

### **POWER MANAGEMENT**

#### **Features**

- $\blacklozenge$  Wide input voltage range: 4.7V to 16V
- $\triangle$  0.5V feedback voltage for low-voltage outputs
- ◆ Programmable frequency up to 1 MHz per phase
- $\blacklozenge$  2-Phase synchronous continuous conduction mode for high efficiency step-down converters
- $\blacklozenge$  Out-of-phase operation for low input current ripples
- $\blacklozenge$  Output source and sink currents
- ◆ Fixed frequency peak current-mode control
- ◆ 75mV/-110mV maximum current sense voltage
- $\blacklozenge$  Inductor DCR current-sensing for low-cost applications
- $\blacklozenge$  Dual outputs or 2-phase single output operation
- $\blacklozenge$  Excellent current sharing between individual phases
- $\blacklozenge$  Individual soft-start, overload shutdown and enable
- $\triangle$  External reference input for DDR applications
- $\blacklozenge$  External synchronization
- $\blacklozenge$  Industrial temperature range
- ◆ 4mm X 4mm X1mm 24-lead MLPQ package

### **Applications**

- $\blacklozenge$  Telecommunication power supplies
- ◆ DDR memory power supplies
- $\blacklozenge$  Graphic power supplies
- $\blacklozenge$  Servers and base stations

## **Typical Application Circuit**

# **Dual-Phase Single or Two Output Synchronous Step-Down Controller**

### **Description**

The SC2443 is a high-frequency dual synchronous step-down switching power supply controller. It provides out-of-phase high-current output gate drives to all N-channel MOSFET power stages. The SC2443 operates in synchronous continuous-conduction mode. Both phases are capable of maintaining regulation with sourcing or sinking load currents, making the SC2443 suitable for generating both VDDQ and the tracking VTT for DDR applications.

The SC2443 employs fixed frequency peak current-mode control for the ease of frequency compensation and fast transient response.

The dual-phase step-down controllers of the SC2443 can be used to produce two individually controlled and regulated outputs or a single output with shared current in each phase. The Step-down controllers operate from an input of at least 4.7V and are capable of regulating outputs as low as 0.5V

Individual soft-start and overload shutdown timer is included in each step-down controller. The SC2443 implements hiccup overload protection. In single output current share configuration, the master timer controls the soft-start and overload shutdown functions of both controllers.





Dual Independent Outputs Single Output With Current Sharing





### **Marking Information**



xxxxx = Semtech Lot No. (Example: E9010)

### **Pin Configuration Ordering Information**



Notes:

(1) Available in tape and reel only. A reel contains 3,000 devices. (2) Available in lead-free package only. Device is WEEE and RoHS compliant.





## **Absolute Maximum Ratings Recommended Operating Conditions**

Input Voltage Range ………………………… 4.75V to 16V

### **Thermal Information**



Exceeding the above specifications may result in permanent damage to the device or device malfunction. Operation outside of the parameters Peak IR Reflow Temperature …………………………… 260°C specified in the Electrical Characteristics section is not recommended.

NOTES-

(1) Calculated from package in still air, mounted to 3" x 4.5", 4 layer FR4 PCB with thermal vias under the exposed pad per JESD51 standards. (2) This device is ESD sensitive. Use of standard ESD handing precautions is required

### **Electrical Characteristics**

Unless otherwise specified: AVCC = PVCC = 12V,  $\rm V_{B5T1}$  = V $\rm_{B5T2}$  = 12V, SYNC = 0V, -40°C < T<sub>A</sub> = T<sub>J</sub> < 85°C, R<sub>osc</sub> =51.1kΩ.







## **Electrical Characteristics (continued)**



# **Electrical Characteristics (continued)**

SEMTECH



Notes:

(1) Guaranteed by design.

# SEMTECH **Typical Characteristics**





### **Typical Application Circuit Performance**

Circuit Conditions : Single output current share configuration as shown in page 15





### **Typical Application Circuit Performance**

Circuit Conditions : Dual independent outputs configuration as shown in page 17





#### **Pin Descriptions**  $\overline{1}$





### **Block Diagram**



**Figure 1. SC2443 Block Diagram**



#### **Description**

The SC2443 is a constant frequency 2-phase current-mode step-down PWM switching controller driving all N-channel MOSFET. The two channels of the controller operate at 180 degrees out-of-phase from each other. Since input currents are interleaved in a two-phase converter, input ripple current is lower and smaller input capacitor can be used for filtering. Also, with lower inductor current and smaller inductor ripple current per phase, overall <sup>12</sup>R losses are reduced.

The SC2443 operates in synchronous continuousconduction mode. It can be configured either as two independent step-down controllers producing two separate outputs or as a dual-phase single-output controller by tying the IN2- pin to VCC. In single output operation, the channel one error amplifier controls both channels and the channel two error amplifier is disabled. Soft-start and overload hiccup of both channels is synchronized to channel one.

#### **Frequency Setting and Synchronization**

The internal oscillator of the SC2443 runs at twice the phase frequency. The free-running frequency of the oscillator can be programmed with an external resistor from the ROSC pin to ground. The step-down controllers are capable of operating up to 1 MHz. It is necessary to consider the operating duty-ratio before deciding the switching frequency. See Applications Information section for more details.

When synchronized externally, the applied clock frequency should be twice the desired phase frequency. The synchronizing clock frequency should also be between 2 - 2.6 times the set free-running channel frequency.

### **Control Loop**

The SC2443 uses peak current-mode control for fast transient response, ease of compensation and current sharing in single output operation. The low-side MOSFET of each channel is turned off at the falling-edge of the phase timing clock. After a brief non-overlapping time interval of 90ns, the high-side MOSFET is turned on. The phase inductor current ramps up. When the sensed inductor current reaches the threshold determined by the error amplifier output and compensation ramp, the high-side MOSFET is turned off. After a non-overlapping conduction time of 90ns, the low-side MOSFET is turned on.

The supply voltages for the high-side gate drivers are obtained from two diode-capacitor bootstrap circuits. If the bootstrap capacitor is charged from VCC, the highside gate drive voltage swing will be from approximately 2VCC to the ground. The power dissipated in the highside gate driver is not higher with higher voltage swing because the gate-source voltage of the high-side MOSFET still swing from zero to VCC. The outputs of the low-side gate drivers swing from VCC to ground.

The SC2443 has internal ramp-compensation to prevent sub-harmonic oscillation when operating above 50% duty cycle. There is enough ramp internally for a sensed voltage ripple between 1/4 to 1/3 of the full-scale sensed voltage limit of 75mV. The maximum sensed voltage limit is unaffected by the compensating ramp.

#### **Current-Sensing**

There are two ways to sense the inductor current for current-mode control with the SC2443. Since the peak inductor current corresponds to 75mV of sensed voltage (CS+ - CS-), resistor current sensing can be used at the output without resulting in excessive power dissipation. Although accurate and far easier to lay out than high-side resistor sensing, a pair of precision sense resistors adds cost to the converter.

With proper RC filter, Inductor DCR sensing can also be used for SC2443 resulting in low cost and without extra power dissipation.

#### **Error Amplifiers**

In closed loop operation, the error amplifier output ranges from 1.1V to 3.5V. The upper output operating range of either error amplifier is reserved for positive currentsense voltage (CS+ - CS-) and corresponds to positive (sourcing) output current. If the amplifier swings to its lower operating range, the amplifier will still modulate the high-side gate drive duty-ratio. However the peak currentsense voltage (hence the peak inductor current) will be limited to a negative value. The error amplifier output is about 2.2V when the peak sense-voltage is zero. The built-in offset in the current sense amplifier together with synchronous continuous-conduction mode of operation allows the SC2443 to regulate the output irrespective of the direction of the load current.



### **Applications Information (continued)**

The non-inverting input of the first feedback amplifier is tied to the internal 0.5V voltage reference. Both the noninverting and the inverting inputs of the second error amplifier are brought out as device pins so that the output of the second converter can be made to track the output of the first channel. For example in DDR applications, Channel 1 can be used to generate VDDQ (2.5V) from the input (5V or 12V) and channel 2 is used to produce a tracking VTT (1.25V) with VDDQ being its input.

#### **Current-Limit**

The maximum current sense voltage of +75mV is the cycle-by-cycle peak current limit when the load is drawing current from the converter. There is no cycle-bycycle current limiting when the inductor current flows in the negative direction. However once the valley of the current sense voltage exceeds -110mV, the corresponding channel will undergo shutdown and restart (hiccup).

#### **Soft-Start and Overload Protection**

The undervoltage lockout circuit discharges the SS/EN capacitors. After VCC rises above 4.5V, the SS/EN capacitors are slowly charged by internal  $2\mu A$  current source. With internal PNP transistors, the SS/EN voltages clamp the error amplifier outputs. When the error amplifier output rises to 2.2V, the high-side MOSFET starts to switch. As the SS/ EN capacitor continues to be charged, the COMP voltage follows. The converter gradually delivers increasing power to the output. The inductor current follows the COMP voltage envelope until the output goes into regulation. The SS/EN clamp on COMP is then released.

After the SS/EN capacitor is charged above 3.2V (high enough for the error amplifier to provide full load current), the overload detection circuit is activated. If the output voltage falls below 70% of its set value or the valley current-sense voltage exceeds -110mV, an overload latch will be set and both the top and the bottom MOSFETs will be turned off. The SS/EN capacitor is slowly discharged with an internal 1.4µA current sink. The overload latch is reset when the SS/EN capacitor is discharged below 0.5V. The SS/EN capacitor is then recharged with the 2uA current source and the converter undergoes soft-start. If overload persists, the SC2443 will undergo repetitive shutdown and restart.

If the output is short-circuited, the inductor current will not increase indefinitely between the time the inductor

current reaching its current limit and the instant the converter shuts down. This is due to cycle skipping(a consequence of inductor current sense) reduces the actual operating frequency.

The SS/EN pin can also be used as the enable input for that channel. Both the high-side and the low-side MOSFETs will be turned off if the SS/EN pin is pulled below 0.7V.

#### **Operating Frequency (fs)**

The switching frequency in the SC2443 is userprogrammable. The advantages of using constant frequency operation are simple passive component selection and ease of feedback compensation. Before setting the operating frequency, the following trade-offs should be considered.

- 1) Passive component size
- 2) Circuitry efficiency
- 3) EMI condition
- 4) Minimum switch on time and
- 5) Maximum duty ratio

For a given output power, the sizes of the passive components are inversely proportional to the switching frequency, whereas MOSFET and Diodes switching losses are proportional to the operating frequency. Other issues such as heat dissipation, packaging and the cost issues are also to be considered. The frequency bands for signal transmission should be avoided because of EM interference.

#### **Minimum Switch On Time Consideration**

In the SC2443 the falling edge of the clock turns on the top MOSFET. The inductor current and the sensed voltage ramp up. After the sensed voltage crosses a threshold determined by the error amplifier output, the top MOSFET is turned off. The propagation delay time from the turnon of the controlling FET to its turn-off is the minimum switch on time. The SC2443 has a minimum on time of about 150ns at room temperature. This is the shortest on interval of the controlling FET. The controller either does not turn on the top MOSFET at all or turns it on for at least 150ns.

For a synchronous step-down converter, the operating duty cycle is *VO* /*VIN* . So the required on time for the top MOSFET is  $VO$  /( $VIN \times F_s$ ). If the frequency is set such that the required pulse width is less than 150ns, then the converter will start skipping cycles. Due to minimum on time limitation, simultaneously operating at



### **Applications Information (continued)**

very high switching frequency and very short duty cycle is not practical. If the voltage conversion ratio *VO* /*VIN* and hence the required duty cycle is higher, the switching frequency can be increased to reduce the sizes of passive components.

There will not be enough modulation headroom if the on time is simply made equal to the minimum on time of the SC2443. For ease of control, we recommend the required pulse width to be at least 1.5 times the minimum on time.

#### **Setting the Switching Frequency**

The switching frequency is set with an external resistor connected from Pin 24 to ground. The set frequency is inversely proportional to the resistor value (Figure 2).

Figure 2. Free running frequency vs. ROSC.



#### **Setting the Output Voltage**

The non-inverting input of the channel-one error amplifier is internally tied the 0.5V voltage reference output (Pin 5). The non-inverting input of the channel-two error amplifier is brought out as a device pin (Pin 6) to which the user can connect Pin 5 or an external voltage reference. A simple voltage divider (Ro1 at top and Ro2 at bottom) sets the converter output voltage. The voltage feedback gain h=0.5/Vo is related to the divider resistors value as

$$
R_{o2} = \frac{h}{1-h}R_{o1}
$$

#### **PC Board Layout Issues**

Circuit board layout is very important for the proper operation of high frequency switching power converters. A power ground plane is required to reduce ground bounces. The following are suggested for proper layout:

#### Power Stage

1) Separate the power ground from the signal ground. In the SC2443, the power ground PGND should be tied to the source terminal of lower MOSFETs. The signal ground AGND should be tied to the negative terminal of the output capacitor.

2) Minimize the size of high pulse current loop. Keep the top MOSFET, bottom MOSFET and the input capacitors within a small area with short and wide traces. In addition to the aluminum energy storage capacitors, add multilayer ceramic (MLC) capacitors from the input to the power ground to improve high frequency bypass.

3) Reduce high frequency voltage ringing. Widen and shorten the drain and source traces of the MOSFET to reduce stray inductances. Add a small RC snubber if necessary to reduce the high frequency ringing at the phase node. Sometimes slowing down the gate drive signal also helps in reducing the high frequency ringing at the phase node.

4) Shorten the gate driver path. Integrity of the gate drive (voltage level, leading and falling edges) is important for circuit operation and efficiency. Short and wide gate drive traces reduce trace inductances. Bond wire inductance is about 2~3nH. If the length of the PCB trace from the gate driver to the MOSFET gate is 1 inch, the trace inductance will be about 25nH. If the gate drive current is 2A with 10ns rise and falling times, the voltage drops across the bond wire and the PCB trace will be 0.6V and 5V respectively. This may slow down the switching transient of the MOSFET. These inductances may also ring with the gate capacitance.

5) Put the decoupling capacitor for the gate drive power supplies (BST and PVCC) close to the IC and power ground.

#### Control Section

6) The frequency-setting resistor Rosc should be placed close to Pin 3. Trace length from this resistor to the analog



### **Applications Information (continued)**

ground should be minimized.

7) Solder the bias decoupling capacitor right across the AVCC and analog ground AGND.

8) Place the inductor DCR sense components away from the power circuit and close to the corresponding CS+ and CS- pins. Use X7R type ceramic capacitor for the DCR sense capacitor because of their temperature stability.

9) Use an isolated local ground plane underneath the controller and tie it to the negative side of output capacitor bank.

10) Comp pin is sensitive to noise. Place compensation network components away from noise signal (i.e. gate driver signals, phase node) and close to corresponding Comp pin .



### **Evaluation Application Circuit \_ Single Output, Current share configuration**





### **Evaluation Board Bill of Materials**

#### **Single Output Current Share Configuration**





### **Evaluation Application Circuit\_ Dual Independant Outputs**





### **Evaluation Board Bill of Materials**

### **Dual Independent Output Configuration**





### **Evaluation Application Circuit\_ Dual Independant Outputs (Lower power application)**





### **Evaluation Board Bill of Materials**

#### **Dual Independent Output Configuration**





### **Outline Drawing - MLPQ-24**



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### **Land Pattern - MLPQ-24**





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