
Powering Atmel SAMA5D4 MPUs with ActivePMU PMICs

Atmel | SMART SAMA5D4 Series

Scope

To support enhanced power supply applications on its Atmel® | SMART SAMA5D4x MPU, Atmel has selected two ActivePMU Power Management Integrated Circuits (PMICs) from the active-semi portfolio:

- ACT8865—seven-channel (3 DC/DC converters + 4 LDO regulators) PMU
- ACT8945A—seven-channel (3 DC/DC converters + 4 LDO regulators) PMU with integrated linear Li-Po/Li-Ion battery charger

This application note provides developers with the following content:

- Recommended application schematics with associated functional descriptions
- A description of the PMIC Power-Saving Mode and its use with Atmel MPU low-power modes
- A high-level description of an available Linux driver

Reference Documents

Title	Atmel Lit. No.
ACT8865 Datasheet (available at www.active-semi.com)	—
ACT8945A Datasheet (available at www.active-semi.com)	—
SAMA5D4 Series Datasheet	11238

Table of Contents

Scope	1
Reference Documents	1
Table of Contents	2
1. Power Supply Overview of Atmel SAMA5D4x Systems	3
1.1 Atmel SAMA5D4x Power Rails	3
1.2 Atmel SAMA5D4x VCCCORE Generation	3
1.3 Atmel SAMA5D4x VDDDBU Generation	4
1.4 Power Supply Topologies and Power Distribution	4
1.5 Clock Circuits Power Supply	7
1.6 Power Supplies Monitoring	7
2. ACT8865 and ACT8945A: Reference Schematics and Description	8
2.1 ACT8865 Reference Schematic and Description	8
2.2 ACT8945A Reference Schematic and Description	9
2.3 Passive Components Selection and PCB Layout Recommendation	9
2.4 Digital Interfaces	10
3. Functional Description of a Typical Use Case	12
3.1 First Power-On	13
3.2 Power-On From Backup Mode	13
3.3 Software Power-Off	13
3.4 Power-Off Upon Input Power Loss	14
4. Active-Semi PMICs and Atmel SAMA5D4x Low-Power Modes	15
4.1 Active-Semi PMIC Power-Saving Mode	15
4.2 SAMA5D4x Series Low-Power Modes	17
5. Linux Driver Content and Description	18
5.1 Linux Voltage and Current Regulator Framework	18
5.2 ACT8865 Regulator Driver	18
5.3 Kernel Configurations to Enable ACT8865 Driver	18
5.4 Declaring the Regulator Device Node	18
5.5 Regulator Consumer Driver	20
5.6 Regulator Sysfs Entries	20
Revision History	22

1. Power Supply Overview of Atmel SAMA5D4x Systems

1.1 Atmel SAMA5D4x Power Rails

Atmel SAMA5D4x MPUs power rails and their respective operating ranges are listed in [Table 1-1](#). An approximate current consumption is provided for each rail in order to size the corresponding regulator. Accurate numbers and descriptions are provided in the device datasheet.

Depending on the application complexity, SAMA5D4x power input pins may be grouped into two (e.g. 3.3V + 1.8V), three (e.g. 3.3V + 1.8V + 1.2V) or more power planes. In secure applications, or any application that requires writing into the internal fuse box, an additional 2.5V power rail is needed to supply the VDDFUSE input pin.

The SAMA5D4x series also features a backup power domain intended to retain information during power-down periods by means of a storage element (e.g., a battery or a super-capacitor). It is supplied by the VDDBU pin and must be fed through a 2V regulator.

Table 1-1. SAMA5D4x Series Power Supply Inputs

Power Rail	Circuit Supplied by the Power Rail	Range	Consumption
VDDCORE	Core Voltage Regulator	1.62–1.98V, 1.80V	0.35A
VDDIODDR	External Memory Interface I/O lines	1.70–1.90V, 1.80V 1.14–1.32V, 1.20V	0.05A 0.03A
VDDIOM	NAND and HSMC Interface I/O lines	1.65–1.95V, 1.80V 3.00–3.60V, 3.30V	0.03A
VDDIOP	Peripheral I/O lines	1.65–3.60V	0.03A
VDDUTMIC	USB Device and host UTMI+ core logic	1.10–1.32V, 1.20V	0.02A
VDDUTMII	USB Device and host UTMI+ interface	3.00–3.60V, 3.30V	0.02A
VDDPLLA	PLLA	1.10–1.32V, 1.20V	0.02A
VDDOSC	Main oscillator and UTMI PLL	1.65–3.60V, 3.30V	0.001A
VDDANA	Analog-to-Digital Converter, and other analog circuits	3.00–3.60V, 3.30V	–
VDDFUSE	Programmable Fuse Box	2.25–2.75V, 2.50V	0.05A
VDDBU	Backup domain	1.88–2.12V, 2.00V	0.0001A

In all modes other than Backup mode, each power supply input must be powered to operate the device. The only exception to this rule is the VDDFUSE input which can be left unpowered if the fuse box is not used in Write mode.

1.2 Atmel SAMA5D4x VCCCORE Generation

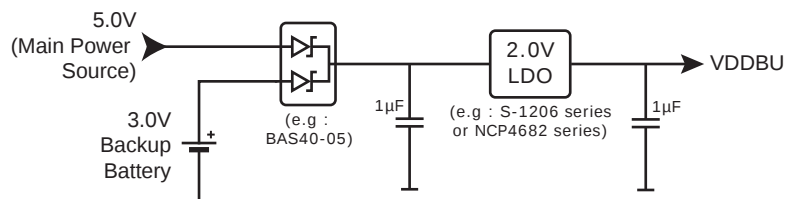
Atmel SAMA5D4x devices embed a linear low dropout (LDO) voltage regulator to generate their core logic power supply (VCCCORE). The input of this regulator is VDDCORE and its output is internally connected to some of the VCCCORE pins. The remaining VCCCORE pins are fed from the VCCCORE plane of the printed circuit board (PCB). This plane must contain at least one 10μF capacitor (max 20μF) to ensure the regulator stability. Additional 10nF to 100nF capacitors of X5R or X7R type must be connected to each VCCCORE pin for proper decoupling.

This regulator cannot be shut down and therefore the VCCCORE pins cannot be fed by an external voltage regulator at the risk of creating a short circuit between the internal regulator and the external one.

1.3 Atmel SAMA5D4x VDDBU Generation

The SAMA5D4x series embeds a backup power domain which supplies a Real-Time Clock circuit, a backup memory and others. This power domain is designed for ultra-low-power consumption (8µA typ.) and is therefore suited to be supplied by a storage element such as a super-capacitor or a battery. The operating range of VDDBU (2V±120mV) calls for the use of an external voltage regulator. Low-power LDO regulators in the S-1206 series from Seiko Instruments and NCP4682 series from ON Semiconductor with a typical 1µA operating current meet the criteria.

Figure 1-1. VDDBU Generation



As described in the SAMA5D4x series datasheet, the VDDBU power supply must always be the first power source applied to the system and the last one disconnected from the system. It is therefore good practice to monitor the storage element discharge in order to shutdown the system before the VDDBU voltage goes out of its operating range,

If the backup functionality of the SAMA5D4x device is not used in the application, VDDBU can be fed directly from the main power source through a 2.0V regulator. In case of input power loss, small storage capacitors (e.g., 1µF) help to extend the presence of the VDDBU voltage after a system shutdown, thus ensuring a clean power-down.

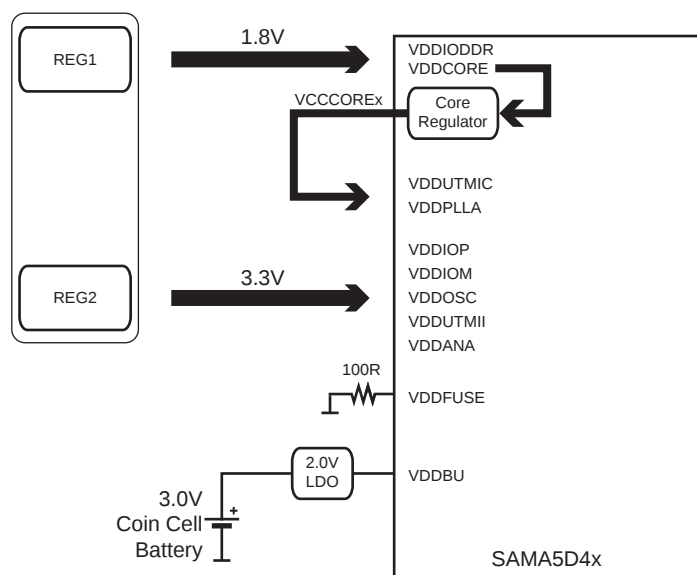
1.4 Power Supply Topologies and Power Distribution

1.4.1 2-channel Topology

In the simplest applications of the SAMA5D4x, a 2-rail power supply topology (3.3V/1.8V) can be used as shown in [Figure 1-2](#). However, this supply schematic has the following limitations:

- The fuse box cannot be accessed in Write mode because VDDFUSE = 0V.
- The analog section of the device (VDDANA) is powered from the (noisy) digital 3.3V rail.

Figure 1-2. 2-channel Power Distribution Example on SAMA5D4x Series Equipped with a 1.8V External Memory



1.4.2 5-channel Topology and Active-Semi PMICs

A 5-channel power supply topology can be used to lift the aforementioned limitations on VDDFUSE and VDDANA. As shown in [Figure 1-3](#), the power supply based on Active-Semi PMICs follows this architecture:

- 3.3V (analog)
- 3.3V (digital)
- 1.8V (digital)
- 1.2V (digital)⁽¹⁾
- 2.5V (analog)

Note: 1. Optional rail. In case of (SAMA5D4x + DDR2) design, this rail may not be needed. In case of (SAMA5D4x + LPDDR2), this rail can supply the VDDIODDR input.

For maximum efficiency, the three digital power supply channels are generated by three integrated step-down converters. The 3.3V and 2.5V analog rails are supplied by two integrated low-dropout (LDO) regulators. Power distribution to the device and its external components mainly depends on the external components themselves. As an example, a SAMA5D4x + LPDDR2 design operates VDDIODDR from the 1.2V rail whereas this power pin is fed by the 1.8V rail on a SAMA5D4x + DDR2 design. If the 1.2V digital rail is not used in the application, the external components associated to this PMIC output can be omitted from the following schematics.

Active-Semi PMICs have four integrated LDO regulators (OUT4–OUT7) with low noise and high PSRR performance. OUT4 defaults to 2.5V at startup and is intended to supply the VDDFUSE power input of SAMA5D4x devices in applications accessing the fuse box in Write mode (e.g., secure applications). This supply channel can be reassigned to another external component or can be switched off by software in other types of applications. This output starts by default and must therefore be decoupled. OUT5 defaults to 3.3V at startup and is intended to feed the VDDANA power input. For both OUT4 and OUT5 channels, the device power consumption on these rails leaves a large amount of output current available for other external components. However, wiring an external component on OUT5 along with the VDDANA input prevents this component from being powered off during operation as the VDDANA input can not be left unpowered.

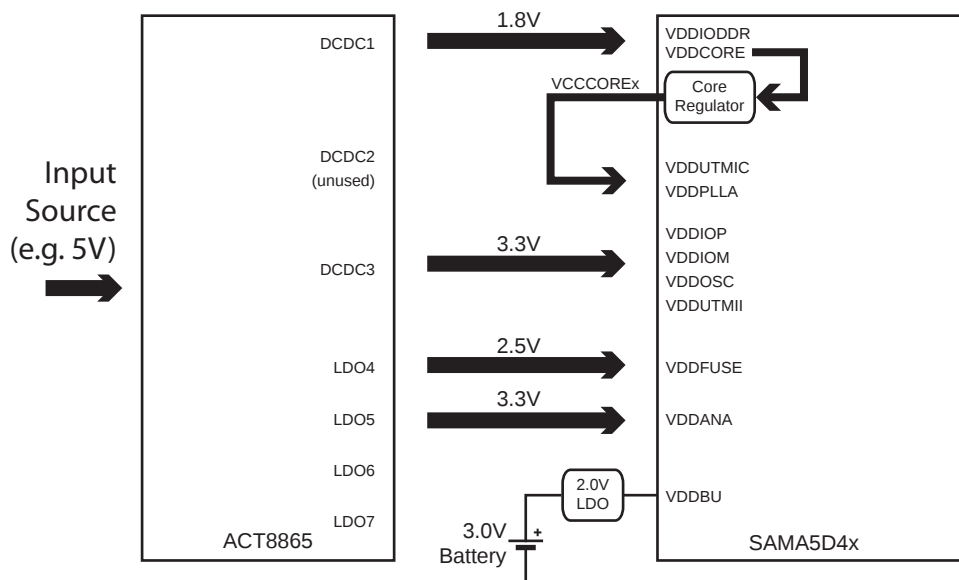
The remaining LDO channels (OUT6, OUT7) default to OFF at startup. They can be turned on and adjusted under software control through the I²C link to supply a wide range of external components ranging from digital ICs to analog/RF ICs such as an audio codec or an RF transceiver.

The power supply sequencing of the five supply channels is ensured by the Active-Semi PMICs as per recommendations in the Atmel device datasheet. Therefore the turn-on sequence is the following:

1. 3.3V (both LDO5 and DCDC3)
2. 1.8V (DCDC1)
3. 1.2V (DCDC2).
4. 2.5V (LDO4)

Note that VDDBU must always be present first before ramping the power supplies.

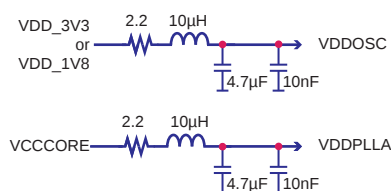
Figure 1-3. Power Distribution Example on SAMA5D4x Series with ACT8865 (1.8V Memory Case)



1.5 Clock Circuits Power Supply

SAMA5D4x devices have separate power supply inputs for their oscillators and PLL circuits. These analog circuits can therefore be decoupled from the digital (core and I/Os) activity of the device and thus generate less jittered clocks. Atmel highly recommends to feed these power supply inputs with low noise sources for applications where clock jitter is important (e.g., high-speed USB). The simplest way to do this is to filter the digital rails with an LC network as shown in [Figure 1-4](#). Choosing a 20 kHz corner frequency is a good trade-off between component size/cost and the necessary high frequency attenuation for clock circuits. The inductors must be sized for low DC resistance and good DC superimposition characteristics (TDK MLZ series and Taiyo Yuden CBM series are possible choices). The serial resistor in the filter schematic must be adjusted to take the inductor DCR into account. Example of inductors: Taiyo Yuden CBMF1608T100K (10 μ H, 0.36 Ω , 115 mA, 0603) and TDK MLZ1608N100L (10 μ H, 0.6 Ω , 60 mA, 0603).

Figure 1-4. Recommended Filter on Clock Circuits Power Supply



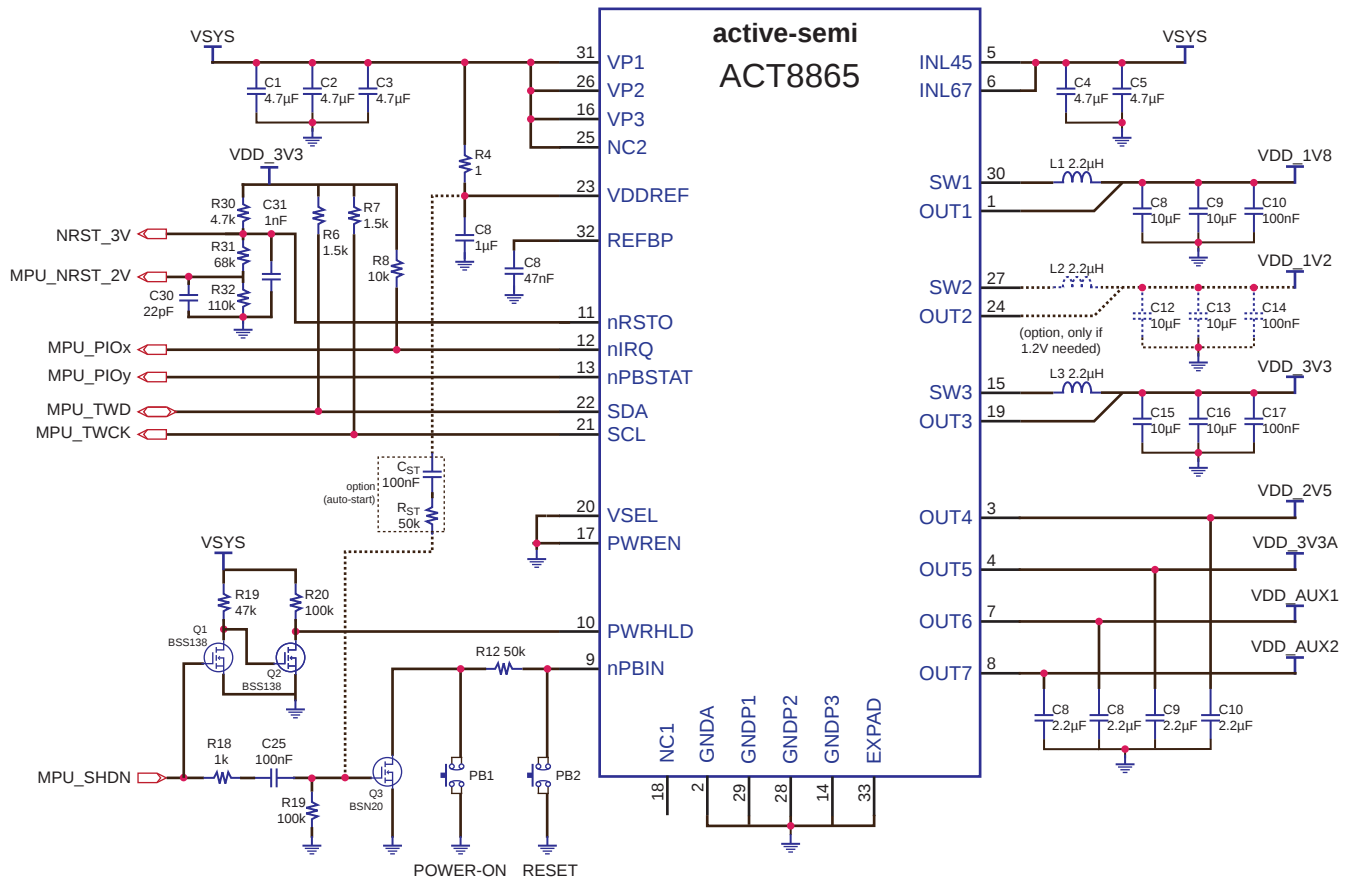
1.6 Power Supplies Monitoring

Active-Semi PMICs have an input supply monitor and a power-fail detector on each regulated output which can generate an interrupt upon a power-fail detection. It is good practice to enable these monitors to detect as early as possible an input power loss or a fault on any power supply.

2. ACT8865 and ACT8945A: Reference Schematics and Description

2.1 ACT8865 Reference Schematic and Description

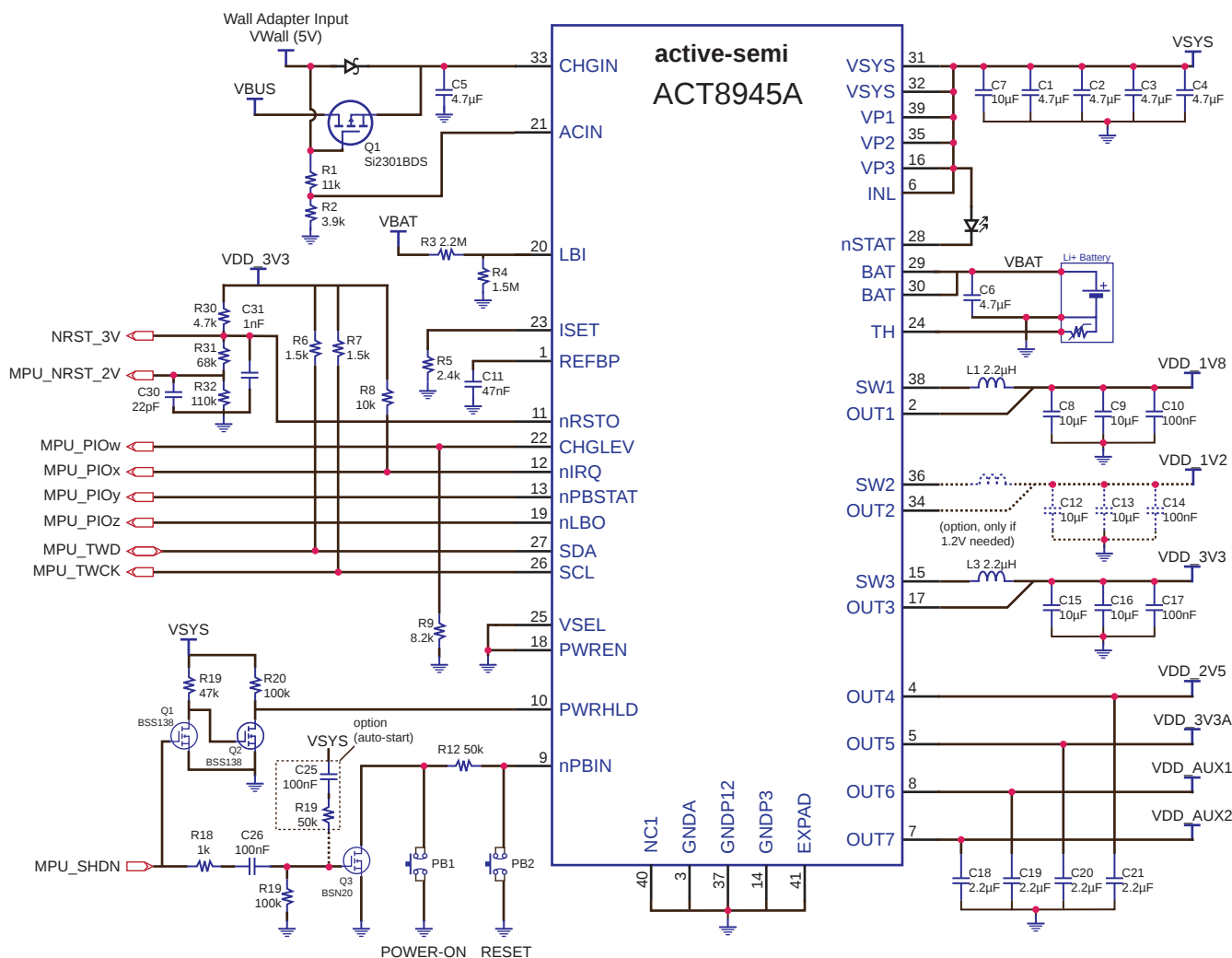
Figure 2-1. ACT8865 Reference Schematic



In this schematic, the power input is VSYS, which can range from 3.5V to 5.5V to start the device. VSYS feeds the DCDC power inputs (VP1, VP2 and VP3), the LDO regulators power inputs (INL45, INL67) and the reference voltage power input (VDDREF). This last pin is RC filtered to attenuate high-frequency noise on this sensitive part of the PMIC. VDD_1V8, VDD_3V3, VDD_2V5, and VDD_3V3A are to be connected to the power supply inputs of the device. VDD_AUX1 and VDD_AUX2 are two available channels for the applications. If the VDD_1V2 rail is not needed in the application, SW2 and OUT2 can be left unconnected and in this case, the ACT8865 Buck 2 must be shut down by software.

2.2 ACT8945A Reference Schematic and Description

Figure 2-2. ACT8945A Reference Schematic



In this schematic, the power inputs are the Li-Ion or Li-Po battery (VBAT), the Wall adapter (VWall) and the USB voltage VBUS. ACT8945A contains a battery charger and an automatic power switch function that allows the integrated regulators (DCDCs and LDOs) to run from a single voltage (VSYS) that is built from one of these three inputs. VSYS feeds the DCDC power inputs (VP1, VP2 and VP3), and the LDO regulators power input INL. VDD_1V8, VDD_3V3, VDD_2V5, and VDD_3V3A are to be connected to the power supply inputs of the device. VDD_AUX1 and VDD_AUX2 are two available channels for the applications. If the VDD_1V2 rail is not needed in the application, SW2 and OUT2 can be left unconnected. In this case, the ACT8865 Buck 2 must be shut down by software.

2.3 Passive Components Selection and PCB Layout Recommendation

The passive components selection around the DCDCs and LDOs of Active-Semi PMICs is described in these components' datasheets. It is very important to follow these recommendations and to properly decouple the regulator inputs of these PMICS to limit the DCDCs switching currents into the ground and power planes.

A recommended PCB layout/placement is provided with the Active-Semi Evaluation Kit. This is a good starting point to place and route these PMICs. Moreover, Atmel recommends placing these PMICs as close as possible to the power source (input connector or regulator output) to limit again switching currents into the ground and power

planes. In case of inductive power source (long wires), it is good practice to decouple this input with large capacitors (> 47 μ F).

2.4 Digital Interfaces

This section describes the following signals shared between the PMIC and the device:

- I²C serial lines SDA and SCL
- nRSTO, nPBSTAT, nIRQ outputs

These signals are all of open-drain type and must be pulled-up to the appropriate power rail (in most cases VDD_3V3 or VDDDBU). Due to the low-power constraints generally applied to the VDDDBU domain, connections between the PMIC and an device I/O referenced to VDDDBU should be made with maximum care. When possible, designers may use the programmable pull-up resistor integrated in the device I/O lines to save external resistors.

Two other inputs are available (ACT8945A):

- VSEL— selection of the DCDC1 default voltage
- CHGLEV—selection of the charge current

2.4.1 I²C Interface

The Active-Semi PMICs are controlled as slave I²C devices. They can be connected to any of the Two-Wire Interface (TWI) peripherals of the Atmel device. Depending on the programmed speed and the PCB layout parasitics, external pull-up resistors may be needed on the TWD and TWCK lines to ensure rising edges on these signals are fast enough. On the programming side, the TWI peripheral should be configured in Master mode as follows:

- 7-bit slave address
- one byte internal address
- one data byte
- transfer speed up to 400 kHz (Fast mode)

Due to a limitation of the Active-Semi I²C interface, Atmel recommends dedicating one TWI interface to the PMIC. This interface must not be shared with any other component. That limitation is documented in the "Errata info" section of each Active-Semi component datasheet.

However, if sharing cannot be avoided, it is important to ensure that:



- the other components are powered by default at startup (i.e. supplied by one of the OUT1 to OUT5 outputs). This avoids creating a leakage path from the device I/O pin to an unpowered plane through integrated input pin protection circuits, and hence losing control on the data or clock line;

- the byte corresponding to the PMIC slave address (1011011x) will never be sent over the TWD line except to address the PMIC. Otherwise, the PMIC will force the TWD line to 0 (see "Errata info" section of the relevant Active-Semi datasheet).

2.4.2 nRSTO Output

The nRSTO signal is the active-low system reset signal. It should be carefully connected to the NRST input of the SAMA5D4x device that has no internal pull-up and no internal pull-down and that is referenced to VDDDBU. One error to avoid is to pull-up the nRSTO line with a resistor to VDDDBU. As VDDDBU is an "always-on" power supply in many applications, there can be cases where the PMIC is not supplied sufficiently to properly assert the nRSTO line (i.e. the SAMA5D4x is not in reset state) but provides enough voltage on some logic cells. Refer to the R30, R31, and R32 network in the reference schematics for a recommended solution.

The PMIC asserts nRSTO low in the following cases:

- during a start-up sequence
- during a shutdown sequence (either an automatic or a manual shutdown)
- upon a reset request on the nPBIN input

When the nPBIN pin is tied to ground through 0Ω (see PB2 in the reference schematic), a system reset is issued. The nRSTO line is asserted low as soon as the nPBIN is tied to ground and remains low 64 ms after the nPBIN is released.

2.4.3 nPBSTAT Output

The nPBSTAT output reflects the status of the nPBIN pin in VDDIO level (VDDIO being a generic name for the rail that supplies the device I/O pin to which nPBSTAT is connected). In the reference schematic, nPBSTAT defaults to VDD_3V3 and when PB1 is pressed, nPBSTAT is asserted low by the PMIC. This line can be used as an interrupt source of the device or it can be polled by the device to implement “short” or “long” press detections, consequently starting specific software routines. Note that pressing PB2 would also assert nPBSTAT (in addition to nRSTO).

2.4.4 nIRQ Output

The nIRQ line allows the PMIC to interrupt the device on various alarm cases:

- The programmable voltage system monitor detects a low input voltage.
- One or several regulated outputs drop(s) below the power-good threshold.
- A charger related event is detected (e.g., input charger connection/disconnection, safety timeout).

nIRQ can be wired on any GPIO configured by software as an interrupt source. It is generally not useful to wire it on the device FIQ input.

2.4.5 VSEL Input

This input selects either 1.0V (VSEL = high) or 1.2V (VSEL to ground) as the output voltage for the DCDC2 (OUT2). Depending on the application needs, designers may wire this pin either to VSYS or to ground.

2.4.6 CHGLEV Input (ACT8945A)

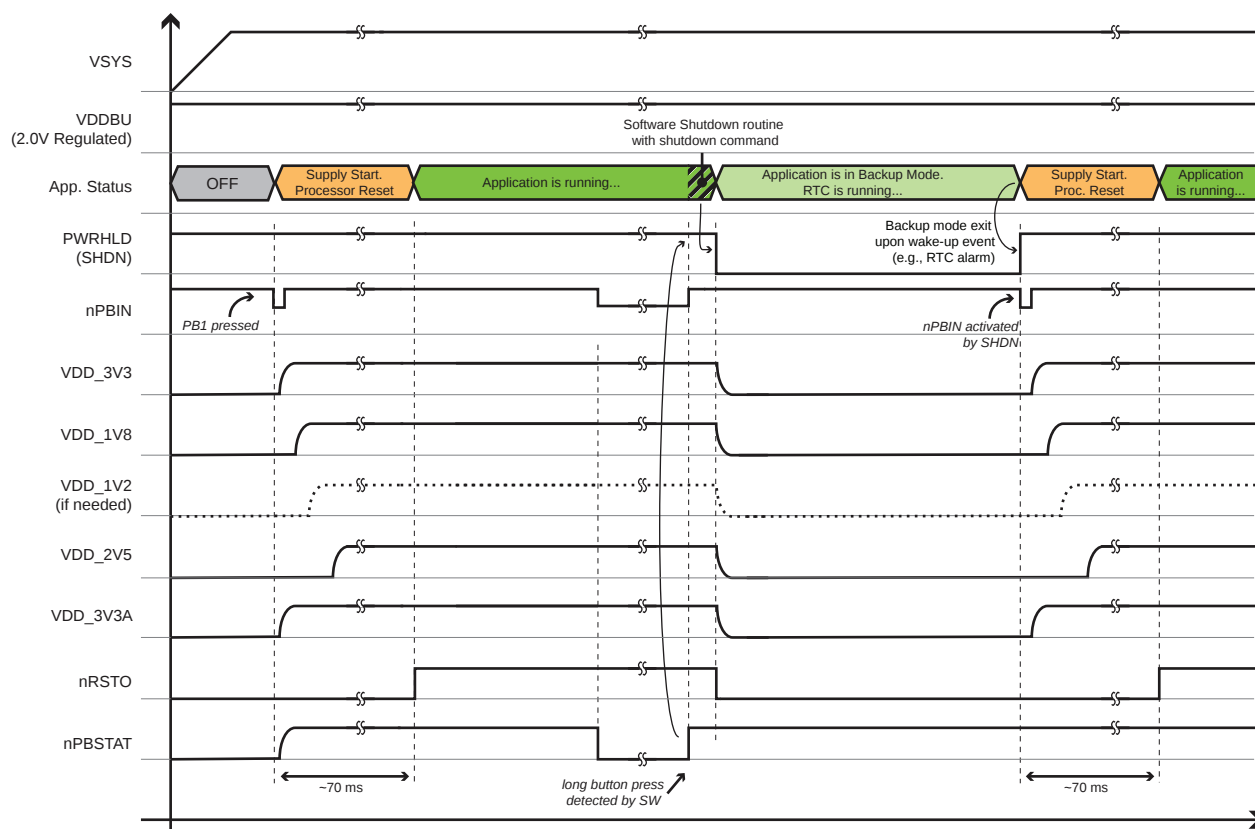
This input selects the level of charging current. When high, the nominal charging current is used (e.g., 450 mA when the USB input is detected). When low, ACT8945A uses the “preconditioning” current, typically the nominal current divided by 5 (e.g., 90 mA for the USB case). It is recommended to strongly pull down this input to ensure a low-level on this pin under reset conditions of the device. If not pulled down, the device I/O that defaults to the “input-pull-up” state when nRSTO is low applies a ‘1’ to this input and hence forces the nominal charging current. In most cases, this is not an acceptable behavior as the nominal charging current should be first negotiated between a device and its host. The recommended maximum pull down resistor value is 8.2 k Ω .

3. Functional Description of a Typical Use Case

This section describes how Active-Semi PMICs can power on and power off the device power supplies. A typical application that switches between running and sleeping periods is analyzed in detail (See [Figure 3-1](#)). The backup domain (VDDBU) of the device is powered by a storage element (e.g., a battery followed by a 2.0V regulator) and the device is placed in Backup mode prior to switching off the supply channels of the PMIC. This case uses the shutdown controller of the device to enter and leave the Backup mode.

As ACT8865 and ACT8945A only differ in the integration of a Battery Charger + Automatic Power Switch function, most of the following descriptions are common to both ICs. This application case focuses on non-battery powered applications (ACT8865). Each important phase illustrated in the timing diagram (e.g., first start-up, software shutdown) is described in detail in the following sections. The application input voltage is called VSYS which is either the PMIC input voltage (ACT8865) or the automatic power-switch output (ACT8945A).

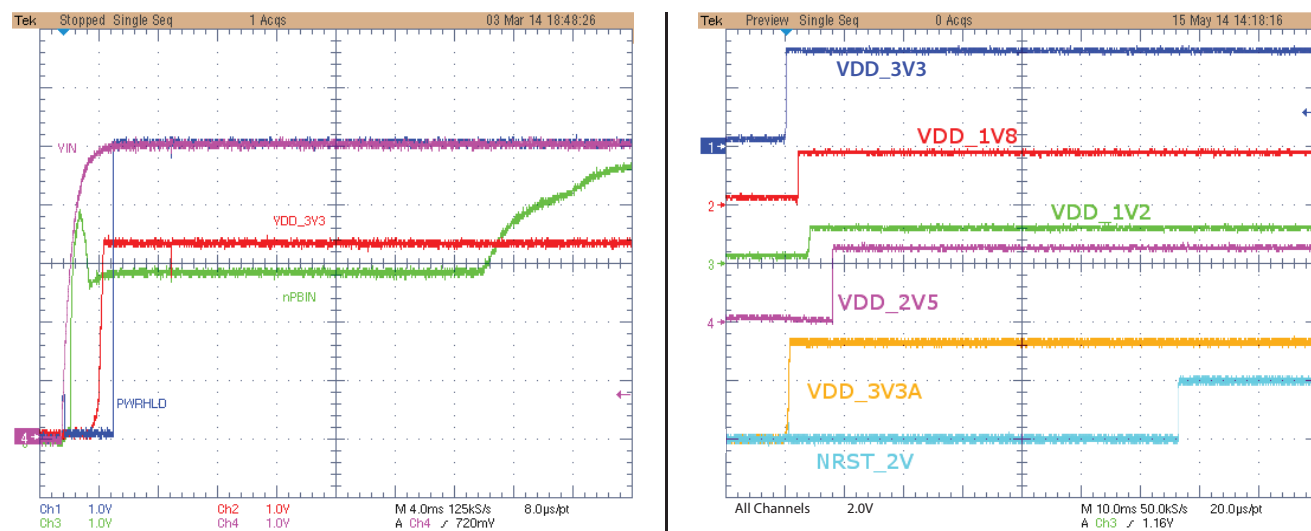
Figure 3-1. Typical Application Timing Diagram



3.1 First Power-On

From an OFF state and when VSYS is greater than 3.5V, the application is powered up by asserting the nPBIN to ground through a 50 kΩ resistor, either manually with a user button (PB1) or automatically at VSYS ramp-up with the optional C_{ST}/R_{ST} network from VDDREF input (or VSYS in ACT8945A) to Q3 gate. ACT8865/ACT8945A require their PWRHLD input to be held to '1' before the nPBIN pin is released. This is achieved by connecting the PWRHLD pin to the SHDN output of Atmel device through the Q1/Q2 network. This “buffer” network prevents the VDDBU power supply from back-powering the main power supply when this latter is OFF or disconnected^(Note:). The SHDN pin, designed to control an external regulator enable pin, defaults to '1' (VDDBU level) before the system starts. At power-on, the PMIC sequences the ramp-up of the five rails (VDD_3V3 and VDD_3V3A, VDD_1V8, VDD_1V2 and VDD_2V5) and de-asserts the nRSTO line after a typical 64 ms delay. The remaining channels (OUT6–OUT7) are enabled by software through the I²C serial port.

Figure 3-2. Typical First Power-On Waveforms (Automatic Start with C_{ST} and R_{ST})



Note: As a general rule to avoid extra leakages in the VDDBU power domain, the I/Os of the device belonging to the VDDBU power domain (WKUP0 and SHDN) must not be directly connected to the I/Os of the PMIC. In case of direct connection, leakage paths from the VDDBU power domain to the main power domain can be created through the ESD protection diodes of these I/Os.

3.2 Power-On From Backup Mode

If the device is in Backup mode, i.e., with only VDDBU pin powered from a storage element, the system can wake up on either an event on the WKUP0/1 inputs or an RTC alarm event. When such an event occurs, the device drives the SHDN pin up to '1' (VDDBU level). This transition on the SHDN output is applied to the gate of Q3 through R18/C25 to create a pulse low on nPBIN (through 50 kΩ resistor) which makes the PMIC start. The high level on SHDN is also applied to the PWRHLD input of the PMIC as required.

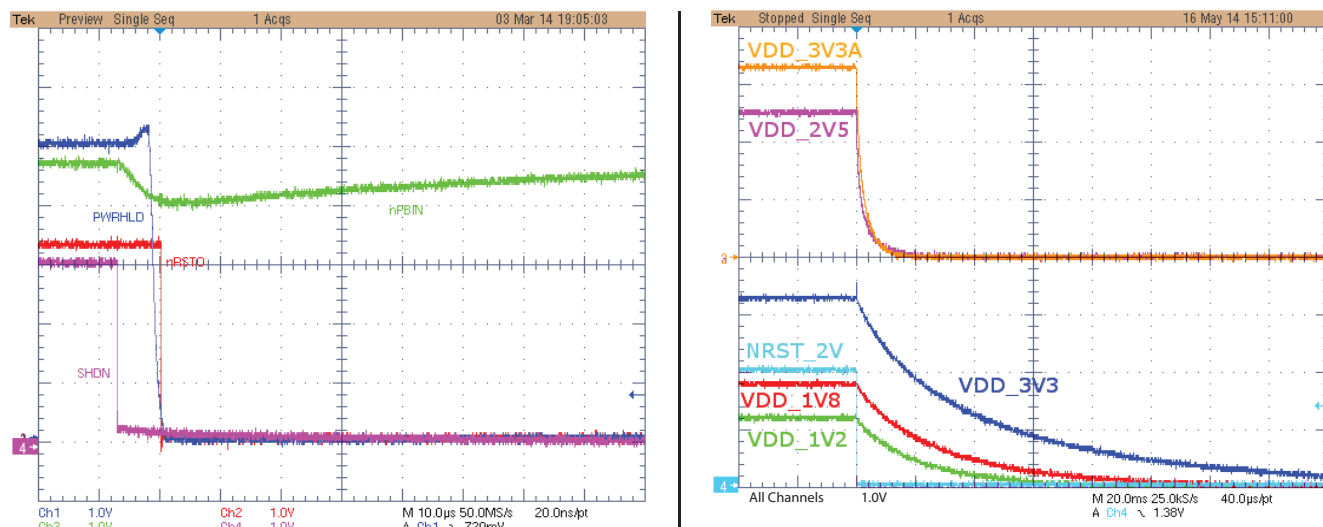
3.3 Software Power-Off

When running, the system can be shut down by first stopping the OUT6 and OUT7 LDO regulators through the I²C interface and then de-asserting the PWRHLD pin of the PMIC. This de-assertion is done by issuing the shutdown command in the Shutdown Control Register of the device (SHDW_CR.SHDW = 1) which drives the SHDN pin down to '0'.

When the PWRHLD input falls, the PMIC shuts down which means the nRSTO line is asserted low and the regulators OUT1–OUT5 are simultaneously stopped.

Assertion of the shutdown command makes the device enter Backup mode. To exit this mode, the application must have configured the wake-up source (WKUP0 pin event or RTC alarm event) before asserting the shutdown command. Refer to the Shutdown Controller (SHDWC) section and the Electrical Characteristics section (Low-power Modes) of the Atmel device datasheet for further details.

Figure 3-3. Typical Software Power-Off Waveforms



Note: The ACT8865/ACT8945A PMICs have a special MSTROFF bit which can use an I²C command to perform a power-off. When sending this command over the I²C bus, the nRSTO line falls abnormally before the “stop-condition” of the I²C transfer. Atmel does not recommend to use this method. In case this feature is to be used, it is advisable to install a few microseconds delay network on the nRSTO line of the PCB.

3.4 Power-Off Upon Input Power Loss

In case of input power loss (VSYS), the system power-off can also be managed by the PMIC. ACT8865/ACT8945A integrate a programmable system voltage monitor that compares the VDDREF (ACT8865) or VSYS (ACT8945A) input to a programmable threshold set to 3.0V by default. If the input power falls below this threshold, one of two possible actions occurs:

- An “Under Voltage Alarm” interrupt is sent to the device through the nIRQ line and a software power-off is started by the application. In particular, for SAMA5D4x devices equipped with an external LPDDR2 memory, this flag can be used to avoid an “Uncontrolled Power-Off” of the LPDDR2 device.
- The PMIC initiates an automatic power-off sequence (without device intervention).

The behavior of the PMIC in response to the system voltage monitor is programmed by the nSYSMODE[] bit (see ACT8865/ACT8945A datasheets).

4. Active-Semi PMICs and Atmel SAMA5D4x Low-Power Modes

4.1 Active-Semi PMIC Power-Saving Mode

ACT8865 and ACT8945A integrated DCDCs feature a Power-Saving Mode (PSM) to reduce their power consumption at light output load. By default at startup, the DCDCs operate in fixed frequency Pulse Width Modulation (PWM) mode. This mode achieves the best ripple and regulation performance. Typically, when operated in PWM mode, the three DC/DC converters current consumption is about 20 mA @ 5V input voltage or 15 mA @ 3.7V.

To operate the DCDCs in PSM, the application needs to clear the MODE[] bits of registers REG1, REG2 and REG3 in the PMIC user interface. The current consumption is then reduced to 330 μ A @ 5V input or 300 μ A @ 3.7V. The penalty of this mode is a slightly higher output voltage ripple (about 10 mVpp compared to less than 5 mVpp in PWM) and higher transient output voltage under load steps. Figure 4-1 reports output voltage ripple on VDD_1V2 for both the PSM and the PWM modes. These curves are obtained with the following conditions: VIN = 5V, VDD_1V2 = 1.2V. The red curve is the switching node (SW2), and the blue curve is the output voltage AC-coupled at 10 mV/division.

Figure 4-1. Ripple Performance in Power-Saving Mode (Left) and in PWM Mode (Right)

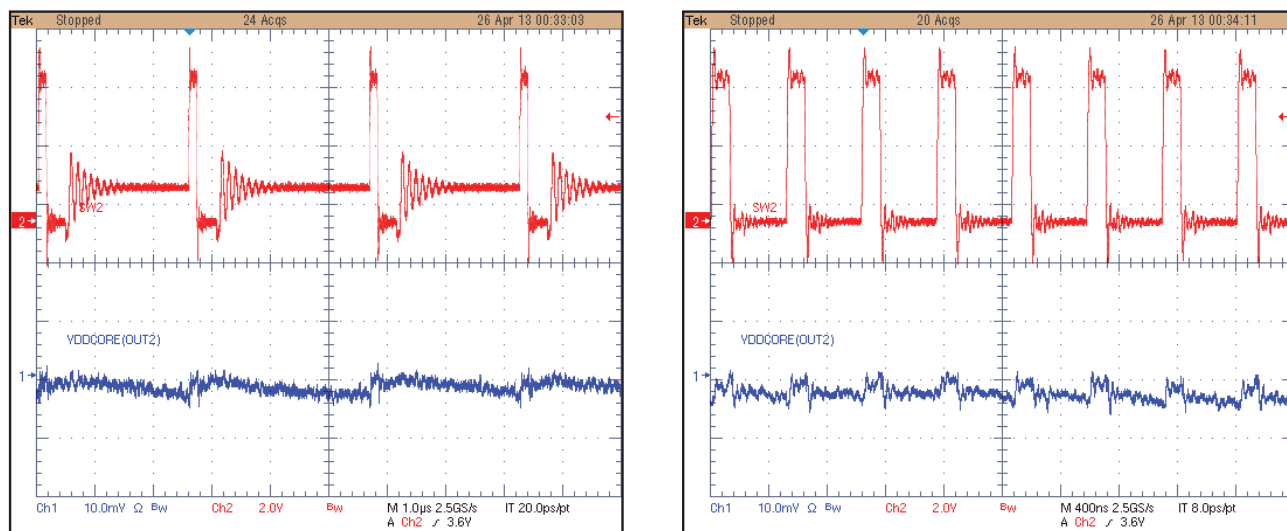
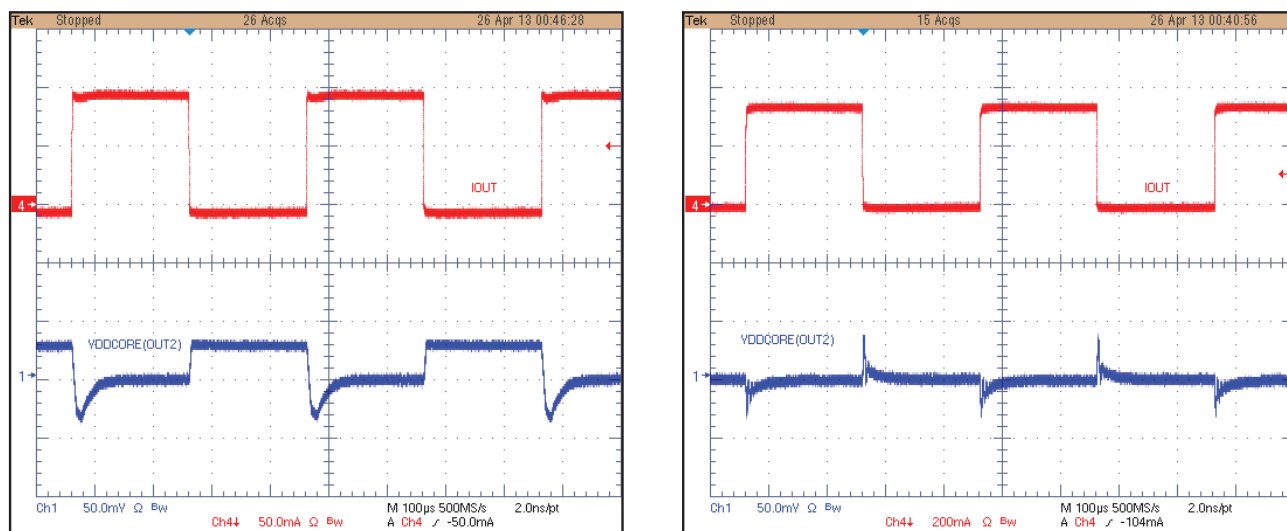


Figure 4-2 reports transient load regulation on VDD_1V2 for both PSM and PWM mode. The load step (red curve) is 0–100 mA in PSM and 0–500 mA in PWM mode. The rise and fall time of the load current is 1 μ s. These curves are obtained with the following conditions: VIN = 5V, VDD_1V2 = 1.2V. The blue curve is the output voltage AC-coupled at 50 mV/division.

Figure 4-2. Transient Load Performance in Power-Saving Mode (Left) and in PWM Mode (Right)



When the MODE[] bits of registers REG1, REG2 and REG3 are cleared, the DCDCs automatically transition from PWM mode to PSM at light load current and conversely transition back to PWM mode if the load current is increased (wake-up cases).

4.2 SAMA5D4x Series Low-Power Modes

Table 4-1 summarizes the low-power modes of SAMA5D4x devices with indicative power consumption figures at 25 °C. In Idle mode and in Ultra Low-Power mode, the power supplies are still ON with reduced power consumption and it is therefore relevant to set the DC/DC converters in PSM.

Table 4-1. Active Power Supplies in SAMA5D4x Low-Power Modes

Power Rail	Backup Mode	Idle Mode	Ultra Low-Power Mode
VDD_3V3	OFF	Application dependent	200 μ A ⁽³⁾
VDD_1V8	OFF	54 mA ⁽¹⁾	5.9 mA ⁽²⁾
VDDBU	7 μ A typical		

Notes: 1. MCK at 170 MHz

2. MCK at 750 kHz

3. Typical conditions

For maximum regulation performance, the PSM should be activated as late as possible in the process of entering the Ultra Low-Power mode of the device. In a similar way, the PWM mode should be restored as soon as possible when re-entering Run mode.

5. Linux Driver Content and Description

5.1 Linux Voltage and Current Regulator Framework

The PMIC driver is implemented as a regulator driver under the voltage and current regulator framework. The framework is designed to provide a standard kernel interface to control voltage and current regulators. It provides the following four parts:

- **Regulator Driver**—The regulator is defined as a device that supplies power to other devices. The framework provides the interface to allow drivers to register the regulators and provide operations to the core.
- **Consumer Driver**—The consumer is defined as a device that is supplied by a regulator. The framework provides the interface to allow the consumer to complete the control over their supply voltage and current limit.
- **Machine Special Setup Code**—The framework provides interface to allow the machine special setup code to create the voltage/current constraints for each regulator, and to create a regulator tree whereby some regulators are supplied by others. It is substituted by the device tree in the latest version.
- **Userspace Interface**—The framework also exports useful information to userspace via sysfs.

For more information about the Linux regulator framework, refer to the Linux kernel document.
`Documentation/power/regulator/overview.txt`.

5.2 ACT8865 Regulator Driver

The ACT8865 regulator driver source code is available at:
`drivers/regulator/act8865-regulator.c`.

As mentioned above, the Active-Semi PMIC (ACT8865) is controlled as a slave I²C device, so the ACT8865 regulator driver is implemented as an I²C client driver using the `i2c_driver` model. The code configures the `regulator_desc` structure for each regulator, and registers the regulators to the core by invoking `devm_regulator_register()`. To ease the development, the register map library (`regmap`) and the helper functions are used.

5.3 Kernel Configurations to Enable ACT8865 Driver

The ACT8865 driver is enabled through the kernel configuration.

```
Device Drivers --->
[*] Voltage and Current Regulator Support --->
    <*> Active-semi act8865 voltage regulator
```

5.4 Declaring the Regulator Device Node

To make the regulators work, the ACT8865 device must be properly declared in the device tree files.

ACT8865 is declared as an I²C client device with the I²C slave address 0x5B assigned by the property 'reg'.

More regulator properties defined as the regulator binding are available in the Linux kernel document.

```
Documentation/devicetree/bindings/regulator/regulator.txt.
Documentation/devicetree/bindings/regulator/act8865-regulator.txt
```

For example, the regulator device node on the SAMA5D4x-EK is declared as follows:

```
i2c0: i2c@f8014000 {
    status = "okay";
    pmic: act8865@5b {
        compatible = "active-semi,act8865";
        reg = <0x5b>;
        status = "okay";

        regulators {
            vcc_1v8_reg: DCDC_REG1 {
                regulator-name = "VCC_1V8";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <1800000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <1800000>;
                regulator-always-on;
            };

            vcc_1v2_reg: DCDC_REG2 {
                regulator-name = "1V2_HDMI";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <1200000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <1200000>;
                regulator-always-on;
            };

            vcc_3v3_reg: DCDC_REG3 {
                regulator-name = "VCC_3V3";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <3300000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <3300000>;
                regulator-always-on;
            };

            vdd_2v5_reg: LDO_REG1 {
                regulator-name = "FUSE_2V5";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <2500000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <2500000>;
            };

            vdd_3v3_reg: LDO_REG2 {
                regulator-name = "VDDANA";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <3300000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <3300000>;
                regulator-always-on;
            };

            vdd_1v8_reg: LDO_REG3 {
                regulator-name = "1V8_AUDIO";
                regulator-min-microvolt = <1800000>;
                regulator-max-microvolt = <1800000>;
                regulator-always-on;
            };
        };
    };
};
```

The values of the regulator properties are assigned by the hardware design, such as regulator-min-microvolt and regulator-max-microvolt. It is advisable to name the 'regulator-name' property with the supply name in the schematic to ease system analysis.

5.5 Regulator Consumer Driver

The regulator consumer uses a regulator to change the power supply voltage or turn on/off the power. The consumer selects the regulator to use in the regulator mapping.

This mapping can be achieved through the device tree using the bindings below in the consumer node.

- <name>-supply: phandle to the regulator node

The name is used as the power supply ID to have access to its supply regulator.

The regulator framework provides the consumer driver interfaces to set regulator voltage and enable/disable it.

The detailed description of consumer interfaces is available in the Linux kernel document.

Documentation/devicetree/bindings/regulator/consumer.txt.

Add WM8904 consumer node property to point to the corresponding regulator node with the proper power ID in the device tree.

```
i2c0: i2c@f8014000 {
    status = "okay";

    wm8904: codec@1a {
        compatible = "wm8904";
        reg = <0x1a>;

        DCVDD-supply = <&vdd_1v8_reg>;
        DBVDD-supply = <&vdd_3v3_reg>;
        AVDD-supply = <&vdd_1v8_reg>;
        CPVDD-supply = <&vdd_1v8_reg>;
        MICVDD-supply = <&vdd_3v3_reg>;
    };
};
```

5.6 Regulator Sysfs Entries

Useful regulator information can be read from the user space via sysfs. This method is useful to monitor device power consumption and status.

For more information, refer to the Linux kernel document.

Documentation/ABI/testing/sysfs-class-regulator

```
# cd /sys/class/regulator/
# ls
regulator.0  regulator.2  regulator.4  regulator.6
regulator.1  regulator.3  regulator.5  regulator.7
# ls regulator.1/
device                suspend_disk_microvolts
max_microvolts        suspend_disk_state
microvolts            suspend_mem_microvolts
min_microvolts        suspend_mem_state
name                  suspend_standby_microvolts
num_users             suspend_standby_state
power                 type
```

```

state
subsystem
# ls regulator.2/
device
max_microvolts
microvolts
min_microvolts
name
num_users
power
state
subsystem
# cat regulator.2/name
1V2_HDMI
# cat regulator.2/type
voltage
# cat regulator.2/state
enabled
# cat regulator.2/max_microvolts
1200000
# cat regulator.2/min_microvolts
1200000
# cat regulator.2/microvolts
1200000
uevent
suspend_disk_microvolts
suspend_disk_state
suspend_mem_microvolts
suspend_mem_state
suspend_standby_microvolts
suspend_standby_state
type
uevent

```

Revision History

Table 5-1. Powering Atmel SAMA5D4 with ActivePMU PMICs Revision History

Doc. Rev.	Date	Changes
44000B	30-Apr-15	Table 1-1, "SAMA5D4x Series Power Supply Inputs" : changed VDDUTMIC and VDDOSC. Figure 1-4, "Recommended Filter on Clock Circuits Power Supply" : removed VDDUTMIC and associated components. Figure 2-2, "ACT8945A Reference Schematic" : NC1 now pin 40. PWREN now pin 18. Removed NC2.
44000A	01-Oct-14	First release



Atmel Corporation 1600 Technology Drive, San Jose, CA 95110 USA T: (+1)(408) 441.0311 F: (+1)(408) 436.4200 | www.atmel.com

© 2015 Atmel Corporation. / Rev.: Atmel-44000B-ATARM-Powering-Atmel-SAMA5D4-with-ActivePMU-PMICs-ApplicationNote_30-Apr-15

Atmel®, Atmel logo and combinations thereof, Enabling Unlimited Possibilities®, and others are registered trademarks or trademarks of Atmel Corporation in U.S. and other countries. ARM®, ARM Connected® logo, and others are the registered trademarks or trademarks of ARM Ltd. Other terms and product names may be trademarks of others.

DISCLAIMER: The information in this document is provided in connection with Atmel products. No license, express or implied, by estoppel or otherwise, to any intellectual property right is granted by this document or in connection with the sale of Atmel products. EXCEPT AS SET FORTH IN THE ATMEL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALES LOCATED ON THE ATMEL WEBSITE, ATMEL ASSUMES NO LIABILITY WHATSOEVER AND DISCLAIMS ANY EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY WARRANTY RELATING TO ITS PRODUCTS INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, OR NON-INFRINGEMENT. IN NO EVENT SHALL ATMEL BE LIABLE FOR ANY DIRECT, INDIRECT, CONSEQUENTIAL, PUNITIVE, SPECIAL OR INCIDENTAL DAMAGES (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, DAMAGES FOR LOSS AND PROFITS, BUSINESS INTERRUPTION, OR LOSS OF INFORMATION) ARISING OUT OF THE USE OR INABILITY TO USE THIS DOCUMENT, EVEN IF ATMEL HAS BEEN ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES. Atmel makes no representations or warranties with respect to the accuracy or completeness of the contents of this document and reserves the right to make changes to specifications and products descriptions at any time without notice. Atmel does not make any commitment to update the information contained herein. Unless specifically provided otherwise, Atmel products are not suitable for, and shall not be used in, automotive applications. Atmel products are not intended, authorized, or warranted for use as components in applications intended to support or sustain life.

SAFETY-CRITICAL, MILITARY, AND AUTOMOTIVE APPLICATIONS DISCLAIMER: Atmel products are not designed for and will not be used in connection with any applications where the failure of such products would reasonably be expected to result in significant personal injury or death ("Safety-Critical Applications") without an Atmel officer's specific written consent. Safety-Critical Applications include, without limitation, life support devices and systems, equipment or systems for the operation of nuclear facilities and weapons systems. Atmel products are not designed nor intended for use in military or aerospace applications or environments unless specifically designated by Atmel as military-grade. Atmel products are not designed nor intended for use in automotive applications unless specifically designated by Atmel as automotive-grade.