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FEATURES

- Dual output (2+1) Digital Controller with proprietary control algorithm
- Two-phase operation available on Output #1 for powering very high current ASICs and DSPs
- I2C /PMBus interface for configuration & telemetry with pin programmable address
- Operating ambient temperature: -40°C to 85°C
- 3.3V bias operation
- Independent loop switching frequencies from 200kHz to 2MHz per phase
- IR Efficiency Shaping with Dynamic Phase Control (DPC)
- Active Diode Emulation modes for light load efficiency
- IR Adaptive Transient Algorithm (ATA) minimizes output bulk capacitors and system cost
- Independent OVP, UVP, OCP for each output
- Thermal Protection (OTP) and VRHOT# flag
- Multiple time programmable (MTP) memory for custom configuration
- Flexible I2C bus security features
- Pb-Free, RoHS, 32-pin 5mm X 5mm QFN package

DESCRIPTION

The IR36021 is a dual-loop digital multi-phase buck controller designed for point of load applications.

The IR36021 include Efficiency Shaping Technology to deliver exceptional efficiency at minimum cost across the entire load range. Dynamic Phase Control adds/drops active phases based upon load current and can be configured to enter 1-phase operation and diode emulation mode automatically or by command.

IR's unique Adaptive Transient Algorithm (ATA), based on proprietary non-linear digital PWM algorithms, minimizes output bulk capacitors and Multiple Time Programmable (MTP) storage saves pins and enables a small package size. Device configuration and fault parameters are easily defined using the IR Intuitive Power Designer (IPD) GUI and stored in on-chip MTP.

The IR36021 provides extensive OVP, UVP, OCP and OTP fault protection and includes thermistor based temperature sensing with VRHOT signal.

The IR36021 includes numerous features like register diagnostics for fast design cycles and platform differentiation, truly simplifying VRD design and enabling fastest time-to-market (TTM) with “set-and-forget” methodology.

APPLICATIONS

- Embedded Telecom Systems
- Netcom Applications
- Server Application
- Distributed Point of Load Power Architectures

BASIC APPLICATION

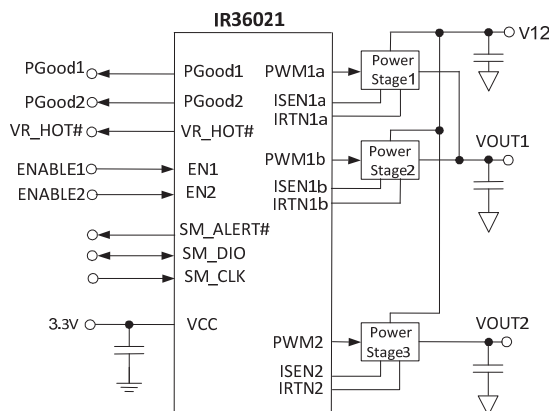


Figure 1: IR36021 Basic Application Circuit

PIN DIAGRAM

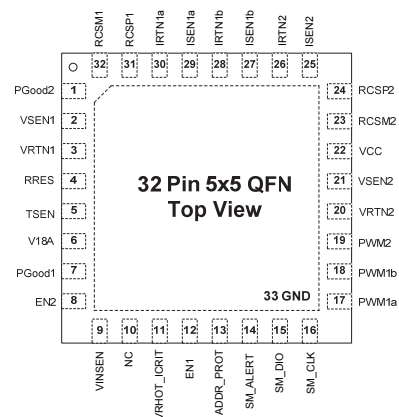


Figure 2: IR36021 Package Top View

PIN DIAGRAM

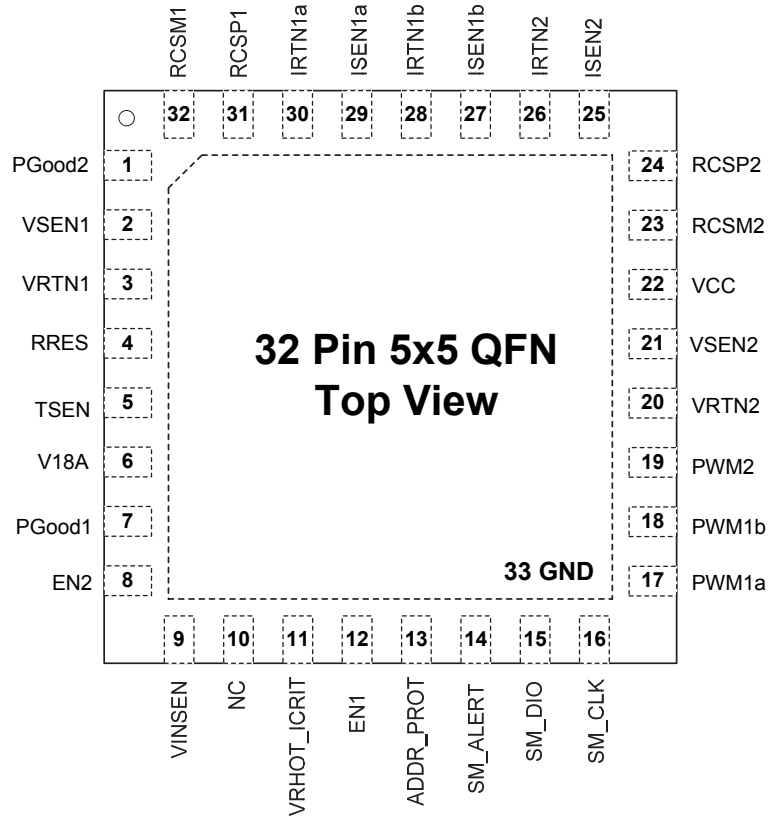


Figure 3: IR36021 Package Bottom View
5mm X 5mm QFN

ORDERING INFORMATION

Package	Tape and Reel Qty	Part Number
M	3000	IR36021MTRPbF

FUNCTIONAL BLOCK DIAGRAM

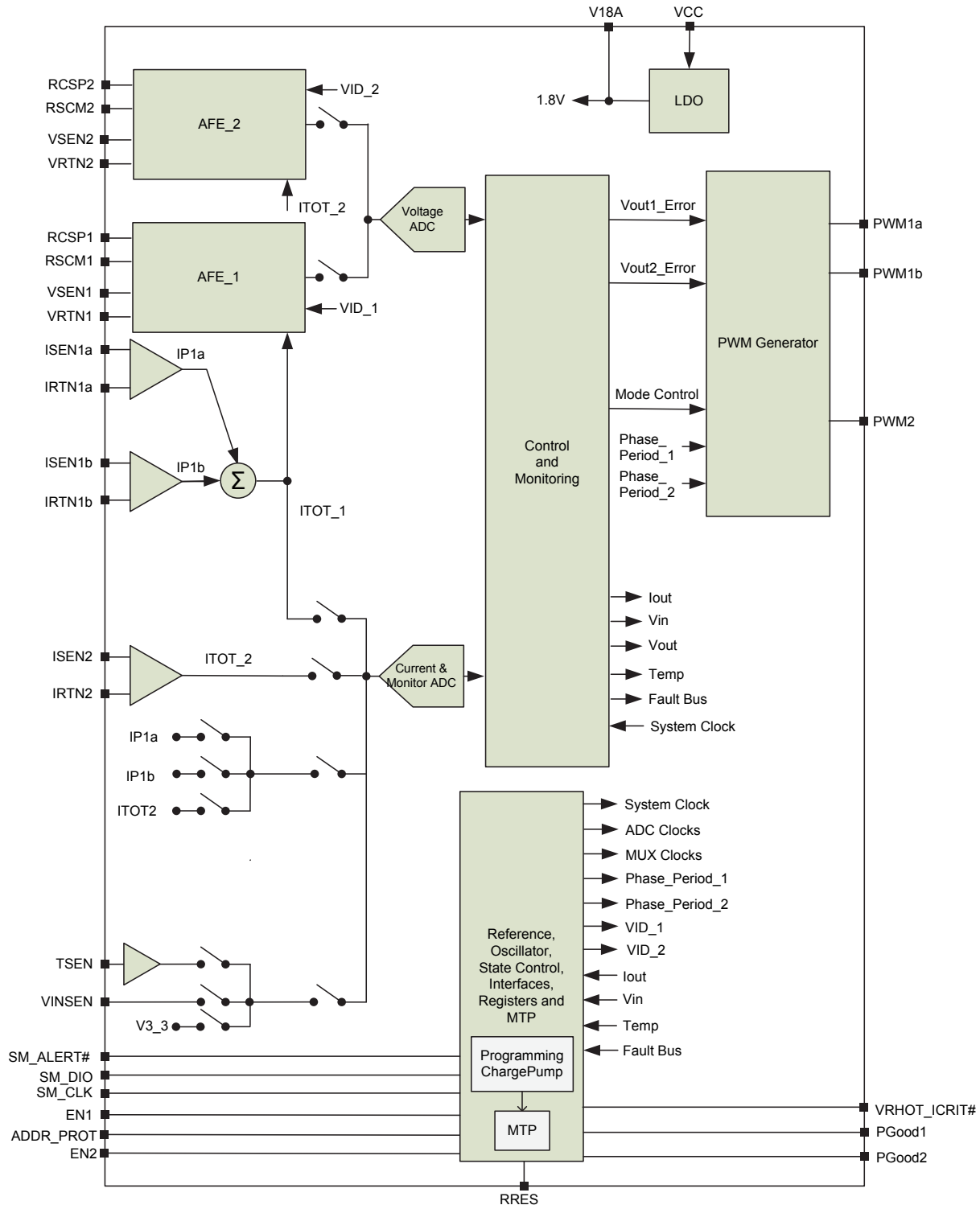


Figure 4: IR36021 Simplified Block Diagram

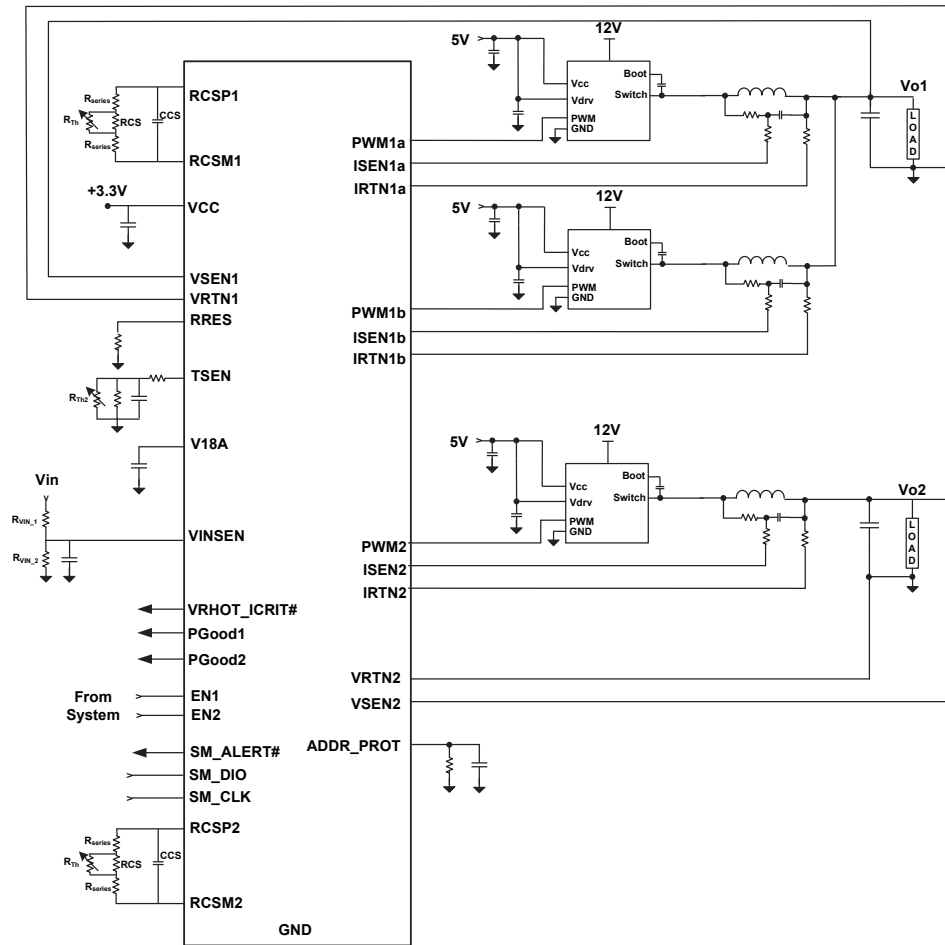


Figure 5: Dual-loop VR using IR36021 Controller and IR PowerStage in 2+1 Configuration

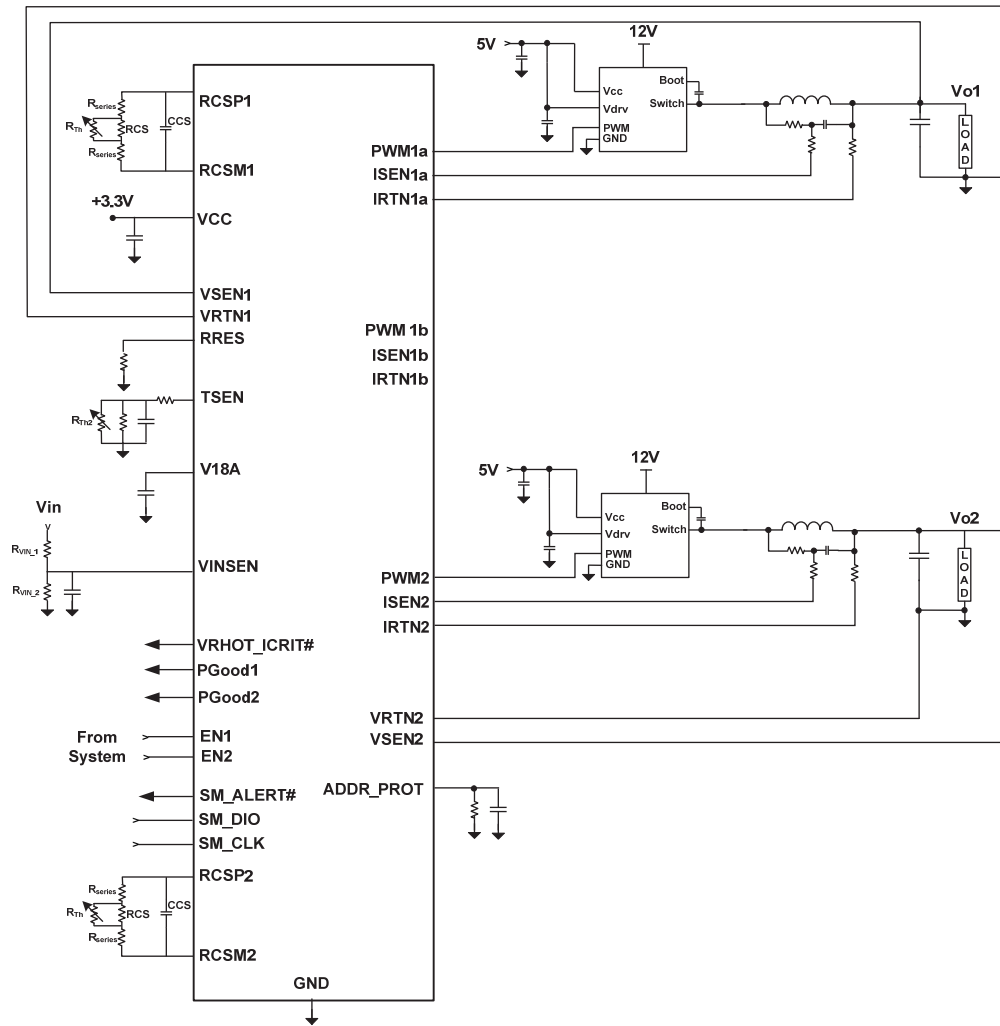


Figure 7: Dual-loop VR using IR36021 Controller and IR PowerStage in 1+1 Configuration

PIN DESCRIPTION

PIN #	PIN NAME	PIN DESCRIPTION
1	PGood2	Voltage Regulator Ready Output (Loop #2). Open-drain output that asserts high when the VR has completed soft-start to Loop #2 boot voltage.
2	VSEN1	Voltage Sense Input Loop#1. This pin is connected directly to the VR output voltage of Loop #1 at the load and should be routed differentially with VRTN
3	VRTN1	Voltage Sense Return Input Loop#1. This pin is connected directly to Loop#1 ground at the load and should be routed differentially with VSEN.
4	RRES	Current Reference Resistor. A 1% resistor is connected to this pin to set an internal precision current reference
5	TSEN	NTC Temperature Sense Input. An NTC network is connected to this pin to measure temperature.
6	V18A	1.8V Decoupling. Two capacitors on this pin provide decoupling for the internal 1.8V supply
7	PGood1	Voltage Regulator Ready Output (Loop #1). Open-drain output that asserts high when the VR has completed soft-start to Loop #1 boot voltage.
8	EN2	VR Enable Input. ENABLE is an active high system input to power-on the regulator, provided Vin and Vcc are present. ENABLE is not pulled up on the controller. When ENABLE is pulled low, the controller de-asserts PGOOD2 and shuts down the regulator.
9	VINSEN	VIN Voltage Sense Input. This is used to detect a valid 5V-12V supply voltage and measure the input voltage to the VR.
10	NC	
11	VRHOT-ICRIT	VRHOT_ICRIT# Output. Active low alert pin that can be programmed to assert if temperature or average load current exceeds user-definable thresholds.
12	EN1	VR Enable Input. ENABLE is an active high system input to power-on the regulator, provided Vin and Vcc are present. ENABLE is not pulled up on the controller. When ENABLE is pulled low, the controller de-asserts PGOOD1 and shuts down the regulator.
13	ADDR_PROT	Bus Address & I2C Bus Protection A resistor to ground on this pin defines the I2C address which is latched when VCC becomes valid. Subsequently, this pin becomes a logic input to enable or disable communication on the I2C bus,
14	SM_ALERT	SMBus Alert line
15	SM_DIO	Serial Data Line I/O. I2C bus bi-directional serial data line.
16	SM_CLK	Serial Clock Line Input. I2C bus clock input.
17	PWM1a	Loop 1 Phase 1 Pulse Width Modulation Output. PWM signal pin which is connected to the input of an external MOSFET gate driver. The power-up state is high-impedance until ENABLE goes active. Refer to the TBD section for unused/disabled phases.
18	PWM1b	Loop 1 Phase 2 Pulse Width Modulation Output. PWM signal pin which is connected to the input of an external MOSFET gate driver. The power-up state is high-impedance until ENABLE goes active. Refer to the TBD section for unused/disabled phases.
19	PWM2	Loop 2 Pulse Width Modulation Output. PWM signal pin which is connected to the input of an external MOSFET gate driver. The power-up state is high-impedance until ENABLE goes active. Refer to the TBD section for unused/disabled phases.
20	VRTN2	Voltage Sense Return Input Loop#2. This pin is connected directly to Loop#2 ground at the load and should be routed differentially with VSEN.
21	VSEN2	Voltage Sense Input Loop#1. This pin is connected directly to the VR output voltage of Loop #2 at the load and should be routed differentially with VRTN
22	VCC	Input supply voltage. 3.3V supply to power the device
23	RCSM2	Resistor Current Sense Minus Loop 2. This pin is connected to an external network to set the loadline slope, bandwidth and temperature compensation for Loop #2.

PIN #	PIN NAME	PIN DESCRIPTION
24	RCSP2	Resistor Current Sense Positive Loop 2. This pin is connected to an external network to set the loadline slope, bandwidth and temperature compensation for Loop #2.
25	ISEN2	Loop 2 Current Sense Input. Loop 2 sensed current input (+)
26	IRTN2	Loop 2 Current Sense Return Input. Loop 2 sensed current input return (-)
27	ISEN1b	Loop1 Phase 2 Current Sense Input. Phase 2 sensed current input (+)
28	IRTN1b	Loop 1 Phase 2 Current Sense Return Input. Phase 2 sensed current input return (-)
29	ISEN1a	Loop1 Phase 1 Current Sense Input. Phase 1 sensed current input (+)
30	IRTN1a	Loop1 Phase 1 Current Sense Return Input. Phase 1 sensed current input return (-)
31	RCSP1	Resistor Current Sense Positive Loop#1. This pin is connected to an external network to set the loadline slope, bandwidth and temperature compensation for Loop #1
32	RCSM1	Resistor Current Sense Minus Loop#1. This pin is connected to an external network to set the loadline slope, bandwidth and temperature compensation for Loop #1
33	GND	Ground. Ground reference for the IC. The large metal pad on the bottom must be connected to Ground.

ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

Supply Voltage (VCC)	GND-0.3V to 4.0V
RCSPx, RCSMx	0 to 2.2 V
VSENx, VRTNx, ISENx, IRTNx	GND-0.2V to 2.7V
RRES, V18A, TSEN, VINSEN	GND-0.2V to 2.2V
PWMx	GND-0.3V to VCC
PGoodx, ENx, ADDR_PROT, VRHOT_ICRIT#	GND-0.3V to VCC
SM_DIO, SM_CLK, SM_ALERT	GND-0.3V to 5.5V
ESD Rating	
Human Body Model	200V
Machine Model	200V
Charge Device Model	1000V
Moisture Sensitivity Level	JEDEC Level 2@260°C

THERMAL INFORMATION

Thermal Resistance (θ_{JA} & θ_{JC}) [*]	29°C/W & 3°C/W
Maximum Operating Junction Temperature	-40°C to +125°C
Maximum Storage Temperature Range	-65°C to +150°C
Maximum Lead Temperature (Soldering 10s) (SOIC - Lead Tips Only)	300°C

* θ_{JA} is measured with the component mounted on a high effective thermal conductivity test board in free air.

Stresses beyond those listed under “Absolute Maximum Ratings” may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only and functional operation of the device at these or any other conditions beyond those indicated in the operational sections of the specifications are not implied. These devices are ESD sensitive, observe handling precautions to prevent electrostatic discharge damage.

ELECTRICAL SPECIFICATIONS

RECOMMENDED OPERATING CONDITIONS

SYMBOL	DEFINITION	MIN	MAX	UNITS
V _{CC}	Supply Voltage	2.9	3.63	V
T _A	Ambient Temperature	0	85	°C

The electrical characteristics table lists the spread of values guaranteed within the recommended operating conditions. Typical values represent the median values, which are related to 25°C.

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
Supply		V_{CC}/GND				
Supply voltage	V _{CC}		2.9	3.3	3.63	V
Supply current	I _{VCC}	PWM not switching	95	105	125	mA
3.3V UVLO turn on threshold				2.80	2.9	V
3.3V UVLO turn off threshold			2.6	2.7		V
Input voltage sense input						
Input impedance			1			MΩ
Input range	V12	With 14:1 divider	0	0.857	1.1	V
UVLO turn on programmable range ¹		With 14:1 divider		4.5-15.9375		V
UVLO turn off programmable range ¹		With 14:1 divider		4.5-15.9375		V
OVP threshold (if enabled)		Desktop mode	14.3	14.6	14.9	V
		Notebook mode		23.5		V
Reference Voltage and DAC						
Boot Voltage Range ¹				0.25-1.52		V
System Accuracy ³		VID = 1.55V-2.3V	-1.1		1.1	%VID
		VID = 1.0V-1.5V	-0.5		0.5	%VID
		VID = 0.8-0.995V	-5.0		5.0	mV
		VID = 0.25-0.795V	-8		8	mV
External reference resistor	RRES	1% external bias resistor		7.5		kΩ
Oscillator & PWM Generator						
Internal oscillator ¹				96		MHz
Frequency Accuracy ²			-2.5		2.5	%

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
PWM Frequency Range ¹				200-2000		kHz
PWM frequency step size ¹				0.83-83		kHz
PWM resolution ¹					160	ps
NTC Temperature Sense	TSEN1					
Output Current		For TSEN = 0 to 1.2V	96	100	104	μA
Accuracy ¹		at 100°C (ideal NTC)	96		104	°C
Digital Inputs – Low Vth Type 1	EN, VR_HOT (during PoR)					
Input High Voltage			0.7	-	-	V
Input Low Voltage			-	-	0.35	V
Input Leakage Current		Vpad = 0 to 2V	-	-	±5	μA
Digital inputs - LVTTTL	SM_DIO, SM_CLK, ADDR_PROT					
Input voltage high			2.1			V
Input voltage low					0.8	V
Input leakage		Vpad=0 to 3.6V			±1	μA
Remote voltage sense inputs	VSEN, VRTN, VSEN_L2, VRTN_L2					
VSENx Input current		Vout = 0.5V to 1.5V		-250 to +250		uA
VRTNx Input current				-500		uA
Differential Input voltage range ¹		VRTN= ±100mV		0 to 2.6		V
VRTN Input CM voltage ¹				-100 to 100		mV
Remote current sense inputs	ISEN/IRTNx					
Voltage range ¹				-0.1 to 2.7		V
Analog Address/Level Inputs	ADDR_PROT	16 levels				
Output Current ¹		Vpad = 0 to 1.2V	96	100	104	μA
Open-Drain outputs - 4mA drive	PGood1, PGood2, SM_DIO, SM_ALERT					
Output low voltage		4mA			0.3	V
Output leakage		Vpad=0 to 3.6V			±5	μA
Open-Drain outputs - 20mA drive	VRHOT_ICRIT#					
Output low voltage ¹		I=20mA			0.26	V
On resistance ¹		I=20mA	7	9	13	Ω
Tri-state leakage	I _{leak}	Vpad=0 to 3.6V			±5	μA

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
PWM I/O	PWMx					
Output low voltage (Tri-state mode)		I=-4mA			0.4	V
Output high voltage (Tri-state mode)		I=+4mA	2.9			V
Tri-state leakage		Vpad = 0 to Vcc			±1	µA
PWM auto-detect inputs (when 3.3V is applied) – if enabled						
Input voltage high			1.3			V
Input voltage low					0.5	V
I2C/PMBus & Reporting						
Bus Speed ¹		Normal		100		kHz
		Fast		400		
		Maximum		1000		
Iout & Vout filter ¹		Selectable		3.2 or 52		Hz
Iout & Vout Update rate ¹				20.8		kHz
Vin & Temperature filter ¹		Selectable		3.2 or 52		Hz
Vin & Temperature update rate ¹				20.8		kHz
Vin range reporting ¹		With 14:1 divider		0-15		V
		With 22:1 divider		0-25		
Vin accuracy reporting		With 1% resistors,	-2		+2	%
Vin resolution reporting ¹				62.5		mV
Vout range reporting ¹					2.2	V
Vout accuracy reporting ¹		No load-line		± 0.5		%
Vout resolution reporting ¹		Vout < 2V		7.8		mV
Iout range reporting ¹		Per phase	0		62	A
Iout accuracy reporting ¹		Maximum load, all phases active (based on DCR, NTC and # active phases)		±2		%
Iout resolution reporting ¹		Loop 1 (Iout<80A)		0.5		A
		Loop 2 (Iout<40A)		0.25		
Temperature range reporting ¹			0		135	°C
Temperature accuracy reporting ¹		At 100°C, with ideal NTC	-4		4	%
Temperature resolution reporting ¹				1		°C

PARAMETER	SYMBOL	CONDITIONS	MIN	TYP	MAX	UNIT
Fault Protection						
OVP threshold during Start-up (until output reaches 1V)		Selectable	1.2	1.275	1.35	V
OVP Operating threshold ¹ (programmable)		Relative to VID (selectable)		150-500		mV
OVP filter delay ¹				160		ns
Output UVP threshold ¹ (Programmable)		Relative to VID (selectable)		-150 to -500		mV
Fast OCP range ¹		Per phase		0-62		A
Fast OCP filter bandwidth ¹				60		kHz
Slow OCP filter bandwidth ¹		Programmable (equal to telemetry band-width)		3.2 or 52		Hz
OCP System accuracy ¹		System excluding DCR/sense resistor		±2		%
VR_HOT range ¹				64 to 127		°C
OTP range ¹		VR_HOT level + OTP Range		64 to 135		°C
Dynamic Phase Control						
Current filter bandwidth ¹		For Phase drop		5.3		KHz
Timing Information						
Automatic Configuration from MTP ¹	t_3-t_2 (figure 8)	3.3V ready to end of configuration			1	ms
Automatic trim time ¹	t_4-t_3 (Figure 8)				4	ms
EN Delay (to ramp start) ¹				3		us
VID Delay (to ramp start) ¹		Loop bandwidth dependent		5		us
PGood1/PGood2 Delay ¹		After reaching boot voltage		20		us

Notes

1. Guaranteed by design but not tested in production
2. PWM operating frequency will vary slightly as the number of phases changes (increases/decreases) because of the internal calculation involved in dividing a switching period evenly into the number of active phases.
3. System accuracy is for a temperature range of 0°C to +85°C. Accuracies will derate by a factor of 1.5x for temperatures outside the 0°C to +85°C range.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The IR36021 is a flexible, dual-loop (dual-channel), digital multiphase PWM buck controller optimized to convert a 12V input supply to a voltage below 2.445V (for $V_{CC} > 3.1V$). It is easily configurable for 1-2 phase operation on Loop #1 and 0-1 phase operation on Loop #2.

The unique partitioning of analog and digital circuits within the IR36021 provides the user with easy configuration capability while maintaining the required accuracy and performance. Access to on-chip Multiple Time Programming memory (MTP) to store the IR36021 configuration parameters enables power supply designers to optimize their designs without changing external components.

The IR36021 controls two independent output voltages. Each voltage is controlled in an identical fashion, so that the user can configure and optimize each control loop individually. Unless otherwise described, the following functions are performed on the IR36021 on each control loop independently.

DIGITAL CONTROLLER & PWM

A linear Proportional-Integral-Derivative (PID) digital controller provides the loop compensation for system regulation. The digitized error voltage from the high-speed voltage error ADC is processed by the digital compensator. The digital PWM generator uses the outputs of the PID and the phase current balance control signals to determine the pulse width for each phase on each loop. The PWM generator has enough resolution to ensure that there are no limit cycles. The compensator coefficients are user configurable to enable optimized system response. The compensation algorithm uses a PID with two additional programmable poles. This provides the digital equivalent of a Type III analog compensator.

ADAPTIVE TRANSIENT ALGORITHM (ATA)

Dynamic load step-up and load step-down transients require fast system response to maintain the output voltage within specification limits. This is achieved by a unique adaptive non-linear digital transient control loop based on a proprietary algorithm.

MULTIPLE TIME PROGRAMMING MEMORY

The multiple time programming memory (MTP) stores the device configuration. At power-up, MTP contents are

transferred to operating registers for access during device operation. MTP allows customization during both design and high-volume manufacturing. MTP integrity is verified by cyclic redundancy code (CRC) checking on each power up. The controller will not start in the event of a CRC error.

The IR36021 offers up to 9 writes to configure basic device parameters such as frequency fault operating characteristics, and boot voltage. This represents a significant size and component saving compared to traditional analog methods. The following pseudo-code illustrates how to write the MTP:

```
# write data
Set MTP Command Register = WRITE,
Line Pointer = An unused line
Poll MTP Command Register until Operation = IDLE.

# verify data was written correctly
Issue a READ Command; then poll OTP Operation Register
till Operation = IDLE
Verify that the Read Succeeded
```

INTERNAL OSCILLATOR

The IR36021 has a single 96MHz internal oscillator that generates all the internal system clock frequencies required for proper device function. The single internal oscillator is also used to set the switching frequency on each loop. The switching frequency for the two loops can be set to different values independently. Therefore, the two channels switch asynchronously.

HIGH-PRECISION VOLTAGE REFERENCE

The internal high-precision voltage reference supplies the required reference voltages to the DACs, ADCs and other analog circuits. This factory trimmed reference is guaranteed over temperature and manufacturing variations.

HIGH PRECISION CURRENT REFERENCE

An on-chip precision current reference is derived using an off-chip precision resistor connected to the RRES pin of the IR36021. RRES must be a 7.5k Ω , 1% tolerance resistor, placed very close to the controller pin to minimize parasitics.

VOLTAGE SENSE

An error voltage is generated from the difference between the target voltage and load-line (if implemented), and the differential, remotely sensed, output voltage. For each loop, the error voltage is digitized by a high-speed, high-

precision ADC. An anti-alias filter provides the necessary high frequency noise rejection. The gain and offset of the voltage sense circuitry for each loop is factory trimmed to deliver the required accuracy.

CURRENT SENSE

Lossless inductor DCR or precision resistor current sensing is used to accurately measure individual phase currents. Using a simple off-chip thermistor, resistor and capacitor network for each loop, a thermally compensated loadline is generated to meet the given power system requirement. A filtered voltage, which is a function of the total load current and the target loadline resistance, is summed into each voltage sense path to accomplish the Active Voltage Positioning (AVP) function.

MOSFET DRIVER AND DRMOS COMPATIBILITY

The output PWM signals of the IR36021 are designed for compatibility with the CHL85xx family of active tri-level (ATL) MOSFET drivers. CHL85xx drivers have a fast disable capability which enables any phase to be turned off on-the-fly. It supports power-saving control modes, improved transient response, and superior on the fly phase dropping without having to route multiple output disable (ODB or SMOD) signals.

In addition, the IR36021 provides the flexibility to configure PWM levels to operate with external MOSFET drivers or driver-MOSFET (DrMOS) devices that support Industry standard +3.3V tri-state signaling.

I2C & PMBUS INTERFACE

An I2C or PMBus interface is used to communicate with the IR36021. This two-wire serial interface consists of clock and data signals and operates as fast as 1MHz. The bus provides read and write access to the internal registers for configuration and monitoring of operating parameters and can also be used to program on-chip non-volatile memory (MTP) to store operating parameters.

To ensure operation with multiple devices on the bus, an exclusive address for the IR36021 is programmed into MTP. The IR36021, additionally, supports pin-programming of the address.

To protect customer configuration and information, the I2C interface can be completely locked to provide no access or configured for limited access with a 16-bit software password. Limited access includes both write and read protection options. In addition, there is a telemetry

only mode which allows reads from the telemetry registers only.

The IR36021 provides a hardware pin security option to provide extra protection. The protect pin is shared with the ADDR_PROT pin and is automatically engaged once the address is read. The pin must be driven high to disable protection. The pin can be enabled or disabled by a configuration setting in MTP.

The IR36021 supports the packet error checking (PEC) protocol and a number of PMBus commands to monitor voltages and currents. Refer to the PMBus Command Codes section on page 37.

IR DIGITAL POWER DESIGN CENTER (DPDC) GUI

The IR DPDC GUI provides the designer with a comprehensive design environment that includes screens to calculate VR efficiency and DC error budget, design the thermal compensation networks and feedback loops, and produce calculated Bode plots and output impedance plots. The DPDC environment is a key utility for design optimization, debug, and validation of designs that save designer significant time, allowing faster time-to-market (TTM).

The DPDC also allows real-time design optimization and real-time monitoring of key parameters such as output current and power, input current and power, efficiency, phase currents, temperature, and faults.

The IR DPDC GUI allows access to the system configuration settings for switching frequency, MOSFET driver compatibility, soft start rate, automatic power state and diode emulation, loop compensation, transient control system parameters, input under-voltage, output over-voltage, output under-voltage, output over-current and over-temperature.

PROGRAMMING

Once a design is complete, the DPDC produces a complete configuration file.

The configuration file can be re-coded into an I2C/PMBus master (e.g. a Test System) and loaded into the IR36021 using the bus protocols described on page 35. The IR36021 has a special in-circuit programming mode that allows the MTP to be loaded at board test in mass production without powering on the entire board.

REAL-TIME MONITORING

The IR36021 can be accessed through the use of PMBus Command codes (described on page 37) to read the real time status of the VR system including input voltage, output voltage, input and output current, input and output power, efficiency, and temperature.

THEORY OF OPERATION

DEVICE POWER-ON AND INITIALIZATION

The IR36021 is powered from a 3.3V DC supply. Figure 8 shows the timing diagram during device initialization. An internal LDO generates a 1.8V rail to power the control logic within the device. During initial startup, the 1.8V rail follows the rising 3.3V supply voltage, proportional to an internal resistor tree. The internal oscillator becomes active at t_1 as the 1.8V rail is ramping up. Until soft-start begins, the IR36021 PWM outputs are disabled in a high impedance state to ensure that the system comes up in a known state.

The controller comes out of power-on reset (POR) at t_2 when the 3.3V supply is high enough for the internal bias central to generate 1.8V. At this time, if enabled in MTP and when the V_{INSEN} voltage is valid, the controller will detect the populated phases by sensing the voltage on the PWM pins. If the voltage is less than the Auto Phase Detect threshold (unused PWMs are grounded), the controller assumes the phase is unpopulated. Once the phase detection is complete the contents of the MTP are transferred to the registers by time t_3 and the automatic trim routines are complete by time t_4 . The register settings and number of phases define the controller performance specific to the VR configuration - including trim settings, soft start ramp rate, boot voltage and PWM signal compatibility with the MOSFET driver.

Once the registers are loaded from MTP, the designer can use I2C to re-configure the registers to suit the specific VR design requirements if desired.

TEST MODE

Driving the ENABLE and VR_HOT pins low engages a special test mode in which the I2C address changes to 0Ah. This allows individual in-circuit programming of the controller. This is specifically useful in multi-controller systems that use a single I2C bus. Note that MTP will not load to the working registers until either Enable or VR_HOT goes high.

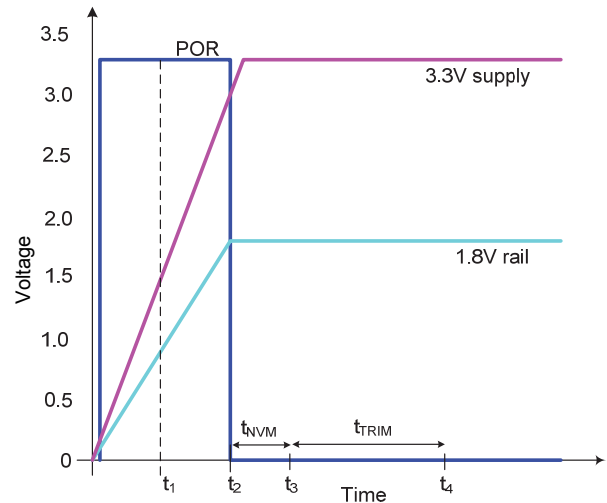


Figure 8: Controller Startup and Initialization

SUPPLY VOLTAGE

The controller is powered by the 3.3V supply rail. Once initialization of the device is complete, steady and stable supply voltage rails and a VR Enable signal (EN) are required to set the controller into an active state. A high EN signal is required to enable the PWM signals and begin the soft start sequence after the 3.3V and V_{IN} supply rails are determined to be within the defined operating bands. To maintain proper operation of the device, glitches and narrow pulses should not be applied to EN pins.

The recommended decoupling for the 3.3V is shown in Figure 9a. The V_{CC} pins should have a 0.1μF X7R type ceramic capacitors placed as close as possible to the package. The V18A pin must have a 4.7μF, X5R type decoupling capacitor connected close to the package as shown in Figure 9b.

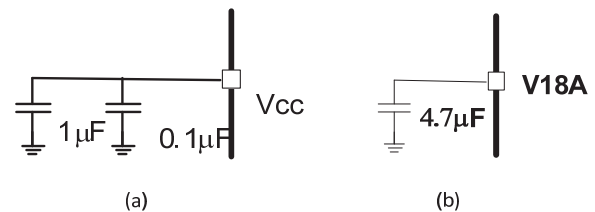


Figure 9: (a) V_{CC} 3.3V decoupling, (b) V18A decoupling

It should be noted that when powering up the system the 3.3V supply for IR36021 should be up before the bias voltage of the power stages ramp up. Likewise, when the system is shutdown, the bias voltage of the power stages should be disconnected before the 3.3V is ramped down (Figure 10).

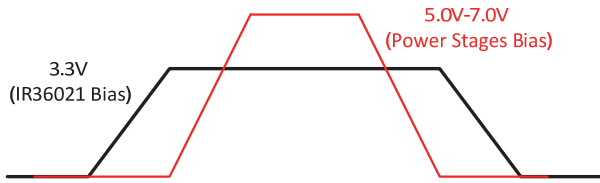


Figure 10: Correct sequencing of bias voltages

The IR36021 is designed to accommodate a wide variety of input power supplies and applications and offers programmability of the VINSEN turn-on/off voltages.

TABLE 1: VINSEN TURN-ON/OFF VOLTAGE RANGE

Threshold	Range
Turn-on	4.5V to 15.9375V in 1/16V steps ¹
Turn-off	4.5V to 15.9375V in 1/16V steps ¹

¹ Must not be programmed below 4.5V

The supply voltage on the VINSEN pin is compared against a programmable threshold. Once the rising VINSEN voltage crosses the turn-on threshold, EN is asserted and all PWM outputs become active. The VINSEN supply voltage is valid until it declines below its programmed turn-off level.

A 14:1 or 22:1 attenuation network is connected to the VINSEN pin as shown in Figure 11. Recommended values for a 12V system are $R_{VIN_1} = 13k\Omega$ and $R_{VIN_2} = 1k\Omega$, with a 1% tolerance or better. Recommended values for a mobile 7V-19V system are $R_{VIN_1} = 21k\Omega$ and $R_{VIN_2} = 1k\Omega$. C_{VINSEN} is required to have up to a maximum value of 10nF and a minimum 1nF for noise suppression.

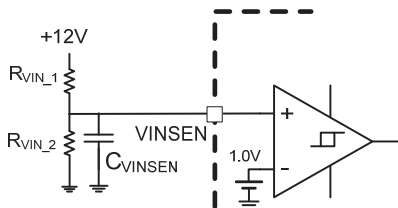


Figure 11: VINSEN resistor divider network

POWER-ON SEQUENCING

The VR power-on sequence is initiated when all of the following conditions are satisfied:

- IR36021 Vcc (+3.3V rail) > VCC UVLO
- Input Voltage (VINSEN rail) > Vin UVLO
- ENABLE is HIGH
- VR has no Over-current, Over-voltage or Under-voltage faults on either rail depending on the settings
- MTP transfer to configuration registers occurred without parity error

When the power-on sequence is initiated, and with VBoot set to > 0V, both rails will ramp to their configured boot voltages and assert PGood1 and PGood2. The slew rate to VBoot is programmed per Table 2. This table shows that the slew-rate of VBoot is either 1/2 or 1/4 of the fast rate shown in the first two columns. There is a 1/10 multiplier, which if chosen will reduce the fast rate by a factor of 10. This multiplier can be chosen by setting the highest bit of the register# 31Hex (refer to IR36021 Register Map).

On the other hand, when the power-on sequence is initiated, If Vboot= 0V, the VR will stay at 0V and will not soft-start until an operation command (margin high/low) is received from the PMBUs or the manual_VID registers are loaded by a non-zero value through I2C (for example through GUI). Note that the slew-rate of Vout when margining or manual_VID registers are used is equal to the fast rate shown in Table 2.

If a margining command is executed before EN goes high, the device will startup and rise to VBoot and then go to the margin voltage.

When EN1 and EN2 are both active, each loop starts when its own Enable goes high provided that other startup conditions are met as mentioned before. Under this condition, usually both loops start together when Vin voltage is applied.

The two loops can be configured to share a single Enable signal (EN1). Under this condition EN2 is configured to be 'Don't Care'. This mode of operation is useful when sequencing is required. For example, one of the loops can be configured to follow the other loop with a delay at startup (Figure 12) or both loops can be configured to start simultaneously with a programmable delay from EN1 going high (Figure 13). The different options for delay are summarized in Table 3.

TABLE 2: SLEW RATES

mV/ μ s	Fast Rate		$\frac{1}{2}$ Multiplier		$\frac{1}{4}$ Multiplier	
	10	1	5.0	0.5	2.50	0.25
15	1.5	7.5	0.75	3.75	0.375	
20	2	10	1	5.00	0.5	
25	2.5	12.5	1.25	6.25	0.625	

It should be noted that shutting down with Enable is always a soft shutdown meaning that Vout is ramped down to 0V (Figure 14). On the other hand, shutdown due to input under-voltage or most of the faults is a hard shutdown meaning that both high side and low side FETs are turned off (Figure 15).

TABLE 3: OPTIONS FOR STARTUP SEQUENCING DELAY (COMMON EN)

Delay [ms]
0
0.25
0.5
1
2.5
5
10

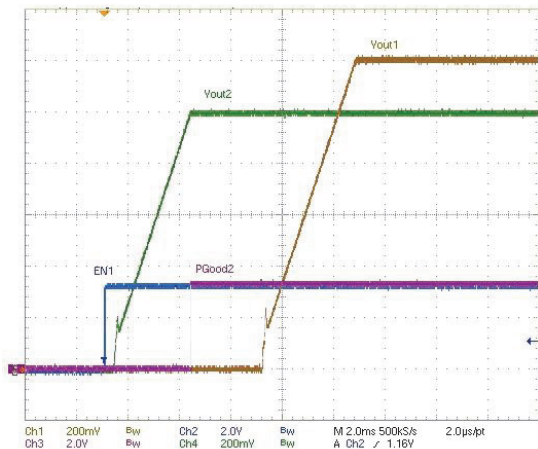


Figure 12: Enable-based Startup, loop1 follows loop2 with a delay of 2.5ms from PGood2 rising edge.

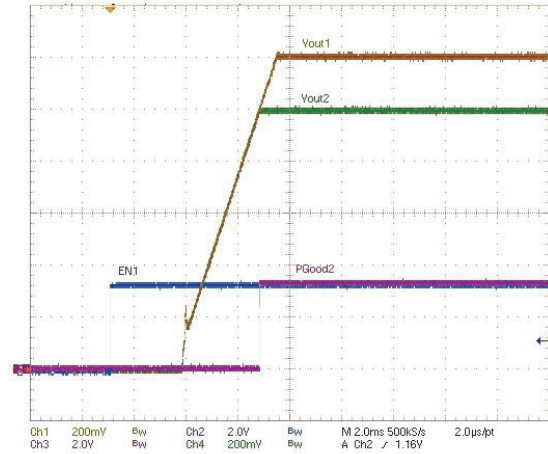


Figure 13: Enable-based startup, both loops start with a delay of 2.5ms from EN1 going high.

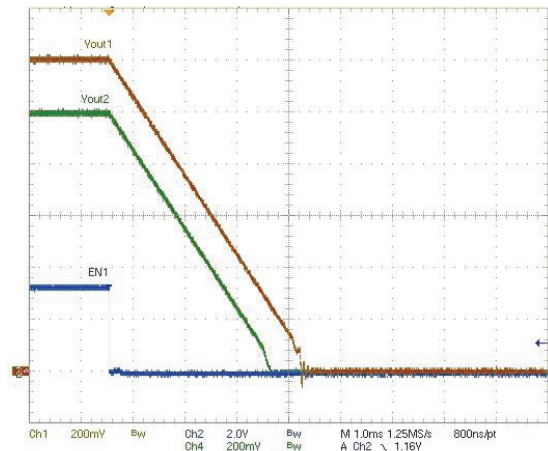


Figure 14: Enable based shutdown, both loops configured to follow EN1. Vout1 and Vout2 are ramped down to 0V.

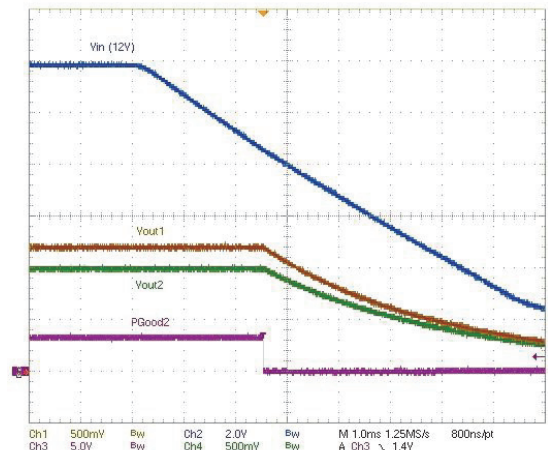


Figure 15: Vin based shutdown, the high side and low side FETs are turned off as soon as Vin falls below UVLO threshold.

Boot Voltage

The IR36021 Vboot voltage is fully programmable in MTP to the range shown in Table 4.

TABLE 4: VBOOT RANGE

Loop	Boot Voltage
Loop 1	0 to 1.52V in 5mV steps, 1 st step=250mV
Loop 2	0 to 1.52V in 5mV steps, 1 st step=250mV

I2C Address

A resistor connected from ADDR_PROT pin to ground defines the IC2 address when Vcc becomes valid. Note that a 0.01uF capacitor must be placed across the resistor

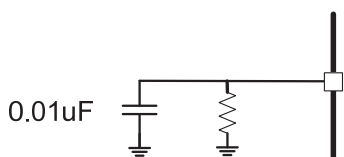


Figure 16: ADDR_PROT Pin Components

VID Offset

The boot voltage (VBoot) can be offset according to Table 5. This extends the range of the VBoot voltage a little and is useful when voltages a little above 1.52V or a little below 250mV is required. The offset is stored in register #26Hex and can be stored in MTP memory (for more information, refer to the Register-Map of the device). This offset is effective when the output voltage is controlled by the manual_VID registers as well. However, when the output voltage is controlled by margining commands this offset is not effective.

Note the Vmax register (reg 3D) must be set appropriately to allow the required output voltage offset.

PHASING

The number of phases enabled on each loop of the IR36021 is shown in Table 6. When operated in 2-phase mode, the two phases of loop1 are 180 degrees out of phase. This increases the effective ripple frequency and reduces the required output and input filter capacitances.

TABLE 5: VID OFFSET

Parameter	Memory	Range	Step Size
Output Voltage	R/W	-35mV to +40mV	5mV

TABLE 6: LOOP CONFIGURATION

Configuration	Loop1	Loop2
2+0	2-phases	-
1+0	1-phase	-
2+1	2-phases	1-phase
1+1	1-phase	1-phase

UNUSED PHASES

Based upon the configuration shown in Table 28 unused phases are disabled. Note that when loop1 operates in single-phase mode, PWM1b is disabled. Disabled PWM outputs should be left floating unless the 'populated phase detection' feature is used. If so, the unused PWM outputs should be grounded. The reason is that IR36021 detects the number of populated phases at start-up by comparing the voltage on the PWM pin against the phase detection threshold. It is easier and recommended to disable the 'populated phase detection' feature at startup.

SWITCHING FREQUENCY

The phase switching frequency (Fsw) of the IR36021 is set by a user configurable register independently for each loop. The IR36021 provides fine granularity as shown in Figure 17. The IR36021 oscillator is factory trimmed to guarantee accuracy.

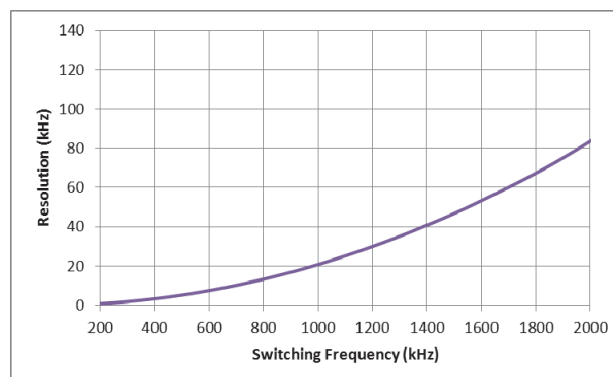


Figure 17: Switching Frequency Resolution

MOSFET DRIVER AND POWIRSTAGE SELECTION

The PWM signals from the active phases of the IR36021 are designed to operate industry standard tri-state type drivers or PowIRstage® devices. The logic operation for the tri-state drivers is depicted in Figures 18.

Note that the PWM outputs are tri-stated whenever the controller is disabled (EN = low), the shut-down ramp has completed or before the soft-start ramp is initiated.

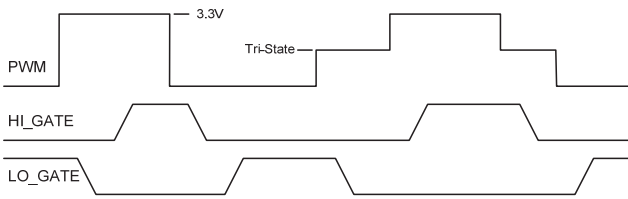


Figure 18: 3.3V Tri-state Driver Logic Levels

OUTPUT VOLTAGE DIFFERENTIAL SENSING

The IR36021 VCPU and VRTN pins for each loop are connected to the load sense pins of each output voltage to provide true differential remote voltage sensing with high common-mode rejection. Each loop has a high bandwidth error amplifier that generates the error voltage between this remote sense voltage and the target voltage. The error voltage is digitized by a fast, high-precision ADC.

As shown in Figure 19, the Vsen and Vrtn inputs have a 2KΩ pull-up to an internal 1V rail. This causes some current flow in the Vsen and Vrtn lines so external impedance should be kept to a minimum to avoid creating an offset in the sensed output voltage.

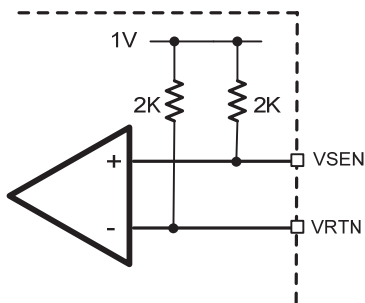


Figure 19: Output Voltage sensing impedance

CURRENT SENSING

The IR36021 provides per phase current sensing to support accurate Adaptive Voltage Positioning (AVP), current balancing, and over-current protection. The differential

current sense scheme supports both lossless inductor DCR and per phase precision resistor current sensing techniques.

For DCR sensing, a suitable resistor-capacitor network of R_{sen} and C_{sen} is connected across the inductor in each phase as shown in Figure 20. The time constant of this RC network is set to equal the inductor time constant (L/DCR) such that the voltage across the capacitor C_{sen} is equal to the voltage across the inductor DCR.

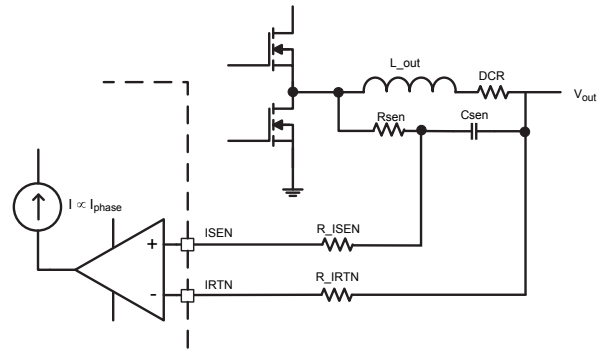


Figure 20: DCR Current Sensing

A current proportional to the inductor current in each phase is generated and used for per phase current balancing. The individual phase current signals are summed to arrive at the total current.

The phase currents and total current are quantized by the monitor ADC and used to implement the current monitoring and OCP features. The total current is also summed with the output the output voltage DAC (VID DAC) to implement the AVP function (load-line function).

The recommended value for C_{sen} is a 100nF NPO type capacitor. To prevent undershooting of the output voltage during load transients, the R_{sen} resistor can be calculated by:

$$R_{sen} = \frac{1.05 * L_{out}}{C_{sen} * DCR}$$

Identical resistors (R_{ISEN} and R_{IRTN}) are connected to the ISEN and IRTN pins of each phase for the best common mode rejection. The required value is:

$$R_{ISEN}, R_{IRTN} = 301\Omega, 1\% \text{ resistor}$$

These components must be placed close to the IR36021 pins.

CURRENT BALANCING & OFFSET

The IR36021 provides accurate digital phase current balancing for loop1 when it is configured to operate in 2-phase mode. Current balancing equalizes the current across the two phases. This improves efficiency, prevents hotspots and reduces the possibility of inductor saturation.

The sensed currents for each phase are converted to a voltage and are multiplexed into the monitor ADC. The digitized currents are low-pass filtered and passed through a proprietary current balance algorithm to enable the equalization of the current in two phases.

Figure 21 shows that due to component and layout mismatches and other offsets in the control and measurement circuits, the reported current values in the GUI are a little different for the two phases (loop1) when current balancing is disabled. Figure 22 shows that when current balancing is enabled the current in two phases become almost equal.

In addition, the IR36021 allows the user to offset phase currents to optimize the thermal solution. Figure 23 shows that Phase 1 current has been programmed to have approximately 30% more current than the other phase. 30% is the maximum offset that can be applied in the system. For the graphs shown in Figures 21, 22, and 23 the load current has been measured by a multi-meter whereas the phase currents are the values reported in the GUI.

In addition to the low speed phase balancing, mentioned above, there is a proprietary high-speed active phase current balancing (HSPB) which operates during load transients. HSPB's purpose is to eliminate current imbalance that can result from a load current oscillating near the switching frequency. The phase pulse widths are compared and the largest pulse is skipped if its pulse width exceeds an internally set threshold relative to the smallest phase. This ensures that the phases remain balanced during high frequency load transients.

High speed phase balancing (HSPB) and regular (low-speed) phase balancing can be activated/disabled independently.

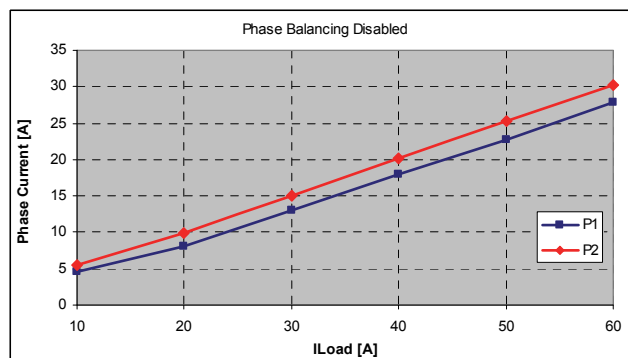


Figure 21: Phase Currents for a tested sample when phase balancing is disabled. The current in phase 2 is a little more than phase 1. The currents values are the reported GUI values.

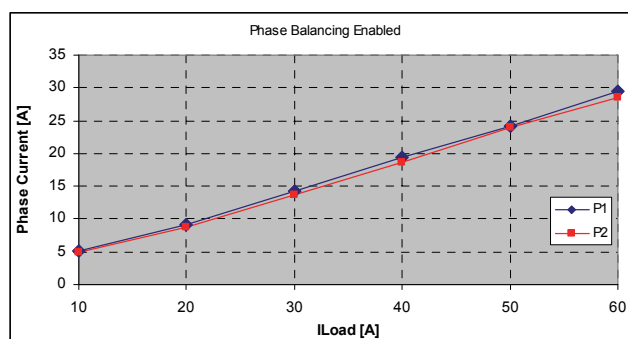


Figure 22: Phase Currents measured when phase-balancing is activated for the same tested sample used for Figure 21. The currents in two phases are almost equal.

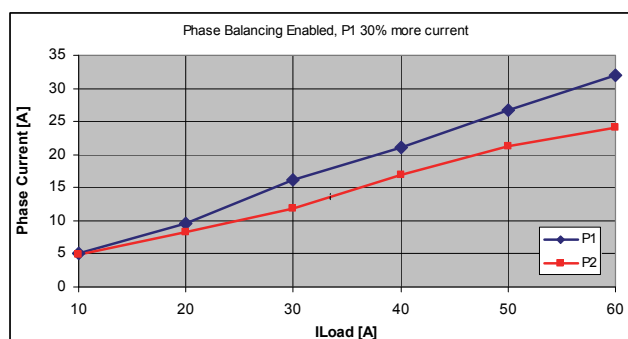


Figure 23: Phase Currents measured when phase-balancing is activated and the current in phase 1 is programmed to be about 30% more than the current in phase 2 (same tested sample).

CURRENT CALIBRATION

For optimizing the current measurement accuracy of a design or even individual boards, the IR36021 contains a register in MTP which can store a user-programmed Total Current Offset to zero the no-load current reading. Refer to Table 27 for output current calibration registers.

LOAD LINE

The IR36021 enables the implementation of accurate, temperature compensated load lines on both loops. The load line is set by an external resistor R_{CS} , as shown in Figure 24 and the nominal value must also be stored in MTP. The stored load line, scaling and gain values provides the IR36021 with the scaling factor for the digital computation of the total current to determine the OCP threshold and I2C current and output voltage reporting.

The load line ranges for IR36021 are shown in Table 7.

TABLE 7: LOAD LINE SETTINGS

	Loop #1	Loop #2
Minimum	0.0 mΩ	0.0 mΩ
Maximum	6.375 mΩ	12.75 mΩ
Resolution	0.025 mΩ	0.050 mΩ

Figure 24 shows a typical 1.3mΩ loadline measurement with minimum and maximum error ranges. The controller accuracy lies well within common processor requirements.

For each loop, the sensed current from all the active phases is summed and applied to a resistor network across the RSCP and RCSM pins. This generates a precise proportional voltage which is summed with the sensed output voltage and VID DAC reference to form the error voltage. Also part of the network shown in Figure 32 is thermistor, R_{Th} . For proper loadline temperature compensation, the thermistor is placed near the phase one inductor to accurately sense the inductor temperature.

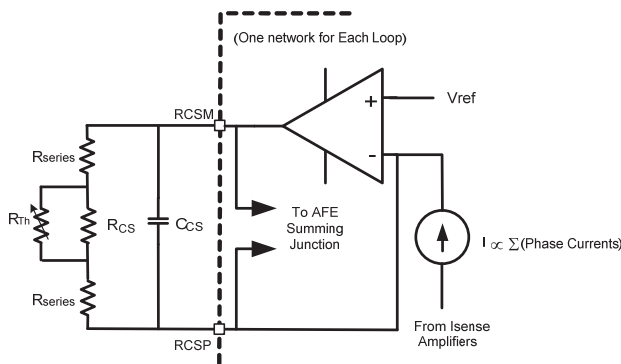


Figure 24: Load Line & Thermal Compensation

The resistor R_{CS} is calculated using the following procedure:

First the designer calculates the $R_{CSeffective}$ or the total effective resistance across the RSCP and RCSM pins. It is defined by:

$$R_{CSeffective} = 8 \times R_{ISEN} \times \frac{R_{LL}}{DCR}$$

Where R_{LL} is the desired loadline, typically 1.0mΩ, DCR is DC resistance of the phase inductor, and R_{ISEN} is the series resistor across the inductor sense circuit. The required value for R_{ISEN} is a 301Ω, 1% tolerance. Then the designer chooses a suitable NTC thermistor. Thermistor R_{th} is typically selected to have the lowest thermal coefficient and tightest tolerance in a standard available package. A typical value for the NTC will be 10kΩ, 1% tolerance. Recommended thermistors are shown in Table 8.

TABLE 8: 10K 1% NTC THERMISTORS

Murata	NCP18XH103F03RB
Panasonic	ERTJ1VG103FA
TDK	NTCG163JF103F

Then the designer calculates R_{CS} using the following equation:

$$R_{CS} = \frac{1}{\frac{1}{R_{CSeffective} - 2 \times R_{series}} - \frac{1}{R_{Th}}}$$

R_{series} is selected to achieve minimum loadline error over temperature. The IR DPDC (GUI) provides a graphical tool that allows the user to easily calculate the resistor values for minimum error.

The capacitor C_{CS} is defined by the following equation:

$$C_{CS} = \frac{1}{2 \times \pi \times R_{CSeffective} \times f_{AVP}}$$

where, f_{AVP} is the user selectable current sense AVP bandwidth. The best bandwidth is typically in the range of 200kHz to 300kHz.

Setting 0mΩ Loadline

The load line is turned off by setting a digital bit in the IR36021 register map. This is a separate bit from the load line settings for each loop.

Even though the loadline is disabled digitally, the resistors and loadline and scaling registers should be set such that the load line is at least 3 times the value of low ohmic DCR inductors (<0.5mΩ) or 1 times the DCR value for high ohmic inductors (>0.5mΩ), e.g. if the inductor(s) DCR is 0.3mΩ, a notional 0.9 mΩ load line should be set. For accurate current measurement and OCP threshold with the loadline disabled, the output current gain and scaling registers must be set to the same value as the loadline set with the external resistor network. With loadline disabled, the thermistor and C_{ss} capacitor must still be installed to insure accuracy of the current measurement.

DIGITAL FEEDBACK LOOP & PWM

The IR36021 uses a digital feedback loop to minimize the requirement for output decoupling and maintain a tightly regulated output voltage. The error between the target and the output voltage is digitized. This error voltage is then passed through a low pass filter to smooth ripple and then passed through a PID (Proportional Integral Derivative) compensator followed by an additional single pole filter. The loop compensation parameters K_p (proportional coefficient), K_i (integral coefficient), and K_d (derivative coefficient) and low-pass filter pole locations are user configurable to optimize the VR design for the chosen external components.

The IR36021 significantly reduces design time because the loop coefficients need to be calculated only once. Simply enable any number of phases (1 or 2 for loop1) and design the compensation coefficients. The IR36021 will intelligently scale the coefficients and low-pass filters automatically as one phase is dynamically added and dropped to maintain optimum stability. In other words, the loop-band-width does not change significantly (decreases a little) as the loop switches from 2-phase to 1-phase operation.

Each of the proportional, integral and derivative terms is a 6-bit value stored in MTP that is decoded by the IC's digital code. This allows the designer to set the converter bandwidth and phase margin to the desired values.

The compensator transfer function is defined as

$$\left(K_p + \frac{K_i}{s} + K_d \cdot s\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1 + s/\omega_{p1}}\right) \cdot \left(\frac{1}{1 + s/\omega_{p2}}\right)$$

where ω_{p1} and ω_{p2} are configurable poles typically positioned to filter noise and ripple and roll off the high-frequency gain that the K_d term creates.

The outputs of the compensator and the phase current balance block are fed into a digital PWM pulse generator to generate the PWM pulses for the active phases. The digital PWM generator has a native time resolution of 625ps which is combined with digital dithering to provide an effective PWM resolution of 156.25ps. This ensures that there is no limit cycling when operating at the highest switching frequency.

ADAPTIVE TRANSIENT ALGORITHM (ATA)

The IR36021 Adaptive Transient Algorithm (ATA) is a high speed non-linear control technique that speeds up the controller response to loading transients and reduces the required output bulk capacitance for reduced system cost. ATA is not very effective for single-phase rails (loop2). In addition, it is more effective when used in conjunction with the load-line.

A high-speed digitizer measures both the magnitude and slope of the error signal to predict the load current transient. If the magnitude and slope of the error signal exceed predefined thresholds, the ATA is activated. When activated, the ATA bypasses the PID control momentarily during load transients to achieve very wideband closed loop control and smoothly transitions back to PID control during steady state load conditions. During ATA operation, the width of the PWM pulses is not changed. However, the positions of the pulses are changed. For example, in a loading transient when ATA is activated, the PWM pulses come closer in all active phases to compensate for the undershoot caused by the transient. Figure 25 illustrates the transient performance improvement provided by the ATA showing the clear reduction in undershoot and overshoot and recovery time. Figure 26 is a close up of a loadstep illustrating the fast reaction time of ATA and how the algorithm changes the pulse phase relationships. ATA settings/thresholds can be modified in the GUI. In addition, it can be disabled if desired. The ATA settings are stored in MTP memory.

During a load transient overshoot, the ATA can also be programmed to turn off the low-side MOSFETS instead of holding them on. This forces the load current to flow through the larger forward voltage of the FET body diode and helps to reduce the overshoot created during a load release (Figure 27). This is not recommended when there is no load-line and there is no steady state load. This is because unloading creates a V_{out} overshoot and without

load (and with low-side MOSFETs being off) it can take a relatively long time for the output voltage to decay down to the steady state value.

Note that ATA is more effective on multi-phase rails (e.g. loop1) and when used in conjunction with the load-line.

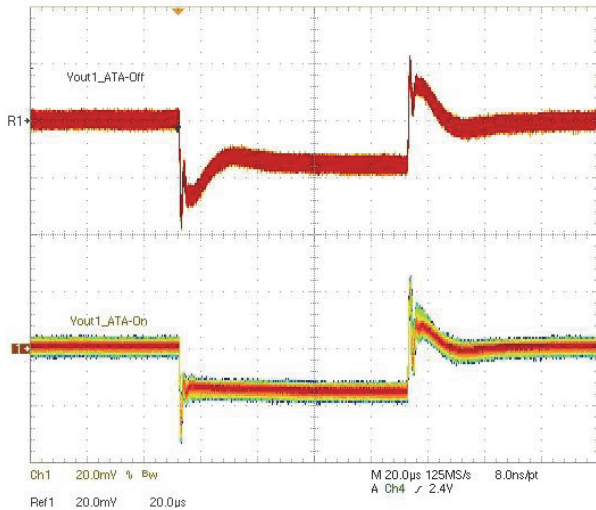


Figure 25: Vout1 (2phase) response to a transient. ATA Enable/Disable Comparison, load-line is enabled.

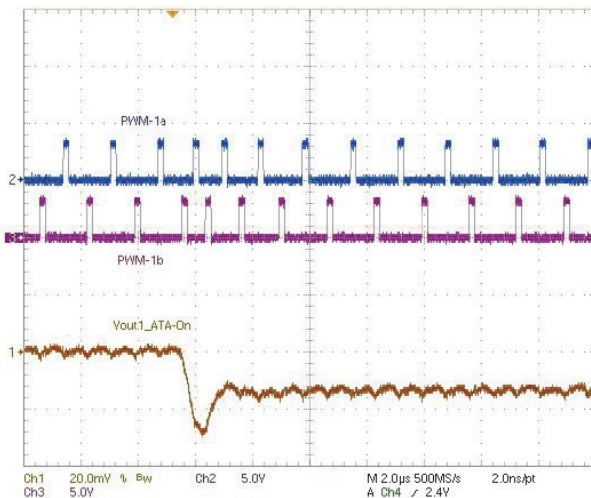


Figure 26: ATA close up when a load is applied.

DYNAMIC VID SLEW RATE

VID refers to the code inside a register which corresponds to a specific output voltage. This code can be changed in the GUI by changing the manual_VID registers (through I2C communication) or by corresponding commands (for example margining commands) sent through PMBus. The IR36021 provides the VR designer with up to 8 slew rates

by selecting a slew rate setting as shown in the fast-rate column in Table 2.

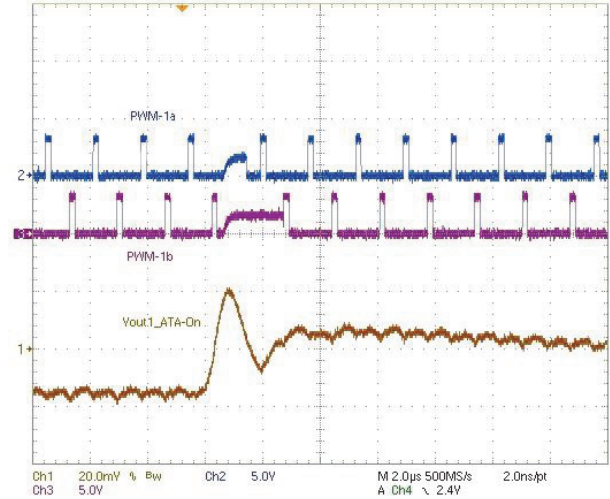


Figure 27: Diode Emulation (ATA is on) during a load release

EFFICIENCY SHAPING

IR36021 features Efficiency Shaping Technology that enables VR designers to cost-effectively maximize system efficiency. Efficiency Shaping Technology consists of phase-shedding (sometimes referred to as ‘Dynamic Phase Control’, DPC) and diode-emulation to achieve the best VR efficiency at a given cost point.

POWER-SAVING STATES

The IR36021 can be programmed to do phase shedding for loop1 and/or go into diode emulation at light load for both loops. Both of these mechanisms improve efficiency at light loads at the expense of more output voltage ripple. Phase-shedding and diode-emulation can be enabled/disabled independently from each other and independently for each loop. To improve efficiency for loop1 at light loads when there is no transient, it is recommended to program the device to do phase shedding at about 20A and as the current decreases to about 3-5A the diode-emulation should be activated for the running phase (phase-1a). This sequence can be explained using Power States as summarized in Table 9. For loop2, since it is 1phase, PS1 and PS0 are identical.

When there are transients, it is recommended to use either phase shedding or diode emulation since using both mechanisms can further increase the output voltage ripple in some conditions.

TABLE 9: POWER STATES

Power State	Mode	Recommended Current
PS0	Full Power, 2Φ(loop1)	Maximum
PS1	Light Load 1Φ	<20A
PS2	Light Load, 1Φ with Diode Emulation	<5A

The Power States may be commanded through I2C/PMBus, or the IR36021 can automatically step through the Power States based upon the regulator conditions as summarized in Table 10. Auto Mode is ensued when diode-emulation is enabled by setting a flag. It should be noted that to use the commands (I2C/PMBus), Auto Mode should be disabled. Furthermore, it is recommended to use the Auto Mode or phase-shedding option as much as possible instead or using the commands.

TABLE 10: POWER STATE ENTRY/EXIT

	Auto Mode disabled	Auto Mode
PS1 Entry	a) based on current level if phase-shed is enabled b) via command c) based on current level if commanded to PS2	based on the current level if phase-shed is enabled
PS1 Exit	a) Command to PS0 b) Command to PS2 if current level is low c) Current level to PS0 d) current limit To PS0 fe To PS0 if Vout drops below a threshold (fc_hth)	a) Current level to PS0 b) Current level to PS2 c) to PS0 if Vout drops below a threshold (fc_hth)
PS2 Entry	a) Command (if current is lower than threshold)	Current level in phase-1a
PS2 Exit	a) Command to PS1 b) Command to PS0 c) Current level To PS1 d) Current limit to PS0 e) To PS0 if Vout drops below a threshold (le_th)	a) to PS0 if Vout drops below a threshold (le_th) b) To PS0 or PS1 based on current

PHASE SHEDDING / DYNAMIC PHASE CONTROL (DPC)

The designer can configure the VR to dynamically add or shed one phase as the load current varies. Phase shedding (or DPC) reduces the number of phases (Figures 28-30) based upon monitoring both filtered total current and error voltage over the DPC filter window. Monitoring the error voltage insures that the VR will not drop a phase during large load oscillations.

Figure 28 shows that at startup, if the load current is below the 2-phase current threshold, one phase is dropped shortly after PGood1 goes high.

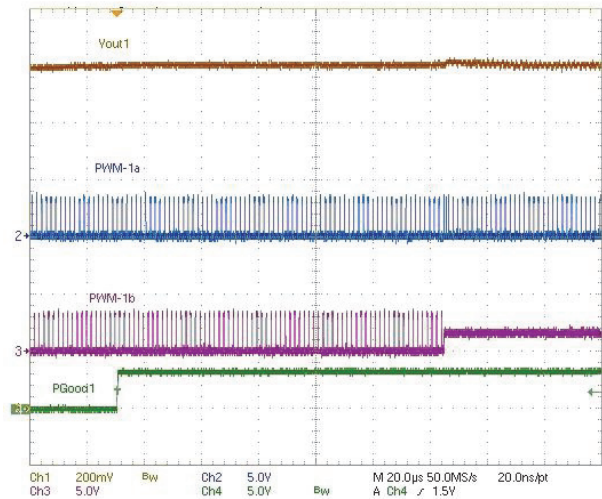


Figure 28: Phase Shed 2Φ→1Φ at startup

During a large load step for loop1 and based upon the error voltage, the controller instantly goes to 2-phase operation and will remain there for the DPC filter delay (BW≈40kHz) after which a phase will be dropped depending on the load current (Figure 29). The error-threshold, which should be exceeded, is called 'L1_fc_hth'. This threshold is among the ATA settings. The ATA circuitry ensures that the idle phase is activated with optimum timing during a load step (this is still valid even if ATA is disabled).

Figure 30 shows that how adding/dropping a phase is automatically done based on the current level. For this figure, the slew-rate of the load step is not high enough to make a Vout drop larger than the threshold. Therefore, phase dropping/adding is delayed because it is based on the measured load current which is low-pass filtered.