

# Lab 6: Microphones, DFSDM and DAC

ECSE 444: Microprocessors

Winter 2020

In this lab, you will learn how to use the MEMS microphones on the board, and send the stereo audio output to earphones via the MCU's on-chip DAC. In particular, you will:

- Learn about Pulse Density Modulation (PDM), which is the output format of the microphones.
- Learn how to use the MCU's on-chip Digital Filter for Sigma-Delta Modulators (DFSDM) to convert the PDM signal into a standard audio signal of desired resolution and sampling frequency.
- Send the stereo audio input from the microphone to the headphones via the DAC.

## Changelog

- 20-Feb Initial release.

## Grading

- 50 % Microphone data acquisition via DFSDM (can be demonstrated via printing to UART).
- 50 % Audio produced via DAC. You will be marked for your audio sound quality.

## MEMS microphone and PDM signals

It is important that you study the operation of the on-board microphones so that you are able to clearly understand the DFSDM conversion in the next section in order to succeed in this lab. STM has provided the [datasheet](#) for the on-board MEMS microphones. There are two microphones on the board, enabling stereo audio. You can refer to the board user manual to learn about the configuration and pin connections of the microphones.

The microphones provide serial audio data in [PDM](#) format, which is essentially highly over-sampled low resolution (1-bit) audio. Since there is only one bit of resolution, PDM can also be called digital audio.

## DFSDM

The on-chip DFSDM modules are able to directly connect to the PDM output data, and produce an audio signal that has a higher resolution and a lower sampling frequency. You will find [this](#) and [this](#) reference useful to understand how to enable the DFSDM and interface it with the microphones. You will additionally need to refer to the HAL documentation and the MCU reference manual in order to fully understand how to configure the DFSDM.

## Putting it all together

In this lab, we only require that you demonstrate that you are able to produce a stereo audio signal sampled at 16 KHz and with the resolution of at least 12 bits from the microphones, and are able to hear it on the headphones. The design choices of choosing the supply frequency to the microphones and the filter parameters for the DFSDM are up to you, and these choices will of-course impact the final sampling frequency and resolution of the signal. Moreover, you must be able to demonstrate that you are able to provide PDM data to the DFSDM and filtered audio data to the DAC.

You may use the STM Cube application to create your project to work in. A base-project will also be provided, with most of the essential components set up.