps/step
- Super fine delay : ~20ps/step

The total delay is the sum of delay generated by each individual setting. The fine delay cannot exceed the delay of a single coarse step. The super fine delay cannot exceed a fine delay step (75ps).

To set the registers accordingly determine the total required delay and start by setting the coarse delay register followed by the fine and super fine register.

7.18.1. Coarse Delay

Coarse delay covers up to one modulation period and has the lowest accuracy.

The amount of available steps in one period depends on the modulation frequency:

The highest possible amount of delay steps per modulation frequency is N-1.

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To calculate the coarse delay register setting:

$$
ADELAY_COARSE = FLOOR\left(\frac{TOTAL DELAY(s)}{\frac{1}{FMOD*N}}\right) with ADELAY_COARSE \le N - 1
$$

The coarse setting can be set using the following 8-bit register:

Note¹: The maximum register value cannot exceed N-1.

The delay generated by the coarse setting is the following:

$$
COARSE DELAY(s) = \frac{ADELAY_COARSE}{FMOD*N}
$$

This will be lower than the total required delay, the remaining delay to add by the fine or super fine setting is:

FINE DELAY TO ADD (s) = TOTAL DELAY (s) – COARSE DELAY (s)

7.18.2. Fine Delay

The fine delay step size is around 75ps and should max. cover up to one step of coarse delay. (only possible for modulation frequencies above 5 MHz).

To calculate the fine setting:

ADELAY_FINE = FLOOR $\left(\frac{FINE\ DELAY\ TO\ ADD\ (s)}{75*10^{-16}}\right)$, with #ADELAY_FINE < 72

The fine setting can be set using the following 8-bit register:

$0x201D$	7	6	5	4	3	2	1	0
R/W	ADELAY_FINE¹							

Note ¹: The maximum register value cannot exceed 71 and the total fine delay cannot be longer than the coarse delay.

The delay generated by the fine setting is the following:

FINE DELAY (s) = ADELAY_FINE $* 75 * 10^{-16}$

As with the coarse delay it will be lower than the *fine delay to add*, the remaining delay to add by super fine is:

SFINE DELAY TO ADD (s) = FINE DELAY TO ADD (s) – FINE DELAY (s)

7.18.3. Super Fine

The super fine delay step size is 20ps and can cover up to one step of fine delay.

To calculate the super fine register setting:

ADELAY_SFINE = FLOOR $\left(\frac{SFINE\ DELAY\ TO\ ADD\ (s)}{20*10^{-16}} \right)$, with #ADELAY_SFINE < 4

The super fine setting can be set using the following 8-bit register:

Note¹: The maximum register value cannot exceed 3.

The delay generated by the fine setting is the following:

 $SFINE DELAY(S) = ADELAY SFINE * 20 * 10⁻¹⁶$

As with coarse and super fine the delay added by the super fine setting can be lower than required. In some cases, setting a delay higher than required can result in a closer match.

7.19. Pixel Binning

Pixel binning is a technique to combine individual pixels together to create a set of *superpixels*. In binning mode, each pixel is read-out separately but is recombined digitally with its neighbouring pixels inside the sensor to increase the SNR (signal-to-noise ratio) and to decrease the data processing & bandwidth towards the microcontroller. There's no beneficial effect on the total read-out time (= no impact on motion robustness) as each pixel still has to be read out individually. The noise from the pixels is dominated by the photon shot noise according to a Poisson distribution, with a SNR in binning mode proven to increase with:

 $\sqrt{\leq}$ number of binned pixels \geq .

- 2b00: no binning (= QVGA resolution, 320x240 pixels)
- 2b01: 2x2 binning (= QQVGA resolution, 160x120 pixels)
- 2b10: 4x4 binning (= QQQVGA resolution, 80x60 pixels)
- 2b11: 8x8 binning (= QQQQVGA resolution, 40x30 pixels)

7.20. Region of Interest (ROI)

Not all applications require the full QVGA (320x240) pixel information. To reduce the total frame readout time, the data processing (or bandwidth) and power consumption it is possible to select only a subset of pixels eligible for readout, also known as a region of interest (ROI). Rows have to be read-out in multiples of 2.

Figure 25: Region of Interest Settings

Note : Changing registers IMG_ORIENTATION_H or IMG_ORIENTATION_V (from section [7.20\)](#page-46-0) also requires the user to reverse the applicable ROI registers for the same region to be readout.

Table 26: Binning registers

When defining the ROI region there is a list of minimum requirements that have to be taken into account: Y1 should be uneven while Y2 is even. The ROI also depends on the binning used.

7.21. Flip & Mirror

The physical sensor orientation on a PCB does not always match with application requirements or with a visually attractive picture for the user. For that reason, the images can be vertically flipped and/or horizontally mirrored before they are outputted via the video output interface.

The default read out position starting at pixel 1, like visualized in section [4.1,](#page-14-1) already inverts the image both vertically & horizontally to compensate for the sensor optics/lens behaviour.

Reset Value 0x00

7.22. Temperature Sensor

The internal junction temperature sensor information is available as a register value (or can be found inside the MetaData). The temperature is read right after the integration time and just before the frame readout period like shown in [7.8.](#page-35-0) It is only valid after a first phase acquisition with an absolute accuracy of ± 7 °C ω -40°C, ±5 °C @ 60°C, ±6°C @ 125°C .

Reset Value 0x00

Temperature [in °C] = TEMP_VALUE - 40

7.23. Pixel & Phase Statistics

MLX75026 monitors each raw tap A and tap B value separately. Statistics are gathered when either of the two taps exceeds their minimum or maximum threshold. Feedback is provided as a single bit error flag or generic pixel error code via the metadata (or via 1^2C). This data can be used as indicator to warn for pixel saturation or extreme low light conditions. The total amount of erroneous pixels violating their thresholds can be found in Px_ERRORCOUNTLOW or Px_ERRORCOUNTHIGH registers for each phase.

1b1: pixel error code enabled

The pixel error code is only available for output mode A-B and A+B as shown in [Table 27.](#page-48-1) Please note the pixel error flag replaces the pixel MSB.

Table 27: Register Table for Error Info

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The minimum threshold for each tap is defined in Px_LOWER_LIMIT.

Table 28: Px_LOWER_LIMIT

The maximum threshold for each tap is defined in Px_UPPER_LIMIT.

Table 29: Px_UPPER_LIMIT

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The total amount of pixels that violate their limit can be read in separate registers:

Table 30: Total Pixel count Px_LOWER_LIMIT

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Table 31: Total Pixel count Px_UPPER_LIMIT

7.24. PN9 Test Pattern

MLX75026 has a built-in test pattern to verify the MIPI connectivity. This can be used for debugging purposes, but also as live diagnostic. The pattern is a pseudorandom code generated using a nine stage shift register.

At t₀ each shift register is pre-loaded with one. At every clock pulse the register shifts and the first stage input is replaced with the exclusive disjunction (EXOR operation) from bit 4 and 9. The output stream of register no.9 is recombined into an 8bit word. This sequence generates 512 unique values and will repeat itself.

Recombining this example bitstream into a single MIPI package, like explained in section [5.2.2,](#page-23-1) becomes 0xFFE11D, which translates into the first two pixels values 0xFFD (4093) and 0xE11 (3601). The bitstream of the next 2 pixels gives 0x85ED9A, which corresponds to a MIPI package of 0x9AED85, representing two pixel values 0x9A5 (2469) and 0xED8 (3800), ….

The test pattern is independent of the pixel values and output mode but is visually different for mode A&B.

To enable the test pattern, please follow this register sequence:

- Register $0x1405$ > value $0x00$
- Register 0x1406 > value 0x04
- Register 0x1407 > value 0x01

To disable the test pattern:

Register 0x1407 > value 0x00

Figure 27: Visual representation of PN9 Test Pattern

7.25. Duty Cycle Adjustment

It is possible to adjust the duty cycle of the illumination signals (LEDP, LEDN). The default duty cycle is 50%, but it can be optimized to compensate certain driver effects. The adjustment is controlled by analogue circuitry in 16 delay steps (on the rising or falling edge of the light pulses). Each step is typically 500ps, but the absolute delay time is affected by process & temperature variation.

The total delay (of the rising and falling edge) = DUTY_CYCLE_VALUE \cdot 500 ps (typical value)

Since the step size has an absolute value the duty cycle limits are affected by the modulation frequency. It's the user responsibility to stay within min. & max. limits to avoid illumination hardware failure.

Figure 28: Modulation frequency versus allowed duty cycle

This graph for example shows that the duty cycle at 40 MHz can be changed between 20 & 80 %.

7.26. Illumination Signal (subLVDS or CMOS)

The illumination signal is available as differential signal (subLVDS) or as single ended pulses (CMOS). It is suggested to apply changes to this hardware configuration during the *Software Standby* mode.

Reset Value 0x01

- **1b0: CMOS mode (LEDP = LEDN)**
- **1b1:** subLVDS mode (LEDP positive, LEDN negative)

Important Note : We strongly recommend to use subLVDS mode for an ultimate sunlight performance. For more detailed information, please contact us directly.

8. MetaData Description

MetaData or embedded data is available on two lines after the normal pixel data. These lines can be enabled via EN_META in register 0x3C18. Each line features 132 unique values.

Reset Value 0x02

- 2b00: no metadata lines enabled
- ² 2b01: first metadata line (line #1) enabled

2b10: first & second metadata lines (line #1 and line #2) enabled

(other values are prohibited)

The length of the MetaData lines can be controlled via META_LENGTH in register 0x2C0C and 0x2C0D. Increasing the length beyond 132 will pad the data with dummy pixels.

The value of META_LENGTH represents the numbers of pixels outputted over MIPI.

Using for example 320 pixels MetaData:

- 0x2C0C : 0x28
- 0x2C0D : 0x00

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RAW12 output example (assuming single data lane configuration):

The data in each line is composed of a tag, data & dummy byte.

Each uneven pixel (E001, E003, E005, …) is an embedded data line *tag*.

Tag values are listed below:

8.1. Embedded Data Format in 4 Lane MIPI Configuration

8.2. Embedded Data Format in 2 Lane MIPI Configuration

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9. Distance & Amplitude Calculation

The distance data per pixel [in mm] can be calculated with the following formulas:

```
p0 = TwoComp MKO(phase0);
p180 = TwoComp MKO(phase180);
p90 = TwoComp MKO(phase90);
p270 = TwoComp MKO(phase270);
I = p0 - p180;Q = p270 - p90; %When 0 \times 4E A0 = 0 \times 01amplata = sqrt(I.^2 + Q.^2);if (Q>=0)Phase ATAN = atan2(Q, I); %ATAN2 gives results [-pi pi]
else
    Phase ATAN = atan2(Q, I)+2*pi; %ATAN2 gives results [-pi pi]
end
unAmbiguousRange = 0.5*299792458/ModF*1000;coef rad = unAmbiguousRange / (2*pi);
distData = (Phase+pi) * coefrad;while sum(distData(distData<0)) \sim= 0 distData(distData<0) = distData(distData<0) + unAmbiguousRange;
end
```
Figure 29: Example Matlab code of the raw to distance data calculation

- *phase0, phase180, phase90, phase270* are the raw A-B frames from the sensor at each phase interval
- *TwoComp_MKO* is a local function that converts the unsigned data from Mode A-B for each of the raw phases into signed values
- Calculation of Q depends on the setting of register 0x4EA0 from section [7.14.](#page-40-0)
- *unAmbiguousRange* is the maximum range in mm determined by the system modulation frequency (at modulation frequency of 20MHz this would be ~7.49m, at 100MHz it will be ~1.49m)
- *coef_rad* is a conversion coefficient from radians to degree
- **The** *while* loop avoids negative distance values by adding the unAmbiguousRange to these negative distance pixels

10. Package Outline

10.1. Pinout & Equivalent I/O Circuitry

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Table 4b : Pinout

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An overlay of these pins and the package can be found here:

Figure 30 : Package Pinout

10.2. Mechanical Dimensions

Figure 31 : Mechanical Outline TOP VIEW (in mm)

Figure 32 : Mechanical Outline SIDE VIEW (in mm)

10.3. PCB Landing Pattern & Layout Recommendations

- **Exposed traces under the package should be should be covered by solder mask**
- via's close to the solder pads should be avoided to minimize solder wicking
- **NSMD** (non-solder mask defined) pads are recommended

10.4. Package Marking

10.5. Cover Tape Removal

Covertape is used to protect the optical sensor array from scratches or contamination during shipment and assembly. It is strongly recommended to avoid any horizontal removal to protect the optical sensor from glue residues.

Figure 33: Grab the flag of the covertape and peel it off in an angle of 180° as much as possible.

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