

Document information

Information	Content
Keywords	Fusion F1 DSP, Low-power, DSP
Abstract	MIMXRT595S is a low-power microcontroller designed for low-power applications

1 Introduction

The i.MX RT500 is a family of dual-core microcontrollers for embedded applications featuring an Arm Cortex-M33 CPU combined with a Cadence Xtensa Fusion F1 Audio Digital Signal Processor CPU. Part number with prefix "MIMXRT595S" are the ones with a Fusion F1 AudioDSP inside.

The Cadence Tensilica Fusion F1 DSP is a highly optimized, highly configurable processor geared for efficient execution of data plane algorithms needed for the Internet of Things (IoT), and other applications, such as codec chips, sensor hubs, and narrowband wireless communications.

MIMXRT595S is a low-power microcontroller, that is designed for low-power applications. Those applications apply mostly in battery constraint systems, system power consumption which impacts the battery lifetime is usually a main concern.

The document introduces the means of power optimization when using MIMXRT595S Fusion F1 DSP.

2 DSP power optimization in active mode

This section provides information about changing the DSP running frequency.

2.1 Change DSP running frequency

MIMXRT595S Fusion F1 DSP can run up to 200 MHz. When VDDCore voltage is fixed, the faster DSP runs, the more power it consumes. DSP frequency is adjustable so that the DSP power consumption can be managed.

The DSP relevant clock tree in MIMXRT595S is shown as [Figure 1](#) Through DSPCPUCLKSELA and DSPCLKSELB, there are six clock sources can be used for DSP CPU, including FRO (192 MHz or 96 MHz), external oscillator clock, low-power oscillator (1 MHz), main PLL(PFD0), DSP PLL(PFD1) and 32 K RTC clock.

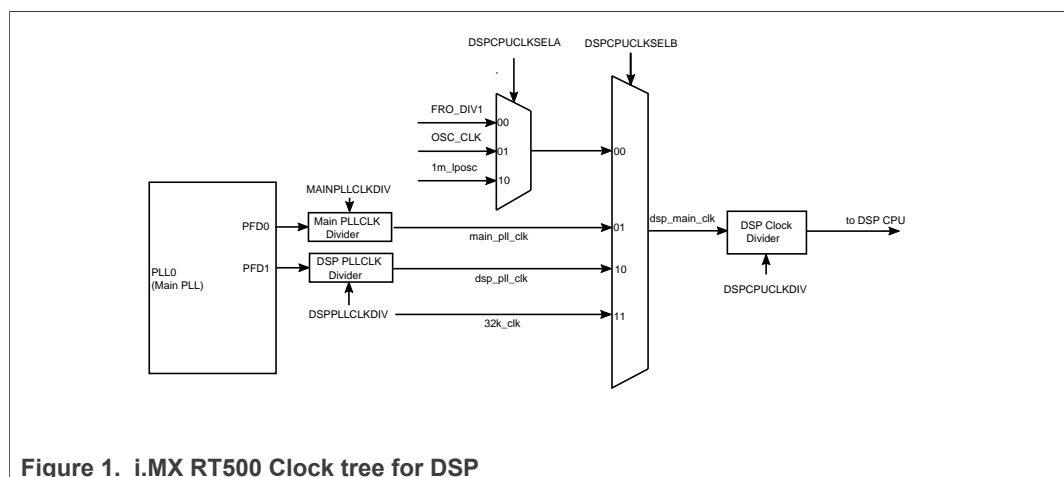


Figure 1. i.MX RT500 Clock tree for DSP
 In the clock paths, there are three dividers, MAINPLLCLKDIV, DSP PLLCLKDIV, and DSPCPUCLKDIV. However, those dividers are not designed for adjusting DSP frequency when DSP is running. Instead, there are two means to adjust the clock frequency to DSP CPU, changing PFD output or switching DSP CPU clock sources.

2.1.1 Change PLL PFD

MIMXRT595S system PLL supports four PFD outputs, two of them can be used for DSP clock sources, PFD0 for main PLL and PFD1 for DSP PLL. While DSP is running, the dividers MAINPLLCLKDIV, DSPPLLCLKDIV and DSPCPUCLKDIV cannot be changed, or the DSP must be clock gated. They must be fixed before DSP starts. As DSP main clock source, the PFD output is calculated by formula.

$$PFD\ Output = \frac{18}{N} \times FVCO \ (N = 12\ to\ 35)$$

MIMXRT595 system PLL FVCO is 528 MHz, therefore the maximum PFD output frequency is 792 MHz, and minimum PFD output frequency is 271.5 MHz.

If PLL PFD1 is used as a DSP clock, DSP PLL clock divider (DSPPLLCLKDIV) is set “divide by 1” and the DSP CPU clock divider (DSPCPUCLKDIV) is set “divide by 4”, see [Table 1](#). There are 24 configurations, DSP can run the frequency up to 198 MHz when N is 12, and 68 MHz when N is 35.

Table 1. DSP running frequency

Running frequency	configurations											
N	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
DSP Frequency	198	182.7692	169.7143	158.4	148.5	139.7647	132	125.0526	118.8	113.1429	108	103.3043
N	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35
DSP Frequency	99	95.04	91.38462	88	84.85714	81.93103	79.2	76.64516	74.25	72	69.88235	67.88571

The procedures to change PLL PFD are explained in "6.5.1.28 System PLL0 PFD (SYSPLL0PFD)" of *i.MX RT500 Low-Power Crossover Processor Data Sheet with Addendum* (document [IMXRT500EC](#)), the function CLOCK_InitSysPfd in [MCUXpresso SDK Builder](#) implements the procedures. Following code are snippet for adjusting DSP running frequency:

```

/* kCLOCK_DivDspCpuClk = 4, DSP is running at 48MHz */
CLOCK_AttachClk(kFRO_DIV1_to_DSP_MAIN_CLK);

/* Enable dsp PLL clock 528 * 18 / dsp_pfd_divider. */
CLOCK_InitSysPfd(kCLOCK_Pfd1, dsp_pfd_divider);

CLOCK_AttachClk(kDSP_PLL_to_DSP_MAIN_CLK);

```

2.1.2 Switch DSP clock source

DSP clock source can be switched while DSP is running. There are six clock sources for DSP main clock. DSP clock source can be changed using the function CLOCK_AttachClk in MCUXPRESSO SDK.

2.2 Adjust VDDCore voltage

The minimum core voltage is decided by the max frequency between ARM and DSP. As claimed in MIMXRT595S data sheet, the map between ARM/DSP frequency and VDDCore voltage is listed in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. ARM/DSP frequency and VDDCore voltage

VDDCore Voltage	Max Frequency between ARM and DSP
0.7	60 MHz

Table 2. ARM/DSP frequency and VDDCore voltage...continued

0.8	100 MHz
0.9	192 MHz
1.0	230 MHz

VDD Core voltage should be reviewed by checking the max frequency between ARM and DSP. The voltage should be raised **before** DSP switching to higher frequency, and the voltage should be reduced **after** DSP switching to lower frequency.

[Table 3](#) lists the IDDCore current measurement in MIMXRT595S EVK in different DSP frequencies and VDDCore voltage.

Table 3. DSP frequency and IDDCore while DSP is running FFT

HCLK = 198 MHz, VDD Core = 1.0 V, CM33 Sleep, code execution in RAM, DSP running 1024 taps FFT in a while loop												
DSP Frequency (mHz)	198	182.7692	169.7143	158.4	148.5	139.7647	132	125.0526	118.8	113.1429	108	103.3043
IDDCore (mA)	31.71	30.2	28.9	27.77	26.74	25.85	25.07	24.36	23.72	23.14	22.61	22.13
DSP Frequency (mHz)	99	95.04	91.38462	88	84.85714	81.93103	79.2	76.64516	74.25	72	69.88235	67.88571
IDDCore (mA)	21.68	21.26	20.88	20.53	20.2	19.89	19.6	19.34	19.08	18.83	18.61	18.4
HCLK = 12 MHz, VDD Core adjustable, CM33 Sleep, code execution in RAM, DSP running 1024 taps FFT in a while loop												
DSP Frequency (mHz)	198	182.7692	169.7143	158.4	148.5	139.7647	132	125.0526	118.8	113.1429	108	103.3043
VDD Core (V)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
IDDCore (mA)	24	19.89	18.64	17.58	16.64	15.79	15.06	14.39	13.79	13.26	12.74	12.29
DSP Frequency (mHz)	99	95.04	91.38462	88	84.85714	81.93103	79.2	76.64516	74.25	72	69.88235	67.88571
VDD Core (V)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
IDDCore (mA)	10.36	10.02	9.69	9.39	9.12	8.86	8.61	8.39	8.18	7.98	7.78	7.61

Analyzing the power consumption data, there are some guidelines for power optimization while DSP is running.

1. Fusion F1 uses TCM bus to access memory. If ARM is in sleep state, to reduce the HCLK frequency as much as possible.
2. DSP frequency at 182.7692 MHz and 99 MHz are the “sweet spot” in MIMXRT595S, ARM/DSP running at these frequencies can have the best performance/power ratio.

For more details, see [Figure 2](#).

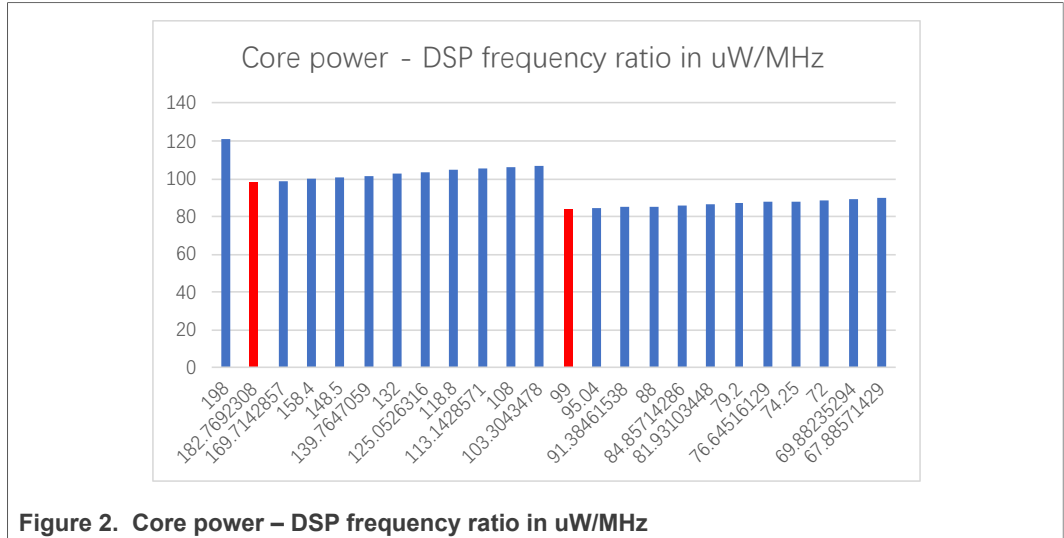


Figure 2. Core power – DSP frequency ratio in uW/MHz

3 DSP power optimization in standby mode

There are two ways to stop DSP operation, one is called “DSP stall”, and another is called “DSP power down”. The difference between “DSP stall” and “DSP power down” is that “DSP stall” can be resumed without DSP reset, whereas DSP must be reset for another run after “DSP power down”.

3.1 DSP stall

DSP stall mode is controlled by SYSCTL0:DSPSTALL register. DSP operation can be suspended by setting DSPSTALL bit 0, and the operation can be resumed by clear bit0. The DSP Stall mode is supported by MCUXPRESSO SDK API DSP_Start and DSP_Stop.

As the DSP_Start and DSP_Stop are asynchronous, instruction barriers should be used after the DSPSTALL register is set.

```
DSP_Start();
__DSB();
__ISB();

DSP_Stop();
__DSB();
__ISB();
```

Similar to DSP stall mode, in DSP bare-metal programming, DSP operation can be suspended by WAITI instruction and in DSP XOS programming, the operation can be suspended by XOS thread sleep APIs. Both WAITI instruction and XOS thread sleep method can suspend DSP. The power consumption in DSP stall mode is similar to the cases when DSP operation is suspended using DSP programming methods.

As listed in [Table 4](#), power consumption in DSP suspended mode is lower than DSP active mode, comparing with power data in [Table 3](#).

Table 4. DSP frequency and IDDCore while DSP is suspended

HCLK = 198 MHz, VDD Core = 1.0 V, CM33 Sleep, code execution in RAM, DSP suspend												
DSP Frequency (mHz)	198	182.7692	169.7143	158.4	148.5	139.7647	132	125.0526	118.8	113.1429	108	103.3043
IDDCore (mA)	13.89	13.67	13.49	13.33	13.19	13.07	12.96	12.86	12.77	12.69	12.62	12.55
DSP Frequency (mHz)	99	95.04	91.38462	88	84.85714	81.93103	79.2	76.64516	74.25	72	69.88235	67.88571
IDDCore (mA)	12.48	12.43	12.38	12.33	12.28	12.24	12.2	12.16	12.12	12.09	12.06	12.03
HCLK = 12 MHz, VDD Core adjustable, CM33 Sleep, code execution in RAM, DSP suspend												
DSP Frequency (mHz)	198	182.7692	169.7143	158.4	148.5	139.7647	132	125.0526	118.8	113.1429	108	103.3043
VDD Core (V)	1.0	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9
IDDCore (mA)	5.53	4.34	4.16	4.01	3.88	3.76	3.65	3.56	3.47	3.39	3.33	3.26
DSP Frequency (mHz)	99	95.04	91.38462	88	84.85714	81.93103	79.2	76.64516	74.25	72	69.88235	67.88571
VDD Core (V)	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
IDDCore (mA)	2.63	2.58	2.53	2.49	2.45	2.42	2.39	2.35	2.33	2.3	2.27	2.25

It makes sense to set, even lower clock frequency to DSP while DSP is suspended for lower power consumption. Low-power oscillator or 32 kHz clocks are options.

[Table 5](#) lists the IDDCore power consumption when 32 kHz clock or 1 MHz low-power oscillator are used as DSP clock source. There is no significant difference in between.

Table 5. IDDCore in DSP stall mode

Power consumption	IDDCore
DSP Suspended, 32 kHz clock source, VDDCore 0.8 V, code execution in SRAM, CM33 Sleep	1.62 mA
DSP Suspended, 1 MHz clock source, VDDCore 0.8 V, code execution in SRAM, CM33 Sleep	1.62 mA

3.2 DSP power down

DSP power and clock can be switched off to save more power when DSP is inactive. In MCUXPRESSO SDK, DSP_Deinit is designed for the purpose. The SRAM for the DSP data region (read/write data region, heap, stack) can be powered off, both SRAM array power and SRAM periphery power should be off. SRAM region for the DSP text data can be optionally retained or powered off. If text data is retained, the data can be reused for next DSP running without copying. In this case, the SRAM periphery power can be off and SRAM array power should be kept for the DSP text region.

If the system maximum frequency is lower, DSP clock source can be switched off and the VDDCore voltage can be reduced.

The code snippet below shows DSP power down procedures.

```

CLOCK_EnableClock(kCLOCK_Pmc);
DSP_Deinit();

/* Power Down System PLL */
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSPLL_LDO);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSPLL_ANA);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSXTAL);
/*
    DSP_BOOT_ADDRESS 0x00400000 (Partition 28-31)
    DSP_SRAM_ADDRESS 0x00300000 (Partition 24-27)
*/
    
```

```

POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF24);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF25);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF26);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF27);

POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF28);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF29);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF30);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF31);

POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF24);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF25);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF26);
POWER_EnablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF27);
POWER_ApplyPD();

BOARD_SetPmicVoltageForFreq(CLOCK_GetFreq(kCLOCK_CoreSysClk),
0);

CLOCK_DisableClock(kCLOCK_Pmc);

```

Reinitialization is required for the next DSP run, the reinitialization is reversed operations of DSP power down. The code snippet below shows DSP reinitialization procedures.

```

pca9420_sw1_out_t volt;
dsp_copy_image_t text_image;
dsp_copy_image_t data_image;
uint32_t size;
text_image.destAddr = DSP_BOOT_ADDRESS;
data_image.destAddr = DSP_SRAM_ADDRESS;
#if defined(__CC_ARM)
size = (uint32_t)&Image$$DSP_REGION$$Length;
#elif defined(__ICCARM__)
#pragma section = "_dsp_text_section"
text_image.srcAddr = DSP_IMAGE_TEXT_START;
text_image.size = DSP_IMAGE_TEXT_SIZE;
#pragma section = "_dsp_data_section"
data_image.srcAddr = DSP_IMAGE_DATA_START;
data_image.size = DSP_IMAGE_DATA_SIZE;
#elif defined(__GNUC__)
text_image.srcAddr = DSP_IMAGE_TEXT_START;
text_image.size = DSP_IMAGE_TEXT_SIZE;
data_image.srcAddr = DSP_IMAGE_DATA_START;
data_image.size = DSP_IMAGE_DATA_SIZE;
#endif
CLOCK_EnableClock(kCLOCK_Pmc);

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF24);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF25);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF26);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF27);

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF28);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF29);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF30);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PPD_SRAM_IF31);

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF24);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF25);

```

```

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF26);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_APD_SRAM_IF27);
POWER_ApplyPD();

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSXTAL);
POWER_ApplyPD();
/* Updated XTAL oscillator settling time */
POWER_UpdateOscSettlingTime(BOARD_SYSOSC_SETTLING_US);
/* Enable system OSC */
CLOCK_EnableSysOscClk(true, true,
BOARD_SYSOSC_SETTLING_US);
/* Sets external XTAL OSC freq */
CLOCK_SetXtalFreq(BOARD_XTAL_SYS_CLK_HZ);

POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSPLL_LDO);
POWER_DisablePD(kPDRUNCFG_PD_SYSPLL_ANA);
POWER_ApplyPD();

/* Configure SysPLL0 clock source */
CLOCK_InitSysPll(&g_sysPllConfig_BOARD_BootClockRUN);

/* Enable dsp PLL clock 792MHz. */
CLOCK_InitSysPfd(kCLOCK_Pfd1, dsp_pfd_divider);
/* Let DSP run on SYS PLL PFD1 with divider 2 (198Mhz). */
CLOCK_AttachClk(kDSP_PLL_to_DSP_MAIN_CLK);
CLOCK_SetClkDiv(kCLOCK_DivDspCpuClk, 4);

volt =
BOARD_CalcVoltLevel(CLOCK_GetFreq(kCLOCK_CoreSysClk),
CLOCK_GetFreq(kCLOCK_DspCpuClk));
current_pmic_voltage = volt;

/* Configure PMIC Vddcore value according to main/dsp
clock. */

BOARD_SetPmicVoltageForFreq(CLOCK_GetFreq(kCLOCK_CoreSysClk),
CLOCK_GetFreq(kCLOCK_DspCpuClk));

/* Set DSP to use vector base address 0x400000. */
DSP_SetVecRemap(kDSP_StatVecSelAlternate, 0);

/* Initializing DSP core */
DSP_Init()

/* Copy data to DSP_TCM */
/* DSP Code is not necessary to copied if text region SRAM
is retained */
// DSP_CopyImage(&text_image);
DSP_CopyImage(&data_image);

/* Run DSP core */
DSP_Start();
__DSB();
__ISB();
CLOCK_DisableClock(kCLOCK_Pmc);

```

Note: *DSP_Init and DSP_Deinit must be called with low-power oscillator powered.*

The DSP module has an associated supply switch with the module operation release based on LPOSC clock. The module reset assert and de-assert operations require

LPOSC active (2 clock pulses minimum). LPOSC can be disabled between module reset operations. See [Table 6](#) for IDDCore power consumption in DSP clock off mode.

Table 6. IDDCore in DSP Power down mode

Power consumption	IDDCore
DSP power down, VDDCore 0.8 V, CM33 Sleep, Code execution in SRAM	1.02 mA

3.3 Application information

There are two options for DSP standby mode. The characters of DSP power-down mode and DSP stall mode are listed below. Developer can choose the mode which is fit for the applications.

DSP power down:

1. Lower power consumption
2. The released SRAM can be used for other purpose
3. Reinitialize for next DSP run
4. ARM and DSP application state should be synchronized and has to be shared to use peripherals, for example, MU, SEMA42 should be reset. (if used)

DSP stall:

1. Higher power consumption
2. SRAM for DSP data must be kept
3. Fast DSP operation resuming

4 References

- *i.MX RT500 Low-Power Crossover Processor Data Sheet with Addendum* (document [IMXRT500EC](#))
- *i.MX RT500 Low-Power Crossover Processor Reference Manual with Addendum* (document [IMXRT500RM](#))
- *Xtensa XOS* [Tensilica Tools](#)
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- *Fusion F1 DSP user's guide* [Tensilica Tools](#)
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Revision history

[Table 7](#) summarizes the changes done to this document since the initial release.

Revision history

Revision number	Date	Substantive changes
0	06 June 2022	Initial release

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