### <span id="page-0-0"></span>**RFbeam Microwave GmbH**

data sheet

# K-LD7 digital radar transceiver



# **Features**

## – Small and low cost digital 24 GHz radar motion detector

- Measures speed, direction, distance and angle of moving objects
- Low current consumption
- Typical detection distance: 15 m for persons /30 m for cars
- Target list output over serial interface
- Integrated FFT signal processing with tracking
- 4 configurable digital outputs
- Power supply range from 3.2 to 5.5 V
- $3\times4$  patch antenna with 80 $\degree$ /34 $\degree$  beam aperture
- Distance triggered movement detection applications
- Simple gesture recognition
- Indoor and outdoor lighting control applications
- Pedestrian counting
- Traffic counting

The K-LD7 is a fully digital low cost Doppler radar that can measure speed, direction, distance and angle of moving objects in front of the sensor. The digital structure and wide power supply range make it very easy to use this sensor in any stand-alone or MCU based application.

The sensor includes a 3×4 patch antenna radar front-end with an asymmetrical beam and a powerful signal processing unit with four configurable digital outputs for signal detection information. A built-in tracking filter makes the sensor output even easier to use. The serial interface features the possibility to read out a target list with speed, direction, distance and angle information of all moving objects in front of the sensor or to digitally configure the sensors detection parameters.

There is no need to write own signal processing algorithms or handle small and noisy signals. This module contains everything what is necessary to build a simple but powerful motion detector with distance and angle information. A very small footprint of  $38\times25\times13.5$  mm gives maximum flexibility in the product development process. For fast prototyping an evaluation kit (K-LD7-EVAL) is available which features powerful signal visualization on a PC.

#### Figure 1: Block diagram



## Applications

## **Description**

# Block Diagram

# <span id="page-1-0"></span>**Characteristics**



Connector 3pin 2.54mm/8pin 2.54mm

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# <span id="page-3-0"></span>ANTENNA DIAGRAM CHARACTERISTICS

7 8

This diagram shows module sensitivity in both azimuth and elevation directions. It incorporates the transmitter and receiver antenna characteristics.

#### **Figure 2: Antenna characteristics**

 $1$  3  $\pm$  5  $\pm$ 





# PIN CONFIGURATION AND FUNCTIONS

#### Figure 3: Pin configuration



#### Table 1: Pin function description



# <span id="page-4-0"></span>THEORY OF OPERATION

## Overview

The K-LD7 is a Doppler radar sensor and consists of an analogue RF frontend and a powerful signal processor with tracking and a fully digital serial interface. The RF frontend features one transmitter with a modulation input and two I/Q receivers. The signal processing unit modulates the frontend with a frequency step (FSK modulation) and samples the analogue I/Q Doppler signals for both transmit frequencies and for both receiving antennas. The processing of this sampled data allows the measurement and tracking of speed, direction, distance and angle of moving objects in the front of the sensor.

# **Processing**

The processing of the K-LD7 uses different processing stages to measure and track the speed, direction, distance and angle of moving targets. The last stage implements a configurable detection filter which generates a detection based on parameters like distance, angle or speed. The detection filter output is routed to the digital outputs. To get the full control in an application it is possible to read out the data of each processing step over the serial interface.



- filter criteria
- Check if there is a micro detection in the front of the sensor

## <span id="page-5-0"></span>Speed and direction measurement wird wird wird and measure

Every moving object in front of the sensor generates a Doppler frequency at the analogue outputs of the RF frontend. This Doppler frequency is proportional to the speed of the object. Moving direction is defined by the phase shift between the I/Q signals.

The K-LD7 calculates the speed and the direction for all raw targets. The direction is represented by the sign of the speed. A positive speed represents a receding and a negative speed an approaching movement.

The calculated speed is only correct if the movement of the object is radial to the sensor. If the movement is tangential the speed needs to be compensated by the angle of the movement compared to the sensor.

 $v_{real} = v_{measured} \cdot cos(\alpha)$  [km/h]

#### Figure 5: Tangential speed compensation



## Distance measurement

The distance measurement is based on the FSK D principle. The signal processing unit quickly changes between two discrete RF frequencies and measures the ADC values for both transmitting frequencies which are available in the raw ADC data (RADC). After  $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ the detection of all raw targets above the threshold, the distance for each target is calculated based on the phase difference in both ADC signals.

## entum angle measurement

The angle measurement is based on the angle of arrival principle. After the detection of all raw targets above the threshold, the angle for each target is calculated based on the phase difference between the two receiving channels.

> The angle is calculated in degree and valid between ± 90°. If an object has an angle of zero it is directly in front of the sensor. A positive or negative angle defines if the target is more on the right or left side of the sensor.





# <span id="page-6-0"></span>Raw targets and tracking filter

A real object generates not only one raw target point. A moving person for example generates several raw target points with different speeds and different distances created by the torso, the legs and the arms. This generates a so called point cloud of different raw targets from one object. Depending on the environment where the sensor is used it will also see more or less reflexions generated by the moving object. The number of raw targets can be controlled by adjusting the threshold offset which is described in more detail in chapter [Threshold offset on page 10.](#page-9-0)

To get a more usable output the sensor features a tracking filter to cluster and track the dominant target based on the raw targets. The filter includes a suppression of reflexions, vibrations and interferences and can also predict temporary lost targets what generates a smooth output.

The tracking filter can be adapted to various applications via the parameters Tracking filter type and Vibration suppression which is described in more detail in chapter Tracking on Page 10.



The filter can track only one target up to a distance of 30m.



#### Figure 7: Raw targets vs. tracked target

# <span id="page-6-1"></span>Micro detection

The micro detection is a feature to detect very slow speeds in short range applications. It takes advantage of an algorithm that analyses the DC bin of the FFT to detect very slow speeds. The micro detection is independent from the normal detection algorithm and always enabled. It is available in the detection data structure DDAT and can be used to retrigger the hold time.

Further it is possible to adjust the sensitvity of the micro detection over the parameter "Micro detection sensitvity".

The sensitivity of the micro detection depends on the used speed range setting. To get the best results always set the speed range first before adjusting the micro detection sensitivity parameter.

# <span id="page-7-0"></span>APPLICATION INFORMATION

## Stand-alone operation

With standard settings the sensor is optimized for indoor detection of persons. The K-LD7 features four digital outputs which can directly be used without the need of an MCU. The digital outputs are per default configured in the following way:

#### Table 2: Default digital output description



With these settings it is easy to use the sensor stand-alone as a distance triggered movement detector with direction recognition, near field option and including the information if the detection was on the left or right side of the sensor. All these settings can be also adjusted by the user as described in the next chapters.



The K-LD7 can also be factory configured with your settings. Contact RFbeam for more information.

## Host driven operation

With a connection of the serial interface to a host (for example MCU or PC) it is possible to read out the complete processing data (RADC, RFFT, PDAT, TDAT and DDAT) and control all the parameters of the sensor. This is the recommended use case and allows the user to optimize the sensor easily for different applications.



The use of the highest baud rate is only recommended to read out data intensive messages like the RADC and RFFT package.

#### Figure 8: MCU or PC connection example



# <span id="page-8-0"></span>Radar settings

The K-LD7 features different parameters to adjust the functionality of the sensor to the needs of different applications. All parameters are stored in the radar parameter structure which can be read and write over the serial interface. The structure and serial protocol is described in the chapter [Instruction Set Description](#page-12-1)  [on page 13.](#page-12-1)

It is very important to set the distance and speed range settings to values that match with the distance and speed of the expected targets in the detection area of the sensor.

For example, if the goal is to measure people in the 10m distance range and 25km/h speed range, but cars are moving at 30m with 70km/h, the 100m distance range and 100km/h speed range setting must be used or the threshold offset needs to be increased until the cars are no longer displayed in the raw targets.

> Wrong settings can generate false sensor outputs. It is possible that strong targets outside the configured distance or speed range can create false reflections.

## Distance range

The distance range parameter defines the maximum unambiguous distance measurement of the sensor. For a lower maximal distance range the range resolution is better but if the distance of a measured target is higher than the current distance range setting it can generate wrong measurements. Therefore it is very important to set the distance range to a setting where targets are expected.

#### Table 3: Distance range settings



An approach to work with a lower maximum distance range is to change the sensor orientation to get a field of view without moving objects above the maximal distance range or to increase the threshold offset (described in the chapter [Threshold offset on page 1](#page-9-0)0) to reduce the sensitivity of the sensor.

## Speed range

The speed range parameter defines the maximum unambiguous speed measurement of the sensor. For a lower maximal speed range the speed resolution is better and the current consumption is smaller but if the speed of a measured target is higher than the current speed range setting it can generate wrong measurements. Therefore it is very important to set the speed range to a setting where targets are expected.

#### Table 4: Speed range settings



An approach to work with a lower maximum speed is to change the sensor orientation to get a field of view without moving objects above the maximal speed range or to increase the threshold offset (described in the chapter [Threshold offset on page 1](#page-9-0)0) to reduce the sensitivity of the sensor.

To read out data intensive messages RADC and RFFT it is recommended to work with the highest baud rate. If the readout time of the requested data is higher than the typ. frame duration it is not possible to read out the frames in real time. By checking the frame number in the DONE message it is possible to validate real time readout.

## <span id="page-9-0"></span>Threshold offset

The threshold offset is adjustable and defines the distance in dB between the noise floor of the raw FFT data and the threshold line. The processing in the K-LD7 searches for raw targets that are above

Figure 9: Low vs. high threshold offset

this threshold line. The smaller the offset the more raw targets will be found by the processing and the more sensitive the sensor will be. A higher offset will reduce the sensitivity and the number of raw targets.

#### 100 IF1/2 Averaged Threshold 80 Signal amplitude [dB] 60 40  $20$  $-1875$  $.25$  $-12.5$  $-6,25$ 6.25  $12.5$ 18.75  $\Omega$  $25$  $-21.875$  $-15.625$  $-9.375$  $-3.125$ 3.125 9.375 15.625 21.875 Speed [km/h]

## Tracking and vibration suppression

The tracking filter features three different filter types and an adjustable vibration suppression. The filter type and the strength of vibration suppression can be selected via the instruction set.

With the vibration suppression, it is possible to more or less suppress targets that change their direction quickly, with the disadvantage that it takes more time to detect a target.

#### Table 5: Tracking filter types



## Base frequency

There are three channels available to adjust the base transmit frequency of the sensor. This can be useful if multiple sensors are transmitting in the same area with the same base frequency to suppress the generated interferences that can occur in such an environment.





# <span id="page-10-0"></span>Detection settings

## Detection filter

The last processing step in the K-LD7 generates a detection output based on a set of adjustable parameters. The information about the detection is available in the DDAT structure or on the digital outputs. The parameters are all located in the radar parameter structure which is described in detail in chapter [Para](#page-15-0)[meter structure on page 17](#page-15-0).

#### Table 7: Detection filter parameters



The detection area of the sensor can easily be limited with these parameters and allow the user to generate very specific detections without the need of an advanced signal processing.

### Figure 10: Detection filter visualisation



## Digital outputs

The sensor features four digital outputs to signal detection. The digital output 0 always signals if there was a valid detection. The function of the outputs 1 to 3 is configurable over the radar parameter structure. It is possible to route the values of the detection data structure DDAT to these outputs.

#### Table 8: Routable functions for digital outputs 1 to 3



## Hold time and micro detection retrigger

The time how long the detection output stays activated after the last valid detection can be adjusted with the hold time parameter.

Furthermore, it is possible to retrigger the detection algorithm using the micro detection feature (see parameter micro detection in the parameter structure). If this feature is enabled, the detection algorithm first requires a valid detection and then, if there was a valid micro detection, it will retrigger the hold time. If the hold time has elapsed because there was no detection or micro detection, the detection goes to low and needs again a valid detection before the micro detection is used to retrigger the hold time.



If the micro detection retrigger feature is enabled and there is a constant small movement in the front of the sensor it will retrigger the hold time continuously.

# <span id="page-12-1"></span><span id="page-12-0"></span>INSTRUCTION SET DESCRIPTION

# Hardware Layer

The hardware layer is based on a simple RS-232 connection with a configurable baud rate. The sensor always starts up with its default baud rate. The default baud rate can be changed over the INIT command as described in the chapter Connection.

#### Table 9: Default serial connection settings



# Application Layer

## Client-Server

#### Figure 11: Client-Server model



The communication is based on a client-server model. There are two types of packets transmitted. Commands are sent from client to server and messages are sent from server to client.

## **Handshaking**

#### Figure 12: Handshaking



Every command sent by the client is acknowledged by the server with a response message (RESP). The response message includes information data about the success or failure of the received command.

## **Connection**

#### Figure 13: Connection



The server starts up with a default baud rate of 115200 baud. The client has to establish a connection with the INIT command and has to set the baud rate for the connection. After acknowledging of the INIT command the server changes to the selected baud rate.

To disconnect, the GBYE command has to be sent by the client. After acknowledging the GBYE message the server changes back to his default baud rate.

## Data output

#### Figure 14: Data output



The client can request data messages with the GNFD command. Depending on the bits set in the GNFD command the enabled data messages will be sent out for the next acquired frame.

### Get and set parameter structure

#### Figure 15: Get parameter structure



Figure 16: Set parameter structure



The client can set every parameter with a single command. But there is also the possibility to set all parameter together within a parameter structure or read this structure out. Please refer to chapter ["Parameter](#page-15-0)  [structure"](#page-15-0) for detailed description of the parameter structure.

# <span id="page-14-0"></span>Presentation Layer

All commands and messages sent have the format described in table below.

#### Table 10: Packet format



## Overview Messages and Commands

The table below shows the possible messages – see the chapter ['Messages'](#page-16-0) for details.

#### Table 11: Application messages



#### Table 12: Application commands



### <span id="page-15-0"></span>Parameter structure

The radar has a set of parameter which can be modified with commands. The structure can be read out by the GRPS command and set by the SRPS command.

#### Table 13: Radar parameter structure



## <span id="page-16-0"></span>Messages

This chapter provides detailed information about the messages of the K-LD7.

#### Table 14: Application messages



## **Commands**

This chapter provides detailed information about the commands.

#### Table 15: Application commands



# <span id="page-18-0"></span>UTLINE DIMENSIONS

#### Figure 17: Outline dimensions in millimetre



# RDER INFORMAT

The ordering number consists of different parts with the structure below

### Figure 18: Ordering number structure



#### Table 16: Available ordering numbers





It is possible to order K-LD7 sensors with preprogramed custom settings. Contact RFbeam for more information.

# REVISION HISTORY

09/2019 – Revision A: Initial Version

RFbeam does not assume any responsibility for use of any circuitry described, no circuit patent licenses are implied and RFbeam reserves the right at any time without notice to change said circuitry and specifications.