

Introduction

The ADS1278 family of devices are high-performance 24-bit Delta-Sigma ADCs that recommend a specific power-on sequence for the best operation. Correct sequencing maintains consistent performance and predictable operation of the device. The following recommendations apply to all devices in the ADC family, including the ADS1278, ADS1274, ADS1178, ADS1174, ADS1278-EP, ADS1278-HT, and the ADS1278QML-SP devices.

Power-On Sequencing

When powering on the ADS1278, sequencing the supplies in a specific order is recommended. The following statement is provided in the *Power Supply Recommendations* of the [ADS1278QML-SP](#). At power-on, bring up the DVDD supply first, followed by IOVDD and then AVDD. Check the power-supply sequence for proper order, including the ramp rate of each supply. DVDD and IOVDD can be sequenced at the same time if the supplies are tied together. The power supplies can be applied before any analog or digital pin is driven. For consistent performance, assert SYNC after device power-on when data first appear.

The ADS1278 device can also be powered-on with any supply voltage sequence. However, if the AVDD supply is powered up first, the ADS1278 can power-up in an unknown state and temporarily require a large amount of current exceeding the ADS1278QML-SP specification. In this condition, a typical value for AVDD current can be 200mA ranging up to 300mA in some situations. This condition does not damage the ADC or impact long-term reliability, but the AVDD power source must be capable of providing this level of current in this condition. After AVDD, DVDD, and IOVDD supplies have ramped up to specified operating conditions, asserting the SYNC pin after data first appear resets the device and normal operation of the ADC resumes.

Power-Off Sequencing

There are no power-off sequence requirements for the supply voltages. However, the ABS MAX specs for inputs can be met when powering off the ADS1278. These requirements are normally met when input amplifiers and references are powered from the same AVDD supply as the ADS1278, and any digital input drivers are powered from the same IOVDD supply as the ADS1278. If ADS1278 inputs can be driven to voltages outside of the ABS MAX specifications, then additional input protection circuits can be used to maintain long-term reliability of the ADC.

Key Points for Consideration

Simultaneous Power-On: IOVDD and DVDD can power on at the same time if connected to the same power supply, followed by AVDD.

Power-On and Power-Off Requirements: No analog or digital input pin on the ADS1278 can be driven outside the ABS MAX specifications at any time, including ramping of power supplies during power-up or power-down. The ABS MAX specifications require input pin voltages greater than -0.3V and analog input pin voltages less than AVDD+0.3V and digital input pin voltages less than IOVDD+0.3V.

Conclusion

The ADS1278's power-on sequencing requirements can be followed to meet the ADS1278QML-SP specifications, but are not required. By maintaining the AVDD power supply can provide up to 300mA and asserting the SYNC pin after data first appear also provides reliable device operation and does not impact long-term reliability.

Trademarks

All trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

IMPORTANT NOTICE AND DISCLAIMER

TI PROVIDES TECHNICAL AND RELIABILITY DATA (INCLUDING DATASHEETS), DESIGN RESOURCES (INCLUDING REFERENCE DESIGNS), APPLICATION OR OTHER DESIGN ADVICE, WEB TOOLS, SAFETY INFORMATION, AND OTHER RESOURCES "AS IS" AND WITH ALL FAULTS, AND DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, EXPRESS AND IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE OR NON-INFRINGEMENT OF THIRD PARTY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS.

These resources are intended for skilled developers designing with TI products. You are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate TI products for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and any other safety, security, regulatory or other requirements.

These resources are subject to change without notice. TI grants you permission to use these resources only for development of an application that uses the TI products described in the resource. Other reproduction and display of these resources is prohibited. No license is granted to any other TI intellectual property right or to any third party intellectual property right. TI disclaims responsibility for, and you fully indemnify TI and its representatives against any claims, damages, costs, losses, and liabilities arising out of your use of these resources.

TI's products are provided subject to [TI's Terms of Sale](#), [TI's General Quality Guidelines](#), or other applicable terms available either on ti.com or provided in conjunction with such TI products. TI's provision of these resources does not expand or otherwise alter TI's applicable warranties or warranty disclaimers for TI products. Unless TI explicitly designates a product as custom or customer-specified, TI products are standard, catalog, general purpose devices.

TI objects to and rejects any additional or different terms you may propose.

Copyright © 2026, Texas Instruments Incorporated

Last updated 10/2025