**MAXM** 

## *Dual-Output, 3-/2-/1-Phase + 2-/1-Phase Quick-PWM Controllers for VR12/IMVP7* AVAILABLE

## *General Description*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T are dual-output, step-down, constant on-time Quick-PWM™ controllers for VR12/IMVP-7 CPU core supplies. The controllers consist of two high-current switching power supplies for CPU and GFX cores. The CPU regulator (regulator A) is a three-phase constant on-time architecture. The GFX regulator (regulator B) is also constant on-time architecture. The MAX17411 supports 2-phase operation and the MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T support 1-phase operation. The MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T include two internal drivers on regulator A and one internal driver on regulator B. External drivers such as the MAX17491 enable the additional phases.

Both regulator A and regulator B include output voltage sensing and accurate load-line gain. Switching frequencies are programmable from 200kHz to 600kHz per phase. Output overvoltage protection (OVP, MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N), undervoltage protection (UVP), and thermal protection ensure effective and reliable operation. When any of these protection features detect a fault, the controller shuts down both outputs.

The multiphase regulators include transient-phase overlap and active overshoot suppression, which speed up the response time and reduce the total output capacitance. The CPU and GFX outputs are controlled independently by writing the appropriate data into a functionmapped register file. VID code transitions and soft-start are enabled with a precision slew-rate control circuit. The SVID interface also allows each regulator to be individually set into a low-power, single-phase, pulse-skipping state to optimize efficiency. The MAX17411 is available in a 48-pin, 6mm x 6mm, TQFN package. The MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T are available in a 40-pin, 5mm x 5mm, TQFN lead-free package.

## *Applications*

VR12/IMVP-7 CPU Core Power Supplies Notebooks/Desktops/Servers

## *Features*

- ◆ Intel VR12/IMVP-7-Compliant Serial Interface
- ◆ 3-/2-/1-Phase Quick-PWM CPU Core Regulator Two Internal Drivers and One External Driver Transient-Phase Overlap Mode Dynamic Phase Selection
- ◆ 2-/1-Phase Quick-PWM GFX Regulator One Internal and One External Driver
- **Active Overshoot Suppression**
- S 8-Bit VR12/IMVP-7 DAC
- ◆ ±0.5% VOUT Accuracy Over Line, Load, and **Temperature**
- **+ Active Voltage Positioning with Programmable** Gain
- ◆ Accurate Lossless Current Balance
- ◆ Accurate Droop and Current Limit
- **+ Remote Output and Ground Sense**
- ◆ Power-Good Window Comparators (POKA and POKB)
- ◆ 4.5V to 24V Battery-Input Voltage Range
- ◆ Programmable 200kHz to 600kHz Switching **Frequency**
- **+ External Thermal-Fault Detection Output** (VR\_HOT#)
- + Overvoltage (MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N), Undervoltage, and Thermal-Fault Protection
- ◆ Slew-Rate Controlled Soft-Start
- $\triangle$  Passive Soft-Shutdown (20 $\Omega$  Discharge Switches)
- Integrated Boost Switches
- ◆ Low-Profile, 48-Lead/40-Lead TQFN Packages

*Quick PWM is a trademark of Maxim Integrated Products, Inc.*

## *Ordering Information*



*Ordering Information continued on last page.*

+*Denotes a lead(Pb)-free/RoHS-compliant package.* \**EP = Exposed pad.*

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*For information on other Maxim products, visit Maxim's website at www.maxim-ic.com.*

## ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS





## PACKAGE THERMAL CHARACTERISTICS (Note 1)





48 TQFN



Note 1: Package thermal resistances were obtained using the method described in JEDEC specification JESD51-7, using a fourlayer board. For detailed information on package thermal considerations, refer to www.maxim-ic.com/thermal-tutorial.

*Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional opera*tion 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

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP\_</sub>AvE = V<sub>CSP\_</sub> = V<sub>CSN\_</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



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#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $Ta = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



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## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuit of Figure 1. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP\_</sub>AVE = V<sub>CSP\_</sub> = V<sub>CSN\_</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}$ C. Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature guaranteed by design.)



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## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP\_</sub>AVE = V<sub>CSP\_</sub> = V<sub>CSN\_</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $T_A = 0^\circ C$  to +85°C, unless otherwise noted. Typical values are at  $T_A = +25^\circ C$ . All devices 100% tested at  $TA = +25^{\circ}C$ . Limits over temperature quaranteed by design.)



## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP</sub> AVE = V<sub>CSP\_</sub> = V<sub>CSN\_</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)





## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP\_AVE</sub> = V<sub>CSP\_</sub> = V<sub>CSN\_</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)





## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)



## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP</sub> AVE = V<sub>CSP</sub> = V<sub>CSN</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)



## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)



#### ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. V<sub>IN</sub> = 10V, V<sub>CC</sub> = V<sub>DDA</sub> = V<sub>DDB</sub> = 5V, EN = V<sub>CC</sub>, V<sub>GNDS</sub> = 0V, V<sub>FB</sub> = V<sub>CSP</sub> AVE = V<sub>CSP</sub> = V<sub>CSN</sub> = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40°C and +105°C are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)





## ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(Circuits of Figures 1 and 2. VIN = 10V, VCC = VDDA = VDDB = 5V, EN = VCC, VGNDS\_ = 0V, VFB\_ = VCSP\_AVE = VCSP\_ = VCSN\_ = 1V; [SerialVID = 1.00, FPWM MODE];  $TA = -40^{\circ}C$  to  $+105^{\circ}C$ , unless otherwise noted. Specifications to -40 $^{\circ}C$  and +105 $^{\circ}C$  are guaranteed by design, not production tested.)



Note 2: The equation for the target voltage VTARGET is:

 $VTARGFT =$  the slew-rate-controlled version of either  $VDAC$ 

where VDAC = 0V for shutdown, VDAC = VBOOT during startup, otherwise VDAC = VID (the VID voltages for all possible VID codes are given in Table 3 and VOFFSET = the negative or positive offset to the output voltage based on the voltage set from the offset register and the mode of operation (startup, shutdown, deeper sleep, or normal operation), as defined elsewhere in this document.

Note 3: On-time and minimum off-time specifications are measured from 50% to 50% at the DH\_ pin, with LX\_ forced to 0V, BST\_ forced to 5V, and a 500pF capacitor from DH\_ to LX\_ to simulate external MOSFET gate capacitance. Actual in-circuit times may be different due to MOSFET switching speeds.



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 *Typical Operating Characteristics*

**MAXM** 

 $(T_A = +25^{\circ}C,$  unless otherwise noted.)

*MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T* K17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511M/MAX17511 w

**NA** 





 $(T_A = +25^{\circ}C,$  unless otherwise noted.)

NON-ZERO VBOOT STARTUP WAVEFORMS (VBOOT, 1.05V) (MAX17511/MAX17511T ONLY)















(MAX17511/C/N/T ONLY)



#### *Pin Configurations*



## *Pin Description*



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*MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T* 1747774717411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511  $\blacktriangleleft$ 

## *Pin Description (continued)*



## *Pin Description (continued)*



 $\overline{\phantom{a}}$ 

*MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T*

## *Pin Description (continued)*



## *Pin Description (continued)*



## *Pin Description (continued)*



77X 77

## *Pin Description (continued)*





*Figure 1. MAX17411 Typical CPU Core Application Circuit* 



*Figure 2. MAX17511 Typical Application Circuit (3-Phase + 1-Phase)*



*Figure 3. MAX17511N Typical Application Circuit (1-Phase + 1-Phase)*

Table 1. Regulator A Typical Component Values (refer to the MAX17411/MAX17511 Evaluation Kit)



Table 1. Regulator A Typical Component Values (refer to the MAX17411/MAX17511 Evaluation Kit) (continued)



## Table 2. Regulator B Typical Component Values (refer to the MAX17411/MAX17511 Evaluation Kit)



30 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Table 2. Regulator B Typical Component Values (refer to the MAX17411/MAX17511 Evaluation Kit) (continued)





*Figure 4. MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T High-Level Block Diagram*



*Figure 5. Regulator A Block Diagram with SVID Functions* 



*Figure 6. MAX17411 Regulator B Block Diagram with SVID Function* 



*Figure 7. MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T Regulator B Block Diagram with SVID Function* 

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## *Detailed Description*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T are dual-output, step-down, constant ontime controllers for VR12/IMVP-7 CPU core supplies. The controllers consist of two high-current SMPSs for the CPU and GFX cores. The CPU regulator (regulator A, ADDR0) is a three-phase constant on-time architecture. The optional third phase is configured with an external MAX17491 driver. The second GFX regulator (regulator B, ADDR1) is a single-phase (MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T) or two-phase (MAX17411) constant on-time architecture. The three-phase CPU core regulator runs 120° out-of-phase for true interleaved operation, minimizing input capacitance. Figure 4 is the high-level block diagram. Table 1 lists typical component values for regulator A, and Table 2 lists typical component values for regulator B.

CPU and GFX outputs are controlled independently by writing the appropriate data into a function-mapped register file. Output voltages are dynamically changed through a 3-wire serial VID interface (3-wire SVID: clock, data, ALERT#), allowing the switching regulators to be individually programmed to different voltages. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T generate well-controlled technologies between VID codes and automatically soft-start for nonzero VBOOT operation. The SVID interface also allows each regulator to be individually set into a low-power pulse-skipping state. Individual phases can be shut down based on the processors' operating conditions (1 or 3-phase operation is possible under software control). Transient-phase overlap mode improves the current delivery response time of regulator A, which reduces the total output capacitance. Both regulators include active overshoot suppression to reduce the required output decoupling capacitance.

The devices include output overvoltage (MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N), output undervoltage, and thermal protections. When any of these protection features detects a fault, the controller shuts down both channels. True differential current sensing improves load-line and current-limit accuracy. Both regulators A and B feature programmable switching frequency, allowing 200kHz to 600kHz per phase operation. VR12/IMVP-7 requires temperature measurements for the individual outputs. For this reason, an ADC with MUX is included to digitize the analog variables of interest. A thermistor-based temperature sensor provides a programmable thermal-fault output (VR\_HOT#).

#### *Free-Running Constant On-Time PWM Controller with Input Feed-Forward*

The Quick-PWM control architecture is a pseudo-fixed frequency, constant on-time, current-mode regulator with voltage feed-forward (Figures 5, 6, and 7). The control algorithm is simple: the high-side switch on-time is determined solely by a one-shot whose period is inversely proportional to input voltage, and directly proportional to output voltage or the difference between the main and secondary inductor currents (see the *On-Time One-Shot* section). Another one-shot sets a minimum off-time. The on-time one-shot triggers when the error comparator goes low, the inductor current of the selected phase is below the valley current-limit threshold, and the minimum off-time one-shot times out. Regulator A maintains 120° out-of-phase operation by alternately triggering the three phases after the error comparator drops below the output voltage set point. Two-phase controller (regulator B,  $MAX17411$ ) maintains  $180^\circ$  out-of-phase operation by alternately triggering the two phases after the error comparator drops below the output-voltage set point.

*Triple 120° Out-Of-Phase Operation* The three phases in the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T operate 120° out-of-phase to minimize input and output filtering requirements, reduce electromagnetic interference (EMI), and improve efficiency. This effectively lowers component count—reducing cost, board space, and component power requirements—making these devices ideal for high-power, cost-sensitive applications. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T share the current between three phases that operate 120° out-of-phase, so the high-side MOSFETs never turn on simultaneously during normal operation. The instantaneous input current of each phase is effectively reduced, resulting in reduced input voltage ripple, ESR power loss, and RMS ripple current (see the *Input Capacitor Selection* section). Therefore, the same performance can be achieved with fewer or lessexpensive input capacitors.

#### *Dual 180° Out-Of-Phase Operation (MAX17411 Only)*

The two phases in the MAX17411 operate 180° out-ofphase to minimize input and output filtering requirements, reduce EMI, and improve efficiency. This effectively lowers component count—reducing cost, board space, and component power requirements—making this device ideal for high-power, cost-sensitive applications. The MAX17411 shares the current between two phases that operate 180°
out-of-phase, so the high-side MOSFETs never turn on simultaneously during normal operation. The instantaneous input current of each phase is effectively reduced, resulting in reduced input-voltage ripple, ESR power loss, and RMS ripple current (see the *Input Capacitor Selection* section). Therefore, the same performance can be achieved with fewer or less-expensive input capacitors.

*+5V Bias Supply (VCC, VDDA, and VDDB)* The Quick-PWM controllers require an external 5V bias supply in addition to the battery. Typically, this +5V bias supply is the notebook's 95% efficient 5V system supply. The +5V bias supply must provide V<sub>CC</sub> (PWM controller) and V<sub>DDA</sub> and V<sub>DDB</sub> (gate-drive power). V<sub>DDA</sub> and VDDB can be shorted together on the PCB. The maximum current drawn from the 5V bias supply is:

$$
IBIAS = ICC + fSW(QG(LOW) + QG(HIGH)) IREGA +fSW(QG(LOW) + QG(HIGH)) IREGB
$$

where ICC is provided in the *Electrical Characteristics* table, fsw is the switching frequency, and  $Q<sub>G</sub>(LOW)$ and QG(HIGH) are the MOSFET data sheet's total gate-charge specification limits at VGS = 5V. VCC, VDDA, and V<sub>DDB</sub> can be connected together if the input power source is a fixed 4.5V to 5.5V supply. If the 5V bias supply is powered up prior to the battery supply, the enable signal (EN going from low to high) must be delayed until the battery voltage is present to ensure startup.

### *Switching Frequency (TON)*

For the MAX17411, connect two resistors (RTONA and RTONB) between TONA and V<sub>IN</sub> and TONB and V<sub>IN</sub> to set the switching period tsw =  $1/fsw$ , per phase:

$$
tgw_{-} = C_{TON_{-}} \times (R_{TON_{-}} + 6.5k\Omega)
$$

where  $C_{TON}$  = 17.9pF for regulator A and  $C_{TON}$  = 14.6pF for regulator B.

For the MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T, connect a resistor (RTON) between TON and VIN to set the switching period tsw = 1/fsw, per phase for both regulator A and regulator B:

> $tSWA = (2 \times \text{RTON} + 6.5 \text{k}\Omega) \times 17.9 \text{pF}$  $tSWB = (2 \times RTON + 6.5k\Omega) \times 14.6pF$

If the MAX17511 regulator B is disabled, then

$$
tSWA = (RTON + 6.5k\Omega) \times 17.9pF
$$

High-frequency (600kHz) operation optimizes the application for the smallest component size, trading off efficiency due to higher switching losses. Low-frequency (200kHz) operation offers the best overall efficiency at the expense of component size and board space.

### *TON Open-Circuit Protection*

The TON inputs include open-circuit protection to avoid long, uncontrolled on-times that could result in an overvoltage condition on the output. The MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T detect an opencircuit fault if the TON current drops below 10µA for any reason—the TON resistor (R<sub>TON</sub>) is unpopulated, a high resistance value is used, the input voltage is low, etc. Under these conditions, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T stop switching (DH\_ and DL\_ pulled low) and immediately set the fault latch for both regulator A and regulator B. Toggle EN or cycle the VCC power supply below 0.5V to clear the fault latch and reactivate the controller.

### *On-Time One-Shot*

Regulator A and regulator B contain fast, low-jitter, adjustable one-shots that set the respective high-side MOSFETs on-time. The one-shot timing is shared among the operating phases. The one-shot for the main phase varies the on-time in response to the input and feedback voltages. The main high-side switch on-time is inversely proportional to the input voltage as measured by the VIN, and proportional to the feedback voltage (VFB):

$$
t_{ON} = \frac{t_{SW}(V_{FB_{-}} + 0.075V)}{V_{IN}}
$$

The one-shot for the second phase and third phase varies the on-time in response to the input voltage and the difference between the main and the other inductor currents. Two identical transconductance amplifiers integrate the difference between the master and each slave's current-sense signals. The respective error signals are used to correct the tON of the high-side MOSFETs for the 2nd and 3rd phase.

During phase overlap, ton is calculated based on the on-time requirements of the first phase, but reduced by 33% when operating with three phases. For a threephase regulator, the third phase cannot be enabled until the other two phases have completed their ontime and the minimum off-times have expired. As such, the minimum period is limited by  $3 \times (t_{ON} +$ tOFF(MIN)). The maximum tON is dependent on the minimum input and maximum output voltage:

$$
t_{SW(MIN)} = N_{PH} \times (t_{ON(MAX)} + t_{OFF(MIN)})
$$

where:

$$
t_{ON(MAX)} = \frac{V_{FB_{(MAX)}}}{V_{IN(MIN)}} \times t_{SW(MIN)}
$$

and NPH = total number of active phases.



So:

# $t_{\text{SW(MIN)}} = \frac{t_{\text{OFF(MIN)}}}{1/\text{N}_{\text{PH}} - \text{V}_{\text{FB\_(MAX)}}/\text{V}_{\text{IN(MIN)}}}$

Hence, for a 7V input and 1.1V output, the maximum switching frequency is 700kHz. Running at this limit is not desirable since there is no room to allow the regulator to make adjustments without triggering phase overlap. For a three-phase, high-current application with minimum 8V input, the practical switching frequency is 300kHz. On-times translate only roughly to switching frequencies. The on-times guaranteed in the *Electrical Characteristics* table are influenced by parasitics in the conduction paths and propagation delays. For loads above the critical conduction point, where the dead-time effect (LX flying high and conducting through the highside FET body diode) is no longer a factor, the actual switching frequency (per phase) is:

> $S_{\text{SW}} = \frac{(V_{\text{OUT}} + V_{\text{DIS}})}{t_{\text{ON}}(V_{\text{IN}} + V_{\text{DIS}} + V_{\text{CHG}})}$  $f_{SW} = \frac{(V_{OUT} + V_{DIS})}{t_{ON}(V_{IN} + V_{DIS} + V_{CHG})}$

where V<sub>DIS</sub> is the sum of the parasitic voltage drops in the inductor discharge and charge paths, including MOSFET, inductor, and PCB resistances; VCHG is the sum of the parasitic voltage drops in the inductor charge path, including high-side switch, inductor, and PCB resistances, and t $ON$  is the on-time as determined above.

### *Current Sense*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T sense the output current of each phase, allowing the use of current-sense resistors or inductor DCR as the current-sense element. Low-offset amplifiers are used for current balance, voltage-positioning gain, and current limit. Using the DC resistance (RDCR) of the output inductor allows higher efficiency. The initial tolerance and temperature coefficient of the inductor's DCR must be accounted for in the output-voltage drooperror budget and current monitor. This current-sense method uses an RC filter network to extract the current information from the output inductor (see Figure 8).



*Figure 6. Current-Sense Methods* 

The RC network should match the time constant of the inductor (L/RDCR):

$$
R_{CS} = \left(\frac{R2}{R1 + R2}\right) R_{DCR}
$$

and:

$$
R_{DCR} = \frac{L}{C_{EQ}} \left[ \frac{1}{R1} + \frac{1}{R2} \right]
$$

where RCS is the required current-sense resistance, and RDCR is the inductor's series DC resistance. Use the typical inductance and RDCR values provided by the inductor manufacturer. To minimize the currentsense error due to the bias current of the current-sense inputs ( $lCSP$  and  $lCN$ ), choose R1 R2 to be less than  $2k\Omega$  and use the above equation to determine the sense capacitance (C<sub>EQ</sub>). Choose capacitors with 5% tolerance and resistors with 1% tolerance specifications. Temperature compensation is recommended for this current-sense method. See the *Voltage Positioning* section for detailed information.

When using a current-sense resistor for accurate outputvoltage positioning, the circuit requires a differential RC filter to eliminate the AC voltage step caused by the equivalent series inductance (LESL) of the current-sense resistor (see Figure 8). The ESL-induced voltage step might affect the average current-sense voltage. The time constant of the RC filter should match the LESL /RSENSE time constant formed by the parasitic inductance of the current-sense resistor:

$$
\frac{L_{ESL}}{R_{SENSE}} = C_{EQ}R_{EQ}
$$

where LESL is the equivalent series inductance of the current-sense resistor, RSENSE is the current-sense resistance value, and  $C_{EQ}$  and  $R_{EQ}$  are the time-constant matching components.

#### *Current Balance*

Regulator A integrates the difference between the currentsense voltages and adjusts the on-time of the second and third phases to maintain current balance. The current balance relies on the accuracy of the current-sense signals across the current-sense resistor or inductor DCR. With active current balancing, the current mismatch is determined by the current-sense resistor or inductor DCR values and the offset voltage of the transconductance amplifiers:

 $I_{\text{OS(IBAL)}} = I_{\text{LMAIN}} - I_{\text{LSEC}} = \frac{V_{\text{OS(IBAL)}}}{R_{\text{SENSE}}}$ 

where RSENSE is the equivalent DCR sense resistance and VOS(IBAL) is the current-balance offset specification in the *Electrical Characteristics* table. The worst-case current mismatch occurs immediately after a load transient due to inductor value mismatches, resulting in different di/ dt for the two phases. The time it takes for the current-balance loop to correct the transient imbalance depends on the mismatch between the inductor values and switching frequency.

### *Current Limit*

The current-limit circuit employs a "valley" current-sensing algorithm that senses the voltage across the currentsense resistors or inductor DCR at the current-sense inputs (CSP\_ to CSN\_). If the current-sense signal of the selected phase is above the current-limit threshold, the PWM controller does not initiate a new cycle until the inductor current of the selected phase drops below the valley current-limit threshold. When any one phase exceeds the current limit, all phases are effectively current limited since the interleaved controller does not initiate a cycle with the next phase. Since only the valley current is actively limited, the actual peak current is greater than the current-limit threshold by an amount equal to the inductor ripple current. Therefore, the exact current-limit characteristic and maximum load capability are functions of the current-sense resistance, inductor value, and battery voltage. The positive valley currentlimit threshold voltage at CSP\_ to CSN\_ is preset using the IMAX\_ and SR multivalue logic inputs.

Carefully observe the PCB layout guidelines to ensure that noise and DC errors do not corrupt the currentsense signals seen by the current-sense inputs (CSP\_, CSN\_).

### *Feedback Adjustment Amplifier*

*Voltage-Positioning Amplifier (Steady-State Droop)* Regulators A and B include transconductance amplifiers for adding gain to the voltage-positioning sense path. The input of the amplifier is generated by summing the current-sense voltage inputs, which differentially sense the voltage across either current-sense resistors or the inductor's DCR. The output of the droop amplifier,  $G_m$ (FB) connects directly to the voltage-positioned feedback input (FB\_) of the regulator, so the resistance between FB\_ and the output-voltage sense point determines the voltage-positioning gain:

$$
VOUT = VTARGET - (RFB \times IFB_{-})
$$

where the target voltage (VTARGET) is defined in the *Nominal Output Voltage Selection* section, and the

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Gm(FB\_) output current IFB\_. IFB\_ is determined by the sum of the current-sense voltages:

### $V_{FB} = G_{m(FB)} \times V_{CSX}$

where  $VCSX = VCSP$  AVE -  $VCSN$  or  $VCSX = VCSPB1 -$ VCSNB (for regulator B of the MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T) is the differential currentsense voltage, and  $G_m$ (FB) is 600 $\mu$ s (typ) as defined in the *Electrical Characteristics* table. The controller uses the VCSP AVG or the VCSPB1 input to get the average inductor current from the positive current-sense averaging network. Since the feedback voltage (FB\_) is regulated, the output voltage changes in response to the feedback current IFB to create a load line with accuracy defined by the characteristics of  $RFB$  and  $Gm(FB)$ .

When the inductor's DCR is used as the current-sense element ( $RSENSE = RDCR$ ), the current-sense inputs should include an NTC thermistor to minimize the temperature dependence of the voltage-positioning slope.

### *CSP\_AVE - CSN\_ Inputs*

The current-sense information across all phases are averaged together at the CSP\_AVE - CSN\_ or the CSPB1 - CSNB (MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T) inputs. This signal contains both the DC average current information and the AC ripple information. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T use the DC information to generate the load line, and the AC information for stability.

#### *CSPAAVE - CSNA Design Using Inductor DCR Sensing*

When the inductor DCR is used as the current-sense element, a DCR circuit network shown in Figure 9 is used to generate the average current signal for the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T.

The DCR circuit network is the divider of the actual inductor DCR. Hence the effective resistance at CSPAAVE - CSNA will be lower than the DCR resistance.

Since there are more unknowns than the equations in the current-sense network, the component values must be calculated by iteration. A spreadsheet helps as the variation over temperature should also be checked. The following steps provide some initial values to work with.

- 1) Use typical L and DCR values in the calculations.
- 2) For inductors with low DCR less than  $1m\Omega$ , add about 0.015m $\Omega$  to the DCR value to compensate for parasitic resistances due to layout and assembly.
- 3) Choose CCSPAAVE first since capacitor choices are limited. A good value to start with is  $0.22\mu F$ . It is good to add a small capacitor position in parallel to CCSPAAVE to fine tune the total capacitance.
- 4) Larger CCSPAAVE results in smaller RLX values. Smaller R<sub>LX</sub> values are required to reduce the error due to pin leakages. As a rule, the RLX\_ resistors in parallel should be about  $2k\Omega$  or less.
- 5) Select RCSPAAVE2 start with a value between  $1k\Omega$ and  $4k\Omega$ .
- 6) Select RCSPAAVE1. Large values like 20k $\Omega$  to 100k $\Omega$ are recommended. RCSPAAVE1 may even not be populated. Generally, RCSPAAVE1 helps to reduce the variation over temperature.
- 7) Use a 10 $k\Omega$  NTC with a beta of 3435k. The beta of 3435k is easier to keep effective DCR flat over temperature.
- 8) Calculate RLXA assuming just one phase is used. After this value is determined, scale the actual RLXA by the number of active phases in the design.



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### *Differential Remote Sense*

Both regulators A and B include differential, remotesense inputs to eliminate the effects of voltage drops along the PCB traces and through the power pins of the processor. The feedback-sense node connects to the voltage-positioning resistor (RFB\_). The ground-sense (GNDS\_) input connects to an amplifier that adds an offset directly to the target voltage, effectively adjusting the output voltage to counteract the voltage drop in the ground path. Connect the voltage-positioning resistor (RFB\_) and ground-sense (GNDS\_) input directly to the remote-sense outputs of the processor as shown in Figure 1. The correction range is bounded to less than  $\pm$ 200mV. The remote-sense lines draw less than  $\pm$ 0.5µA to minimize offset errors.

#### *Integrator Amplifier*

Regulators A and B utilize internal integrator amplifiers that force the DC average of the FB\_ voltage to equal the target voltage, allowing accurate DC output voltage regulation regardless of the output voltage. The MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T disable the integrators by connecting the amplifier inputs together at the beginning of all VID transitions done in pulse-skipping mode (PS2, PS3). The integrators remain disabled until the transition is completed (the internal target settles) and the output is in regulation (edge detected on the error comparator).

#### *Transient-Phase Overlap Operation*

When a transient occurs, the response time of the controller depends on how quickly it can slew the inductor current. Multiphase controllers that remain 180° or  $120^\circ$  out-of-phase when a transient occurs actually respond slower than an equivalent single-phase control-

ler. To provide fast transient response, regulator A and regulator B support phase-overlap mode, which allows the dual and triple regulators to operate in-phase when heavy load transients are detected, effectively reducing the response time. After any high-side MOSFET turns off, if the output voltage does not exceed the regulation voltage when the minimum off-time expires, the controller simultaneously turns on all high-side MOSFETs with the same on-time during the next on-time cycle. The phases remain overlapped until the output voltage exceeds the regulation voltage after the minimum off-time expires. The on-time for each phase is based on the input voltage to FB\_ ratio (i.e., follows the master on-time), but reduced by 33% in a three-phase configuration, and not reduced in a two-phase configuration. This maximizes the total inductor current slew rate. After the phaseoverlap mode ends, the controller automatically begins with the next phase. For example, if phase 2 provides the last on-time pulse before overlap operation begins, the controller starts switching with phase 3 when overlap operation ends.

### *Nominal Output Voltage Selection*

The nominal no-load output voltage (VTARGET) is defined by the selected voltage reference (SVID DAC), plus the remote ground-sense adjustment (VGNDS) as defined in the following equation:

### $VTARGET = VFB = VDAC + VGNDS$

where VDAC is the selected SVID voltage. On startup, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T slew the target voltage from ground to the preset boot voltage. Table 3\* lists the SVID code set for VR12/IMVP7.



### \*Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0]

### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



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### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



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### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



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### Table 3. VR12/IMVP-7 8-Bit DAC Code SVID[7:0] (continued)



\*The output voltage accuracy in Table 3 is specified for T<sub>A</sub> = 0°C to +85°C. See the Electrical Characteristics table for output volt*age accuracy over TA = -40°C to +105°C temperature range.*



*Output Voltage Transient Timing*

At the beginning of an output voltage transition, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T blank both power-good thresholds, preventing the POK\_ open-drain outputs from changing states during the transition. The controller enables the lower power-good threshold approximately 20us after the slew-rate controller reaches the target output voltage, but the upper threshold is enabled only if the controller remains in forced-PWM operation. If the controller enters pulse-skipping operation, the upper threshold remains blanked until an LX pulse is required.

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T automatically control the current to the minimum level required to complete the transition. The total transition time depends on the SR input setting, the particular SETVID command (fast, slow) and the voltage difference, and the accuracy of the slew-rate controller (see the *Slew-Rate Accuracy* in the *Electrical Characteristics*  table). The slew rate is not dependent on the total output capacitance, as long as the surge current is less than the current limit. For dynamic SVID transitions, the transition time (tTRAN) is given by:

$$
TRAN = \frac{|V_{NEW} - V_{OLD}|}{(dV_{TARGET}/dt)}
$$

t

where dVTARGET/dt is the slew rate set with the SR input and the SetVID command, VOLD is the original output voltage, and V<sub>NEW</sub> is the new target voltage. The maximum programmable slew rate is 20mV/us.

For non-zero VBOOT, the soft-start slew rate is fixed at 2.5mV/us (minimum). The average inductor current per phase required to make an output voltage transition is:

$$
I_L = \frac{C_{OUT}}{N_{TOTAL}} \times (dV_{TARGET}/dt)
$$

where dVTARGET/dt is the required slew rate, COUT is the total output capacitance, and NTOTAL is the number of active phases.

### *Forced-PWM Operation (PS0, PS1)*

During startup and normal operation, when the CPU is actively running (PS0, PS1) the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T operate with the low-noise, forced-PWM control scheme. Forced-PWM operation disables the zero-crossing comparators of all active phases, forcing the low-side gate-drive

waveforms to constantly be the complement of the high-side gate-drive waveforms. This keeps the switching frequency constant and allows the inductor current to reverse under light loads, providing fast, accurate negative output voltage transitions by quickly discharging the output capacitors. Forced-PWM operation comes at a cost: the no-load +5V bias supply current remains between 10mA to 50mA per phase, depending on the external MOSFETs and switching frequency. To maintain high efficiency under light-load conditions, the processor can switch the controller to a low-power pulse-skipping control scheme by entering PS2 or PS3.

### *Light-Load Pulse-Skipping Operation (PS2, PS3)*

When the SVID bus master issues a SetPS command to PS2 or PS3, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T immediately disable phases 2 and 3 (DH\_2, DL\_2 forced low, DRVPWM\_ three-state), and enters pulse-skipping operation. The pulse-skipping mode enables the zero-crossing comparator of the driver, so the controller pulls DL\_ low when its currentsense inputs detect "zero" inductor current. This keeps the inductor from discharging the output capacitors and forces the controller to skip pulses under light-load conditions to avoid overcharging the output. If the VIDs are set to a lower voltage setting, the output drops at a rate determined by the load and the output capacitance. The internal target still ramps as before, and POK\_ remains blanked high impedance until 20us after the output voltage reaches the internal target. Once this time expires, POK\_ monitors only the lower threshold. Upon entering pulse-skipping operation, the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N temporarily set the OVP threshold to 1.77V (typ), preventing false OVP faults when the transition to pulse-skipping operation coincides with an SVID code change. Once the VR Settled comparator detects that the output voltage is in regulation, the OVP threshold tracks the selected SVID DAC code. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T automatically use forced-PWM operation during soft-start, regardless of the SetPS command.

### *Automatic Pulse-Skipping Switchover*

In SKIP mode (PS2, PS3), an inherent automatic switchover to PFM takes place at light loads (Figure 10). 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



*Figure 10. Pulse Skipping/Discontinuous Crossover Point*

inductor current across the low-side MOSFETs. Once VLX drops below the zero-crossing comparator threshold (see the *Electrical Characteristics* table), the comparator forces DL low. This mechanism causes the threshold between pulse-skipping PFM and non-skipping PWM operation to coincide with the boundary between continuous and discontinuous inductor-current operation. The PFM/PWM crossover occurs when the load current of each phase is equal to 1/2 the peak-to-peak ripple current, which is a function of the inductor value. For a battery input range of 7V to 20V, this threshold is relatively constant, with only a minor dependence on the input voltage due to the typically low duty cycles. The total load current at the PFM/ PWM crossover threshold (ILOAD(SKIP)) is approximately:

$$
I_{\text{LOAD(SKIP)}} = \left(\frac{t_{SW}V_{OUT}}{2L}\right) \left(\frac{V_{IN} - V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}}\right)
$$

### *Power-Up Sequence (POR, UVLO)*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T are enabled when EN is driven high (Figures 11 and 12). The reference powers up first. Once the internal reference exceeds its UVLO threshold, the internal analog blocks are turned on and masked by a 50 $\mu$ s one-shot delay. The startup ADC then begins to detect the voltage applied to IMAX\_ and SR inputs to set the current limits and slew rate as well as the contents of the ICC\_MAX (21h), SR\_Fast (24h), and SR\_Slow (25h) registers. After this initialization, the PWM controller begins switching. Power-on reset (POR) occurs when V<sub>CC</sub> rises above approximately 2V, resetting the fault latch and preparing the controller for operation. The VCC UVLO

circuitry inhibits switching until V<sub>CC</sub> rises above 4.25V. The controller powers up the reference once the system enables the controller, V<sub>CC</sub> is above 4.25V, and EN is driven high. With the reference in regulation, the controller ramps the output voltage to the programmed boot voltage at the command slew rate for zero VBOOT or the slow slew rate for non-zero VBOOT.

$$
t_{\text{TRAN(START)}} = \frac{V_{\text{BOOT}}}{\text{(dV}_{\text{TARGET}}/\text{dt})}
$$

where dVTARGET/dt is the slew rate.

The soft-start circuitry does not use a variable current limit, so full output current is available immediately.

Note the IMAX\_ and SR multivalued logic inputs are sampled after POR and the data latched into the respective registers. These values cannot be changed without driving the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T through another POR cycle.

The startup sequence is as follows:

- 1) The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/ MAX17511T have power and IC V<sub>CC</sub> is  $>$  UVLO.
- 2) EN goes high.
- 3) The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T's SVID buses are active and idle.
- 4) If VBOOT register = 00h, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511T wait at 0V, POK\_ is deasserted and ALERT# remains deasserted and hold until the SVID command. If VBOOT register is programmed to a VID setting other than zero (VBOOT =  $1.1V$  for the MAX17511N), the device ramps to the programmed voltage, asserts POK\_ and ALERT#, and hold until the SVID command.
- 5) CPU initiates the SVID clock.
- 6) CPU sends out the SetVID\_Slow command to program the initial output voltage.
- 7) The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T acknowledge and ramp to the voltage in the SetVID\_Slow command at the slow slew rate, toggle status bit VR\_Settled.
- 8) The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T assert POK for that rail.
- 9) Steps 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 are repeated for regulator B. If VCC drops below 4.25V after POR, the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T set the fault latch and turn off.





*Figure 11. Startup Sequence for Zero VBOOT* 



*Figure 12. Startup Sequence for Non-Zero VBOOT* 

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#### *Shutdown Control*

When EN goes low, the MAX17411/MAX17511 MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T enter low-power shutdown mode. POK\_ is pulled low immediately, and the output voltage ramps down through an internal  $20\Omega$  discharge resistor.

After EN goes low, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T shut down completely—the drivers are disabled (DL\_ and DH\_ driven low, and DRVP-WM\_ is three-state), the reference turns off, and the supply current drops below 30µA. When an undervoltage fault condition activates the shutdown sequence, the protection circuitry sets the fault latch to prevent the controller from restarting. To clear the fault latch and reactivate the controller, toggle EN or cycle V<sub>CC</sub> power below 0.5V.

The EN input controls both regulator A and regulator B outputs. EN is active-high and is compatible with 1V logic. When EN is asserted, with  $V_{\text{BOOT}} = 0V$ , the SVID bus is active within 200 $\mu$ s and enters an idle state, waiting for first commands and initial voltage target. For non-zero VBOOT, the SVID interface can accept commands after the output voltage reaches its target value.

Regulator A or regulator B can be independently placed in non-zero VBOOT mode by connecting THERMA or THERMB to ground at startup (MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511T).

#### *Power-Good (POKA, POKB)*

Regulator A and regulator B have independent power-good signals (POKA, POKB). These active-high outputs indicate the startup sequence is complete and the respective output voltage has moved to the programmed SVID value. These signals are used for system sequencing for other voltage regulators, the clock, and microprocessor reset. POK\_ remains asserted during normal DC-DC operation and deasserts under any fault or shutdown condition.

POKA and POKB continuously monitor the output voltage for undervoltage and overvoltage fault conditions. If the regulator enters current limit, the respective POK\_ signal will not go low until the UVP threshold is reached. POK\_ is actively held low in shutdown (EN = GND) and during soft-start and shutdown. Approximately 20µs (typ) after the soft-start terminates, POK\_ becomes high impedance as long as the feedback voltage is above the UVP threshold (VID - 250mV) and below the OVP threshold (VID + 250mV). POK\_ goes low if the feedback voltage drops -200mV (max) below the target voltage or rises 200mV (min) above the target voltage, or the SMPS controller shuts down. POK\_ must use an external pullup resistor between POK\_ and VCC to deliver a valid logiclevel output.

### *Temperature Comparator (VR\_HOT#)*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T feature two independent comparators with inputs at THERMA and THERMB. These comparators have accurate thresholds matching the appropriate thermal levels required for the Temperature Zone register (12h). Since these thresholds are nonlinear, it is essential to use the correct resistor and thermistor values specified in Figures 1 and 2. When the maximum temperature is exceeded at either THERMA or THERMB, VR\_HOT# is pulled low. For each regulator, place the thermistor as close to the MOSFETs and inductors as possible. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T EV kits provide good examples of thermistor placement.

#### *Fault Protection (Latched) Output Overvoltage Protection (OVP) (MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N Only)*

The OVP circuit is designed to protect the load against a shorted high-side MOSFET by drawing high current and activating the adapter or battery protection circuits. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N continuously monitor each output for an overvoltage fault. An OVP fault is detected if the output voltage exceeds the SVID DAC voltage by more than 200mV (min), or the fixed 1.77V (typ) threshold during a downward VID transition in SKIP mode. During pulse-skipping operation (PS2, PS3), the OVP threshold tracks the SVID DAC voltage as soon as the output is in regulation; otherwise, the fixed 1.77V (typ) threshold is used. When the OVP circuit detects an overvoltage fault while in multiphase mode (PS0), the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N immediately force DL\_ high, three-state DRVPWM\_, and pull DH\_ low. This action turns on the synchronous-rectifier MOSFETs with 100% duty cycle and, in turn, rapidly discharges the output filter capacitor and forces the output low. If the condition that caused the overvoltage (such as a shorted high-side MOSFET) persists, the battery fuse blows or the high-current protection activates. Toggle EN or cycle the VCC power supply below 0.5V to clear the fault latch and reactivate the controller. When an overvoltage fault occurs, the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N immediately force DL\_high, pull DH\_low and three-states DRVPWM\_.

#### *Output Undervoltage Protection (UVP)*

If the output voltage on regulator A or B is 200mV (max) below the target voltage and stays below this level for 200 $\mu$ s (typ), the controller activates the shutdown sequence. The regulator turns on a  $20\Omega$  discharge resis-



tor and sets the fault latch. DL\_ and DH\_ are forced low, and DRVPWM goes to the three-state output defined in the *Electrical Characteristics* table. Toggle EN or cycle the V<sub>CC</sub> power supply below 0.5V to clear the fault latch and reactivate the controller.

#### *Thermal-Fault Protection*

In addition to VR HOT#, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T feature internal thermal-fault-protection circuits for regulator A and regulator B. When the junction temperature rises above +160°C, a thermal sensor sets the fault latch and forces the DL\_ and DH\_ low, and three-states DRVPWM\_. Toggle EN or cycle the V<sub>CC</sub> power supply below 0.5V to clear the fault latch and reactivate the controller after the junction temperature cools by  $15^{\circ}C$  (typ).

### *MOSFET Gate Drivers*

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 VIN - VOUT differential exists. The high-side gate drivers (DH\_) source 2.2A and sink 2.7A, and the lowside gate drivers (DL\_) source 2.7A and sink 8A. This ensures robust gate drive for high-current applications. The DH\_ high-side MOSFET drivers are powered by internal boost switch charge pumps at BST\_, while the DL\_ synchronous-rectifier drivers are powered directly by the 5V bias supply ( $VDD$ ). Adaptive dead-time circuits monitor the DL\_ and DH\_ drivers and prevent either MOSFET 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. A low-resistance, low-inductance path from the DL\_ and DH\_ drivers to the MOSFET gates is required for the adaptive dead-time circuits to work properly; otherwise, the sense circuitry in the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T may interpret the MOSFET gates as "off" while significant charge is still present.

Use very short, wide traces (50mils to 100mils wide if the MOSFET is 1in from the driver). The DL\_ low onresistance of 0.25 $\Omega$  (typ) helps prevent DL from being pulled up due to capacitive coupling from the drain to the gate of the low-side MOSFET when the inductor switching node  $(LX_$ ) transitions from ground to  $V_{IN}$ . The capacitive coupling between LX\_ and DL\_ created by the MOSFET's gate-to-drain capacitance (CRSS), gateto-source capacitance (C<sub>ISS</sub> - C<sub>RSS</sub>), and additional

board parasitics should not exceed the following minimum threshold to prevent shoot-through currents:



Adding a 4700pF between DL\_ and power ground (CNL in Figure 13), close to the low-side MOSFET greatly reduces coupling. Do not exceed 22nF of total gate capacitance to prevent excessive turn-off delays. Shootthrough currents can also be caused by a combination of fast high-side MOSFET and slow low-side MOSFET. If the turn-off delay time of the low-side MOSFET is too long, the high-side MOSFET can turn on before the low-side MOSFET has actually turned off. Adding a resistor less than  $5\Omega$  in series with BST\_ slows down the high-side MOSFET turn-on time, eliminating the shoot-through currents without degrading the turn-off time (RBST in Figure 13). Slowing down the high-side MOSFET also reduces the LX\_ node rise time, thereby reducing EMI and high-frequency coupling responsible for switching noise.



*Figure 13. Gate-Drive Circuit*



*Figure 14. Data-Acquisition System Block Diagram* 

### *External Drivers and Disabling Phases*

The MMAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T support an external driver, MAX17491, for three-phase operation in regulator A. The MAX17411 also supports an external driver for two-phase operation of regulator B. The DRVPWM\_ output provides the signal to trigger the driver. Connecting CSPA3/CSPB2 to VCC disables phase 3 of regulator A and phase 2 of regulator B, respectively. Similarly, phase 2 can be disabled for single-phase operation by connecting CSPA2 to V<sub>CC</sub>.

### *Data-Acquisition System*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T include current and thermal-monitoring functions. A simplified data-acquisition system is employed to convert the analog signals from the current-sense and THERM\_ inputs to 8-bit and 3-bit values in the ICC\_MAX and Temperature Zone registers, respectively (see Figure 14). An independent VR HOT# output is available to make certain the system is alerted to an overtemperature fault in the event of SVID bus failure.

### *Serial VID Interface, Commands, Registers, and Digital Control*

A simplified block diagram of the SVID interface for the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T is shown in Figure 15. The interface consists of a high-speed transceiver, control logic, and two independent, identically configured register files for regulators A and B. Refer to Intel's VR12/IMVP-7 SVID protocol documentation for complete details on the interface and the required configuration of SVID data packets.

### *Regulator Addressing*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T do not feature programmable addressing. Regulator A is hard coded to be SVID bus address 0, and regulator B is hard coded to be SVID bus address 1.



*Figure 15. SVID Interface Block Diagram* 

#### *Serial VID Commands*

The MMAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T support the following commands (Table 4) and registers according to Intel's VR12/ IMVP-7 protocol specification. Note the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T support ALL CALL commands according to Intel specification. For ALL CALL commands write 1111b or 1110b in the address command bit.

### *SetVID\_Fast (01h)*

The SetVID\_Fast command contains the target SVID in the payload byte. The output voltage range is defined in Table 3. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T drive the respective output voltages to the new VID setting with a fast slew rate as defined in the SR\_Fast register (24h). This register is programmed with the SR pin. The default fast slew rate is  $10mV/\mu s$ .



The SetVID\_Fast command is preemptive. If the SVID bus master interrupts current transition and attempts to move the output to a new VID, the regulator responds immediately after registering the new command. With back-to-back SetVID commands, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T reset the ALERT# line after the ACK and start moving the output voltage to the new target. For the case of back-to-back SetVID commands to the same voltage, the VR asserts ALERT# immediately since there is no settling time.



### Table 4. Serial VID Commands



*SetVID\_Slow (02h)*

The SetVID\_Slow command contains the target SVID in the payload byte. The output voltage range is defined in Table 3. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T drive the respective output voltage to the new VID setting with a slow slew rate as defined in the SR\_Slow register (25h). SetVID\_Slow transitions occur at 1/4 the fast slew rate. The SetVID\_Slow command is preemptive. If the SVID bus master interrupts current transition and attempts to move the output to a new VID, the regulator responds immediately after registering the new command. With backto-back SetVID commands, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T reset the ALERT# line after the ACK and start moving the output voltage to the new target. For the case of back-to-back SetVID commands to the same voltage, the VR asserts ALERT# immediately since there is no settling time.

#### *SetVID\_Decay (03h)*

The SetVID\_Decay command contains the target SVID in the payload byte. The range of voltage is defined in Table 3. It is used for VID down transitions. The MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T do not control the slew rate, instead the output voltage decays at a rate defined by the output load current.

The SetVID Decay command is preemptive for positive-going SetVID\_Fast or SetVID\_Slow commands. If the SVID bus master interrupts current transition and attempts to move the output to a new VID, the regulator responds immediately after registering the new command. The ALERT# line remains high during the SetVID\_Decay transition. The SVID bus master normally does not issue a SetVID\_Decay with target voltage higher than current setting. If this occurs, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/  $MAX17511T$  reject the command (Acknowledge = 11b) and remain at the same voltage setting.

#### *SetPS\_ Set Power State (04h)*

The SetPS command sends a byte that is encoded as to the power state of the CPU. Based on the power-state command, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T can change their configuration to meet the processor's power needs with greater efficiency. See the *Power States (PS)* section. The format of the SetPS command payload is:



If the SVID bus master attempts to program a power state that is not supported, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T acknowledge with NAK (01b) and enter the lowest power state that is supported. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T enter the new power state after sending back the ACK of the SetPS command. If the devices are in low-power states and receive a SetVID\_ command (either up or down), the target regulators exit the low-power state to normal mode (PS0) to move the voltage up at the requested slew rate and reset the power-state register to 00h when they acknowledge the SetVID (UP) command. The microprocessor must reissue a low-power state command if it is in a lowcurrent condition at the new higher voltage.

The SetPS command is not preemptive; the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T wait until it has completed the previous command or the output has settled, then they change power state. If the VR receives a SetPS command while it is still slewing from the previous SetVID command, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T reject (11b) the SetPS command, indicating they cannot carry out the command. These devices enter the new power state after they send back the ACK of the SetPS command.

If the VR receives a SetPS command while it is still slewing down from a SetVID\_Decay command, then the VR enters the new power state, slewing down with the decay rate.

#### *SetRegADR (05h), SetRegDAT (06h), and GetReg (07h)*

Accessing the register files of the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T is accomplished with three commands: SetRegADR, SetRegDAT, and GetReg. SetRegADR sets the target register address, SetRegDAT writes data to the specified register, and GetReg retrieves data from the specified register. To program a register, two commands must be executed in order. SetRegADR chooses the address in Table 5 and then the next command is a SetRegDAT to write or set the data into the previously defined address. For multiple writes to the same address, only one SetRegADR command is sent, followed by multiple SetRegDAT commands.

All the telemetry data from the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T is accessed through the GetReg command. The payload byte in the command contains an index into the data register file. A slave device that receives the GetReg command must insert the contents of the indexed data register into the payload of the response.

*MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T*

MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511



If SVID bus master issues a SetRegADR or GetReg command that contains a nonsupported address, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T respond with the REJECT (11b) acknowledge. If SVID bus master issues an ALL CALL SetRegADR, SetRegDAT, or GetReg, the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T respond with the not NAK (01b).

### *Data and Configuration Registers*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T support the data and configuration registers listed in Table 5. The registers retain data as long as V<sub>CC</sub> is powered up and in regulation. During hard reset (EN = low) or power cycle, all data is lost and registers return to default contents. Regulator A and regulator B include separate, independent register files.

Access definitions for these registers are as follows:

- $\bullet$  RO = Read only.
- $RW = Read write$ .
- R-M = Read by SVID bus master (CPU).
- • W-PWM = Written by the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T only.
- HC = Hard coded into the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T.
- Platform = Programmed at PCB assembly using pin strapping—cannot be overwritten by master.
- $Master = Programmed$  by the SVID bus master through the SVID bus with the SetRegADR, SetRegDAT.
- PWM = Programmed by the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T during operation for reporting information to the master.



### Table 5. Data and Configuration Register File Definition

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ 57

### Table 5. Data and Configuration Register File Definition (continued)



### Table 5. Data and Configuration Register File Definition (continued)



### *Status1 Register (10h)*

The data in the Status1 register answers the following questions: Is the output voltage in regulation? Is the regulator temperature approaching the thermal limit? Is the regulator's output current approaching current limit? Also, should the SVID bus master check the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T for SVID data errors in the Status2 register? When there are any bit changes in Status1, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T assert the ALERT# to notify the SVID bus master to start the polling process of reading the status from each address on the bus.

Bit 0 in Status1 indicates that a SetVID command is completed and the output voltage has transitioned to within  $\pm 10$ mV (max) of the final target voltage. During VR slewing/transitioning, the VR\_Settled bit is "0". Bit 1 indicates that the VR temperature (in Temperature Zone register value (12h)) has reached 97% of the maximum temperature set in the Temp MAX register (22h). Bit 2 indicates an overcurrent condition. The ICC MAX Alert bit (bit 2) is latched when it sets high. A GetReg (Status1) command updates this latched bit. Bit 7 indicates that a Status2 register change was recorded. When either bit 0, 1, 2, or 7 changes, the respective registers should be read to take further action. The format of the Status1 register is:



The bit values in the Status1 register reflect the most current status and a GetReg (Status1) command does not clear them.

### *Status2 Register (11h)*

Parity and data frame errors are recorded in the Status2 register. When the SVID bus master reads Status2, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T copy the contents into Status2\_LastRead register (1Ch), then clear the contents of the Status2 register. In the case of a parity error in the payload, the master can read the Status2\_LastRead register to get the status prior to reset.

The format of Status2 register is:



### *Temperature Zone Register (12h)*

The digitized measurements from the thermistor bridges at THERMA and THERMB are recorded in the Temperature Zone register. The required thresholds of the Temperature Zone register are nonlinear, but equate to increments listed below. It is essential to use the correct resistor and thermistor values specified in Figures 1, 2, and 3. When 97% TMAX (bit 6) for either is exceeded at either THERMA or THERMB, bit 1 of Status1 register (10h) is set and ALERT# asserts low. When 100% TMAX bit (bit 7) for either regulator is set, VR\_HOT# is pulled low. For each regulator, place the thermistor as close to the MOSFETs and inductors as possible. The MAX17411/MAX17511 EV kits provide good examples of thermistor placement.

The Temperature Zone register and VR\_HOT# functions are independent. In the event of an SVID bus problem, the VR\_HOT# signal always responds correctly to force thermal throttling to prevent the CPU from catastrophically overheating. The format of the Temperature Zone Register is:



**MAXM** 

#### *Status2\_LastRead (1Ch)*

This register contains a copy of the Status2 data that was last read with the GetReg (Status2) command. In the case of a communications error or parity error, when the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T send the payload back to the SVID bus master, the master can read the Status2\_LastRead register so the alert data is not lost.

#### *Temp Max (22h)*

This register contains the maximum temperature the VR supports prior to issuing a thermal alert or VR\_HOT#. Temp MAX is set to  $+100^{\circ}$ C.

The single-temperature threshold applies to both regulators A and B. The data in this register is in 8-bit binary format in degrees C, e.g.,  $64h = +100^{\circ}C$ .

### *Platform Performance Registers*

These registers are programmed on the platform PCB during manufacturing. The data tells the SVID bus master the performance capability of the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T. Multivalued logic inputs are used to set the data in these registers.

#### *ICC\_MAX (21h)*

This register contains information on the maximum current the motherboard VR supports. ICC\_MAX is programmed with the IMAX\_ multivalue logic input. The current limit computed from IMAX\_ is multiplied by the number of active phases in the regulator to determine the data in the ICC\_MAX register. If the voltage applied to the IMAX\_ input is not within the defined threshold (e.g., IMAX shorted to ground or VCC) the respective regulator is disabled. The data in this register is 8-bit binary format in amps (1A/LSB), e.g., 4Bh = 75A. See Table 6.

### *SR Fast (24h)*

This register contains the guaranteed minimum fast slew-rate data programmed at the SR multivalued logic input. The default slew rate is  $10 \text{mV/}\mu\text{s}$  (min). The data is in 8-bit binary format in  $dV/dt$ , e.g.,  $10mV/\mu s = 0Ah$ . See Table 7.

If NTC is used in the current-sensing network (CSP\_, CSN\_), set V<sub>SR</sub> at 1.5V for 20mV/us and 0V for 10mV/us fast slew rate. Otherwise, VSR = 3V sets the fast slew rate at  $20$ mV/ $\mu$ s and V<sub>SR</sub> = V<sub>CC</sub> sets it at 10mV/ $\mu$ s.

#### *SR Slow (25h)*

This register contains the guaranteed minimum slow slew-rate data, which is 1/4 the value programmed at the SR input. The data is in 8-bit binary format in dV/dt, e.g.,  $2mV/\mu s = 02h$ . See Table 7.

If NTC is used in the current-sensing network (CSP\_, CSN, ), set V<sub>SR</sub> at 1.5V for 5mV/ $\mu$ s and 0V for 2.5mV/ $\mu$ s slow slew rate. Otherwise,  $V_{\rm SR} = 3V$  sets the slow slew rate at  $5mV/\mu s$  and  $VSR = VCC$  sets it at  $2.5mV/\mu s$ .

### Table 6. Current-Limit Setting ( $V_{\text{SR}} = 0$ V or  $V_{\text{SR}} = 1.5$ V)



### Table 6. Current-Limit Setting (VSR = 0V or VSR = 1.5V) (continued)



*See the* Electrical Characteristics *table for minimum VSENSE for VSR = 3V or VSR* = *5V.*

### Table 7. Programmed Slew-Rate Data



### *VBOOT (26h)*

This register is programmed by the platform designer and contains the boot voltage value. The VID Setting of 00h sets the boot voltage as 0V. With this setting, the output voltage does not ramp up at power-up until the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511T receive a SetVID command. If VBOOT is set to any other code, the output voltage ramps to the selected VID DAC setting on assertion of enable (EN = high). The output voltage maintains its value until a SetVID command sets a new target. The default value for VBOOT register is 00h for the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511T and Reg A of the MAX17511C. The default value for the VBOOT register is ABh for the MAX17511N. It is programmed in an 8-bit binary format. The default value for the VBOOT register is 83h for Reg B of the MAX17511C.

### *VOUT\_MAX (30h)*

This register is programmed by the CPU or SVID bus master to the maximum output voltage the CPU load can support. Any attempts to set the SVID above V<sub>OUT\_</sub>MAX are blanked and ignored. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T respond with "not-supported" acknowledge. The default value is FBh (1.5V).

### *VID Setting (31h)*

This register contains a copy of the currently programmed SVID data. The default value is 00h.

### *Power State PS\_ (32h)*

The PS register contains information on the CPU's power-consumption status. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T support states PS0 through PS3. See the *Power States (PS)* section for a complete description of these states and the resulting operating mode change in the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T. If a power state is requested that is not supported by these devices, they acknowledge with command rejected (11b) back to the SVID bus master. The PS\_ register format is:



### *Offset Register (33h)*

This register contains an offset, which is added to the programmed SVID data. The format of this data is the number of SVID steps/LSBs. For negative offsets, the value is the two's complement of the number of SVID steps. The format of the Offset register is:



Default =  $00h$  = no offset.

 $Bit 7 = Sign bit.$ 

 $00000001 = 01h = +1$  LSB Offset.

 $00000011 = 03h = +3$  LSB Offset.

10000001 = 81h = -127 LSB Offset.

### *Multi-VR Configuration Register (34h)*

This register contains the bit-mapped data for configuring multiple regulators that utilize the SVID bus.

Bit 0 (POK 0V) changes the response of the POK\_ power-good output. Writing a 0 (default) to this bit enables the standard definition for POK\_ response. When a SetVID (0.0V) command is issued, the respective regulator turns off and POK deasserts to 0V. Writing a 1 to bit 0 causes POK\_ to remain high when SetVID (0.0V) is issued and POK\_ only goes low under fault conditions or when the regulator is powered down using EN or the input supplies turn off.

Bit 1 (LOCK VID/PS) controls a lock function for the SVID code and power state PS. When bit 1 is a 0, the MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T are in normal mode and the SVID and PS are NOT locked. When bit 1 is a 1, the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T lock the SVID and PS data and reject all SetVID and SetPS commands. Bit 1 must be changed back to 0 before the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T accept new commands. The format of the Multi-VR register is:



### *SetRegADR Register (35h)*

This register is a scratchpad register for temporarily storing the SetRegADR payload. The data is the address pointer for subsequent SetRegDAT commands.

### *Critical VR12/IMVP-7 Functions*

### *Voltage-Settled Function*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T include an auxiliary bank of comparators that detect when the SVID transition is complete and the output voltage is within  $\pm 10$ mV (2 LSB) of the new target VID setting. After the output has settled, the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T set the VR\_Settled bit in the Status1 register and assert the ALERT# line.

#### *Power States (PS)*

The SVID bus can be used to place the MAX17411/ MAX17511/M17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T into multiple operating states to optimize the efficiency and power delivery capability. These states are entered by issuing a SetPS command and the programmed state is reflected in the power-state register (32h). The power states are listed in order of power savings:

- PS0 = Represents full power or active mode.
- PS1 = Used in active mode or sleep mode and it represents a low-current state.
- PS2 = Used in sleep mode and it represents a lowvoltage state and lower current state than PS1.
- PS3 = Ultra-low-power sleep mode.
- PS4–PS7 are not defined.

The SVID code and power states are independent and can change at any time as determined by the CPU operating state. When the MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T exit any lowpower state, they automatically enter PS0 for any SVID command (SetVID\_Fast/SetVID\_Slow) that causes the output to change from the previous value. Note the SVID bus master must reissue a low-power state command to return the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T to a low-current condition at the new higher voltage.

After exiting a low-power state, the CPU waits  $3.3\mu s$ prior to entering the full-power mode. Regulators A and B respond identically to the PS\_ commands described in Table 8. Regulator B controls phase 1 (MAX17411/ MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T) and phase 2 (MAX17411).

### *Multiphase Quick-PWM 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 input 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 the input capacitors, MOSFETs, and other critical heat-contributing components. Modern notebook CPUs generally exhibit  $I_{LOAD} = 0.8 \times I_{LOAD(MAX)}$ . For multiphase systems, each phase supports a fraction of the load, depending on the current balancing. When properly balanced, the load current is evenly distributed among each phase:

$$
I_{LOAD(PHASE)} = \frac{I_{LOAD}}{N_{TOTAL}}
$$

where NTOTAL is the total number of active phases.

### Table 8. Power State (PS) Control of Regulator Operation



**MAXM** 

**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 V<sub>IN</sub><sup>2</sup>. The optimum frequency is also a moving target due to rapid improvements in MOSFET technology that is making higher frequencies more practical.

Inductor Operation Point: This choice provides tradeoffs between size vs. efficiency and transient responses vs. output noise. Low inductor values provide better transient response and smaller physical size, but also result in lower efficiency and higher output noise due to increased ripple current. 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 sizereduction benefit. The optimum operating point is usually between 30% and 50% ripple current. For a multiphase core regulator, select an LIR value of ~0.4.

#### *Inductor Selection*

The switching frequency and operating point (% ripple current or LIR) determine the inductor value as follows:

$$
L = N_{\text{TOTAL}} \left( \frac{V_{IN} - V_{OUT}}{f_{SW} \times I_{LOAD(MAX)} \times LIR} \right) \left( \frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN}} \right)
$$

where NTOTAL is the total number of phases. Find a lowloss inductor having the lowest possible DC resistance that fits in the allotted dimensions. The core must not saturate at the peak-inductor current (IPEAK):

$$
I_{PEAK} = \left(\frac{I_{LOAD(MAX)}}{N_{TOTAL}}\right)\left(1 + \frac{LIR}{2}\right)
$$

#### *Output Capacitor Selection*

Output capacitor selection is determined by the controller stability and the transient soar and sag requirements of the application.

#### *Output Capacitor ESR*

The output-filter capacitor must have low enough effective series resistance (ESR) to meet output ripple and load-transient requirements, yet have high-enough ESR to satisfy stability requirements. In CPU VCORE converters and other applications where the output is subject to large-load transients, the size of the output capacitor typically depends on how much ESR is needed to prevent the output from dipping too low under a load transient. Ignoring the sag due to finite capacitance:



The output-voltage ripple of a step-down controller equals the total inductor ripple current multiplied by the output-capacitor's ESR. When operating multiphase outof-phase systems, the peak inductor currents of each phase are staggered, resulting in lower output ripple voltage by reducing the total inductor ripple current. For multiphase operation, the maximum ESR to meet ripple requirements is:

$$
R_{ESR} \leq \left[\frac{V_{IN} \times f_{SW} \times L}{(V_{IN} - (N_{TOTAL} \times V_{OUT})) V_{OUT}}\right] V_{RIPPLE}
$$

where NTOTAL is the total number of active phases and fSW is the switching frequency per phase.

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 for polymer types). When using low-capacity ceramic filter capacitors, capacitor 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).

#### *Output Capacitor Stability Considerations*

For Quick-PWM controllers, 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:

$$
f_{ESR} \leq \frac{f_{SW}}{\pi}
$$

where:

$$
f_{ESR} = \frac{1}{2\pi \times R_{EFF} \times C_{OUT}}
$$

and:

$$
R_{EFF} = R_{ESR} + R_{DROOP} + R_{PCB}
$$

where COUT is the total output capacitance, RESR is the total equivalent series resistance, RDROOP is the voltage-positioning gain, and RPCB is the parasitic board



resistance between the output capacitors and sense resistors.

For a standard 300kHz application, the ESR zero frequency must be well below 95kHz, preferably below 50kHz. Tantalum, SANYO POSCAP, and Panasonic SP capacitors are widely used and have typical ESR zero frequencies below 50kHz. In the standard application circuit, the ESR needed to support a 30mVP-P ripple is  $30$ mV/(40A x 0.3) = 2.5m $\Omega$ . Four 470 $\mu$ F/2.5V Panasonic SP (type SX) capacitors in parallel provide 1.5m $\Omega$  (max) ESR. With a 2m $\Omega$  droop and 0.5m $\Omega$  PCB resistance, the typical combined ESR results in a zero at 30kHz. Ceramic capacitors have a high-ESR zero frequency, but applications with significant voltage positioning can take advantage of their size and low ESR. When using only ceramic output capacitors, output overshoot (VSOAR) typically determines the minimum output capacitance requirement. Their relatively low capacitance value favors high-switching-frequency operation with small inductor values to minimize the energy transferred from inductor to capacitor during load-step recovery. Unstable operation manifests itself in two related but distinctly different ways: double pulsing and feedback loop instability.

*Double-Pulsing and Feedback Loop Instability* Double pulsing 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 a new cycle immediately after the minimum off-time period has expired. Double pulsing 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 10% to 90% 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.

#### *Transient Response*

The inductor ripple current impacts transient-response performance, especially at low V<sub>IN</sub> - V<sub>OUT</sub> 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 amount of output sag is also a function of the maximum duty factor, which can be calculated from the on-time and minimum offtime. For a multiphase controller, the worst-case output sag voltage can be determined by:

$$
V_{SAG} \approx \frac{L(\Delta I_{LOAD(MAX)})^2}{2N_{TOTAL} \times C_{OUT} \times V_{OUT}} \times \frac{t_{MIN}}{[Kt_{SW} - t_{MIN}]}
$$

and:

#### $t_{MIN} = t_{ON} + t_{OFF(MIN)}$

where tOFF(MIN) is the minimum off-time (see the *Electrical Characteristics* table), KtSW is the programmed switching period, and N<sub>TOTAI</sub> is the total number of active phases.  $K = 66\%$  when NPH = 3, and  $K = 100\%$  when  $NPH = 2$ . V<sub>SAG</sub> must be less than the transient droop  $\Delta$ II OAD(MAX) x RDROOP. The capacitive soar voltage due to stored inductor energy can be calculated as:

$$
V_{SOAR} \approx \frac{( \Delta I_{LOAD(MAX)})^2 L}{2N_{TOTAL} \times C_{OUT} \times V_{OUT}}
$$

The actual peak of the soar voltage depends on the time where the decaying ESR step and rising capacitive soar are at their maximum. This is best simulated or measured.

#### *Input Capacitor Selection*

The input capacitor must meet the ripple-current requirement (IRMS) imposed by the switching currents. The multiphase Quick-PWM controllers operate out-of phase, reducing the RMS input. The IRMS requirements can be determined by the following equation:

$$
I_{RMS} = \left(\frac{I_{LOAD}}{N_{TOTAL} \times V_{IN}}\right) \times
$$

$$
\sqrt{N_{TOTAL} \times V_{OUT}(V_{IN} - (N_{TOTAL} \times V_{OUT}))}
$$

where NTOTAL is the total number of out-of-phase switching regulators. The worst-case RMS current requirement occurs when operating with  $V_{IN} = 2(NTOTAL \times VOUT)$ . Therefore, the above equation simplifies to  $I<sub>RMS</sub> = 0.5 x$ (ILOAD/NTOTAL). Choose an input capacitor that exhibits less than  $+10^{\circ}$ C temperature rise at the RMS input current for optimal circuit longevity.

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### *Power MOSFET Selection*

Most of the following MOSFET guidelines focus on the challenge of obtaining high-load-current capability when using high-voltage AC adapters.

#### *High-Side MOSFET Power Dissipation*

The conduction loss in the high-side MOSFET (NH) is a function of the duty factor, with the worst-case power dissipation occurring at the minimum input voltage:

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

where NTOTAL is the total number of phases. Calculating the switching losses in the NH is difficult since it must allow for difficult quantifying factors that influence the turn-on and turn-off times. These factors include the internal gate resistance, gate charge, threshold voltage, source inductance, and PCB 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:

$$
P_D(NHS withing) = \left(\frac{V_{IN} \times I_{LOAD} \times f_{SW}}{N_{TOTAL}}\right) \left(\frac{Q_{G(SW)}}{I_{GATE}}\right)
$$

$$
+ \frac{C_{OSS} \times V_{IN}^2 \times f_{SW}}{2}
$$

where COSS is the output capacitance of the high-side MOSFET, QG(SW) is the charge needed to turn on the NH MOSFET, and IGATE is the peak gate-drive source/ sink current. The optimum high-side MOSFET trades the switching losses with the conduction (RDS(ON)) losses over the input voltage range. Ideally, the losses at VIN(MIN) should be roughly equal to losses at VIN(MAX), with lower losses in between. If V<sub>IN</sub> does not vary over a wide range, the minimum power dissipation occurs where the resistive losses equal the switching losses.

#### *Low-Side MOSFET Power Dissipation*

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

$$
P_D(NLResistive) = \left[1 - \left(\frac{V_{OUT}}{V_{IN(MAX)}}\right)\right] \left(\frac{I_{LOAD}}{N_{TOTAL}}\right)^2 R_{DS(ON)}
$$

The worst case for MOSFET power dissipation occurs under heavy overloads that are greater than ILOAD(MAX) but are not quite high enough to exceed the current limit and cause the fault latch to trip. To protect against this possibility, the circuit can be overdesigned to tolerate:

$$
I_{LOAD} = N_{TOTAL}\left(I_{VALLEY(MAX)} + \frac{\Delta I_{INDUCTOR}}{2}\right)
$$

$$
= N_{TOTAL}\left(I_{VALLEY(MAX)} + \left(\frac{I_{LOAD(MAX)} \times LIR}{2}\right)\right)
$$

where IVALLEY(MAX) is the maximum valley current allowed by the current-limit circuit, including threshold tolerance and on-resistance variation. The MOSFET must have a good-size heatsink to handle the overload power dissipation. Choose a low-side MOSFET that has the lowest possible on-resistance (RDS(ON)), comes in a moderate-sized package (i.e., one or two thermally enhanced 8-pin SO packages), and is reasonably priced. Make sure that the DL\_ gate driver can supply sufficient current to support the gate charge and the current injected into the parasitic gate-to-drain capacitor caused by the high-side MOSFET turning on; otherwise, cross-conduction problems might occur (see the *MOSFET Gate Drivers* section). The optional Schottky diode (from DL to ground) should have a low forward voltage and be able to handle the load current per phase during the dead times.

#### *Boost Capacitor*

The boost capacitors (C<sub>BST</sub>) must be selected large enough to handle the gate-charging requirements of the high-side MOSFET. Select the boost capacitors to avoid discharging the capacitor more than 200mV while charging the gate of the high-side MOSFET:

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

where N is the number of high-side MOSFETs used for one regulator, and QGATE is the gate charge specified in the data sheet of the MOSFET. For example, assume one FDS6298 n-channel MOSFET is used on the high side. According to the manufacturer's data sheet, a single FDS6298 has a maximum gate charge of 10nC (VGS = 5V). Using the above equation, the required boost capacitance would be:

$$
C_{\text{BST}} = \frac{1 \times 10 \text{nC}}{200 \text{mV}} = 0.05 \mu \text{F}
$$

Selecting the closest standard value, this example  $requires a 0.1\mu F ceramic capacitor.$ 

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### *Current Limit (IMAX)*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T have a current limit that is programmed in discrete increments using multivalue logic inputs, IMAX\_ and SR. The regulator's maximum current limit, which is the current limit per phase times the maximum number of active phases, is reflected in the ICC\_MAX register (21h) for the respective regulator. The IMAX\_ voltage determines the valley current-sense threshold. See Table 6.

The valley of the inductor current occurs at ILOAD(MAX) minus half the ripple current; therefore:

$$
I_{\text{VALLEY}} > I_{\text{LOAD(MAX)}} \left( 1 - \frac{\text{LIR}}{2} \right)
$$

where:

$$
I_{\text{VALLEY}} = \frac{V_{\text{SENSE}}}{R_{\text{SENSE}}}
$$

where RSENSE is the sensing resistor or effective inductor DCR.

To set the current limit:

- 1) Select the inductor (see the *Inductor Selection* section)
- 2) Based on the current-sensing element (sense resistor or DCR sensing), calculate CSP - CSN sensed resistance value. See the *Current Sense* section. Then, use a divider to normalize this value to one of the four RSENSE values in Table 6.
- 3) Select ICC MAX for the calculated RSENSE value. Then, program the IMAX\_ pin to its specified voltage level in Table 6.
- 4) SR setting also scales the current limit. Set VSR to one of the four voltages in Table 7 based on using NTC or not using NTC in the current-sensing network. See the *Electrical Characteristics* table.

#### *Slew-Rate Control*

The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/MAX17511N/ MAX17511T have a slew-rate control programmed in discrete increments using a multivalue logic-input SR. Connect SR to a voltage level as defined in Table 7 to set the fast slew rate. The MAX17411/MAX17511/ MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T digitize the voltage at SR to set one of two discrete slew rates. The regulator's slow slew rate is set automatically relative to the fast slew rate (SR\_Slow = 1/4 SR\_Fast). The selected fast and slow slew rates are reflected in registers 24h and 25h, respectively. If NTC is used in a current-sensing network (CSP\_, CSN\_), set V<sub>SR</sub> at 1.5V for 20mV/µs and 0V for 10mV/ $\mu$ s fast slew rate. Otherwise, VSR = 3V sets the fast slew rate at  $20 \text{mV/}\mu\text{s}$  and  $V_{\text{SR}} = V_{\text{CC}}$  sets it at  $10mV/\mu s$ .

#### *Voltage Positioning*

Voltage positioning dynamically lowers the output voltage in response to the load current, reducing the output capacitance and processor's power-dissipation requirements. The MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511C/ MAX17511N/MAX17511T use a transconductance amplifier to set the transient and DC output-voltage droop (Figures 5, 6, and 7) as a function of the load. This adjustability allows flexibility in the selected currentsense resistor value or inductor DCR, and allows smaller current-sense resistance to be used, reducing the overall power dissipated.

#### *Steady-State Voltage Positioning*

Connect a resistor (RFB ) between FB\_ and VOUT to set the DC steady-state droop (load-line) based on the required voltage-positioning slope (RDROOP):

$$
R_{FB-} = \frac{R_{DROOP} \times N_{PH}}{R_{SENSE} G_{m(FB_+)}}
$$

where the effective current-sense resistance (RSFNSF) depends on the current-sense method (see the *Current Sense* section), and the transconductance (G<sub>m(FB</sub>)) of the voltage-positioning amplifier is typically 600µS as defined in the *Electrical Characteristics* table. When the inductors' DCR is used as the current-sense element, each current-sense input should include an NTC thermistor to minimize the temperature dependence of the voltage-positioning slope.

### *Applications Information*

### *PCB Layout Guidelines*

Careful PCB layout is critical to achieve low switching losses and clean, stable operation. The switching power stage requires particular attention. If possible, mount all the power components on the top side of the board with their ground terminals flush against one another. The layouts of the MAX17411/MAX17511/MAX17511N/ MAX17511C/MAX17511T are intimately related to the layout of the CPU. The high-current output paths from the regulator must flow cleanly into the high-current inputs on the processor. For VR12/IMVP-7 processors, these inputs are orthogonal. This arrangement effectively forces the regulator to be located diagonally with respect to the processor. Refer to the MAX17411/MAX17511/



MAX17511C/MAX17511N/MAX17511T Evaluation Kits' specifications for layout examples and follow these guidelines for good PCB layout:

- Keep the high-current paths short, especially at the ground terminals. This is essential for stable, jitterfree operation.
- Connect all analog grounds to a separate solid copper plane, which connects to the ground pin of the Quick-PWM controller. This includes the V<sub>CC</sub> bypass capacitor, FB\_, and GNDS bypass capacitors.
- Keep the power traces and load connections short. This is essential for high efficiency. The use of thick copper PCB (2oz vs. 1oz) can enhance full-load efficiency by 1% or more. Correctly routing PCB traces is a difficult task that must be approached in terms of fractions of centimeters, where a single  $m\Omega$  of excess trace resistance causes a measurable efficiency penalty.
- Keep the high-current, gate-driver traces (DL\_, DH\_, LX\_, and BST\_) short and wide to minimize trace resistance and inductance. This is essential for highpower MOSFETs that require low-impedance gate drivers to avoid shoot-through currents. CSP\_ and CSN\_ connections for current limiting and voltage positioning must be made using Kelvin-sense connections to guarantee the current-sense accuracy.
- 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 low-side MOSFET or between the inductor and the output filter capacitor.
- Route high-speed switching nodes away from sensitive analog areas (FB\_, CSP\_, CSN\_, etc.).



### *Layout Procedure*

### *Layout Procedure (continued)*



### *Ordering Information (continued)*



+*Denotes a lead(Pb)-free/RoHS-compliant package.*

\**EP = Exposed pad.*

### *Chip Information*

PROCESS: BiCMOS

### *Package Information*

For the latest package outline information and land patterns (footprints), go to **www.maxim-ic.com/packages**. Note that a "+", "#", or "-" in the package code indicates RoHS status only. Package drawings may show a different suffix character, but the drawing pertains to the package regardless of RoHS status.





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