General Description

The MAX3865 is designed for direct modulation of laser diodes at data rates up to 2.5Gbps. It incorporates two feedback loops, the automatic power-control (APC) loop and the automatic modulation-control (AMC) loop, to maintain constant average optical output and extinction ratio over temperature and laser lifetime. External resistors or current output DACs may set the laser output levels. The driver can deliver up to100mA of laser bias current and up to 60mA laser modulation current with a typical (20% to 80%) edge speed of 84ps.

The MAX3865 accepts differential clock and data input signals with on-chip 50Ω termination resistors. The inputs can be configured for CML or other high-speed logic. An input data-retiming latch can be enabled to reject input pattern-dependent jitter when a clock signal is available. The MAX3865 provides laser bias current and modulation current monitors, as well as a failure detector, to indicate the laser operating status. These features are all implemented on an 81mil \times 103mil die; the MAX3865 is also available as a 32-pin QFN package.

Applications

SONET/SDH Transmission Systems Add/Drop Multiplexers Digital Cross-Connects Section Regenerators 2.5Gbps Optical Transmitters

Features

- ♦ **Single +3.3V or +5V Power Supply**
- ♦ **68mA Supply Current**
- ♦ **Up to 2.5Gbps (NRZ) Operation**
- ♦ **Feedback Control for Constant Average Power**
- ♦ **Feedback Control for Constant Extinction Ratio**
- ♦ **Programmable Bias Current Up to 100mA**
- ♦ **Programmable Modulation Current Up to 60mA**
- ♦ **84ps Rise/Fall Time**
- ♦ **Selectable Data Retiming Latch**
- ♦ **Bias and Modulation Current Monitors**
- ♦ **Failure Detector**
- ♦ **ESD Protection**

Ordering Information

*Dice are designed to operate from -40°C to +85°C , but are tested and guaranteed at $T_A = +25^{\circ}C$ only. Contact factory for availability.

Pin Configuration appears at end of data sheet.

Typical Applications Circuit

†Covered by U.S. Patent numbers 5,883,910, 5,850,409, and other patent pending.

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ABSOLUTE MAXIMUM RATINGS

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

ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS

(V_{CC} = +3.14V to +3.6V or +4.5V to +5.5V, T_A = -40°C to +85°C. Typical values are at V_{CC} = +3.3V, I_{BIAS} = 50mA, I_{MOD} = 30mA, T_A = +25°C, unless otherwise noted.) (Notes 1, 2, 3)

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ELECTRICAL CHARACTERISTICS (continued)

(V_{CC} = +3.14V to +3.6V or +4.5V to +5.5V, T_A = -40°C to +85°C. Typical values are at V_{CC} = +3.3V, I_{BIAS} = 50mA, I_{MOD} = 30mA, $T_A = +25^{\circ}$ C, unless otherwise noted.) (Notes 1, 2, 3)

Note 1: AC characterization performed using the circuit in Figure 1.

Note 2: Measured using a 2.5Gbps 2¹³ - 1 PRBS with 80 0's and 80 1's input data pattern.

Note 3: Specifications at -40°C are guaranteed by design and characterization.

Note 4: V_{CC} current excludes the current into MODQ, MODN, BIAS, BIAS_X, MODMON, and BIASMON pins.

Note 5: Guaranteed by design and characterization.

Note 6: Measured with low-frequency data. Instantaneous current into MD pin range is 36µA to 1000µA.

Note 7: Measured using a 2.5Gbps repeating 0000 0000 1111 1111 pattern.

Figure 2. Required Input Signal, Setup/Hold-Time Definition, and Output Polarity

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Typical Operating Characteristics

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

MAX3865 **MAX3865**

Pin Description

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Table 1. Mode Selection

Detailed Description

The MAX3865 laser driver consists of two main parts: a high-speed modulation driver and biasing block as shown in Figure 4. Outputs to the laser diode are a switched modulation current and a steady bias current. Two servo loops may be enabled to control bias and modulation currents for constant optical power and extinction ratio.

The MAX3865 requires a laser with a built-in monitor diode to provide feedback about the optical output. The average laser power, as sensed by the monitor diode, is controlled by the APC servo loop. Peak-topeak modulation current is controlled by the AMC servo loop. The modulation output stage uses a programmable current source with a maximum current of 60mA. A high-speed differential pair switches this source to the laser diode. The clock and data inputs to the modulation driver may use CML, PECL, and other logic levels. The optional clock signal can be used to synchronize data transitions for minimum pattern-dependent jitter.

Clock/Data Input Logic Levels

The MAX3865 is directly compatible with V_{CC} -referenced CML. Other logic interfaces are possible. For V_{CC}-referenced CML or AC-coupled logic, tie V_{DR} and VCR to VCC. For other DC-coupled differential signals, float V_{DR} and V_{CR} (Figure 5). To prevent excess power dissipation in the input matching resistors, keep the instantaneous input voltage within 1.2V of V_{DR} or V_{CR} as specified in the electrical characteristics.

Optional Input Data Retiming

To eliminate pattern-dependent jitter in the input data, a synchronous differential clock signal should be connected to the CLK+ and CLK- inputs, and the RTEN control input should be tied high. Input data retiming occurs on the rising edge of CLK+. If RTEN is tied low, the retiming function is disabled and the input data is directly connected to the output stage. When no clock is available, tie CLK+ to V_{CC}, ground CLK- through a 1.5k Ω resistor, and leave V_{CR} open.

Operating Mode

The MAX3865 can be set in four operating modes, depending on applications requirements. Mode selection is by two TTL-compatible inputs (see Table 1).

APC Loop

In APC mode, a servo loop maintains the average current from the monitor diode at a level set by the APCSET input. Laser bias current is varied in this mode to maintain the monitor diode current. The BIASMAX input must be set to a value larger than the maximum expected bias current. In this mode, BIASMAX limits the maximum bias current to the laser if the control loop fails. The \overline{FAIL} pin will go low if average $I_{MD} \neq I_{APCSET}$.

Mark-Density Compensation

Average power control assumes 50% mark density for times greater than about 100ns. For long patterns or situations where 50% mark density does not apply, the MAX3865 provides mark-density compensation. The APCSET reference is increased by an amount proportional to the mark density multiplied by the modulation amplitude. The AMCSET input is used as an estimate of the peak-to-peak modulation current when the mark density is not 50%. Mark-density compensation is active in both APC and AMC control modes.

AMC Loop

In AMC mode, a servo loop maintains the peak-to-peak current from the monitor diode at a level set by the AMCSET input. Laser modulation current is varied in this mode to maintain the monitor diode current. The MODMAX input must be set to a value larger than the maximum expected modulation current. In this mode, MODMAX limits the maximum modulation current to the laser if the control loop fails. The FAIL pin will go low if peak-to-peak IMD ≠ IAMCSET. The APC loop is active when in the AMC mode. In AMC mode, mark-density compensation is automatic.

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Warning Outputs

A TTL-compatible, active-low warning flag, FAIL, is set when:

- One or more of the programmable currents is set at greater than 150% of the rated maximum for the chip. A shorted programming resistor would cause this warning. In this case, the bias and modulation outputs are shut down to protect the laser.
- Average $Im \neq 1$ APCSFT in the APC or AMC mode. This could be caused by too low a setting for maximum IBIAS or by a laser that has exceeded its useful life.
- Peak-to-peak IMD ≠ IAMCSET in the AMC mode. This could be caused by too low a setting for IMODMAX or by a laser which has exceeded its useful life.

The FAIL flag also is set for a few microseconds following power-up, until the servo loops settle. The BIASMON and MODMON pins can be used to monitor the laser current and predict the end of the useful laser life before a failure occurs.

Design Procedure

When designing a laser transmitter, the optical output is usually expressed in terms of average power and extinction ratio. Table 2 gives relationships that are helpful in converting between the optical power and the

Table 2. Optical Power Relations

Note: Assuming a 50% average input duty cycle and mark density.

modulation current. These relationships are valid if the mark density and duty cycle of the optical waveform are 50%.

For a desired laser average optical power, PAVG, and optical extinction ratio, re, the required modulation current can be calculated based on the laser slope efficiency, η, using the equations in Table 2.

Figure 3. DC-Coupled Laser Circuit

Laser Current Requirements

Bias and modulation current requirements can be determined from the laser threshold current and slope efficiency. The modulation and bias currents under a single operating condition are:

$$
I_{MOD}=2\times\frac{P_{AVG}}{\eta}\times\frac{r_e-1}{r_e+1}
$$

• For DC-coupled laser diodes:

$$
I_{\text{BIAS}} > I_{\text{TH}}
$$

where ITH is the laser threshold current.

• For AC-coupled laser diodes:

$$
I_{\text{BIAS}} > I_{\text{TH}} + \frac{I_{\text{MOD}}}{2}
$$

Given the desired parameters for operation of the laser diode, the programming of the MAX3865 is explained in the following text.

Current Limits

To keep the modulation current in compliance with the programmed value, the following constraint on the total modulation current must be made:

DC-Coupled Laser Diodes:

VCC - VDIODE - IMOD \times (R_D + R_L) - I_{BIAS} \times R_L \geq 1.8V

• For VDIODE—Laser diode bias point voltage (1.2V typ)

RL—Laser diode bias-point resistance (5Ω typ)

RD—Series matching resistor (15 Ω typ)

AC-Coupled Laser Diodes:

To allow larger modulation current, the laser can be AC-coupled to the MAX3865 as shown in the Typical Application Circuit. In this configuration, a constant current is supplied from the inductor LP. The requirement for compliance in the AC-coupled circuit is as follows:

$$
V_{CC} - \frac{I_{MOD}}{2} \times (R_D + R_L) \ge 1.8V
$$

The AC-coupling capacitor and bias inductor form a second-order high-pass circuit. Pattern-dependent jitter results from the low-frequency cutoff of this high-pass circuit. To prevent ringing:

$$
\left(R_{D}+R_{L}\right)\geq2\times\sqrt{\frac{L_{P}}{C}}
$$

For deviation from 50% duty cycle or for runs of consecutive identical digits (CID), the low-frequency corner formed by the LC circuit must be low enough to limit the droop.

$$
Drop = \frac{Number_CID}{Data_Rate \times \sqrt{L_P \times C}}
$$

If droop = 6.7% , number_CID = 100 and data_rate = 2.5Gbps, then possible values for L_P and C may be $L_P = 6\mu$ H and $C = 0.056\mu$ F. Both L and C must be increased in value to reduce droop without ringing.

Programming the Maximum Bias Current

In AMC (or APC) mode, the bias current needs a limit if the loop becomes open. RBIASMAX sets the maximum allowed bias current. The bias current is proportional to the current through RBIASMAX. An internal current regulator maintains the band-gap voltage of 1.2V across the programming resistors. Select the maximum IBIAS programming resistor as follows:

$$
I_{BIASMAX} = 480 \times \frac{1.2V}{R_{BIASMAX} + 2k\Omega}
$$

Alternatively, a current DAC forcing IDAC from the BIASMAX pin may set the current maximum:

$I_{\text{BIASMAX}} = 480 \times I_{\text{DAC}}$

When the AMC or APC loop is enabled, the actual bias current is reduced below the maximum value to maintain a constant average current from the monitor diode. With closed-loop control, the bias current will be determined by the transfer function of the monitor diode to laser-diode current. For example, if the transfer function to the monitor diode is 10.0µA/mA, then setting IMD for 500µA will result in IBIAS equal to 50mA.

In manual mode, the bias current IBIAS is IBIASMAX as set by R_{BIASMAX}.

Programming the Average Monitor Diode-Current Set Point

The APCSET pin controls the set point for the average monitor diode current when in AMC or APC mode. The APCSET current is externally established in the same manner as the BIASMAX pin. The average monitor diode current IMD can be programmed with a resistor as follows:

$$
average_{MD} = 5 \times \frac{1.2V}{R_{APCSET} + 2k\Omega}
$$

Alternatively, a current DAC at the APCSET pin can set the monitor diode current by:

average
$$
ImD = 5 \times 1
$$
 DAC

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Mark-Density Compensation in APC Mode

When mark density is expected to deviate from 50% for periods exceeding 5% of the APC time constant, the AMCSET pin should be programmed to compensate the APC set point. The time constant is determined by the laser to monitor diode gain.

$$
\tau_{\text{APC}} = \frac{1.5 \text{ns}}{G_{\text{MD}}}
$$

$$
G_{MD} = \frac{\Delta I_{MONITOR}}{\Delta I_{LASER}}
$$

(For example, $\tau_{\text{APC}} = 150 \text{ns}$ for $G_{\text{MD}} = 0.01 \text{mA/mol}$.) Set the estimated peak-to-peak monitor diode current by the following equation:

$$
Estimated \, I_{MD(p-p)} = 5 \times \frac{1.2V}{R_{AMCSET} + 2k\Omega}
$$

Alternatively, a current DAC at the AMCSET pin can set the monitor diode current by:

$$
Estimated I_{MD(p-p)} = 5 \times I_{DAC}
$$

Programming the Maximum Modulation Current

In AMC mode, the modulation current needs a limit if the loop becomes open. RMODMAX sets the maximum allowed modulation current. The modulation current is proportional to the current through RMODMAX. Select the maximum IMOD programming resistor as follows:

$$
I_{\text{MODMAX}} = 320 \times \frac{1.2V}{P_{\text{MODMAX}} + 2k\Omega}
$$

Alternatively, a current DAC forcing IDAC from the MODMAX pin may set the current maximum

 $IMODMAX = 320 \times IDAC$

When the AMC loop is enabled, the actual modulation current is reduced from the maximum value to maintain constant peak-to-peak current from the monitor diode. With closed-loop control, the modulation current will be determined by the transfer function of the monitor diode to laser diode current. For example, if the transfer function to the monitor diode is 10.0µA/mA, then setting IMD for 500µA will result in IMOD equal to 50mA.

In manual mode, the modulation current I_{MOD} is set by R_{MODMAX}.

Table 3. Connection of the MD_X Pin

Programming the Peak-to-Peak Monitor Diode-Current Set Point

The AMCSET pin controls the set point for the peak-topeak monitor diode current in AMC mode. The peak-topeak value of the monitor diode current can be programmed with a resistor as follows:

$$
I_{MD(p-p)} = 5 \times \frac{1.2V}{R_{AMCSET} + 2k\Omega}
$$

Alternatively a current DAC at the AMCSET pin can set the monitor diode current by:

 $I_{MD(p-p)} = 5 \times I_{DAC}$

Laser Gain Compensation

The MAX3865 may be used in closed-loop operation with a wide variety of laser-to-monitor diode gains. Table 3 shows the connection of the MD_X pin for different current-gain ranges.

Current Monitor Outputs

The MAX3865 provides bias and modulation current monitors. The BIASMON output sinks a current proportional to the bias current:

$$
I_{\text{BIASMON}} = \frac{I_{\text{BIAS}}}{48}
$$

The MODMON pin sinks a current proportional to the laser modulation current:

$$
I_{\text{MODMON}} = \frac{I_{\text{MOD}}}{32}
$$

The BIASMON and MODMON pins should not be allowed to drop below 1.8V. They should be tied to V_{CC} when not in use.

Figure 4. Functional Diagram

Figure 5. Equivalent Input Circuit Figure 6. Equivalent Modulation Output Circuit

Applications Information

Layout Considerations

To minimize loss and crosstalk, keep the connections between the MAX3865 output and the laser diode as short as possible. Use good high-frequency layout techniques and multilayer boards with uninterrupted ground plane to minimize EMI and crosstalk. Circuit boards should be made using low-loss dielectrics. Use controlled-impedance lines for the clock and data inputs as well as the modulation output.

References

For further information, refer to the application notes for fiber optic circuits, HFAN-02, on the Maxim web page.

Laser Safety and IEC 825

Using the MAX3865 laser driver alone does not ensure that a transmitter design is compliant with IEC 825. The entire transmitter circuit and component selections must be considered. Each customer must determine the level of fault tolerance required by their application,

recognizing that Maxim products are not designed or authorized for use as components in systems intended for surgical implant into the body, for applications intended to support or sustain life, or for any other application where the failure of a Maxim product could create a situation where personal injury or death may occur.

Chip Information

TRANSISTOR COUNT: 1690 Substrate Connected To GND PROCESS: Bipolar DIE SIZE: 81mil ✕ 103mil

Pin Configuration

Chip Topography

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Note: N.C. means no external connection permitted. Leave these pads unconnected.

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Pad Coordinates

Coordinates are for the center of the pad.

Coordinate 0, 0 is the lower left corner of the passivation opening for pad 1.

Package Information

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

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Package Information (continued)

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

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