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Small, Single-/Multi-Cell Solar Harvester with MPPT and Harvest Counter

MAX20361

General Description

The MAX20361 is a fully integrated solution for harvesting energy from single-/multi-cell solar sources. The device includes an ultra-low quiescent current (360nA) boost converter that is capable of starting from input voltages as low as 225mV (typ). In order to maximize the power extracted from the source, the MAX20361 implements a proprietary maximum power point tracking (MPPT) technique that allows efficient harvesting from 15μW to over 300mW of available input power.

The MAX20361 also features an integrated charging and protection circuit that is optimized for Li-ion batteries, but can also be used to charge supercapacitors, thin-film batteries, or traditional capacitors. The charger features a programmable charging cut-off voltage with thresholds programmable through I2C interface as well as temperature shutoff.

The MAX20361 is available in a 12-bump, 0.4mm pitch, 1.63mm x 1.23mm wafer-level package (WLP).

Benefits and Features

- Single-/Multi-Cell Solar Energy Harvester
	- 225mV to 2.5V (typ) Input-Voltage Range
	- Efficient Harvesting from 15μW to Over 300mW of Available Input Power
		- 86% Efficiency at V_{SYS} = 3.8V, I_{SRC} = 30mA
	- Small Solution Size
		- Utilizes Small 2016 4.7μH Inductor
- Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) Technique Using Fractional VOC Method
	- Programmable Fractional VOC Regulation Point through I2C Interface
- Battery/Supercapacitor Charger
	- Programmable Battery Termination Voltage through I2C Interface
	- Programmable Power Good Wake-Up Signal Output Threshold through I2C Interface

[Ordering Information](#page-32-0) appears at end of datasheet

Applications

- Wearable Fitness
- **Medical Devices**
- Industrial IoT Sensors
- **Asset Tracking Devices**
- Wireless Sensor Networks

Simplified Block Diagram

Absolute Maximum Ratings

Stresses beyond those listed under "Absolute Maximum Ratings" may cause permanent damage to the device. These are stress ratings only, and functional operation of the device at these or
any other conditions beyond those in *device reliability.*

Package Information

12-WLP

For the latest package outline information and land patterns (footprints), go to *www.maximintegrated.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.

Package thermal resistances were obtained using the method described in JEDEC specification JESD51-7, using a four-layer board. For detailed information on package thermal considerations, refer to *[www.maximintegrated.com/thermal-tutorial](http://www.maximintegrated.com/packages)*.

Electrical Characteristics

 $(V_{\text{SYS}} = +3.0V$ to +4.2V, $V_{\text{SRC}} = +0.3V$ to +2.5V, typical value is at $V_{\text{SYS}} = +3.8V$, $V_{\text{SRC}} = +0.6V$, $T_A = +25^{\circ}$ C.) (Note 1)

 $(V_{\text{SYS}} = +3.0V$ to +4.2V, $V_{\text{SRC}} = +0.3V$ to +2.5V, typical value is at $V_{\text{SYS}} = +3.8V$, $V_{\text{SRC}} = +0.6V$, $T_A = +25^{\circ}$ C.) (Note 1)

Note 1: All devices 100% productions tested at 25°C. Limits over the operating temperature range are guaranteed by design.

Note 2: All capacitance values listed in this document refer to effective capacitance. Be sure to specify capacitors that meets these requirements under typical system operating conditions, taking into consideration the effects of voltage and temperature.

Note 3: Not production tested. Guaranteed by design.

Typical Operating Characteristics

Bump Configuration

Pin Descriptions

Detailed Description

The MAX20361 is a fully integrated solution for harvesting energy from single-/multi-cell solar sources. The device includes an ultra-low quiescent-current boost converter that is capable of starting from input voltage as low as 225mV (typ). In order to maximize the power extracted from the source, the MAX20361 implements a proprietary maximum power point tracking (MPPT) technique that allows efficient harvesting from 15μW to over 300mW of available input power.

The MAX20361 also features an integrated charging and protection circuit that is optimized for Li-ion batteries, but can also be used to charge supercapacitors, thin-film batteries, or traditional capacitors. The charger features a programmable charging cut-off voltage with thresholds programmable through the I2C interface as well as temperature shutoff.

Boost Converter

The MAX20361 boost converter is optimized to efficiently harvest energy from a single-/multi-cell solar source. The MAX20361 implements a boost converter, which collects the current from the low-voltage SRC input and transfers it to the higher-voltage SYS output.

The switching frequency is not fixed but changes with the SRC voltage, SYS voltage and inductance values. Each time the SRC voltage drops below its regulation point, the boost is halted. SRC capacitance is needed to reduce the SRC ripple, but its value is not critical for stability (see the *[Applications Information](#page-29-0)* section for more details).

The SYS voltage is monitored and when it reaches the regulation point, the boost is halted to avoid overcharging of the the battery, or an overvoltage on the SYS node.

Harvesting Meter

The MAX20361 reports the count of the switching cycles of the boost converter during the last Tmeas[5:4](0x07) time in the HarvCntH(0x0A) and HarvCntL(0x0B) registers. This "harvesting count" is proportional to the current harvested during that period. To avoid a false read, the update of HarvCntH and HarvCntL is inhibited if the boost was halted in the last Tmeas period due to thermal monitoring, open-circuit voltage measurement, SYS overvoltage detected, sleep mode or I ²C commands.

Every time a new valid value of HarvCntH/L is loaded, the HARrdy[4](0x01) bit is set.

Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT)

During normal operation, the MAX20361 automatically measures the open-circuit voltage and computes the optimal SRC voltage to transfer the maximum power from the solar cell. Every Tper[1:0](0x07) (by default 64 x Tmeas, with Tmeas = 50ms, every 3.2s), or when requested by I2C, the internal boost is halted for Tmeas[5:4](0x07) and the SRC voltage is measured with the internal 8-bit ADC.

The SRC regulation point is computed by multiplying the measured voltage at SRC by the Frac[4:0](0x06) field. At powerup, the MAX20361 keeps 230mV (typ) as the regulation voltage for SRC (VOC[7:0](0x09) register set to 29, equivalent to 290mV, and Frac[4:0] set to 80%) until the first VOC measure or an I2C write on VOC[7:0] register is performed. Refer to **[Figure 1](#page-13-0)** for the operation of V_{SRC} during MPPT.

To adapt the SRC measurement time, if the ATmeas[3](0x07) bit is set, the MAX20361 modulates the measurement time based on the last measured "harvesting count" (HarvCntH/L registers), as specified in *[Table 1](#page-12-0)* below.

Table 1. Measurement Time Based on Harvesting Count

The MAX20361 automatically adapts the measurement period when the ATper[2](0x07) bit is set. After power-on reset, the device ignores the first result of harvesting count and stores the second result in the HarvCntH and HarvCntL registers.

If any future harvesting count is greater or lower than the existing stored harvesting count by a factor of 2, the Tper timer is reset and a new VOC measurement is forced immediately.

A VOC measurement can be requested through the FrcMeas[7](0x07) bit. The measurement starts within Tmeas and results are stored in the VOCMeas(0x09) register, and VOCrdy[3](0x01) bit is set with the corresponding interrupt.

Figure 1. VSRC During Maximum Power Point Tracking

Low-Light Sleep Mode

To save power, the MAX20361 enters sleep mode when the harvesting meter value is below SlpThd[7:0](0x0C) threshold (default 0x00), or when VOC[7:0] is set below 29 (default value of VOC) by either the VOC measurement or a direct I2C write to it. In sleep mode, the internal reference, the boost and the THM monitor are turned off, and SYS and THM are not monitored, and WAKE output is forced low. The MAX20361 remains in sleep mode until the next VOC or THM measurement, or a write to VOC[7:0] with a value equal or above 29. Low-power mode is inhibited during cold startup.

WAKE Output

Except in Shutdown or Sleep modes, the MAX20361 monitors the SYS output. When SYS is above the WAKE threshold for at least 7 to 8 x Tmeas (typ), the WAKE output is asserted (and the WAKEbSt[0](0x01) bit is set to 0). When the device goes into Sleep or Shutdown mode, WAKE output is forced low. Refer to *[Figure 2](#page-13-1)* for the waveform of V_{SYS} and WAKE output.

Figure 2. Waveform of VSYS and WAKE Output

Thermal Monitor

When ThmEn[3](0x08) is 1, the MAX20361 monitors the voltage on THM. The device checks V_{THM} once if FrcTHM[6](0x07) is 1 or periodically every Tper[1:0](0x07) time if THMper[6](0x05) is 1. During that process, the MAX20361 drives REF to 1.2V (typ) for 1ms (typ). The voltage divider, formed by the pullup resistor from THM to REF and the NTC thermistor from THM to ground, provides a voltage at THM proportional to the temperature as a fraction of V_{REF} . When V_{THM} is above 57.5% of V_{REF} or below 18.7% of V_{REF} , THMflag[6](0x01) is set and the boost is halted. These thresholds are equivalent to 0°C and 45°C if a 10kΩ NTC thermistor with β = 3380 and a 22kΩ pullup resistor are used.

The device also performs a THM check at power-on and on the $\overline{\text{EN}}$ falling edge. A fault condition is assumed until this first THM check is completed.

Shutdown

The device enters Shutdown mode when the \overline{EN} pin is high or DeviceEnb[1](0x08) is 1. In this condition, current consumption is minimized, SYS, THM and SRC are not monitored, WAKE output is forced low and the internal oscillator is turned off. All internal logic, except those values under I2C, is held in reset. In the shutdown state, only the POR on $V_{\rm CC}$ is active, and the V_{CC}-SYS switch is left open until V_{CC} is above the POR threshold. The device exits Shutdown mode when EN is low and DeviceEnb is 0.

Cold-Startup

The cold start feature of the MAX20361 allows the device to start up even if V_{SYS} is below the wake threshold or absent. For a cold startup, the device initially uses a low power charge pump to charge up V_{CC} from the power source (such as a solar cell) on SRC while SYS is not charged. Once V_{CC} is charged above the POR level, the internal references are enabled and the main boost takes over from the charge pump. As the main boost continues to charge, V_{CC} and SYS gets charged above the wake threshold, the V_{CC}-SYS switch is closed and the device is powered from SYS. This completes the cold startup, and the normal operation of the device assumes.

Source Clamp

By the DISintb[4](0x05) bit, the $\overline{\text{INT}}$ output can be reconfigured as a push-pull DISsrc output to drive an external clamp circuit used to prevent overvoltage on SRC. The clamp circuit (see *[Figure 3](#page-14-0)*) can be formed by an external nMOS and a load resistor. When the clamp circuit is turned on, the SRC is discharged through the external load resistor. When the boost converter is enabled, the DISsrc is driven to divert excess input current in order to let SRC regulate. In shutdown mode, the DISsrc output is driven statically high. The DISsrc output is disabled during VOC measurement and sleep mode. Refer to the *[nMOS Transistor Selection](#page-29-1)* section.

Figure 3. Source Clamp Circuitry

I2C Interface

The MAX20361 contains an I2C-compatible interface for data communication with a host controller (SCL and SDA). The interface supports a clock frequency of up to 400kHz. SCL and SDA require pullup resistors that are connected to a positive supply.

When writing to the MAX20361 using I²C, the master sends a START condition (S) followed by the MAX20361 I²C address. After the address, the master sends the register address of the register that is to be programmed. The master then ends communication by issuing a STOP condition (P) to relinquish control of the bus, or a REPEATED START condition (Sr) to communicate to another I2C slave.

Figure 4. I2C Interface Timing

Figure 5. I2C START, STOP, and REPEATED START Conditions

Slave Address

Set the Read/Write bit high to configure the MAX20361 to read mode (see *[Table 2](#page-15-0)*). Set the Read/Write bit low to configure the MAX20361 to write mode. The address is the first byte of information sent to the MAX20361 after the START condition.

Table 2. I 2C Slave Addresses

Bit Transfer

One data bit is transferred on the rising edge of each SCL clock cycle. The data on SDA must remain stable during the high period of the SCL clock pulse. Changes in SDA while SCL is high and stable are considered control signals (see the Start, Stop, And Repeated Start Conditions section). Both SDA and SCL remain high when the bus is not active.

Single-Byte Write

In this operation, the master sends an address and two data bytes to the slave device. The following procedure describes the single byte write operation:

- 1. The master sends a START condition.
- 2. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a write bit (low).
- 3. The addressed slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 4. The master sends the 8-bit register address.
- 5. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line only if the address is valid (NAK if not).
- 6. The master sends 8 data bits.
- 7. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 8. The master generates a STOP condition.

Figure 6. Write Byte Sequence

Burst Write

In this operation, the master sends an address and multiple data bytes to the slave device. The slave device automatically increments the register address after each data byte is sent. The following procedure describes the burst write operation:

- The master sends a START condition.
- 2. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a write bit (low).
- 3. The addressed slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 4. The master sends the 8-bit register address.
- 5. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line only if the address is valid (NAK if not).
- 6. The master sends eight data bits.
- 7. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 8. Repeat 6 and 7 N-1 times.
- 9. The master generates a STOP condition.

Figure 7. Burst Write Sequence

Single Byte Read

In this operation, the master sends an address plus two data bytes and receives one data byte from the slave device. The following procedure describes the single byte read operation:

- 1. The master sends a START condition.
- 2. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a write bit (low).
- 3. The addressed slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 4. The master sends the 8-bit register address.
- 5. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line only if the address is valid (NAK if not).
- 6. The master sends a REPEATED START condition.
- 7. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a read bit (high).bz
- 8. The addressed slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 9. The slave sends eight data bits.
- 10. The master asserts a NACK on the data line.
- 11. The master generates a STOP condition.

Figure 8. Read Byte Sequence

Burst Read

In this operation, the master sends an address plus two data bytes and receives multiple data bytes from the slave device. The following procedure describes the burst byte read operation:

- 1. The master sends a START condition.
- 2. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a write bit (low).
- 3. The addressed slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 4. The master sends the 8-bit register address.
- 5. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line only if the address is valid (NAK if not).
- 6. The master sends a REPEATED START condition.
- 7. The master sends the 7-bit slave address plus a read bit (high).
- 8. The slave asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 9. The slave sends eight data bits.
- 10. The master asserts an ACK on the data line.
- 11. Repeat 9 and 10 N-2 times.
- 12. The slave sends the last eight data bits.
- 13. The master asserts a NACK on the data line.
- 14. The master generates a STOP condition.

Figure 9. Burst Read Sequence

Acknowledge Bits

Data transfers are acknowledged with an acknowledge bit (ACK) or a not-acknowledge bit (NACK). Both the master and the MAX20361 generate ACK bits. To generate an ACK, pull SDA low before the rising edge of the ninth clock pulse and hold it low during the high period of the ninth clock pulse. To generate a NACK, leave SDA high before the rising edge of the ninth clock pulse and leave it high for the duration of the ninth clock pulse. Monitoring for NACK bits allows for detection of unsuccessful data transfers.

Figure 10. Acknowledge Bits

Register Map

MAX20361

Register Details

DeviceID (0x00)

Status (0x01)

Int (0x02)

IntMsk (0x03)

SysRegCfg (0x04)

WakeCfg (0x05)

MpptCfg (0x06)

MeasCfg (0x07)

DevCntl (0x08)

VOCMeas (0x09)

HarvCntH (0x0A)

HarvCntL (0x0B)

SleepThd (0x0C)

Applications Information

Inductor Selection

The operation of the boost regulator requires a properly sized inductor with the appropriate value. The inductor must be connected between SRC (pin B1) and LX (pin C1). The boost regulator performance, such as efficiency, is optimized to control the switching behavior with a nominal inductance of 4.7μ H \pm 20%. The inductor must have low series resistance (DCR) to minimize loss and maintain high efficiency. The recommended inductance range is between 4.7µH and 22µH. Refer to *[Table 3](#page-29-2)* for a list of recommended inductors.

Table 3. Boost Regulator Inductor Recommendation

Capacitor Selection

All selected capacitors need to have low leakage. Any leakage from capacitors contributes to the loss of efficiency, increases the quiescent current, and reduces the effectiveness of the energy harvesting process. The capacitance specified in the data sheet refers to the effective capacitance after accounting for the voltage derating. Small ceramic capacitors tend to lose effective capacitance very quickly as DC bias is increased. Ensure that DC degradation would not affect the effective capacitance of bypass capacitors located at V_{CC} , SRC, and SYS.

SRC Capacitance

The capacitor connected to pin SRC (C_{SRC}) is used to initially store energy from the harvesting input source. The output capacitance of the input energy source determines the value of the SRC capacitor. A minimum effective capacitance of 10µF is recommended. Larger capacitance (22µF) is recommended for 10µH and 22µH inductances.

SYS and V_{CC} Capacitance

Connect a bypass capacitor to the system output (C_{SYS}) of the MAX20361. This capacitor needs to have low equivalent series resistance (ESR). An effective capacitance of 1µF is recommended.

nMOS Transistor Selection

See *[Table 4](#page-29-3)* for a list of recommended nMOS transistors used for the source clamp circuitry. The gate to source threshold voltage and drive voltage must be lower than 2V for this application.

Table 4. nMOS Transistor Recommendation

Typical Application Circuits

Solar Application Circuit

Register Bit Default Values

[Table 5](#page-31-0) shows the default settings for different versions. These default values are OTP programmable. Some bits can be changed through the I2C interface after power-up, while some bits are set through OTP.

Table 5. Device Default Settings

Register Default Values

[Table 6](#page-31-1) shows the default values of all the registers.

Table 6. I 2C Direct Register Defaults

Ordering Information

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

T = Tape and reel.

Revision History

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