MIC5238

Ultra-Low Quiescent Current, 150mA μCap LDO Regulator

General Description

The MIC5238 is an ultra-low voltage output, 150mA LDO regulator. Designed to operate in a single supply or dual supply mode, the MIC5238 consumes only 23μA of bias current, improving efficiency. When operating in the dual supply mode, the efficiency greatly improves as the higher voltage supply is only required to supply the 23μA bias current while the output and base drive comes off of the much lower input supply voltage.

As a μCap regulator, the MIC5238 operates with a 2.2μF ceramic capacitor on the output, offering a smaller overall solution. It also incorporates a logic-level enable pin that allows the MIC5238 to be put into a zero off-current mode when disabled.

The MIC5238 is fully protected with current limit and thermal shutdown. It is offered in the IttyBitty™ SOT-23-5 package with an operating junction temperature range of –40°C to +125°C.

Features

- Ultra-low input voltage range: 1.5V to 6V
- Ultra-low output voltage: 1.1V minimum output voltage
- Low dropout voltage: 310mV at 150mA
- High output accuracy: ±2.0% over temperature
- μCap: stable with ceramic or tantalum capacitors
- Excellent line and load regulation specifications
- Zero shutdown current
- Reverse leakage protection
- Thermal shutdown and current limit protection
- IttyBitty™ SOT-23-5 package

Applications

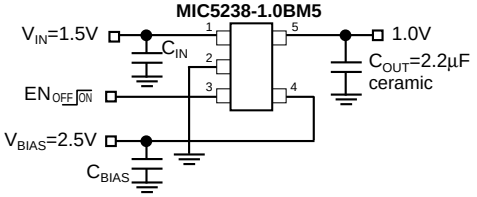
- PDAs and pocket PCs
- Cellular phones
- Battery powered systems
- Low power microprocessor power supplies

Ordering Information

Part Number	Marking	Voltage*	Junction Temp. Range	Package*
MIC5238-1.1BM5	L411	1.1V	–40°C to +125°C	SOT-23-5
MIC5238-1.3BM5	L413	1.3V	–40°C to +125°C	SOT-23-5
MIC5238-1.1BD5	N411	1.1V	–40°C to +125°C	TSOT-23-5
MIC5238-1.3BD5	N413	1.3V	–40°C to +125°C	TSOT-23-5

* For other voltages and package option contact the factory

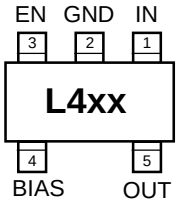
Typical Application



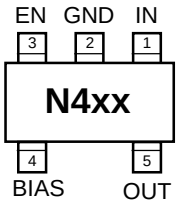
Ultra-Low Voltage Application

IttyBitty is a trademark of Micrel, Inc.

Pin Configuration



SOT-23-5 (M5)



TSOT-23-5 (D5)

Pin Description

SOT-23-5	Pin Name	Pin Function
1	IN	Supply Input
2	GND	Ground
3	EN	Enable (Input): Logic low = shutdown; logic high = enable. Do no leave open.
4	BIAS	BiasSupply Input
5	OUT	Regulator Output

Absolute Maximum Ratings (Note 1)

Input Supply Voltage ..... –0.3V to 7V
BIAS Supply Voltage ..... –0.3V to 7V
Enable Input Voltage ..... –0.3V to 7V
Power Dissipation ..... Internally Limited
Junction Temperature ..... –40°C to +125°C
Storage Temperature ..... –65°C to +150°C
ESD Rating, >1.5µA HBM, **Note 3**

Operating Ratings (Note 2)

Input Supply Voltage ..... 1.5V to 6V
BIAS Supply Voltage ..... 2.3V to 6V
Enable Input Voltage ..... 0V to 6V
Junction Temperature (T_J) ..... –40°C to +125°C
Package Thermal Resistance
SOT-23-5 (θ_{JA}) ..... 235°C/W

Electrical Characteristics (Note 4)

T_A = 25°C with $V_{IN} = V_{OUT}$ + 1V; V_{BIAS} = 3.3V; I_{OUT} = 100µA; V_{EN} = 2V, **Bold** values indicate –40°C < T_J < +125°C; unless otherwise specified.

Parameter	Condition	Min.	Typ.	Max.	Units
Output Voltage Accuracy	Variation from nominal V_{OUT}	–1.5 **–2**		+1.5 **+2**	% %
Line Regulation	V_{BIAS} = 2.3V to 6V, **Note 5**		0.25	0.5	%
Input Line Regulation	$V_{IN} = (V_{OUT} + 1V)$ to 6V		0.04		%
Load Regulation	Load = 100µA to 150mA		0.7	1	%
Dropout Voltage	I_{OUT} = 100µA I_{OUT} = 50mA I_{OUT} = 100mA I_{OUT} = 150mA		50 230 270 310	 300 **400** 450 **500**	mV mV mV mV mV mV mV
BIAS Current, **Note 6**	I_{OUT} = 100µA		23		µA
Input Current**, Pin 1**	I_{OUT} = 100µA I_{OUT} = 50mA, **Note 7** I_{OUT} = 100mA I_{OUT} = 150mA		7 0.35 1 2	**20** **2.5**	µA mA mA mA
Ground Current in Shutdown	$V_{EN} \le 0.2V$; V_{IN} = 6V; V_{BIAS} = 6V		1.5	5	µA
	V_{EN} = 0V; V_{IN} = 6V; V_{BIAS} = 6V		0.5		µA
Short Circuit Current	V_{OUT} = 0V		350	**500**	mA
Reverse Leakage	V_{IN} = 0V; V_{EN} = 0V; V_{OUT} = nom V_{OUT}		5		µA
Enable Input					
Input Low Voltage	Regulator OFF			**0.2**	V
Input High Voltage	Regulator ON	**2.0**			V
Enable Input Current	V_{EN} = 0.2V; Regulator OFF V_{EN} = 2.0V; Regulator ON	–1.0	0.01 0.1	1.0 1.0	µA µA

Note 1. Exceeding the absolute maximum rating may damage the device.

Note 2. The device is not guaranteed to function outside its operating rating.

Note 3. Devices are ESD sensitive. Handling precautions recommended. Human body model, 1.5k in series with 100pF.

Note 4. Specification for packaged product only.

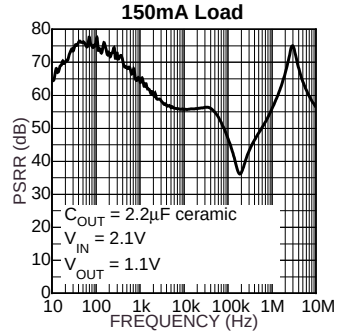
Note 5. Line regulation measures a change in output voltage due to a change in the bias voltage.

Note 6. Current measured from bias input to ground.

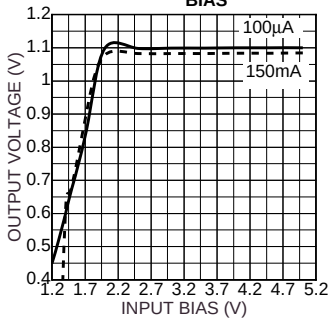
Note 7. Current differential between output current and main input current at rated load current.

Typical Characteristics

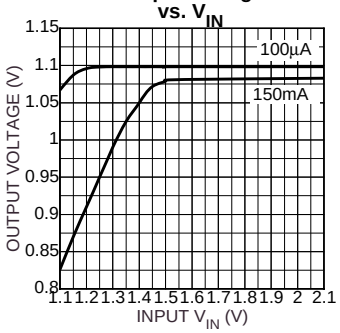
PSRR
150mA Load



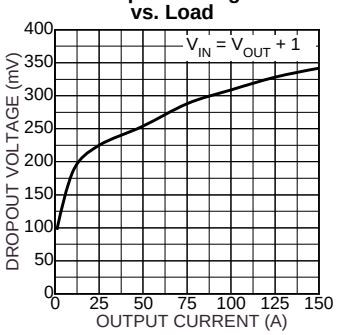
Output Voltage
vs. V_{BIAS}



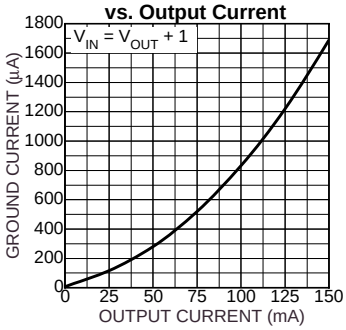
Output Voltage
vs. V_{IN}



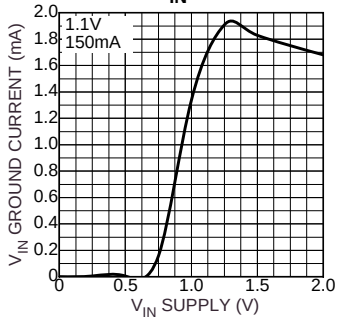
Dropout Voltage
vs. Load



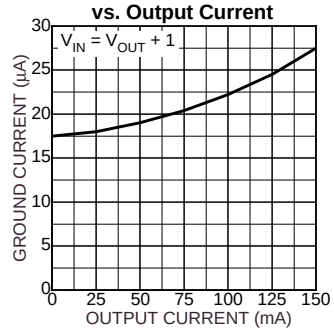
Ground Current (V_{IN})
vs. Output Current



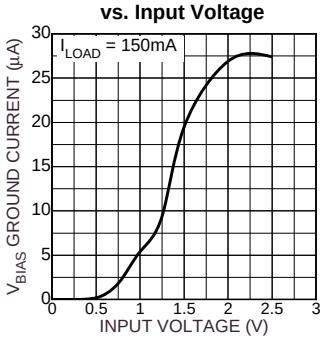
Ground Current (V_{IN})
vs. V_{IN} Supply



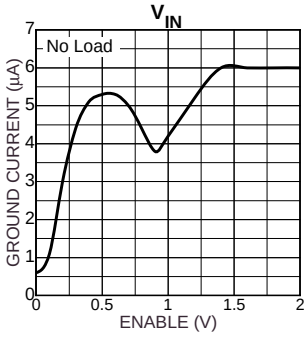
Ground Current (V_{BIAS})
vs. Output Current



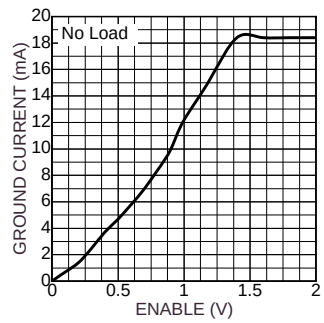
Ground Current (V_{BIAS})
vs. Input Voltage



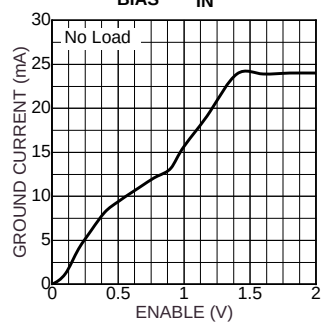
Shutdown Current of
V_{IN}



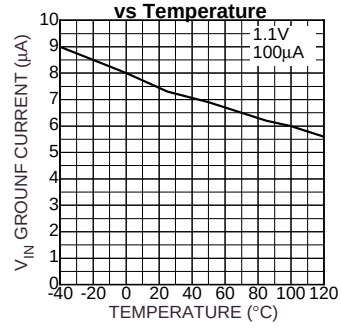
Shutdown Current of V_{BIAS}



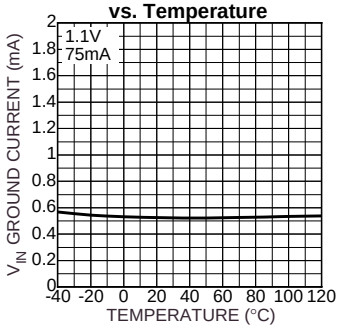
Shutdown Current
V_{BIAS} + V_{IN} Tied



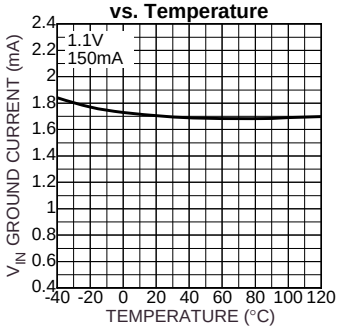
Ground Current (V_{IN})
vs Temperature



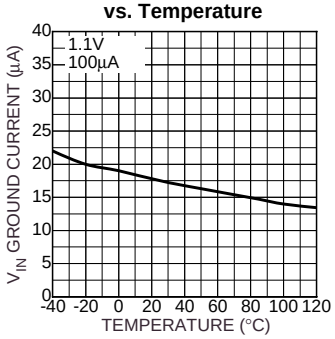
V_{IN} Ground Current vs. Temperature



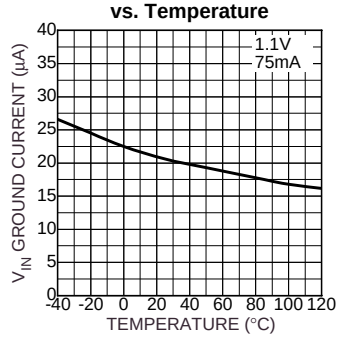
V_{IN} Ground Current vs. Temperature



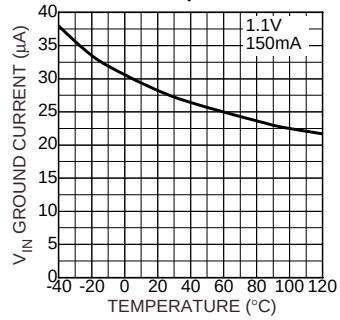
V_{BIAS} Ground Current vs. Temperature



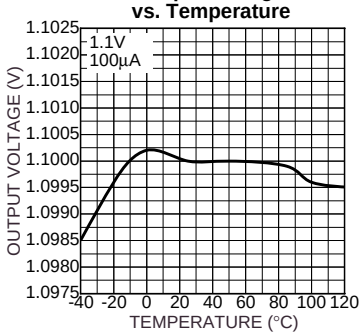
V_{BIAS} Ground Current vs. Temperature



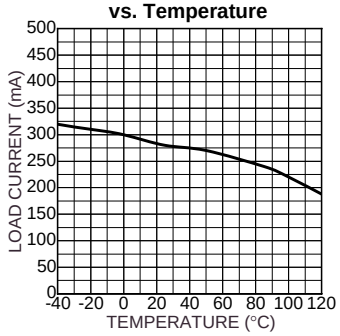
V_{BIAS} Ground Current vs. Temperature



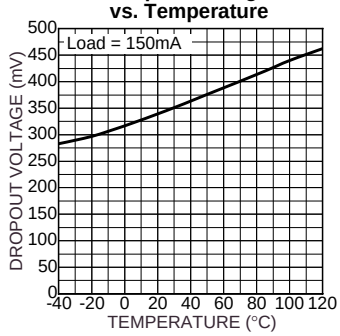
Output Voltage vs. Temperature



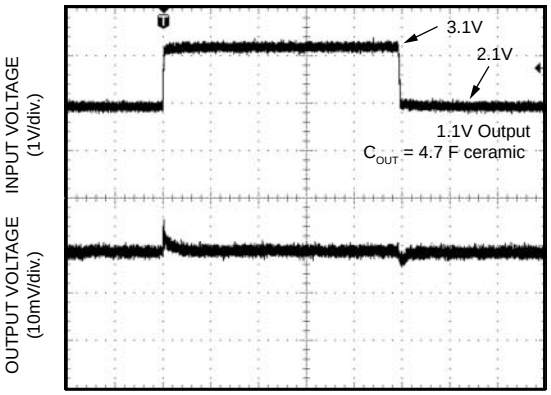
Short Circuit Current vs. Temperature



Dropout Voltage vs. Temperature

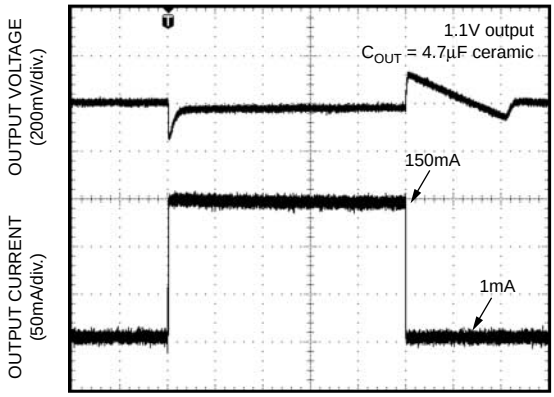


Line Transient Response



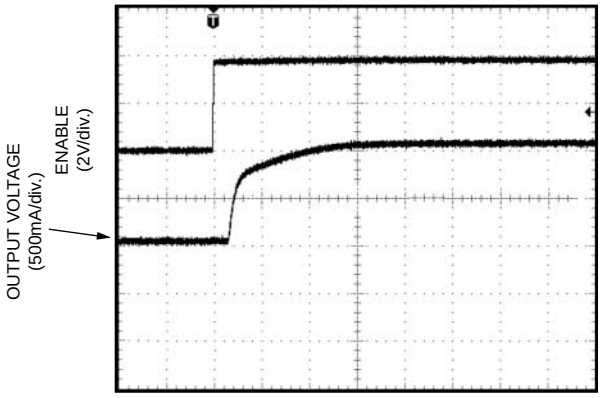
TIME (200 s/div.)

Load Transient Response



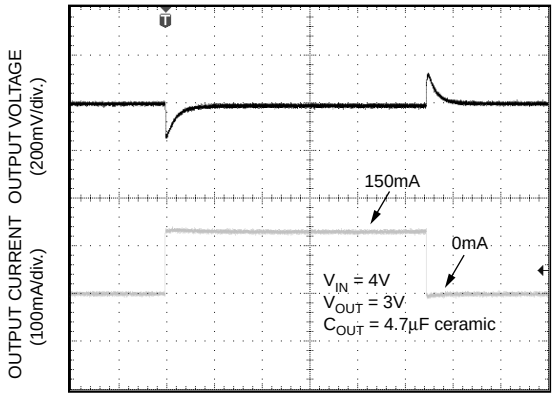
TIME (400 s/div.)

EN Turn-On Characteristic



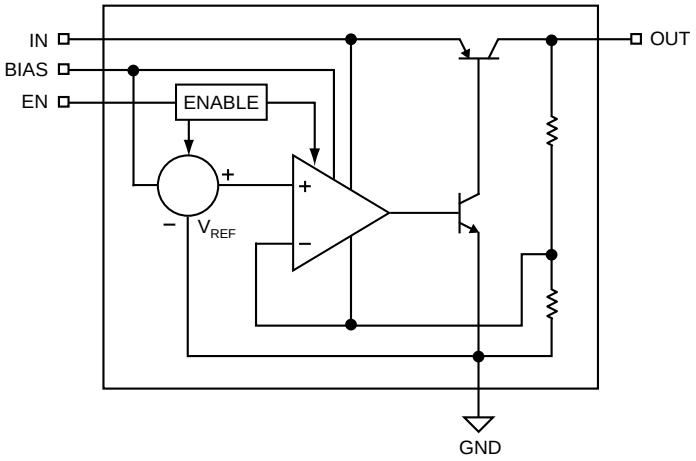
TIME (40 s/div.)

Load Transient Response



TIME (400µs/div.)

Functional Diagram



Block Diagram – Fixed Output Voltage

Applications Information

Enable/Shutdown

The MIC5238 comes with an active-high enable pin that allows the regulator to be disabled. Forcing the enable pin low disables the regulator and sends it into a "zero" off-mode-current state. In this state, current consumed by the regulator goes nearly to zero. Forcing the enable pin high enables the output voltage.

Input Bias Capacitor

The input capacitor must be rated to sustain voltages that may be used on the input. An input capacitor may be required when the device is not near the source power supply or when supplied by a battery. Small, surface mount, ceramic capacitors can be used for bypassing. Larger values may be required if the source supply has high ripple.

Output Capacitor

The MIC5238 requires an output capacitor for stability. The design requires 2.2µF or greater on the output to maintain stability. The design is optimized for use with low-ESR ceramic chip capacitors. High ESR capacitors may cause high frequency oscillation. The maximum recommended ESR is 3Ω. The output capacitor can be increased without limit. Larger valued capacitors help to improve transient response.

X7R/X5R dielectric-type ceramic capacitors are recommended because of their temperature performance. X7R-type capacitors change capacitance by 15% over their operating temperature range and are the most stable type of ceramic capacitors. Z5U and Y5V dielectric capacitors change value by as much as 50% and 60% respectively over their operating temperature ranges. To use a ceramic chip capacitor with Y5V dielectric, the value must be much higher than a X7R ceramic capacitor to ensure the same minimum capacitance over the equivalent operating temperature range.

No-Load Stability

The MIC5238 will remain stable and in regulation with no load unlike many other voltage regulators. This is especially important in CMOS RAM keep-alive applications.

Thermal Considerations

The MIC5238 is designed to provide 150mA of continuous current in a very small package. Maximum power dissipation can be calculated based on the output current and the voltage drop across the part. To determine the maximum power dissipation of the package, use the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance of the device and the following basic equation:

$$P_{D(MAX)} = \left(\frac{T_{J(MAX)} - T_A}{\theta_{JA}} \right)$$

$T_{J(MAX)}$ is the maximum junction temperature of the die, 125°C, and T_A is the ambient operating temperature. θ_{JA} is layout dependent; Table 1 shows the junction-to-ambient thermal resistance for the MIC5238.

Package	θ_{JA} Recommended Minimum Footprint
SOT-23-5	235°C/W

Table 1. SOT-23-5 Thermal Resistance

The actual power dissipation of the regulator circuit can be determined using the equation:

$$P_D = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})I_{OUT} + V_{IN}I_{GND}$$

Substituting $P_{D(MAX)}$ for P_D and solving for the operating conditions that are critical to the application will give the maximum operating conditions for the regulator circuit. For example, when operating the MIC5238-1.0BM5 at 50°C with a minimum footprint layout, the maximum input voltage for a set output current can be determined as follows:

$$P_{D(MAX)} = \left(\frac{125°C - 50°C}{235°C/W} \right)$$

$$P_{D(MAX)} = 319mW$$

The junction-to-ambient (θ_{JA}) thermal resistance for the minimum footprint is 235°C/W, from Table 1. It is important that the maximum power dissipation not be exceeded to ensure proper operation. With very high input-to-output voltage differentials, the output current is limited by the total power dissipation. Total power dissipation is calculated using the following equation:

$$P_D = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})I_{OUT} + V_{IN} \times I_{GND} + V_{BIAS} \times I_{BIAS}$$

Since the bias supply draws only 18µA, that contribution can be ignored for this calculation.

If we know the maximum load current, we can solve for the maximum input voltage using the maximum power dissipation calculated for a 50°C ambient, 319mV.

$$P_{DMAX} = (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})I_{OUT} + V_{IN} \times I_{GND}$$

$$319mW = (V_{IN} - 1V)150mA + V_{IN} \times 2.8mA$$

Ground pin current is estimated using the typical characteristics of the device.

$$469mW = V_{IN}\ (152.8mA)$$

$$V_{IN} = 3.07V$$

For higher current outputs only a lower input voltage will work for higher ambient temperatures.

Assuming a lower output current of 20mA, the maximum input voltage can be recalculated:

$$319mW = (V_{IN} - 1V)20mA + V_{IN} \times 0.2mA$$

$$339mW = V_{IN} \times 20.2mA$$

$$V_{IN} = 16.8V$$

Maximum input voltage for a 20mA load current at 50°C ambient temperature is 16.8V. Since the device has a 6V rating, it will operate over the whole input range.

Dual Suppy Mode Efficiency

By utilizing a bias supply the conversion efficiency can be greatly enhanced. This can be realized as the higher bias supply will only consume a few µA's while the input supply will require a few mA's! This equates to higher efficiency saving valuable power in the system. As an example, consider an output voltage of 1V with an input supply of 2.5V at a load

current of 150mA. The input ground current under these conditions is 2mA, while the bias current is only 20µA. If we calculate the conversion efficiency using the single supply approach, it is as follows:

Input power = $V_{IN} \times$ output current + $V_{IN} \times$ (V_{BIAS} ground current + V_{IN} ground current)

Input power = 2.5V $\times$ 150mA + 2.5 $\times$ (0.0002+0.002) = 380.5mW

Output power = 1V $\times$ 0.15 = 150mW

Efficiency = 150/380.5 $\times$ 100 = 39.4%

Now, using a lower input supply of 1.5V, and powering the bias voltage only from the 2.5V input, the efficiency is as follows:

Input power = $V_{IN} \times$ output current + $V_{IN} \times V_{IN}$ ground current + V_{BIAS} x V_{BIAS} ground current

Input power = 1.5 $\times$ 150mA + 1.5 $\times$ 0.002 + 2.5 $\times$ 0.0002 = 225mW

Output power = 1V $\times$ 150mA = 150mW

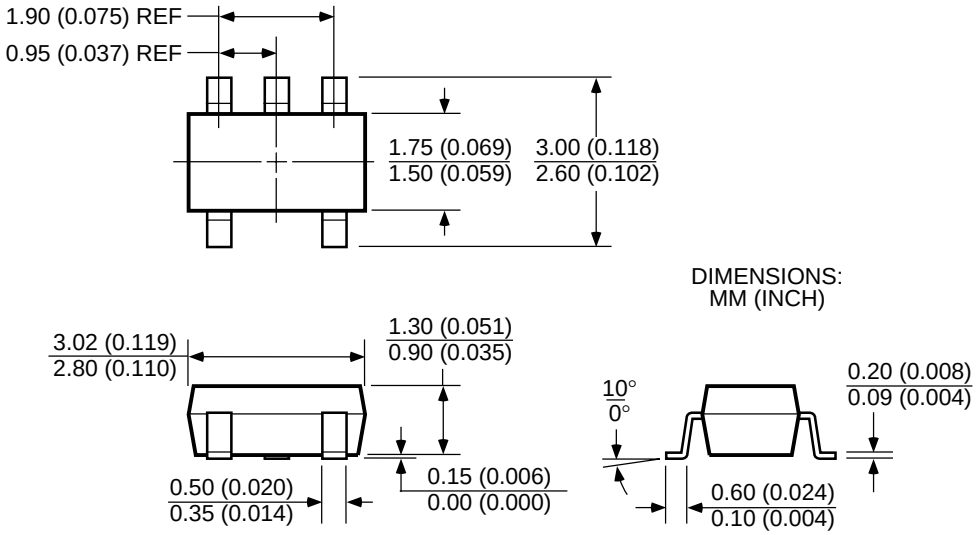
Efficiency = 150/225 $\times$ 100 = 66.6 %

Therefore, by using the dual supply MIC5238 LDO the efficiency is nearly doubled over the single supply version.

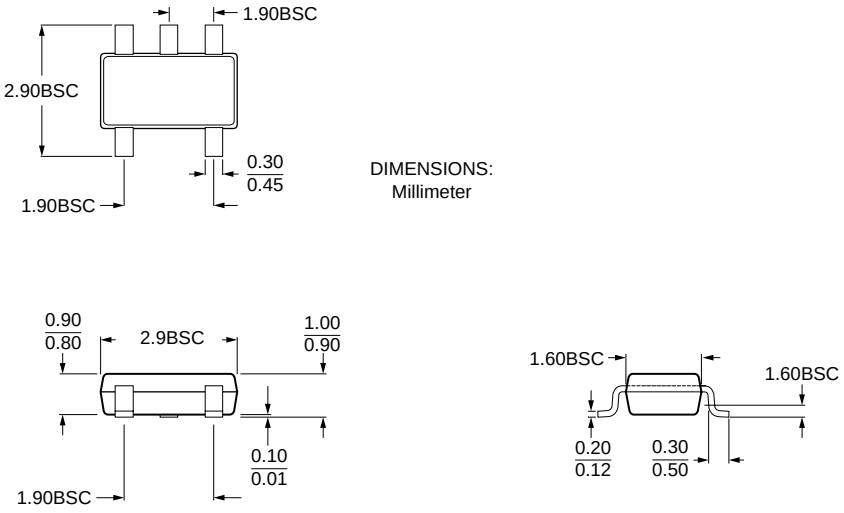
This is a valuable asset in portable power management applications equating to longer battery life and less heat being generated in the application.

This in turn will allow a smaller footprint design and an extended operating life.

Package Information



SOT-23-5 (M5)



TSOT-23-5 (D5)

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