

General Description

The MAX1533/MAX1537 are dual step-down, switchmode power-supply (SMPS) controllers with synchronous rectification, intended for main 5V/3.3V power generation in battery-powered systems. Fixed-frequency operation with optimal interleaving minimizes input ripple current from the lowest input voltages up to the 26V maximum input. Optimal 40/60 interleaving allows the input voltage to go down to 8.3V before duty-cycle overlap occurs, compared to 180° out-of-phase regulators where the duty-cycle overlap occurs when the input drops below 10V. Output current sensing provides accurate current limit using a sense resistor. Alternatively, power dissipation can be reduced using lossless inductor current sensing.

Internal 5V and 3.3V linear regulators power the MAX1533/MAX1537 and their gate drivers, as well as external keep-alive loads, up to a total of 100mA. When the main PWM regulators are in regulation, automatic bootstrap switches bypass the internal linear regulators, providing currents up to 200mA from each linear output. An additional 5V to 23V adjustable internal 150mA linear regulator is typically used with a secondary winding to provide a 12V supply.

The MAX1533/MAX1537 include on-board power-up sequencing, a power-good (PGOOD) output, digital soft-start, and internal soft-shutdown output discharge that prevents negative voltages on shutdown. The MAX1533 is available in a 32-pin 5mm x 5mm thin QFN package, and the MAX1537 is available in a 36-pin 6mm x 6mm thin QFN package. The exposed backside pad improves thermal characteristics for demanding linear keep-alive applications.

Applications

2 to 4 Li+ Cells Battery-Powered Devices Notebook and Subnotebook Computers PDAs and Mobile Communicators

Ordering Information

+*Denotes lead-free package.*

Dual Mode is a trademark of Maxim Integrated Products, Inc. Pin Configurations continued at end of data sheet.

Features

- ♦ **Fixed-Frequency, Current-Mode Control**
- ♦ **40/60 Optimal Interleaving**
- ♦ **Accurate Differential Current-Sense Inputs**
- ♦ **Internal 5V and 3.3V Linear Regulators with 100mA Load Capability**
- ♦ **Auxiliary 12V or Adjustable 150mA Linear Regulator (MAX1537 Only)**
- ♦ **Dual-Mode™ Feedback—3.3V/5V Fixed or Adjustable Output (Dual Mode) Voltages**
- ♦ **200kHz/300kHz/500kHz Switching Frequency**
- ♦ **Versatile Power-Up Sequencing**
- ♦ **Adjustable Overvoltage and Undervoltage Protection**
- ♦ **6V to 26V Input Range**
- ♦ **2V ±0.75% Reference Output**
- ♦ **Power-Good Output**
- ♦ **Soft-Shutdown**
- ♦ **5µA (typ) Shutdown Current**

Pin Configurations

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For pricing, delivery, and ordering information, please contact Maxim/Dallas Direct! at 1-888-629-4642, or visit Maxim's website at www.maxim-ic.com.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications is not implied. Exposure to absolute maximum rating conditions for extended periods may affect device reliability.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, \overline{SKIP} = GND, V_{ILIM} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = 0°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, SKIP = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = 0°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

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ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, SKIP = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = 0°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

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ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, SKIP = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = 0°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, \overline{SKIP} = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = 0°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at TA = +25°C.)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, SKIP = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, $I_{LDOS} = I_{LDOS} = I_{LDOA} =$ no load, $T_A = -40^{\circ}C$ to $+85^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.) (Note 4)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, SKIP = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, ILDO5 = ILDO3 = ILDOA = no load, **TA = -40°C to +85°C**, unless otherwise noted.) (Note 4)

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, both SMPS enabled, V_{CC} = 5V, FSEL = REF, \overline{SKIP} = GND, V_{ILIM_} = V_{LDO5}, V_{INA} = 15V, V_{LDOA} = 12V, $I_{LDOS} = I_{LDOS} = I_{LDOA} =$ no load, $T_A = -40^{\circ}C$ to $+85^{\circ}C$, unless otherwise noted.) (Note 4)

- **Note 1:** The MAX1533/MAX1537 cannot operate over all combinations of frequency, input voltage (V_{IN}), and output voltage. For large input-to-output differentials and high-switching frequency settings, the required on-time may be too short to maintain the regulation specifications. Under these conditions, a lower operating frequency must be selected. The minimum on-time must be greater than 150ns, regardless of the selected switching frequency. On-time and off-time specifications are measured from 50% point to 50% point at the DH_ pin with LX = GND, VBST = 5V, and a 250pF capacitor connected from DH_ to LX_. Actual in-circuit times may differ due to MOSFET switching speeds.
- **Note 2:** When the inductor is in continuous conduction, the output voltage has a DC regulation level lower than the error-comparator threshold by 50% of the ripple. In discontinuous conduction $(SKIP = GND)$, light load), the output voltage has a DC regulation level higher than the trip level by approximately 1% due to slope compensation.
- **Note 3:** Specifications are guaranteed by design, not production tested.
- **Note 4:** Specifications to -40°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.

Typical Operating Characteristics

(MAX1537 circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, LDO5 = V_{CC} = 5V, \overline{SKIP} = GND, FSEL = REF, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

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Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

5V

4V θ

2V θ 2V θ 2V θ

(MAX1537 circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, LDO5 = V_{CC} = 5V, \overline{SKIP} = GND, FSEL = REF, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

IDLE-MODE CURRENT vs. INPUT VOLTAGE 3.5 DUTY CYCLE

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AUXILIARY LINEAR-REGULATOR LOAD REGULATION

INTERLEAVED OPERATION

F. PWM3 INDUCTOR CURRENT, 5A/div

STARTUP WAVEFORMSMAX1533/37 toc15

A

B

C

D

Typical Operating Characteristics (continued)

(MAX1537 circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, LDO5 = V_{CC} = 5V, \overline{SKIP} = GND, FSEL = REF, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

5V OUTPUT LOAD TRANSIENT

- $B. V_{OUT5} = 5.0V, 100mV/div$ C. INDUCTOR CURRENT, 5A/div D. LX5, 10V/div
- $\overline{\mathsf{SKIP}} = \mathsf{V}_{\mathsf{CC}}$

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(MAX1537 circuit of Figure 1, V_{IN} = 12V, LDO5 = V_{CC} = 5V, \overline{SKIP} = GND, FSEL = REF, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.)

B. LDO5 OUTPUT VOLTAGE, 50mV/div A. INPUT VOLTAGE (V_{IN} = 7V TO 20V), 5V/div $ON3 = ON5 = GND$, $I_{LD05} = 20mA$

A. $I_{1,DOA} = 10$ mA TO 100mA, 100mA/div

IVI AXI IVI

Pin Description

Pin Description (continued)

Pin Description (continued)

Table 1. Component Selection for Standard Applications

Table 2. Component Suppliers

Detailed Description

The MAX1533/MAX1537 standard application circuit (Figure 1) generates the 5V/5A and 3.3V/5A typical of the main supplies in a notebook computer. The input supply range is 7V to 24V. See Table 1 for component selections and Table 2 for component manufacturers.

The MAX1533/MAX1537 contain two interleaved fixedfrequency step-down controllers designed for lowvoltage power supplies. The optimal interleaved architecture guarantees out-of-phase operation, reducing the input capacitor ripple. Two internal LDOs generate the keep-alive 5V and 3.3V power. The MAX1537 has an auxiliary LDO that can be configured to the preset 12V output or an adjustable output.

Fixed Linear Regulators (LDO5 and LDO3) Two internal linear regulators produce preset 5V (LDO5) and 3.3V (LDO3) low-power outputs. LDO5 powers LDO3, the gate drivers for the external MOSFETs, and provides the bias supply (V_{CC}) required for the SMPS analog control, reference, and logic blocks. LDO5 supplies at least 100mA for external and internal loads, including the MOSFET gate drive, which typically varies from 5mA to 50mA, depending on the switching frequency and external MOSFETs selected. LDO3 also supplies at least 100mA for external loads. Bypass LDO5 and LDO3 with a 2.2µF or greater output capacitor, using an additional 1.0µF per 20mA of internal and external load.

\blacksquare INPUT (V_{IN}) 5V LDO **OUTPUT C_{IN}** $C₁$ (2) 10µF 10µF LDO5 IN $\sqrt{2}$ D_{BST} \star \mid \star D_{BST} C5 N_{H1} 22µF ┝ N_{H2} DH₃ DH5 *MAX1533* **SECONDARY** BST3 BST5 *MAX1537* OUTPUT L C_{BST} C_{BST} Δ $0.1\mu F$ $0.1\mu F$ D1 LX3 LX5 L1 \sum_{μ} D_{L1} D_{L2} DL3 DL5 **محرم** T1 NL2 5.8µH 1:2 TURNS NL1 $LP = 6.8\mu H$ PGND ó) GND RCS1 10mΩ R_{CS2} CSH3 CSH5 10mΩ 3.3V PWM 5V PWM CSL3 CSL5 OUTPUT **OUTPUT** I+ ᅬ C_{OUT2} . C_{OUT1}
220μF FB3 FB5 $150\mu F$ $\frac{1}{\tau}$ $40mΩ$ $40\text{m}\Omega$ OVP **UVF** $\overline{\perp}$ CREF $\underbrace{\begin{array}{c}\n0.22 \mu \text{F} \\
\hline\n\end{array}}$ **SKIF** ٦ REF R2 FSEL REF (300kHz) R3 100kΩ 60.4kΩ ILIM3 **VCC** CONNECT TO LDO5 R1 $\left\{\begin{matrix} R8 \\ 100k\Omega \end{matrix}\right.$ C_2 n₁ ≥ 0 R₈
1μF 20Ω ≥ 0 R8 $R4$ $R5$ $100k\Omega$ 60.4kΩ PGOOD ILIM5 POWER-GOOD ON OFF **SHDN** PGDLY ON3 ON OFF LDO3 3.3V LDO C3 OUTPUT ON5 10µF **MAX1537 ONLY** SECONDARY LDOA 12V LDO INA OUTPUT OUTPUT \pm C4 R6 ON OFF ONA \cdot 10 μ F OPENADJA R7 0Ω POWER GROUND SEE TABLE 1 FOR COMPONENT SPECIFICATIONS ANALOG GROUND

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Figure 1. MAX1533/MAX1537 Standard Application Circuit

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SMPS to LDO Bootstrap Switchover

When the 5V main output voltage is above the LDO5 bootstrap-switchover threshold, an internal 0.75Ω (typ) p-channel MOSFET shorts CSL5 to LDO5 while simultaneously shutting down the LDO5 linear regulator. Similarly, when the 3.3V main output voltage is above the LDO3 bootstrap-switchover threshold, an internal 1Ω (typ) p-channel MOSFET shorts CSL3 to LDO3 while simultaneously shutting down the LDO3 linear regulator. These actions bootstrap the device, powering the internal circuitry and external loads from the output SMPS voltages, rather than through linear regulators from the battery. Bootstrapping reduces power dissipation due to gate charge and quiescent losses by providing power from a 90%-efficient switch-mode source, rather than from a much-less-efficient linear regulator. The output current limit increases to 200mA when the LDO_ outputs are switched over.

SMPS 5V Bias Supply (LDO5 and Vcc)

The A switch-mode power supplies (SMPS) require a 5V bias supply in addition to the high-power input supply (battery or AC adapter). This 5V bias supply is generated by the MAX1533/MAX1537s' internal 5V linear regulator (LDO5). This bootstrapped LDO allows the MAX1533/MAX1537 to power-up independently. The gate-driver input supply is connected to the fixed 5V linear-regulator output (LDO5). Therefore, the 5V LDO supply must provide V_{CC} (PWM controller) and the gate-drive power, so the maximum supply current required is:

 $I_{\text{BIAS}} = I_{\text{CC}} + f_{\text{SW}} (Q_{\text{G}}(LOW) + Q_{\text{G}}(HIGH))$

 $=$ 5mA to 50mA (typ)

where \overline{ICC} is 1mA (typ), fsw is the switching frequency, and QG(LOW) and QG(HIGH) are the MOSFET data sheet's total gate-charge specification limits at $V_{\text{GS}} = 5V$.

Reference (REF)

The 2V reference is accurate to $\pm 1\%$ over temperature and load, making REF useful as a precision system reference. Bypass REF to GND with a 0.22µF or greater ceramic capacitor. The reference sources up to 100µA and sinks 10µA to support external loads. If highly accurate specifications (±0.5%) are required for the main SMPS output voltages, the reference should not be loaded. Loading the reference reduces the LDO5, LDO3, OUT5, and OUT3 output voltages slightly because of the reference load-regulation error.

*System Enable/Shutdown (*SHDN*)*

Drive SHDN below the precise SHDN input falling-edge trip level to place the MAX1533/MAX1537 in their lowpower shutdown state. The MAX1533/MAX1537 consume only 5µA of quiescent current while in shutdown mode. When shutdown mode activates, the reference turns off, making the threshold to exit shutdown less accurate. To guarantee startup, drive SHDN above 2.2V (SHDN input rising-edge trip level). For automatic shutdown and startup, connect $\overline{\text{SHDN}}$ to V_{IN} . The accurate 1V falling-edge threshold on SHDN can be used to detect a specific input-voltage level and shut the device down. Once in shutdown, the 1.6V rising-edge threshold activates, providing sufficient hysteresis for most applications.

SMPS Detailed Description

SMPS POR, UVLO, and Soft-Start

Power-on reset (POR) occurs when V_{CC} rises above approximately 1V, resetting the undervoltage, overvoltage, and thermal-shutdown fault latches. The POR circuit also ensures that the low-side drivers are pulled low if OVP is disabled (\overline{OVP} = V_{CC}), or driven high if OVP is enabled (OVP = GND) until the SMPS controllers are activated.

The V_{CC} input undervoltage-lockout (UVLO) circuitry inhibits switching if the 5V bias supply (LDO5) is below the 4V input UVLO threshold. Once the 5V bias supply (LDO5) rises above this input UVLO threshold and the controllers are enabled, the SMPS controllers start switching and the output voltages begin to ramp up using soft-start.

The internal digital soft-start gradually increases the internal current-limit level during startup to reduce the input surge currents. The MAX1533/MAX1537 divide the soft-start period into five phases. During the first phase, each controller limits its current limit to only 20% of its full current limit. If the output does not reach regulation within 128 clock cycles $(1 / f_{\text{OSC}})$, soft-start enters the second phase and the current limit is increased by another 20%. This process repeats until the maximum current limit is reached after 512 clock cycles (1 / fOSC) or when the output reaches the nominal regulation voltage, whichever occurs first (see the startup waveforms in the *Typical Operating Characteristics*).

Figure 2. MAX1533/MAX1537 Functional Diagram

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Table 3. Operating Modes

*SHDN *is an accurate, low-voltage logic input with 1V falling-edge threshold voltage and 1.6V rising-edge threshold voltage. ON3 and ON5 are 3-level CMOS logic inputs, a logic-low voltage is less than 0.8V, a logic-high voltage is greater than 2.4V, and the middle logic level is between 1.9V and 2.1V (see the* Electrical Characteristics *table).*

SMPS Enable Controls (ON3, ON5)

ON3 and ON5 control SMPS power-up sequencing. ON3 or ON5 rising above 2.4V enables the respective outputs. ON3 or ON5 falling below 1.6V disables the respective outputs. Driving ON_ below 0.8V clears the overvoltage, undervoltage, and thermal fault latches.

SMPS Power-Up Sequencing

Connecting ON3 or ON5 to REF forces the respective outputs off while the other output is below regulation and starts after that output regulates. The second SMPS remains on until the first SMPS turns off, the device shuts down, a fault occurs, or LDO5 goes into undervoltage lockout. Both supplies begin their power-down sequence immediately when the first supply turns off.

Output Discharge (Soft-Shutdown)

When output discharge is enabled (OVP pulled low) and the switching regulators are disabled—by transitions into standby or shutdown mode, or when an output undervoltage fault occurs—the controller discharges both outputs through internal 12Ω switches, until the output voltages decrease to 0.3V. This slowly discharges the output capacitance, providing a softdamped shutdown response. This eliminates the slightly negative output voltages caused by quickly discharging the output through the inductor and lowside MOSFET. When an SMPS output discharges to

0.3V, its low-side driver (DL_) is forced high, clamping the respective SMPS output to GND. The reference remains active to provide an accurate threshold and to provide overvoltage protection. Both SMPS controllers contain separate soft-shutdown circuits.

When output discharge is disabled (\overline{OVP} = V_{CC}), the lowside drivers (DL_) and high-side drivers (DH_) are both pulled low, forcing LX into a high-impedance state. Since the outputs are not actively discharged by the SMPS controllers, the output-voltage discharge rate is determined only by the output capacitance and load current.

Fixed-Frequency, Current-Mode PWM Controller

The heart of each current-mode PWM controller is a multiinput, open-loop comparator that sums two signals: the output-voltage error signal with respect to the reference voltage and the slope-compensation ramp (Figure 3). The MAX1533/MAX1537 use a direct-summing configuration, approaching ideal cycle-to-cycle control over the output voltage without a traditional error amplifier and the phase shift associated with it. The MAX1533/MAX1537 use a relatively low loop gain, allowing the use of lowcost output capacitors. The low loop gain results in the -0.1% typical load-regulation error and helps reduce the output capacitor size and cost by shifting the unitygain crossover frequency to a lower level.

Figure 3: PWM-Controller Functional Diagram

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Frequency Selection (FSEL)

The FSEL input selects the PWM-mode switching frequency. Table 4 shows the switching frequency based on FSEL connection. High-frequency (500kHz) operation optimizes the application for the smallest component size, trading off efficiency due to higher switching losses. This may be acceptable in ultra-portable devices where the load currents are lower. Low-frequency (200kHz) operation offers the best overall efficiency at the expense of component size and board space.

Forced-PWM Mode

The low-noise forced-PWM mode disables the zerocrossing comparator, which controls the low-side switch on-time. This forces the low-side gate-drive waveform to constantly be the complement of the high-side gatedrive waveform, so the inductor current reverses at light loads while DH_ maintains a duty factor of $V_{\text{OUT}}/V_{\text{IN}}$. The benefit of forced-PWM mode is to keep the switching frequency fairly constant. However, forced-PWM operation comes at a cost: the no-load 5V supply current remains between 15mA and 50mA, depending on the external MOSFETs and switching frequency.

Forced-PWM mode is most useful for avoiding audiofrequency noise and improving load-transient response. Since forced-PWM operation disables the zero-crossing comparator, the inductor current reverses under light loads.

*Light-Load Operation Control (*SKIP*)*

The MAX1533/MAX1537 include a light-load operatingmode control input (SKIP) used to independently enable or disable the zero-crossing comparator for both controllers. When the zero-crossing comparator is enabled, the controller forces DL_ low when the current-sense inputs detect zero inductor current. This keeps the inductor from discharging the output capacitors and forces the controller to skip pulses under lightload conditions to avoid overcharging the output. When the zero-crossing comparator is disabled, the controller is forced to maintain PWM operation under light-load conditions (forced-PWM).

Table 4. FSEL Configuration Table

Idle-Mode Current-Sense Threshold

The on-time of the step-down controller terminates when the output voltage exceeds the feedback threshold and when the current-sense voltage exceeds the idle-mode current-sense threshold. Under light-load conditions, the on-time duration depends solely on the idle-mode current-sense threshold, which is approximately 20% of the full-load current-limit threshold set by ILIM_. This forces the controller to source a minimum amount of power with each cycle. To avoid overcharging the output, another on-time cannot begin until the output voltage drops below the feedback threshold. Since the zero-crossing comparator prevents the switching regulator from sinking current, the controller must skip pulses. Therefore, the controller regulates the valley of the output ripple under light-load conditions.

Automatic Pulse-Skipping Crossover

In skip mode, an inherent automatic switchover to PFM takes place at light loads (Figure 4). This switchover is affected by a comparator that truncates the low-side switch on-time at the inductor current's zero crossing. The zero-crossing comparator senses the inductor current across the low-side MOSFET (PGND to LX_). Once VPGND - VLX_ drops below the 3mV zero-crossing current-sense threshold, the comparator forces DL_ low (Figure 3). This mechanism causes the threshold between pulse-skipping PFM and nonskipping PWM operation to coincide with the boundary between continuous and discontinuous inductor-current operation (also known as the "critical conduction" point). The load-current level at which PFM/PWM crossover occurs, ILOAD(SKIP), is given by:

$$
I_{\text{LOAD(SKIP)}} = \frac{V_{\text{OUT}} (V_{\text{IN}} - V_{\text{OUT}})}{2 \times V_{\text{IN}} \times f_{\text{SW}} \times L}
$$

The switching waveforms may appear noisy and asynchronous when light loading causes pulse-skipping operation, but this is a normal operating condition that results in high light-load efficiency. Trade-offs in PFM noise vs. light-load efficiency are made by varying the inductor value. Generally, low inductor values produce a broader efficiency vs. load curve, while higher values result in higher full-load efficiency (assuming that the coil resistance remains fixed) and less output voltage ripple. Penalties for using higher inductor values include larger physical size and degraded load-transient response (especially at low input-voltage levels).

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Figure 4. Pulse-Skipping/Discontinuous Crossover Point Figure 5. Dual-Mode Feedback Decoder

Output Voltage

DC output accuracy specifications in the *Electrical Characteristics* table refer to the error-comparator's threshold. When the inductor continuously conducts, the MAX1533/MAX1537 regulate the peak of the output ripple, so the actual DC output voltage is lower than the slope-compensated trip level by 50% of the output ripple voltage. For PWM operation (continuous conduction), the output voltage is accurately defined by the following equation:

$$
V_{OUT(PWM)} = V_{NOM} \left(1 - \frac{A_{SLOPE} V_{NOM}}{V_{IN}} \right) - \left(\frac{V_{RIPPLE}}{2} \right)
$$

where V_{NOM} is the nominal output voltage, A_{SLOPE} equals 1%, and VRIPPLE is the output ripple voltage (VRIPPLE = ESR x Δ IINDUCTOR as described in the *Output Capacitor Selection* section).

In discontinuous conduction (I_{OUT} < $I_{\text{LOAD(SKIP)}}$), the MAX1533/MAX1537 regulate the valley of the output ripple, so the output voltage has a DC regulation level higher than the error-comparator threshold. For PFM operation (discontinuous conduction), the output voltage is approximately defined by the following equation:

$$
V_{\text{OUT(PFM)}} = V_{\text{NOM}} + \frac{1}{2} \left(\frac{f_{\text{SW}}}{f_{\text{OSC}}} \right) I_{\text{IDLE}} \times \text{ESR}
$$

where V_{NOM} is the nominal output voltage, f_{OSC} is the maximum switching frequency set by the internal oscillator, fsw is the actual switching frequency, and I_{IDLE} is the idle-mode inductor current when pulse skipping.

Adjustable/Fixed Output Voltages (Dual-Mode Feedback)

Connect FB3 and FB5 to GND to enable the fixed SMPS output voltages (3.3V and 5V, respectively), set by a preset, internal resistive voltage-divider connected between CSL_ and analog ground. Connect a resistive voltage-divider at FB_ between CSL_ and GND to adjust the respective output voltage between 1V and 5.5V (Figure 5). Choose R2 (resistance from FB to GND) to be about 10kΩ and solve for R1 (resistance from OUT to FB) using the equation:

$$
R1 = R2 \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{FB}} - 1 \right)
$$

where $VFB_{-} = 1V$ nominal.

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When adjusting both output voltages, set the 3.3V SMPS lower than the 5V SMPS. LDO5 connects to the 5V output (CSL5) through an internal switch only when CSL5 is above the LDO5 bootstrap threshold (4.56V). Similarly, LDO3 connects to the 3.3V output (CSL3) through an internal switch only when CSL3 is above the LDO3 bootstrap threshold (2.91V). Bootstrapping works most effectively when the fixed output voltages are used. Once LDO_ is bootstrapped from CSL_, the internal linear regulator turns off. This reduces internal power dissipation and improves efficiency at higher input voltage.

Current-Limit Protection (ILIM_)

The current-limit circuit uses differential current-sense inputs (CSH_ and CSL_) to limit the peak inductor current. If the magnitude of the current-sense signal exceeds the current-limit threshold, the PWM controller turns off the high-side MOSFET (Figure 3). At the next rising edge of the internal oscillator, the PWM controller does not initiate a new cycle unless the current-sense signal drops below the current-limit threshold. The actual maximum load current is less than the peak current-limit threshold by an amount equal to half of the inductor ripple current. Therefore, the maximum load capability is a function of the current-sense resistance, inductor value, switching frequency, and duty cycle (VOUT / VIN).

In forced-PWM mode, the MAX1533/MAX1537 also implement a negative current limit to prevent excessive reverse inductor currents when V_{OUT} is sinking current. The negative current-limit threshold is set to approximately 120% of the positive current limit and tracks the positive current limit when ILIM_ is adjusted.

Connect ILIM_ to V_{CC} for the 75mV default threshold, or adjust the current-limit threshold with an external resistor-divider at ILIM_. Use a 2µA to 20µA divider current for accuracy and noise immunity. The current-limit threshold adjustment range is from 50mV to 200mV. In the adjustable mode, the current-limit threshold voltage equals precisely 1/10th the voltage seen at ILIM_. The logic threshold for switchover to the 75mV default value is approximately V_{CC} - 1V.

Carefully observe the PC board layout guidelines to ensure that noise and DC errors do not corrupt the differential current-sense signals seen by CSH_ and CSL_. Place the IC close to the sense resistor with short, direct traces, making a Kelvin-sense connection to the current-sense resistor.

MOSFET Gate Drivers (DH_, DL_)

The DH_ and DL_ drivers are optimized for driving moderate-sized high-side and larger low-side power MOSFETs. This is consistent with the low duty factor seen in notebook applications, where a large V_{1N} -VOUT differential exists. The high-side gate drivers (DH_) source and sink 2A, and the low-side gate drivers (DL_) source 1.7A and sink 3.3A. This ensures robust gate drive for high-current applications. The DH_ floating high-side MOSFET drivers are powered by diode-capacitor charge pumps at BST_ (Figure 6) while the DL_ synchronous-rectifier drivers are powered directly by the fixed 5V linear regulator (LDO5).

Adaptive dead-time circuits monitor the DL_ and DH_ drivers and prevent either FET from turning on until the other is fully off. The adaptive driver dead time allows operation without shoot-through with a wide range of MOSFETs, minimizing delays and maintaining efficiency. There must be a low-resistance, low-inductance path from the DL_ and DH_ drivers to the MOSFET gates for the adaptive dead-time circuits to work properly; otherwise, the sense circuitry in the MAX1533/ MAX1537 interprets the MOSFET gates as "off" while charge actually remains. Use very short, wide traces (50 to 100 mils wide if the MOSFET is 1 inch from the driver).

The internal pulldown transistor that drives DL_ low is robust, with a $0.6Ω$ (typ) on-resistance. This helps prevent DL_ from being pulled up due to capacitive coupling from the drain to the gate of the low-side MOSFETs when the inductor node (LX_) quickly switches from ground to V_{IN} . Applications with high input voltages and long inductive driver traces may require additional gate-to-source capacitance to ensure fastrising LX_ edges do not pull up the low-side MOSFETs' gate, causing shoot-through currents. The capacitive coupling between LX_ and DL_ created by the MOSFET's gate-to-drain capacitance (CRSS), gate-tosource capacitance (C_{ISS} - C_{RSS}), and additional board parasitics should not exceed the following minimum threshold:

$$
V_{GS(TH)} > V_{IN} \left(\frac{C_{RSS}}{C_{ISS}} \right)
$$

Lot-to-lot variation of the threshold voltage may cause problems in marginal designs. Alternatively, adding a resistor less than 10 Ω in series with BST may remedy the problem by increasing the turn-on time of the highside MOSFET without degrading the turn-off time (Figure 6).

MAX1533/MAX1537 **MAX1533/MAX1537**

High-Efficiency, 5x Output, Main Power-Supply Controllers for Notebook Computers

Power-Good Output (PGOOD)

PGOOD is the open-drain output of a comparator that continuously monitors both SMPS output voltages for undervoltage conditions. PGOOD is actively held low in shutdown ($\overline{\text{SHDN}}$ or ON3 or $\text{ON5} = \text{GND}$), soft-start, and soft-shutdown. Once the digital soft-start terminates, PGOOD becomes high impedance as long as both outputs are above 90% of the nominal regulation voltage set by FB_. PGOOD goes low once either SMPS output drops 10% below its nominal regulation point, an output overvoltage fault occurs, or either SMPS controller is shut down. For a logic-level PGOOD output voltage, connect an external pullup resistor between PGOOD and V_{CC}. A 100kΩ pullup resistor works well in most applications.

PGOOD is independent of the fault protection states OVP and UVP.

Fault Protection

Output Overvoltage Protection (OVP)

If the output voltage of either SMPS rises above 111% of its nominal regulation voltage and the OVP protection is enabled ($\overline{\text{OVP}}$ = GND), the controller sets the fault latch, pulls PGOOD low, shuts down both SMPS controllers, and immediately pulls DH_ low and forces DL_

Figure 6. Optional Gate-Driver Circuitry

Figure 7. Power-Good and Fault Protection

MAX1533/MAX1537 MAX1533/MAX153

high. This turns on the synchronous-rectifier MOSFETs with 100% duty, rapidly discharging the output capacitors and clamping both outputs to ground. However, immediately latching DL_ high typically causes slightly negative output voltages due to the energy stored in the output LC at the instant the OVP occurs. If the load cannot tolerate a negative voltage, place a power Schottky diode across the output to act as a reversepolarity clamp. If the condition that caused the overvoltage persists (such as a shorted high-side MOSFET), the battery fuse blows. Cycle V_{CC} below 1V or toggle either ON3, ON5, or SHDN to clear the fault latch and restart the SMPS controllers.

Connect \overline{OVP} to V_{CC} to disable the output overvoltage protection.

Output Undervoltage Protection (UVP)

Each SMPS controller includes an output UVP protection circuit that begins to monitor the output 6144 clock cycles (1 / f_{OSC}) after that output is enabled (ON_ pulled high). If either SMPS output voltage drops below 70% of its nominal regulation voltage and the UVP protection is enabled (\overline{UVP} = GND), the UVP circuit sets the fault latch, pulls PGOOD low, and shuts down both controllers using discharge mode (see the *Output Discharge (Soft-Shutdown)* section). When an SMPS output voltage drops to 0.3V, its synchronous rectifier turns on, clamping the discharged output to GND. Cycle VCC below 1V or toggle either ON3, ON5, or $\overline{\text{SHDN}}$ to clear the fault latch and restart the SMPS controllers.

Connect UVP to V_{CC} to disable the output undervoltage protection.

Table 5. Operating Modes Truth Table

Thermal Fault Protection

The MAX1533/MAX1537 feature a thermal fault-protection circuit. When the junction temperature rises above +160°C, a thermal sensor activates the fault latch, pulls PGOOD low, and shuts down both SMPS controllers using discharge mode (see the *Output Discharge (Soft-Shutdown)* section). When an SMPS output voltage drops to 0.3V, its synchronous rectifier turns on, clamping the discharged output to GND. Cycle V_{CC} below 1V or toggle either ON3, ON5, or SHDN to clear the fault latch and restart the controllers after the junction temperature cools by 15°C.

Auxiliary LDO Detailed Description (MAX1537 Only)

The MAX1537 includes an auxiliary linear regulator that delivers up to 150mA of load current. The output (LDOA) can be preset to 12V, ideal for PCMCIA power requirements, and for biasing the gates of load switches in a portable device. In adjustable mode, LDOA can be set to anywhere from 5V to 23V. The auxiliary regulator has an independent ON/OFF control, allowing it to be shut down when not needed, reducing power consumption when the system is in a low-power state.

A flyback-winding control loop regulates a secondary winding output, improving cross-regulation when the primary output is lightly loaded or when there is a low input-output differential voltage. If VINA - VLDOA falls below 0.8V, the low-side switch is turned on for a time equal to 33% of the switching period. This reverses the inductor (primary) current, pulling current from the output filter capacitor and causing the flyback transformer to operate in forward mode. The low impedance presented by the transformer secondary in forward mode dumps current into the secondary output, charging up the secondary capacitor and bringing V_{INA} - $V_{\text{I DOA}}$ back into regulation. The secondary feedback loop does not improve secondary output accuracy in normal flyback mode, where the main (primary) output is heavily loaded. In this condition, secondary output accuracy is determined by the secondary rectifier drop, transformer turns ratio, and accuracy of the main output voltage.

Adjustable LDOA Voltage (Dual-Mode Feedback)

Connect ADJA to GND to enable the fixed, preset 12V auxiliary output. Connect a resistive voltage-divider at ADJA between LDOA and GND to adjust the respective output voltage between 5V and 23V (Figure 8). Choose R2 (resistance from ADJA to GND) to be approximately

Figure 8. Linear-Regulator Functional Diagram

100kΩ and solve for R1 (resistance from LDOA to ADJA) using the following equation:

$$
R1 = R2 \left(\frac{V_{LDOA}}{V_{ADJA}} - 1 \right)
$$

where $V_{ADJA} = 2V$ nominal.

Design Procedure

Firmly establish the input voltage range and maximum load current before choosing a switching frequency and inductor operating point (ripple-current ratio). The primary design trade-off lies in choosing a good switching frequency and inductor operating point, and the following four factors dictate the rest of the design:

• **Input Voltage Range.** The maximum value (VIN(MAX)) must accommodate the worst-case, high AC-adapter voltage. The minimum value (VIN(MIN)) must account for the lowest battery voltage after drops due to connectors, fuses, and battery-selector switches. If there is a choice at all, lower input voltages result in better efficiency.

- **Maximum Load Current.** There are two values to consider. The peak load current (ILOAD(MAX)) determines the instantaneous component stresses and filtering requirements and thus drives output-capacitor selection, inductor saturation rating, and the design of the current-limit circuit. The continuous load current (ILOAD) determines the thermal stresses and thus drives the selection of input capacitors, MOSFETs, and other critical heat-contributing components.
- **Switching Frequency.** This choice determines the basic trade-off between size and efficiency. The optimal frequency is largely a function of maximum input voltage, due to MOSFET switching losses that are proportional to frequency and VIN². The optimum frequency is also a moving target, due to rapid improvements in MOSFET technology that are making higher frequencies more practical.
- **Inductor Operating Point.** This choice provides trade-offs between size vs. efficiency and transient response vs. output ripple. Low inductor values provide better transient response and smaller physical size, but also result in lower efficiency and higher output ripple due to increased ripple currents. The minimum practical inductor value is one that causes the circuit to operate at the edge of critical conduction (where the inductor current just touches zero with every cycle at maximum load). Inductor values lower than this grant no further size-reduction benefit. The optimum operating point is usually found between 20% and 50% ripple current. When pulse skipping (SKIP low and light loads), the inductor value also determines the load-current value at which PFM/PWM switchover occurs.

Inductor Selection

The switching frequency and inductor operating point determine the inductor value as follows:

$$
L = \frac{V_{OUT} (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})}{V_{IN} f_{OSC} I_{LOAD(MAX)} LIR}
$$

For example: $I_{LOAD(MAX)} = 5A$, $V_{IN} = 12V$, $V_{OUT} = 5V$, $f_{OSC} = 300kHz$, 30% ripple current or $LIR = 0.3$.

$$
L = \frac{5V \times (12V - 5V)}{12V \times 300kHz \times 5A \times 0.3} = 6.50 \mu H
$$

Find a low-loss inductor with the lowest possible DC resistance that fits in the allotted dimensions. Most inductor manufacturers provide inductors in standard values, such as 1.0µH, 1.5µH, 2.2µH, 3.3µH, etc. Also look for nonstandard values, which can provide a better compromise in LIR across the input voltage range. If using a swinging inductor (where the no-load inductance decreases linearly with increasing current), evaluate the LIR with properly scaled inductance values. For the selected inductance value, the actual peak-to-peak inductor ripple current (ΔI_{INDUCTOR}) is defined by:

$$
\Delta I_{INDUCTOR} = \frac{V_{OUT} (V_{IN} - V_{OUT})}{V_{IN} f_{OSC} L}
$$

Ferrite cores are often the best choice, although powdered iron is inexpensive and can work well at 200kHz. The core must be large enough not to saturate at the peak inductor current (IPEAK):

$$
I_{PEAK} = I_{LOAD(MAX)} + \frac{\Delta I_{INDUCTOR}}{2}
$$

Transformer Design (For the MAX1537 Auxiliary Output)

A coupled inductor or transformer can be substituted for the inductor in the 5V SMPS to create an auxiliary output (Figure 1). The MAX1537 is particularly well suited for such applications because the secondary feedback threshold automatically triggers DL5 even if the 5V output is lightly loaded.

The power requirements of the auxiliary supply must be considered in the design of the main output. The transformer must be designed to deliver the required current in both the primary and the secondary outputs with the proper turns ratio and inductance. The power ratings of the synchronous-rectifier MOSFETs and the current limit in the MAX1537 must also be adjusted accordingly. Extremes of low input-output differentials, widely different output loading levels, and high turns ratios can further complicate the design due to parasitic transformer parameters such as interwinding capacitance, secondary resistance, and leakage inductance. Power from the main and secondary outputs is combined to get an equivalent current referred to the main output. Use this total current to determine the current limit (see the *Setting the Current Limit* section):

ITOTAL = PTOTAL / VOUT5

where ITOTAL is the equivalent output current referred to the main output, and PTOTAL is the sum of the output power from both the main output and the secondary output:

 $N = \frac{V_{\text{SEC}} + V_{\text{FWD}}}{V_{\text{OUT5}} + V_{\text{RECT}} + V_{\text{N}}}$ <u>SEC + YFWD</u> OUT5 + VRECT + VSENSE $= \frac{V_{\text{SEC}} + V_{\text{FW}}}{V_{\text{OUT5}} + V_{\text{RECT}} + V_{\text{H}} + V_{\text{H$ 5

where LPRIMARY is the primary inductance, N is the transformer turns ratio, VSEC is the minimum required rectified secondary voltage, V_{FWD} is the forward drop across the secondary rectifier, $V_{\text{OUT5}(MIN)}$ is the minimum value of the main output voltage, and V_{RFCT} is the on-state voltage drop across the synchronous-rectifier MOSFET. The transformer secondary return is often connected to the main output voltage instead of ground to reduce the necessary turns ratio. In this case, subtract VOUT5 from the secondary voltage (VSEC - VOUT5) in the transformer turns-ratio equation above. The secondary diode in coupled-inductor applications must withstand flyback voltages greater than 60V. Common silicon rectifiers, such as the 1N4001, are also prohibited because they are too slow. Fast silicon rectifiers such as the MURS120 are the only choice. The flyback voltage across the rectifier is related to the V_{IN} - V_{OUT} difference, according to the transformer turns ratio:

 V FLYBACK = V SEC + $(V_{IN} - V_{OUT5}) \times N$

where N is the transformer turns ratio (secondary windings/primary windings), and V_{SEC} is the maximum secondary DC output voltage. If the secondary winding is returned to VOUT5 instead of ground, subtract VOUT5 from VFLYBACK in the equation above. The diode's reverse-breakdown voltage rating must also accommodate any ringing due to leakage inductance. The diode's current rating should be at least twice the DC load current on the secondary output.

Transient Response

The inductor ripple current also impacts transientresponse performance, especially at low V_{IN} - V_{OUT} differentials. Low inductor values allow the inductor current to slew faster, replenishing charge removed from the output filter capacitors by a sudden load step. The total output voltage sag is the sum of the voltage sag while the inductor is ramping up, and the voltage sag before the next pulse can occur.

$$
V_{SAG} = \frac{L (\Delta I_{LOAD(MAX)})^2}{2 C_{OUT} (V_{IN} \times D_{MAX} - V_{OUT})} + \frac{\Delta I_{LOAD(MAX)} (T - \Delta T)}{C_{OUT}}
$$

where D_{MAX} is the maximum duty factor (see the *Electrical Characteristics* table), T is the switching period (1 / fOSC), and ∆T equals VOUT / VIN x T when in PWM mode, or $L \times 0.2 \times I_{MAX}$ / (V_{IN} - V_{OUT}) when in skip mode. The amount of overshoot during a full-load to noload transient due to stored inductor energy can be calculated as:

$$
V_{SOAR} = \frac{(\Delta I_{LOAD(MAX)})^2 L}{2C_{OUT} V_{OUT}}
$$

Setting the Current Limit

The minimum current-limit threshold must be great enough to support the maximum load current when the current limit is at the minimum tolerance value. The peak inductor current occurs at ILOAD(MAX) plus half the ripple current; therefore:

$$
I_{LIMIT} > I_{LOAD(MAX)} + \left(\frac{\Delta I_{INDUCTOR}}{2}\right)
$$

where ILIMIT equals the minimum current-limit threshold voltage divided by the current-sense resistance (RSENSE). For the default setting, the minimum currentlimit threshold is 70mV.

Connect ILIM_ to V_{CC} for the default current-limit threshold. In adjustable mode, the current-limit threshold is precisely 1/10th the voltage seen at ILIM_. For an adjustable threshold, connect a resistive divider from REF to analog ground (GND) with ILIM_ connected to the center tap. The external 500mV to 2V adjustment range corresponds to a 50mV to 200mV current-limit threshold. When adjusting the current limit, use 1% tolerance resistors and a divider current of approximately 10µA to prevent significant inaccuracy in the currentlimit tolerance.

The current-sense method (Figure 9) and magnitude determine the achievable current-limit accuracy and power loss. Typically, higher current-sense limits provide tighter accuracy, but also dissipate more power. Most applications employ a current-limit threshold (VLIMIT) of 50mV to 100mV, so the sense resistor can be determined by:

R SENSE = V LIMIT / I LIM

For the best current-sense accuracy and overcurrent protection, use a 1% tolerance current-sense resistor between the inductor and output as shown in Figure 9a. This configuration constantly monitors the inductor current, allowing accurate current-limit protection.

MAXM

Alternatively, high-power applications that do not require highly accurate current-limit protection may reduce the overall power dissipation by connecting a series RC circuit across the inductor (Figure 9b) with an equivalent time constant:

$$
\frac{L}{R_L} = C_{EQ} \times R_{EQ}
$$

where R_L is the inductor's series DC resistance. In this configuration, the current-sense resistance equals the inductor's DC resistance ($R_{\text{SENSF}} = R_1$). Use the worstcase inductance and RL values provided by the inductor manufacturer, adding some margin for the inductance drop over temperature and load.

Output Capacitor Selection

The output filter capacitor must have low enough equivalent series resistance (ESR) to meet output ripple and load-transient requirements, yet have high enough ESR to satisfy stability requirements. The output capacitance must be high enough to absorb the inductor energy while transitioning from full-load to no-load conditions without tripping the overvoltage fault protection. When using high-capacitance, low-ESR capacitors (see the *Output-Capacitor Stability Considerations* section),

Figure 9. Current-Sense Configurations

the filter capacitor's ESR dominates the output voltage ripple. So the output capacitor's size depends on the maximum ESR required to meet the output voltage ripple (VRIPPLE(P-P)) specifications:

 $V_{\text{RIPPLE}(P-P)} = \text{Res}_{R} I_{\text{LOAD}(MAX)}$ LIR

In idle mode, the inductor current becomes discontinuous, with peak currents set by the idle-mode currentsense threshold ($V_{\text{IDLE}} = 0.2V_{\text{LIMIT}}$). In idle mode, the no-load output ripple can be determined as follows:

$$
V_{RIPPLE}(P-P) = \frac{V_{IDE} R_{ESR}}{R_{SENSE}}
$$

The actual capacitance value required relates to the physical size needed to achieve low ESR, as well as to the chemistry of the capacitor technology. Thus, the capacitor is usually selected by ESR and voltage rating rather than by capacitance value (this is true of tantalums, OS-CONs, polymers, and other electrolytics). When using low-capacity filter capacitors, such as ceramic capacitors, size is usually determined by the capacity needed to prevent VSAG and VSOAR from causing problems during load transients. Generally, once enough capacitance is added to meet the overshoot requirement, undershoot at the rising load edge is no longer a problem (see the VSAG and VSOAR equations in the *Transient Response* section). However, lowcapacity filter capacitors typically have high-ESR zeros that may affect the overall stability (see the *Output-Capacitor Stability Considerations*).

Output-Capacitor Stability Considerations

Stability is determined by the value of the ESR zero relative to the switching frequency. The boundary of instability is given by the following equation:

$$
f_{\text{ESR}} \le \frac{f_{\text{OSC}}}{\pi}
$$

where $f_{\text{ESR}} = \frac{1}{2\pi \text{ R}_{\text{ESR}} C_{\text{OUT}}}$

For a typical 300kHz application, the ESR zero frequency must be well below 95kHz, preferably below 50kHz. Tantalum and OS-CON capacitors in widespread use at the time of publication have typical ESR zero frequencies of 25kHz. In the design example used for inductor selection, the ESR needed to support 25mVp-p ripple is $25mV / 1.5A = 16.7m\Omega$. One $220\mu F/4V$ Sanyo polymer (TPE) capacitor provides 15m Ω (max) ESR. This results in a zero at 48kHz, well within the bounds of stability.

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For low-input-voltage applications where the duty cycle exceeds 50% (VOUT / V_{IN} \geq 50%), the output ripple voltage should not be greater than twice the internal slopecompensation voltage:

V RIPPLE \leq 0.02 \times VOUT

where VRIPPLE equals ∆IINDUCTOR x RESR. The worstcase ESR limit occurs when $V_{IN} = 2 \times V_{OUT}$, so the above equation can be simplified to provide the following boundary condition:

$RESR \leq 0.04 \times L \times fOSC$

Do not put high-value ceramic capacitors directly across the feedback sense point without taking precautions to ensure stability. Large ceramic capacitors can have a high-ESR zero frequency and cause erratic, unstable operation. However, it is easy to add enough series resistance by placing the capacitors a couple of inches downstream from the feedback sense point, which should be as close as possible to the inductor.

Unstable operation manifests itself in two related but distinctly different ways: short/long pulses or cycle skipping resulting in a lower switching frequency. Instability occurs due to noise on the output or because the ESR is so low that there is not enough voltage ramp in the output voltage signal. This "fools" the error comparator into triggering too early or skipping a cycle. Cycle skipping is more annoying than harmful, resulting in nothing worse than increased output ripple. However, it can indicate the possible presence of loop instability due to insufficient ESR. Loop instability can result in oscillations at the output after line or load steps. Such perturbations are usually damped, but can cause the output voltage to rise above or fall below the tolerance limits.

The easiest method for checking stability is to apply a very fast zero-to-max load transient and carefully observe the output-voltage-ripple envelope for overshoot and ringing. It can help to simultaneously monitor the inductor current with an AC-current probe. Do not allow more than one cycle of ringing after the initial step-response under/overshoot.

Input Capacitor Selection

The input capacitor must meet the ripple current requirement (IRMS) imposed by the switching currents. For an out-of-phase regulator, the total RMS current in the input capacitor is a function of the load currents, the input currents, the duty cycles, and the amount of overlap as defined in Figure 10.

The 40/60 optimal interleaved architecture of the MAX1533/MAX1537 allows the input voltage to go as low as 8.3V before the duty cycles begin to overlap.

This offers improved efficiency over a regular 180° outof-phase architecture where the duty cycles begin to overlap below 10V. Figure 10 shows the input-capacitor RMS current vs. input voltage for an application that requires 5V/5A and 3.3V/5A. This shows the improvement of the 40/60 optimal interleaving over 50/50 interleaving and in-phase operation.

For most applications, nontantalum chemistries (ceramic, aluminum, or OS-CON) are preferred due to their resistance to power-up surge currents typical of systems with a mechanical switch or connector in series with the input. Choose a capacitor that has less than 10°C temperature rise at the RMS input current for optimal reliability and lifetime.

Power-MOSFET Selection

Most of the following MOSFET guidelines focus on the challenge of obtaining high load-current capability when using high-voltage (>20V) AC adapters. Low-current applications usually require less attention.

The high-side MOSFET (NH) must be able to dissipate the resistive losses plus the switching losses at both VIN(MIN) and VIN(MAX). Ideally, the losses at VIN(MIN) should be roughly equal to the losses at VIN(MAX), with lower losses in between. If the losses at VIN(MIN) are

Figure 10. Input RMS Current

ate-sized package (i.e., SO-8, DPAK, or D2PAK), and is reasonably priced. Ensure that the MAX1533/MAX1537 DL_ gate driver can supply sufficient current to support the gate charge and the current injected into the parasitic drain-to-gate capacitor caused by the high-side MOSFET turning on; otherwise, cross-conduction prob-

lems may occur. Switching losses are not an issue for the low-side MOSFET since it is a zero-voltage switched device when used in the step-down topology.

significantly higher, consider increasing the size of N_H. Conversely, if the losses at VIN(MAX) are significantly higher, consider reducing the size of N_H. If V_{IN} does not vary over a wide range, maximum efficiency is achieved by selecting a high-side MOSFET (N_H) that has conduction losses equal to the switching losses. Choose a low-side MOSFET (N_L) that has the lowest possible on-resistance (RDS(ON)), comes in a moder-

Power-MOSFET Dissipation

Worst-case conduction losses occur at the duty factor extremes. For the high-side MOSFET (N_H) , the worstcase power dissipation due to resistance occurs at minimum input voltage:

$$
PD (N_{H} \text{ Resistance}) = \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right) (I_{LOAD})^{2} R_{DS(ON)}
$$

Generally, use a small high-side MOSFET to reduce switching losses at high input voltages. However, the RDS(ON) required to stay within package power-dissipation limits often limits how small the MOSFET can be. The optimum occurs when the switching losses equal the conduction $(R_{DS(ON)})$ losses. High-side switching losses do not become an issue until the input is greater than approximately 15V.

Calculating the power dissipation in high-side $MOSFETs (N_H)$ due to switching losses is difficult, since it must allow for difficult-to-quantify factors that influence the turn-on and turn-off times. These factors include the internal gate resistance, gate charge, threshold voltage, source inductance, and PC board layout characteristics. The following switching loss calculation provides only a very rough estimate and is no substitute for breadboard evaluation, preferably including verification using a thermocouple mounted on NH:

$$
PD (N_{H} Switching) = \frac{(V_{IN(MAX)})^{2}C_{RSS} f_{SW} I_{LOAD}}{I_{GATE}}
$$

where C_{RSS} is the reverse transfer capacitance of N_H, and IGATE is the peak gate-drive source/sink current (1A typ).

Switching losses in the high-side MOSFET can become a heat problem when maximum AC-adapter voltages are applied, due to the squared term in the switchingloss equation (C x V_{IN}^2 x f_{SW}). If the high-side MOSFET chosen for adequate RDS(ON) at low battery voltages becomes extraordinarily hot when subjected to VIN(MAX), consider choosing another MOSFET with lower parasitic capacitance.

For the low-side MOSFET (NL), the worst-case power dissipation always occurs at maximum battery voltage:

$$
PD (N_L \text{ Resistance}) = \left[1 - \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN(MAX)}} \right) \right] (I_{LOAD})^2 R_{DS(ON)}
$$

The absolute worst case for MOSFET power dissipation occurs under heavy-overload conditions that are greater than ILOAD(MAX) but are not high enough to exceed the current limit and cause the fault latch to trip. To protect against this possibility, "overdesign" the circuit to tolerate:

$$
I_{\text{LOAD}} = I_{\text{LIMIT}} - \left(\frac{\Delta I_{\text{INDUCTOR}}}{2}\right)
$$

where I_{LIMIT} is the peak current allowed by the currentlimit circuit, including threshold tolerance and senseresistance variation. The MOSFETs must have a relatively large heatsink to handle the overload power dissipation.

Choose a Schottky diode (DL) with a forward-voltage drop low enough to prevent the low-side MOSFET's body diode from turning on during the dead time. As a general rule, select a diode with a DC current rating equal to 1/3rd the load current. This diode is optional and can be removed if efficiency is not critical.

Boost Capacitors

The boost capacitors (C_{BST}) must be selected large enough to handle the gate-charging requirements of the high-side MOSFETs. Typically, 0.1µF ceramic capacitors work well for low-power applications driving medium-sized MOSFETs. However, high-current applications driving large, high-side MOSFETs require boost capacitors larger than 0.1µF. For these applications, select the boost capacitors to avoid discharging the capacitor more than 200mV while charging the highside MOSFETs' gates:

$$
C_{\text{BST}} = \frac{Q_{\text{GATE}}}{200 \text{mV}}
$$

where Q_{GATE} is the total gate charge specified in the high-side MOSFET's data sheet. For example, assume the FDS6612A n-channel MOSFET is used on the high side. According to the manufacturer's data sheet, a single FDS6612A has a maximum gate charge of 13nC $(V_{GS} = 5V)$. Using the above equation, the required boost capacitance is:

$$
C_{\text{BST}} = \frac{13nC}{200mV} = 0.065\mu F
$$

Selecting the closest standard value. This example requires a 0.1µF ceramic capacitor.

Applications Information

Duty-Cycle Limits

Minimum Input Voltage

The minimum input operating voltage (dropout voltage) is restricted by the maximum duty-cycle specification (see the *Electrical Characteristics* table). However, keep in mind that the transient performance gets worse as the step-down regulators approach the dropout voltage, so bulk output capacitance must be added (see the voltage sag and soar equations in the *Design Procedure* section). The absolute point of dropout occurs when the inductor current ramps down during the off-time (ΔIDOWN) as much as it ramps up during the on-time (ΔI _{UP}). This results in a minimum operating voltage defined by the following equation:

$$
V_{IN(MIN)} = V_{OUT} + V_{CHG} + h \left(\frac{1}{D_{MAX}} - 1\right) (V_{OUT} + V_{DIS})
$$

where VCHG and V_{DIS} are the parasitic voltage drops in the charge and discharge paths, respectively. A reasonable minimum value for h is 1.5, while the absolute minimum input voltage is calculated with $h = 1$.

Maximum Input Voltage

The MAX1533/MAX1537 controllers include a minimum on-time specification, which determines the maximum input operating voltage that maintains the selected switching frequency (see the *Electrical Characteristics* table). Operation above this maximum input voltage results in pulse-skipping operation, regardless of the operating mode selected by SKIP. At the beginning of each cycle, if the output voltage is still above the feed-

back-threshold voltage, the controller does not trigger an on-time pulse, effectively skipping a cycle. This allows the controller to maintain regulation above the maximum input voltage, but forces the controller to effectively operate with a lower switching frequency. This results in an input threshold voltage at which the controller begins to skip pulses (VIN(SKIP)):

$$
V_{IN(SKIP)} = V_{OUT} \left(\frac{1}{f_{OSC} \cdot t_{ON(MIN)}}\right)
$$

where fosc is the switching frequency selected by FSEL.

PC Board Layout Guidelines

Careful PC board layout is critical to achieving low switching losses and clean, stable operation. The switching power stage requires particular attention (Figure 11). If possible, mount all of the power components on the top side of the board, with their ground terminals flush against one another. Follow these guidelines for good PC board layout:

- Keep the high-current paths short, especially at the ground terminals. This practice is essential for stable, jitter-free operation.
- Keep the power traces and load connections short. This practice is essential for high efficiency. Using thick copper PC boards (2oz vs. 1oz) can enhance full-load efficiency by 1% or more. Correctly routing PC board traces is a difficult task that must be approached in terms of fractions of centimeters, where a single m Ω of excess trace resistance causes a measurable efficiency penalty.
- Minimize current-sensing errors by connecting CSH_ and CSL_ directly across the current-sense resistor (RSENSE_).
- When trade-offs in trace lengths must be made, it is preferable to allow the inductor charging path to be made longer than the discharge path. For example, it is better to allow some extra distance between the input capacitors and the high-side MOSFET than to allow distance between the inductor and the lowside MOSFET or between the inductor and the output filter capacitor.
- Route high-speed switching nodes (BST_, LX_, DH_, and DL_) away from sensitive analog areas (REF, FB_, CSH_, CSL_).

Layout Procedure

- 1) Place the power components first, with ground terminals adjacent (N_L source, C_{IN}, C_{OUT}, and D_L anode). If possible, make all these connections on the top layer with wide, copper-filled areas.
- 2) Mount the controller IC adjacent to the low-side MOSFET, preferably on the back side opposite N_L and N_H to keep $LX_$, GND, DH $_$, and the DL $_$ gatedrive lines short and wide. The DL_ and DH_ gate traces must be short and wide (50 to 100 mils wide if the MOSFET is 1 inch from the controller IC) to keep the driver impedance low and for proper adaptive dead-time sensing.
- 3) Group the gate-drive components (BST_ diode and capacitor, LDO5 bypass capacitor) together near the controller IC.
- 4) Make the DC-DC controller ground connections as shown in Figures 1 and 11. This diagram can be viewed as having two separate ground planes: power ground, where all the high-power components go; and an analog ground plane for sensitive analog components. The analog ground plane and power ground plane must meet only at a single point directly at the IC.
- 5) Connect the output power planes directly to the output-filter-capacitor positive and negative terminals with multiple vias. Place the entire DC-DC converter circuit as close to the load as is practical.

Figure 11. PC Board Layout

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Chip Information

TRANSISTOR COUNT: 6890 PROCESS: BiCMOS

Package Information

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)

Package Information (continued)

(The package drawing(s) in this data sheet may not reflect the most current specifications. For the latest package outline information go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**.)

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